

SEPTEMBER 2022

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:

- 9/15 Thursday: TAG Day!
- 9/16 Friday: Half Day!
- 9/20 Tuesday: Back to School Night-Middle School
- 9/21 Wednesday: See You at the Pole
- 9/22 Thursday: School Photos!
- 9/23 Friday: Claire's Ends; Oct Lunch Forms Due!
- 9/27 Tuesday: Back to School Night-Elementary

Lunch Forms Found [HERE!](#)

Message From the Office

Greetings GCA Parents & Guardians,

I want to officially welcome everyone back to another school year. I thank God for the many blessings going into this school year and I also give Him thanks for each one of you and your commitment to partner with us here at Grace to help develop future leaders for the Kingdom.

Beginning Monday, September 12, 2022, you will notice that the first 5 rows of the parking lot will be clear. This is so our parents who are dropping off and picking up will have plenty of parking. **When you arrive and park, please walk your student(s) to the nearest walkway and walk them to their entrance. Upon departure, exit the lane you are parked on and do not pull ahead crossing multiple spaces, unless you are on the first row.** Also, when picking up, park and use the nearest walkway to pick your student up at their doorway and use the walkways to return to your cars. **Please do not walk between cars in the lot during this time of arrival and pick up for your safety.** I look forward to a great year as we continue to serve our families for His Glory.

In His Service,
Dwayne Johnson
Director of School

Back to School Nights!

Middle School: 9/20

Elementary: 9/27

Our Back to School Nights are coming up soon! Please mark your calendar and try your best to find child care as we ask that these nights are student free. The staff is able to get through more information and there are less distractions when students are able to stay home. However, we do know this is not always attainable for some families.

This is a night where parents can hear information from the Director of School and the Director of Education as well as attend sessions with the students' teachers. During these sessions teachers will discuss specific classroom and curriculum topics.

More information to come!

Claire's Gourmet

stacie.buhl@graceknights.org

Claire's Gourmet is in full swing. Please take time this weekend to register your child to participate in the fundraiser. By registering your child you have a chance of "Cracking the Vault" and winning \$20,000.

The fundraiser will run through the evening of Sept. 23rd. We would greatly appreciate your child asking family, friends, and neighbors if they would like to buy something from Claire's.



GCA Athletics

It's almost time for Volleyball games to begin! The sports schedule is found on the [school's website](#).

9/21 Away @ The Kendall School 4PM

9/22 Away @ SMCA 4PM

9/26 HOME vs Kings Christian 4PM

latasha.jones@graceknights.org

*We are looking for volunteers to help with the concession stand, sound, and greeting for home Volleyball games as well as volunteers for the **SOC CER CLINIC**.*

Go Knights!



Program Fees

nancy.kemmerer@graceknights.org

This is a reminder for those who have not paid their program fees for the year. Please log into your FACTS account to check your balance. These fees should be paid at the start of the school year and we have quite a few families who still have balances. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

School Pictures!

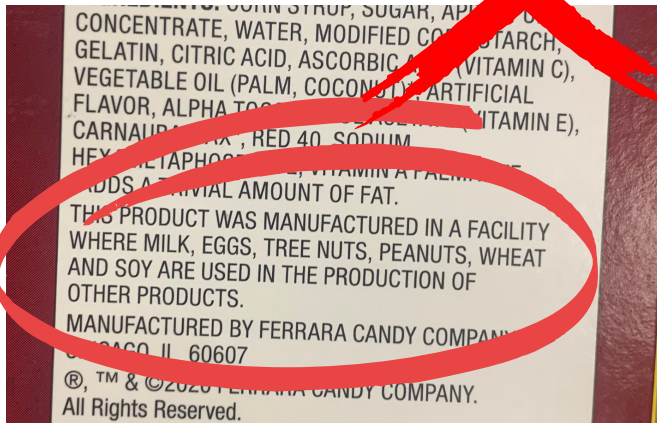
Thursday 9/22

School pictures are on Thursday, 9/22. All students must wear their school uniform. **No sweatshirts, jackets, or t-shirts are allowed!** Students will be asked to remove any jacket, sweatshirt, etc. If the student is not wearing a school uniform polo under their hoodie/jacket, then GCA will loan them a polo from the school store to wear. There are no exceptions for the dress code for pictures. Order forms will go home soon with students. There will be a make-up day later in the school year for anyone who misses this day.

OUT SICK?

If your student will miss school due an illness, appointment, or anything other reason, please email healthnotes@graceknights.org to let the office know. This email is used to track absences. **This email is not used as an avenue to receive information from teachers or staff as it is not monitored in that aspect.** Health related questions should be emailed to kristin.barber@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.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

HELP US SPREAD SUNSHINE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR GCA TEACHERS!

