

SUMMER 2023

# 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:

- 8/17: Binder Orientation 6PM
- 8/21: Meet and Greet 4-6PM
- 8/23 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
- 8/28: Fall Sports Tryouts
- 8/31: September Lunch Forms Due
- 9/1: NO AFTERCARE!
- 9/04: NO SCHOOL-Labor Day

*Lunch Forms for 23-24 SY  
are not yet available.*

### Message From the Director

Greetings GCA Families:

Summer is in full swing and going by fast. I pray it has been fun and relaxing for you and your family. We at Grace have been working diligently preparing for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year and I want to give a big THANK YOU to our staff for all their efforts in preparing to start off this upcoming year in a smooth, efficient way. One thing we all know is that our world is ever-changing and at Grace we have made significant changes to ensure we are fulfilling our school's mission. As you peruse this month's newsletter, you will notice the many changes made to our school in areas of staffing, building modifications, curriculum, and updated methods of pay to name a few. We are excited and looking forward to what God is doing here at Grace this coming year and years to come. So, take your time as you look through this newsletter at all the exciting things that will be happening at Grace this year and mark your calendars for "Important Dates" to remember. We look forward to seeing everyone back this school year, so begin preparing your hearts and minds for a great year.

In His Service,  
Dwayne Johnson  
Director of School



## **Introducing our new Director of Education and other staff members!**

As you know, Mrs. Amanda Reed's office hours were reduced this past semester due to family obligations. She has worked hard to continue to serve our GCA family during this transition for her. Please join me in thanking her for her service and welcoming in our new Director of Education, Mrs. Megan Schaniel! Mrs. Reed has been working with Mrs. Schaniel to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

Mrs. Megan Schaniel has been with Grace since 2018 where she has served as a secondary teacher and administrator.

Mrs. Amanda Reed is not leaving the GCA Family. She will stay on as our Homeschool Director and serve the school as Education Support. You will still hear from her and see her around campus here and there.

The new Director of OperationsAthletic Director this year is Mr. John Somerville. He is a familiar face at Grace and is also the MISAL President, the athletic league in which Grace participates. He comes with many years experience running sports programs and we are looking forward to seeing how he will help elevate Grace's sports program!

## **We want to welcome our new staff member to GCA!**

Mr. Sedric Reeves is our new STEM/Technology teacher. He is bringing back PLTW (Project Lead the Way, a STEM curriculum) to PreK-8th grade as well as other computer science and technology lessons. As a youth pastor and educator, he has worked with all ages and has a background with technology.

Mrs. Kelly Rolfe is our new 5th Grade homeroom teacher. She will teach 4th and 5th grade math, science, and Bible. She is a seasoned educator and we are looking forward to her bringing her expertise on educational theories and application to upper elementary.

Welcome Mrs. Karis Hallowell to our Kindergarten team! While this is her first year having her own classroom, it is not her first year teaching. Mrs. Hallowell has experience teaching lower and upper elementary. We had the privilege of watching Mrs. Hallowell teach and she has been working with the current Kindergarten teacher to help ensure a smooth transition this fall.

We are able to open up a second PreK 3 classroom this year and joining that team is Mrs. Melissa McGroegor as the lead teacher and Mrs. Keirsten Johnson as the aide. Mrs. McGroegor has many years experience teaching early childhood and we are very excited to have her pour into the lives of our littlest Knights!

Joining our first grade team is Mrs. Jenee Neidert. Mrs. Neidert is not new to education and she brings with her to Grace many years of elementary experience. Her experience and teaching ability will be a blessing to our lower elementary students!

We have two employees at Grace who are not new to the GCA family but are taking on a new position for the 23-24 school year.

Ms. Kimberly Wade was a substitute teacher turned full-time sub for our second grade classroom last year. We are happy to announce that Ms. Wade will now be one of our PreK 3 Aides!

Mrs. Nina Johnson was previously a PreK 3 Aide but is graduating into Middle School as our PE teacher and Assistant Athletic Director. She has already put in many hours with Mr. Somerville this summer to make sure the fall sports season is a hit!

Welcome to the

Grace family.



**Mr. Secdric Reeve**  
STEM/Tech



**Mrs. Karis Hollowell**  
Kindergarten



**Ms. Melissa McGorger**  
PreK 3



**Mrs. Keirsten Johnson**  
PreK 3 Aide



**Ms. Kimberly Wade**  
PreK 3 Aide



**Mrs. Kelly Rolfe**  
5th Grade




**Nina Johnson**  
Middle School PE



**Mrs. Jenee Neirdert**  
1st Grade



# WHAT'S NEW AT GRACE!

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- The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of the Grace Christian Academy building. It is a large, two-story brick building with a prominent portico supported by white columns. The words "GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY" are inscribed on the pediment above the columns. To the right of the entrance, there is a circular clock face and decorative flourishes. The scene is captured during the day with soft lighting.
- 1 New water fountains!
  - 2 Academy-Wide Project Lead the Way!
  - 3 A bell system for Middle School!
  - 4 More Chromebooks!
  - 5 More instruments for Music Education!
  - 6 Beginning stage of becoming a wireless school!
  - 7 A card reader for transactions!!

