

OCTOBER 2024

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to Grace Christian Academy!

School Contact

13000 Zekiah Dr
Waldorf, MD 20601

(301) 645-0406

Office Hours: 7:30-4:00 M-F

Important Dates:

- 10/2 - 10/4 - MS Retreat
- 10/10 - TAG Day
- 10/11 - NO AFTERCARE
- 10/14 - NO SCHOOL
- 10/15 - 10/18 - SPIRIT WEEK
- 10/17 - Claire's Gourmet Pickup
- 10/23 - Quarter 1 Ends
- **10/23 - November Lunch Forms Due**
- 10/24 - NO SCHOOL
- 10/25 - NO SCHOOL
- 10/28 - Quarter 2 Begins



Message From the Office

Dear Grace Family,

As we embrace the beauty of fall, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for your partnership in providing the best educational experience for our students. This season is filled with excitement as we kick off a new school year, complete with back-to-school nights, sports, clubs, field trips, and so much more. Your involvement is invaluable, and together we can create a nurturing environment that fosters growth and learning.

At Grace Christian Academy, our mission is clear: to provide academic excellence from a biblical perspective, developing servant leaders who live and love like Jesus. We are deeply committed to this mission and are actively engaging in strategic planning to fulfill it while also ensuring the continued growth of our school in remarkable ways.

We look forward to sharing more about our exciting plans in the months to come. Together, we can create an even brighter future for our students and community.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

Director of School
Stacie Buhl

**Lunch Forms Found
HERE!**



End of Quarter 1!

Last day of quarter 1 is
on Wed., October 23!

All student work is due by October 23rd. Teachers will not accept work after that date.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school for students on **Thursday, October 24 or Friday, October 25.**



Parent

Conference Day!

Monday, November 4th!

Elementary Conferences

Elementary parents are **required** to schedule a conference in order to receive your student's first quarter report card. Teachers will email information about signing up for times.

Middle School Conferences

Middle school parent conferences are optional. Parents may request a conference with one or multiple teachers. An email about how to sign up will be going out soon.

GCA Athletics

john.somerville@graceknights.org

Go Knights!

If you are signing up for Winter Sports (Basketball/Cheer)-please make sure you bring an updated physical to the Athletic Department & GCA participation form.

Upcoming Volleyball Games:

10/1 - Away at Holy Trinity 4:30PM

10/7 - Home vs KCA 4:00PM

10/9 - Home vs Calverton 4:00PM

10/11 - Away at SMCA at 3:30PM

10/17 - Away at Calverton 4:00PM

10/18 - Home vs SMCA 2:00PM

10/21 - Home vs Lanham 4:00PM

10/24 - Championship at HOME 5:30PM



Upcoming Soccer Games:

10/1 - Away at Calverton 4:00PM

10/7 - Away at Holy Trinity 4:30PM

10/9 - Away at KCA

10/15 - Home vs SMCA

10/22 - Playoffs TBD

10/24 - Championship TBD





October Lunch Volunteers

amanda.reed@graceknights.org

All spots for the October lunch volunteers have been filled. Keep checking the signup genius link to see if any spots open up. Didn't get the email about signing up for a spot? Be sure to fill out the Parent Volunteer Form on our website to get on the email list! I give those who have filled out the form first pick and if there are any spots left, then I email it out to the rest of the GCA families.

NEW TIMES!

Preschool and Elementary

Arrival

8:10 - 8:25am

Dismissal

3:00 - 3:15pm

Middle School

Arrival

7:45 - 7:55am

Dismissal

3:15 - 3:30pm



Arrival and Dismissal Reminder



gregory.harris@graceknights.org

During arrival and dismissal, the teachers jobs are to keep your students safe. **This is NOT the time to ask questions or discuss concerns.** If you need to talk to your child's teacher, please email them and set up a time for a phone call or conference. Thank you!

GRACE CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

WE'RE HIRING!