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE YOUR TIME, PLEASE EMAIL MEGAN SCHANIEL AT MEGAN.SCHANIEL@GRACEKNIGHTS.ORG.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE MONETARILY, YOU CAN DO SO VIA PAYPAL, CASH OR CHECK!

PAYPAL: SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO THE SUPPORT US TAB ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. PLEASE TYPE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE AS THE DESCRIPTION.



SCAN ME

Is your caller ID coming up as 'Maybe: Amanda Reed' when the school calls? **Consider adding GCA to your phone contacts!** There have been quite a few people call the school thinking that Mrs. Reed has called them but it was a different staff member. Having the school in your contacts will help clear up this confusion.
301-645-0406

We are excited to offer the opportunity for parents/guardians to help us spread sunshine to our teachers here at GCA! We are setting up what we are going to call the "Sunshine Committee" where we will do just that, There will be many ways to serve as part of this committee. If you would like to participate, you can do so by either donating your time volunteering and/or donate monetarily.

If you choose to donate your time, please email Megan Schaniel at megan.schaniel@graceknights.org.

Here is a list of areas where we would love help:

Recess Duty

Classroom Parent - helping with copies, organization, laminating, bulletin boards, etc.

Monthly Teacher Appreciation gestures - once a month we would like to bless our teachers with something small, such as coffee, donuts, treats or notes in their mailboxes, raffle for classroom gifts, etc.

Teacher Appreciation Week towards the end of the year

If you choose to donate monetarily, this money will help us bless teachers once a month with the gestures listed above. You can choose to make a one time donation or choose to donate monthly via PayPal, cash or check. Cash or check can be turned in to the main office in an envelope that says Sunshine Committee. If you would like to donate via PayPal, use the QR code on the Sunshine Committee graphic included or head to the Support Us tab on the school website.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We are almost midway through the first quarter so all students should have their school uniforms by now. We have been lenient the first few weeks as many students/parents expressed they were waiting on items to arrive in the mail. However, many students are not wearing appropriate pants to school. 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 next week and will send parents an email if their child is out of dress code. *This goes for elementary students too.* 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.



Note From the Nurse:

kristin.barber@graceknights.org

- Parents, cold & flu season is here as well as back to school “bugs” please be mindful of the following. Please be aware that any student requiring the use of medication must have a medication administration form signed by their provider and parent on file for each medication. Medications must be brought in to school un-opened and in the original packaging. Medications will not be accepted without a medication administration form. Medications must be turned in by a parent, not the student.
- **COVID Guidelines**
- When a child becomes ill at school, a mask is recommended and can be provided. Depending on symptoms and condition of child, parents will be called to pick-up their child.
- Current MSDE guidance recommends COVID-19 testing should a student/staff member develop symptoms
- Currently the school has a supply of COVID-19 tests that can be sent home with a symptomatic child to be completed at home
- If test is negative, student may return when symptoms are improved and no fever for 24 hours without medication
- A student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 should complete a 5 day isolation at home from the date symptoms start. Day 0 is considered the day symptoms start or the day of the positive test.
- After day 5, if the person has no symptoms or symptoms have improved and no fever for 24hrs without medication, they may return to school if they wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days (day 6-10)
- If they are unable to wear a mask, they may return if they have a negative test at day 5 or later.
- **Illness & Injury**
- Please review and become familiar with the Parent/Student manual
- Children will be required to be sent home for temperatures 100 degrees or higher, vomiting, diarrhea (2 or more episodes), very frequent cough, any communicable disease listed by the State of Maryland
- Students who are ill should be picked-up within an hour of parental notification.
- Students may return to school if fever free for 24 hours without use of medication, vomiting & diarrhea free for 24 hours



Back to School

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

May 7, 2022

August 16, 2022

June 7, 2022

September 6, 2022

June 21, 2022

September 13, 2022

July 5, 2022

September 20, 2022

July 19, 2022

September 27, 2022

August 2, 2022

October 4, 2022

**Please call 301-609-6835 to schedule
your appointment**



Kinder-8th Grade Soccer Clinics

We are excited to bring back sports clinics to Grace. The registration form will be emailed out soon and can also be picked up at the school office.



The GCA Athletic Department Presents: Soccer Mini-Clinic(s) Fall 2022

Session1

K-3rd Grades

Session 2

4th– 8th Grades

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A GCA T-SHIRT AND A BALL

Register early to reserve your spot!

Families will be allowed to watch from the bleachers. Please do not interfere with the coaching.