*Details on everything new  
coming soon!*

# Note From the Nurse:

kristin.barber@graceknights.org  
healthnotes@graceknights.org



## **DID YOU KNOW THAT WITHOUT THE PROPER IMMUNIZATIONS, YOUR CHILD COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL?**

Looking ahead... If your student is entering the following grades next school year, please consider making appointments soon to ensure they are up to date on the following vaccines. You will receive emails if your student has not already received the vaccines required.

- 7th Grade (must be 11 yrs old to receive): Meningococcal, Tdap
- Kinder: 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.

**Vaccine records can be emails to [healthnotes@graceknights.org](mailto:healthnotes@graceknights.org) or hard copies can be turned in at the front desk.**

**MEDICATION:** Please be sure to have a new medication authorization form completed for next school year. The front desk WILL NOT accept medications without the form. There is a general form and one specifically for students with allergies/anaphylaxis.

All forms are found in Parents Web, under the Admissions tab on our [website](#), or at the school office.



**GCA is looking for a wheelchair in good condition! Do you have one you are ready to donate? Contact [kristin.barber@graceknights.org](mailto:kristin.barber@graceknights.org)**



# A Message from the New Athletic Director!

## GCA Athletics

[john.somerville@graceknights.org](mailto:john.somerville@graceknights.org)

Parents/guardians/students,



I hope your summer is going well and everyone is healthy, well, and staying safe. I wanted to introduce myself. I am John Somerville, the athletic Director and I am looking forward to working with you and your student athletes. This is a reminder that while planning your summer, please remember, if your child plans on playing on any of GCA's sports teams (including cheerleading) they must have an updated sports physical on file. **GCA is looking to start a middle school soccer team for the fall season if there is enough interest.**

**Be on the lookout for summer camps and clinics!**

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me either at school or cell 301-802-6777. Thanks and have a *Blessed Day!*

***Go Knights!***





**APPLY  
NOW!**

# JOB OPENINGS

*Part-Time Middle School Math*

*PreK-8th Spanish*

*Substitute Teacher*

*Summer Camp Worker*

Contact: [megan.schaniel@graceknights.org](mailto:megan.schaniel@graceknights.org)

[www.graceknights.org](http://www.graceknights.org)

## **New Family Referral Program!**

Do you know about our New Family Referral Program? You have an opportunity to earn up to \$1,500 towards your Facts account! Click [HERE](#) to read more.





# Summer



# Math and Reading

## Going into 2nd

**Reading:** Students will receive a prize at the beginning of the year for 3 passed AR quizzes!

**Math:** Be on the lookout for an email with optional math resources!

## Going into 3rd – 5th

**Reading:** Students will be required to take 3 AR quizzes. The average of the 3 will be their first Reading test grad.

**Math:** Optional Khan Academy. Rewards for points at the start of the year!

## Going into 6th – 8th

**Reading:** Students will be required to take 3 AR quizzes. The average of the 3 will be their first Reading test grad.

**Math:** Required Khan Academy. Percent of mastery will be first Math test grade.

## Resources

- <https://www.abcya.com> (games for all subjects)
- [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)
- [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)
- <https://pbskids.org/games> (PreK - 1st)
- [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

Parents please check your email

for more information.



# PREK-6TH GRADE *Summer* CAMP 2023



9 WEEKS: JUNE 5-AUGUST 4

**Ages: PK4-6th Grade (4 years of age by 9/1/23 through entering 7th grade)**

- Weekly Themes
- Field Trips
- Arts & Crafts
- Science
- Reading
- Water Fun
- Outside Play

**Campers receive a free T-shirt. Additional shirts available for \$12.**



**Camp Tuition (8AM-3PM):**  
**\$180/week**  
**Before Care (6:30-8AM):**  
**\$50/week**  
**After Care (3-6PM)**  
**\$75/week**

**Registration requires a non-refundable deposit (\$25/week). If \$25 deposit is not paid, your spot will not be held.**

**Early Bird Incentive:**  
Pay in full for 3 weeks or more of camp by May 5, 2023 for a 10% discount. Discount does not apply to before or after care charges.

**Multi-Child Discount:**  
10% off for 2nd and 3rd child (in the same family), 50% off for 4th child.



**Full payment is due the Friday prior to each camp week. Returned check fee: \$35 + court fees. Payments made by credit/debit card are subject to a 2.5% fee.**

**Daily Rate:**  
**\$60/day**  
All paperwork must be completed.  
Payment in cash or credit card only.

**Early Arrival/Late Pickup Fees:**  
Arrival prior to 7:45AM-\$15.00 (flat rate)  
Pickup after 3:00PM (camp) or 6:00PM (after care)-\$10.00/15 minutes.

**GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

13000 Zekiah Drive, Waldorf, MD 20601

[www.graceknights.org](http://www.graceknights.org)



# GCA Summer Camp-2023

Week	Dates	Theme
Week 1	June 5-9	 Summer Party 
Week 2	June 12-16	 Sports 
Week 3	June 20-23 Camp Closed Monday, June 19th	 Underwater 
Week 4	June 26-30	 Camping 
Week 5	July 3-7 Camp Closed July 4th	 Party in the USA 
Week 6	July 10-14	 Disney 
Week 7	July 17-21	 Pirate Adventures 
Week 8	July 24-28	 Animals 
Week 9	July 31-Aug.4	 Space 