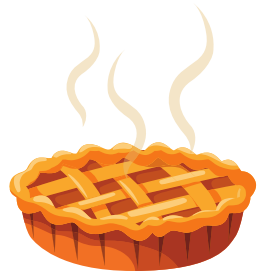
ELEMENTARY TEACHER AIDE
AFTER CARE WORKERS
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

For more information, email Nina Johnson.
nina.johnson2@graceknights.org
Visit our website to find the application.
www.graceknights.org



Claire's Gourmet

amanda.reed@graceknights.org



Thank you so much to everyone who helped sell items for this fundraiser. We profited over \$5,000.

PICK UP: October 17 at dismissal, We cannot hold items. They must be picked up on the 17th!

Congratulations to our academy winners! The top seller from each academy has won \$50. Mrs. Reed will contact the winners to discuss pick-up.

Preschool: Caden- Mrs. Ericson's Class

Elementary: Michael- Mrs. Robinson's Class

Middle School: Ian- 8th Grade

SPIRIT WEEK

WEEK OF OCTOBER 14 - OCTOBER 19

MONDAY

NO SCHOOL

TUESDAY

**STUDENT VS TEACHER
(DRESS LIKE THE OTHER)**

WEDNESDAY

DECADES/THROWBACK

THURSDAY

SPORTS

FRIDAY

GCA SPIRIT DAY

IF STUDENTS DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE THEMES, THEY MUST WEAR THEIR NORMAL GCA UNIFORM.



amanda.reed@graceknights.org

Last year we sent out a fundraiser survey and received a lot of good feedback. Already this year, we have had quite a few parents reach out with ideas for fundraisers. In order to keep them organized and not miss a suggestion, we want to keep them all in one place. If you have an idea, please fill out the form with as much information as possible. Even if you have already sent the office an idea, please fill out the form. I know we say this all of the time, but thank you so much for your support!

<https://forms.gle/47A6ZcwYSuvUsXwN9>

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This month kicks off Operation Christmas Child here at GCA, this is an awesome ministry that uses a shoebox as a tool to reach others for Christ. The boxes are filled with basic hygiene items, school supplies, and toys. Students have an opportunity to participate in several ways; by bringing in shoeboxes that they have packed at home, participating in the Middle School Packing party at the end of the month, contributing supplies through an Amazon wish list or bringing donations in.

Students can use any standard size shoebox that they may have at home, or they can get boxes from me, they will receive information on what is appropriate to put in the box. We will gather donations all month for a 'packing party', this is where the supplies are laid out and students have an opportunity to pack in class. This will take place during their history class time. In order for this to be successful we need donations. I have included a link for an Amazon wish list that will deliver items directly to the school for me or you can purchase items and bring them in. All shoeboxes are due by Nov. 22, 2024.

There is a lot of information on-line and this is a global ministry that we take part in during the year. If you would like more information, please see the link [Operation Christmas Child | Shoebox Outreach of Samaritan's Purse \(samaritanaspurse.org\)](#). If you would like more information on how to get your church involved, please let me know!

Thanks for your support and have a blessed day!

Jennifer Miller

jennifer.miller@graceknights.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Birthday Parties

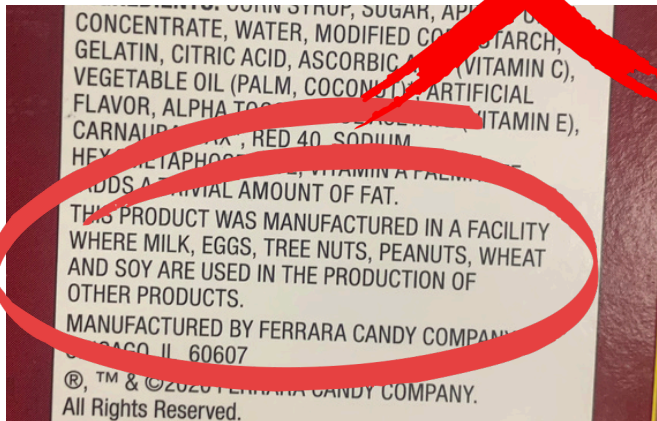
Are you wanting to celebrate your student's birthday at school?

Students are allowed to bring in a treat such as cupcakes and cookies to school. All food must be brought to the office, not given to the teacher directly or sent in with the student.