Purpose: The GCA Soccer Mini-Clinic is a tool designed to help introduce the sport of soccer to our students. The Clinic will give participants a fundamental understanding of the game of soccer, and show them what it is like to be part of a Team. The program will take place after school.

Schedule: There will be two sessions. Session 1 will be for our younger students from Kindergarten through the 3rd grade. Session 2 will be for our older elementary and middle school students. (Please see the schedule for additional information).

Dress: Students should bring a change of clothes with them to school to practice in. We will provide assistance for our smaller children. Please make sure to dress them appropriately according to the weather.

Date(s) and Time(s):

K-3rd grade: Wednesday, 10/12, Thursday, 10/13, Friday, 10/14, Monday, 10/17, and Wednesday, 10/19

4th– 8th grade: Monday, 10/24, Tuesday, 10/25, Thursday 10/27, Friday, 10/28, Tuesday 11/1, Thursday, 11/3, Friday 11/4, Saturday 11/5 Scrimmage

Cost: \$125.00; fees are non-refundable, except in cases of a medical emergency

Registration: Return the registration form attached along with payment to the Athletic Office , by Monday, October 3rd

More Information: Contact Coach Tasha Jones, Athletic Director, at latasha.jones@graceknights.org, or by calling, 301-645-0406 x800

Volunteer: Contact Coach Tasha Jones, Athletic Director, at latasha.jones@graceknights.org, or by calling, 301-645-0406 x800

2022-2023 Academy Calendar

| Date | Day | Event |
|------------|-----|--|
| 08/11/2022 | Th | Binder Orientation and Study Skills, 6pm (All 3rd graders and new 4th-8th graders) |
| 08/15/2022 | M | Meet and Greet, 4pm – 6pm |
| 08/17/2022 | W | First Day of School – Begin 2022 – 2023 School Year – Q1 |
| 09/05/2022 | M | School Closed – Labor Day |
| 09/16/2022 | F | Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) |
| 10/07/2022 | F | Full Day for All – NO AFTER CARE |
| 10/10/2022 | M | School Closed – Columbus Day |
| 10/19/2022 | W | End of Q1 for 2022 – 2023 |
| 10/20/2022 | Th | No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development) |
| 10/21/2022 | F | No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development) |
| 10/24/2022 | M | Begin Q2 for 2022 – 2023 |
| 10/31/2022 | M | No School for Students – Parent Conference Day (Teacher Workday) |
| 11/11/2022 | Th | School Closed – Veterans' Day |
| 11/22/2022 | T | Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE |
| 11/23/2022 | W | No School – Thanksgiving Break Begins |
| 11/25/2022 | F | No School – Thanksgiving Break Ends |
| 11/28/2022 | M | School Reopens |
| 12/21/2022 | W | Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) NO AFTER CARE |
| 12/22/2022 | Th | No School – Christmas Break Begins |
| 01/03/2023 | T | No School – Christmas Break Ends |
| 01/04/2023 | W | School Reopens |
| 01/12/2023 | Th | End of Q2 for 2022 – 2023 |
| 01/13/2023 | F | No School – Semester Break |
| 01/16/2023 | M | School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| 01/17/2023 | T | Begin Q3 for 2022 – 2023 |
| 02/17/2022 | F | Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) NO AFTER CARE |
| 02/20/2023 | M | School Closed – Presidents' Day |
| 03/01/2023 | W | Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) |
| 03/16/2023 | Th | End of Q3 for 2022 – 2023 – NO AFTER CARE |
| 03/17/2023 | F | No School – Quarter Break |
| 03/20/2023 | M | No School – Quarter Break |
| 03/21/2023 | T | School Reopens |
| 03/21/2023 | T | Begin Q4 for 2022 – 2023 |
| 03/27/2023 | M | Standardized Testing Week Begins |
| 03/31/2023 | F | Standardized Testing Week Ends |
| 04/06/2023 | Th | Elementary Grandparents Day – Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE |
| 04/07/2023 | F | No School – Easter Break Begins |
| 04/14/2023 | F | No School – Easter Break Ends |
| 04/17/2023 | M | School Reopens |
| 05/03/2023 | W | Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) |
| 05/23/2023 | T | Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) |
| 05/24/2023 | W | Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) |
| 05/25/2023 | Th | Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) |
| 05/26/2023 | F | Half Day for Students – Last Day for Students – NO AFTER CARE |
| 05/26/2023 | F | End of Q4 for 2022 – 2023 (Teacher Workday) |

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

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

- May 30, 2023 (Snow day number five)
- May 31, 2023 (Snow day number six)
- June 1, 2023 (Snow day number seven)

Last edited: 9/2/2021

To provide academic excellence from a biblical perspective in order to develop servant leaders of all walks of life who live and love like Jesus Christ.