Any item sent must abide by the following:

**MUST be SEALED from a STORE
AND**

MUST have a NUT FREE Label.



- Your food will not be passed out if the label says made in a facility the produces nuts.
- **No balloons or treat bags. If brought in, these will be left in the office. The school cannot be held responsible for any times that may contain an allergen in a treat bag, nor can we search each bag that is brought in.**

WHO DO I CONTACT?

TEACHER

Questions about:

- Assignments
- Gradebook
- Classroom Management
- AR
- Your student's behavior and habits in class
- Agenda/Notebook (Grades 3 -8)
- Anything classroom specific

S.T.E.P. CENTER/TESTING MICHELLE GOODSON

Questions about:

- Learning Lab
- MAPS Testing
- Entrance Testing
- IEPs, 504s, Educational Services

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MEGAN SCHANIEL

Questions about:

- Curriculum
- School Events
- Educational policies and procedures

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

GREGORY HARRIS

Questions about:

- School security measures
- School-wide discipline policies
- Emotional and Spiritual Support

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL STACIE BUHL

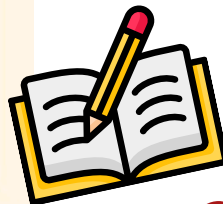
Questions about:

- School mission and vision
- School culture and values

OTHER QUESTIONS?

- Enrollment, Records, FACTS login - **Lisa Johnson**
- Tuition, Payments, Financial - **Nancy Kemmerer**
- Forms, Attendance, Pickup - **Julie Turner**
- Employment - **Nina Johnson**
- Medications, Student Illness - **Kristin Barber**
- Extended Care, Summer Camp - **Michelle Goodson**
- Athletics - **John Somerville**
- Fundraisers - **Amanda Reed**
- Parent Involvement, Homeschool - **Amanda Reed**

2024-2025 ACADEMIC SCHOOL GOAL:



*Get students
writing MORE!*

In a world of technology and seemingly everything in fast motion, pencil to paper writing, allowing students time to free-write and be creative can often fall to the wayside. As educators face the exciting benefits and potential downfalls of AI, GCA feels it is important to keep our students writing traditionally! Research shows many benefits to putting pencil to paper, including better retention of information for many learners. As a school we will continue to teach proper writing techniques and encourage proper English and superior word choices. Each student will have a writing portfolio this year where writing samples will be placed so that students, parents and teachers can see growth in students' writing skills from the beginning to the end of the year. We will continue sharing information about this endeavor throughout the year!

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We know that many parents are waiting for uniforms to arrive in the mail or be returned to the school with the school logo. Grace will be extended the first few weeks of school. However, when you are purchasing uniform bottoms please be aware of GCA uniform guidelines. A school uniform pant has a 'welt' pocket, not a *pocket on the outside*. Girls are **not** to wear *jegging style or stretchy pants* that are khaki or navy in color. We will be enforcing our dress code soon and will send parents an email if their child is out of dress code. *This goes for all students*. Many girls are wearing stretchy material pants. *Cargo shorts* are not a school uniform bottom.

Below are pictures of approved pants/shorts. Our SCHOOL WEBSITE has more detailed information about GCA's school uniform.



Vaccines Requirements:

- 7th Grade (must be 11 yrs old to receive): Meningococcal, Tdap
- Kindergarten: Second dose of MMR & Varicella
- Pre-K3 & Pre-K4: DTaP/DTP/DT (4 Doses) Polio (3 Doses) Hib (at least 1 dose given after 10 mos of age) MMR (at least 1 dose) Varicella (at least 1 dose) Hepatitis B (3 doses) PCV (1 dose). If your child turns 5 within the school year, the second MMR dose is required within 20 days of their birthdate.
- Students who are non-compliant with vaccine requirements after the first 20 days of school are at risk for exclusion.

Medications:

New medication authorization forms are required for this school year. The front desk WILL NOT accept medications without the proper forms. There is a general form and one specifically for students with allergies/anaphylaxis and/or asthma. All forms are found in Parents Web, under the Admissions tab on our website, or at the school office.

Students will be sent home on a case by case basis for illnesses such as diarrhea, vomiting, fever, respiratory illness, etc. Students may return to school when both are true for at least 24 hours.

- **Symptoms are better overall, and Fever free (without use of fever-reducing medication).**




ILLNESSES/APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Now that we are back to school, viruses and such will begin to make its way through the school sooner than later. Please express importance of handwashing, cough/sneeze etiquette, consuming enough water, eating a healthy diet, and getting a good nights rest to your student.

Doctor's notes can be sent to healthnotes@graceknights.org

Please be sure to inform Healthnotes as well as your student's teacher if your child is receiving a surgical or medical procedure, or have any changes to their health during the school year. This is to ensure they are properly cared for in the event complications arise.





BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINIC



JUNE 4, 2024

JUNE 18, 2024

JULY 9, 2024

JULY 23, 2024

AUGUST 6, 2024

AUGUST 15, 2024

AUGUST 20, 2024

AUGUST 29, 2024

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

OCTOBER 1, 2024

OCTOBER 10, 2024

OCTOBER 15, 2024



**PLEASE CALL 301-609-6835 TO SCHEDULE
YOUR APPOINTMENT**



CHARLES COUNTY DEPT. OF HEALTH
4545 CRAIN HWY.

WHITE PLAINS, MD

MUST BE A CHARLES CO. RESIDENT



2024-2025 Academy Calendar



Date	Day	Event
08/15/2024	Th	Binder Orientation and Study Skills, 6pm (All 3 rd and new 6 th – 8 th Students)
08/19/2024	M	Meet & Greet, 4pm – 6pm
08/21/2024	W	First Day of School – Quarter 1 Begins
08/30/2024	F	NO AFTER CARE
09/02/2024	M	School Closed – Labor Day
09/13/2024	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) NO AFTER CARE
10/11/2024	F	NO AFTER CARE
10/14/2024	M	School Closed – Columbus Day
10/23/2024	W	End of Q1 (44 Days)
10/24/2024	Th	No School for Students (Teacher Workday)
10/25/2024	F	No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
10/28/2024	M	Begin Q2
11/04/2024	M	No School for Students – Parent Conference Day (Teacher Workday)
11/08/2024	F	NO AFTER CARE
11/11/2024	M	School Closed – Veteran's Day
11/26/2024	Tu	Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
11/27/2024	W	No School – Begin Thanksgiving Break
11/29/2024	F	No School – End Thanksgiving Break
12/02/2024	M	School Reopens
12/03/2024	T	GIVING TUESDAY – Please consider Donating to GCA. Thank You.
12/20/2024	F	Half Day for All NO AFTER CARE
12/23/2024	M	No School – Christmas Break Begins
01/03/2025	F	No School – Christmas Break Ends
01/06/2025	M	School Reopens – HAPPY NEW YEAR!
01/16/2025	Th	End of Q2 (44 Days)
01/17/2025	F	No School for Students (Teacher Workday)
01/20/2025	M	School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
01/21/2024	Tu	Begin Q3
02/14/2025	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) NO AFTER CARE
02/17/2025	M	No School – <u>President's Day</u>
03/05/2025	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) NO AFTER CARE
03/20/2025	Th	End of Q3 (42 Days)
03/21/2025	F	No School for Students (Teacher Workday)
03/28/2025	F	No School for All – Begin Quarter Break
03/31/2025	M	No School for All – End Quarter Break
04/17/2025	Th	<u>Grandparents Day Program</u> – Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
04/18/2025	F	No School – Good Friday
04/21/2025	M	No School – Easter Break Begins
04/25/2025	F	No School – Easter Break Ends
04/28/2025	M	School Reopens
05/23/2025	F	NO AFTER CARE
05/26/2025	M	No School – Memorial Day
05/27/2025	Tu	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) NO AFTER CARE
05/28/2025	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) NO AFTER CARE
05/29/2025	Th	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) NO AFTER CARE
05/30/2025	F	Half Day for Students – LAST DAY (Teacher Workday) NO AFTER CARE End of Q4

Three inclement weather/snow days have been built into the school calendar.

(170 SCHOOL DAYS + 3 SNOW DAY = 173 DAYS)

After three inclement weather days are used, the following will modify the school year: