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## General Information

### MISSION STATEMENT

“The purpose of Grace Christian School is to glorify God by providing an academically excellent education which presents the Christian perspective on the whole of life, creation, and knowledge.”

### SCHOOL MOTTO

“In all things ..... Christ pre-eminent.” Colossians 1:18

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

*GOD* - There is one true and living God who eternally exists in three persons- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is the personal sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things and the Source and End of all truth.

*SCRIPTURE* - The Bible is the written Word of God, without error in its original writings; the authority by which God directs and governs all our activities, including the education of our children.

*JESUS CHRIST* - He is the eternal Son of God, who became man in our own history, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures, and one person, forever. Through His incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, and ascension, He accomplished for His people victory over sin and death. He will return in glory.

*MAN* - Man was created in the image of God as a rational, moral, and spiritual being. He sinned in Adam and fell with him in his first transgression. Man’s fall affected the totality of his life. The child is not to be seen as a higher form of animal, the result of an evolutionary process, but as the unique creation of God, and a fallen creature in need of salvation.

*SALVATION* - is by God’s grace alone. Man can be restored to God only by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Man must repent and believe the Gospel, or be lost eternally.

*MARRIAGE* – as defined in God’s Word is the unique relationship uniting a man and a woman in the first institution of God, the family. Man and culture cannot redefine what God has revealed.

### PURPOSE OF GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

It is the *intellectual aim* of the school to provide a thorough academic education with high scholastic standards, which has its integrating center in the Sovereign Triune God. A Christian mind is developed in the student by studying, understanding, interpreting, and analyzing the facts of this world and life from a Biblical perspective.

It is the *spiritual aim* of the school that the student, through his God-related studies, is challenged with the knowledge of his need for reconciliation to God through Christ and obedience to His revealed will, which is possible only through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

It is the *social and emotional aim* of the school that the student matures in such a way as to develop a life of service to Christ and through Him to mankind through development of his social and emotional skills.

It is the *physical aim* of the school to assist the student in establishing a Godly attitude and practice that leads to sound physical conditioning throughout his life.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

We hold to a Christian philosophy of education. Since our school was founded, our philosophy of education puts the development of a Christian “world and life view” front and center. In short, it means that no subject matter (math, science, history, language, etc.) is separate from the wisdom of God. - Colossians 2:2,3

God, who has existed from all eternity, is the Creator of all things (Gen. 1). All creation: man, animal, plant, inorganic—has its origin and is sustained by God. God, being omniscient, knows exhaustively every detail of creation, and is thus the only One capable of giving absolutely true information concerning any subject. Consequently, a Christian view of truth, which is foundational to education, would acknowledge that those things only are true which are in accord with God's revelation to us—His creation as interpreted by His inspired, written Word. Even as Adam needed direct revelation from God, even before the fall (Gen. 1:28-30; 2:16-17), to interpret properly creation, so also we recognize that one cannot understand any area of creation properly except through the eyeglasses of Scripture. Moreover, the Bible is foundational to every aspect of the educational process at GCS.

God created man in His own image, with dominion over the creatures (Gen. 1). Adam, as the head of the human race, rebelled against God, determining for himself good and evil (Gen.3). All mankind, therefore, inherits a sinful nature, and by nature rejects God and His Word. Mankind is at enmity with God and will not submit to God's infallible interpretation of creation. Thus, natural man, in principle, can have no true knowledge of any area of life. Man's problem is not a lack of knowledge—an intellectual problem—but a refusal to submit to God—a moral problem. God sent Christ to remove this sin, and He sent the Holy Spirit to regenerate His people-giving to them new hearts which gladly submit to God. Regeneration is thus essential to truly Christian education; only the regenerate child of God can properly understand the facts of God's creation.

Children are born sinful, and, by nature, will not obey God in their lives. Regeneration is essential, but this must be accompanied by training in righteous behavior. The child of God must daily die to sin and live to righteousness. He must be trained in proper, Godly, moral behavior. The Christian school, then, will teach the children God's standard of behavior, as found in Scripture, and enforce this standard as a general rule of behavior, if need be.

One of the most important reasons children come to GCS is to learn subject matter not taught by the church, and so courses such as math, reading, writing, language, history, and science are extremely important. However, one of our aims is also to assist the parent in developing the child “spiritually”. In light of this important focus, we also understand that there are many denominational distinctive that cause us to place our membership in different local churches. At

GCS, we do not presume to take the place of the church or parents as the primary teachers of doctrine. We believe the church is the primary teacher of doctrinal truth. The Apostle Paul writing concerning the local church described it as “the pillar and ground of truth” (I Timothy 3:15).

In New Testament times the church was the prime source for Christians to learn and disseminate truth. Because of this, the 1st century church “devoted themselves to the Apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42).

Thus, we are committed as a school to serving the church and Christian parents. Consequently, our policy is to teach the “core” doctrines held by evangelical churches without teaching the doctrinal distinctive of any particular denomination. These core doctrines relate to God, Scripture, Jesus Christ, Man, and Salvation. Our beliefs concerning these five areas are defined in the school’s Statement of Faith and must be agreed upon by parents. To this end the emphasis should be placed not so much on doctrine itself, but its application in our lives. Such an emphasis is found in many passages of scripture such as Matthew 5-7, Romans 12-16, I Corinthians 13, Galatians 5, Ephesians 4-6, and Colossians 3. These doctrines that promote right living, evangelism, and engaging the world are held by all evangelical faiths.

## **AGREEMENT CLAUSE**

As stated on the GCS Application for Admission, "Parents agree for instruction of their children in the Christian Faith according to the School's Statement of Faith, and to a Christian philosophy of education in all phases of the School's curriculum. Parents also agree to allow the School to administer corporal punishment (spanking) if necessary. The school reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not respect its spiritual standards or cooperate in the educational process."

All teachers must agree the Scriptures are the inspired word of God without error and infallible in their original writings and are the only rule for life and practice for all people; also, they must agree that it is the Holy Scriptures alone, as used by the working of the Holy Spirit, that reveal the only true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In keeping with the stricter application of the 2nd Commandment, Images of God or Christ will not be used for instructional use. The secularizing of Christmas or Easter through promoting Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny should not be done. We do not believe in belittling children for honest expressions — however it is our desire to promote the true meaning of each.

## **GCS HISTORY**

Grace Christian School had its beginnings in the late 1970’s from a Bible study led by Dr. Roland Byrd. Louisville residents coming from First Presbyterian, First Baptist, First Methodist, West Union Presbyterian, and Sacred Heart Catholic Church attended the study. Guest speakers included Dr. Norman Harper (Professor of Christian education at Reformed Theological Seminary) and Dr. Bob Mounts (Pastor of First Baptist Church). Individuals read books on Christian education and then made reports to the group, and an understanding of a Christian world and life view came into focus. A natural application of such a view was the formation of a school with a distinctively Christ-centered education.

After much prayer, study, and consideration of the task, Grace Christian Education Association was chartered in 1977 as a non-profit corporation. Original association members were Mr. and Mrs. Mike Boyles, Dr. and Mrs. Roland Byrd, Miss Kaye Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. Pruitt Calvert, Miss Donna Cunningham, Mr. Charles McCool, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Priscock, and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Triplett, and Mr. Roger Wiggins... School began in the fall of 1978 with a kindergarten meeting in donated facilities on Ivy Avenue. GCS generally added one grade each year through elementary school. Grades were then added as resources were available. In October 1982, GCS moved into permanent facilities on McLeod Road. GCS became a full school in 1997 with 5-year-old Kindergarten through 12th grade. In May of 1998 the first graduation ceremony was held for four seniors. In the fall of 1998, a new 12,500 square foot multi-purpose building was completed, more than doubling the space under roof. The building was named in honor of the late Dr. Ben Crawford, longtime President of the Grace Christian School Board of Directors. In 2006, the main building was named in honor of the late Miss Donna Cunningham, founding association member, former headmaster, and long-time first grade teacher. In 2013, a renovation to the Crawford Building doubled the available classroom space for Grades 7-12 and improved student safety.

## **GCS ORGANIZATION & SCHOOL BOARD**

The Grace Christian Education Association is a 501 (c)3 non-profit corporation made up of a limited number of members, who are chosen by invitation and become members only upon election by the existing membership. The Association meets annually to elect new board members and make general plans for the benefit of the development of the school. This form of organization serves to insure a consistency to the original guiding philosophy and mission of the school.

The GCS School Board is composed of seven members elected to staggered terms in June of each year by the membership of the Grace Christian Education Association. The GCS School Board is responsible for the operation of the school. Currently the GCS School Board meets monthly on the third Tuesday of each month. Parents desiring to speak before the Board should contact the Headmaster to schedule a meeting.

Current GCS School Board Members are:

	Mr. Marty Crowder (President)	
Mr. Kevin Hudson (Secretary)	Mr. Chad Chapman	Mrs. Beth Crawford
Dr. Dustin Gentry	Mrs. Melanie Price	Mr. Jeff Troyer

The Headmaster is hired by the Board and is directly responsible to the Board. His job is to implement Board policies, establish such other school policies as he may see fit, hire and oversee faculty and staff, make curricular decisions, handle financial matters, and basically insure that school operations run smoothly. The 2021-2022 Headmaster is Jason Morgan.

Faculty and staff are hired by the Administrator working with the GCS School Board. Faculty and staff are directly responsible to the Administrator. The Board has approval/disapproval authority

on all hiring/firing recommendations.

## **ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

### **ADMISSIONS POLICIES**

All applications are made to the Headmaster and Board of GCS, who shall have the right to accept or reject any application. Applicants agree to abide by all rules and regulations established for the school. GCS admits students of any race, national, or ethnic origin. Beginning in the K-5 program at least one parent/guardian must be a Christian with membership in a local church. In some cases a significant person(s) in the student's life such as a grandparent may suffice. The parent/guardian must agree to the education of their child according to the GCS Statement of Faith and Philosophy of Christian Education.

For new K-4 and above students, an interview by the Headmaster or designated person with at least one parent/guardian is required. An overview of GCS will be given with emphasis on explaining our Mission Statement. Attention will be given to a student's grades, courses, conduct at previous school, present attitude, and standardized tests. An assessment administered by GCS may be necessary for proper placement. Also, parents agree to allow school personnel to administer corporal punishment (spanking) as necessary.

Students under disciplinary action from other schools will only in rare circumstances be considered for GCS enrollment.

The school reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not respect its Christian standards or cooperate in the education process.

### **ADMISSION PROCESS**

1. Before making application for admission, parents/guardians need to have read and agree to support the Statement of Faith and policies of GCS as found in our parent/student handbook.
2. Sign and return to GCS the "Release of School Information and Records" permission form.
3. After the student has been accepted, a tuition contract must be filled out and signed. The registration fee for first year students and any applicable monthly tuition is due at this time also.
4. Health forms (Permanent Mississippi Certificate of Immunizations and Mississippi School entry Medical Examination) as required by state health officials are necessary for kindergarten, first graders who have not been to kindergarten, and out-of-state transfers.
5. Families admitted to GCS will be expected to attend programs and conferences scheduled by GCS for the purpose of remaining well-informed of and involved in the policies and activities of the school.

## TUITION AND FEES

### ***Registration Fee***

All new students, kindergarten included, are required to pay a non-refundable registration fee with their application to the school. Should for any reason the school not accept the student however, this fee would be returned. Lastly, students absent from GCS over one academic year are subject to registration fees.

### ***Tuition Payment***

Students are considered full-time when they stay at school for four or more periods. Part-time students will be charged a higher rate per class and expected to pay monthly.

1. Tuition is to be paid over a period of 10 months (August – May) or 12 months (August-July), with the first payment for the year due in August. We have three options for tuition payments:
  - a. A mandatory monthly draft set up through our FACTS program
  - b. Paid in full by August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Pay for each Semester on August 1<sup>st</sup> and January 9th (so two payments)
2. Tuition must be paid in full for a student to return to Grace the following year.
3. If due to insufficient funds you fall 1 month behind a board member will be contacting you to have you rectify your account.
4. If due to insufficient funds you fall more than 2 months behind on tuition your child may not be able to attend classes until you rectify the situation.

Records and Transcripts will not be released until all accounts are paid in full.

### ***Financial Assistance***

We do not want the cost to keep anyone away from GCS. If you genuinely want your child to attend Grace and cannot afford the total cost, please let the Headmaster know, and she will present your desires to the Board.

### ***The Cost of Tuition***

The cost of living, as well as providing a quality education, increases each year. The largest source of income for the school is tuition. However, tuition pays for less than 80% of our operating costs.



The remainder must be made up through fundraisers and donations. Normally, costs will increase 3-5% each year. The GCS will establish the Tuition cost prior to the start of each school year. Tuition for the 2023-2024 school year is set at \$1,950.00 for K3-K5 students, \$3,750 for 1st-6<sup>th</sup> Grade students, and \$3,950 for 7th-12<sup>th</sup> Grade students.

**Discounts**

GCS does have a discount policy for families with more than one child enrolled. The schedule is as follows:

First child		full tuition
Second & third children <i>(This does not apply to K3, K4 or K5)</i>		\$40.00 reduction for each additional child.
4th child, 5th child, etc.		Application available for further discount subject to Board approval.

**Textbook, Achievement Tests, & Additional Fees**

These fees apply to all students except Kindergarten and is payable by semester.

*Textbook* - The actual amount of an individual student’s textbook fee will vary greatly according to grade level and number of USED books that can be obtained. Parents will have until October 31 to pay for textbooks. Payments received after this time will be assessed a \$25 per month late fee until the textbooks fees are paid. The late fee will be per family, not per student.

*Achievement Tests* – GCS administers a national standardized test each year. This helps us determine how our children are doing academically. The cost is usually \$10-\$20 per child for testing and scoring. You will be billed prior to the test.

*Athletic Fee (Competitive Sports Participation)* \$50 per sport (The fee for students who are part-time or homeschooled will be \$150.00 per sport)

*Fine Arts Fee (School Play Participation)* \$50 (The fee for students who are part-time or homeschooled will be \$150.00)

*Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Fee* - \$15.00/Year

(Subject to change) *Graduation Fee* - \$150.00 per student

**PRESCHOOL AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM**

This program is available for three-year-olds through twelve-year-olds. A separate handout is available with detailed information regarding the program.

*Preschool Holidays*

Grace Christian Preschool closes for Thanksgiving Holidays, Christmas Holidays (two weeks),

Spring Vacation, and any other holidays that the school observes. Parents will need to obtain a school calendar and note the dates of any scheduled closings. The preschool is not necessarily closed for teacher meetings, staff development meetings, and other scheduled K5–12 activities.

## **LUNCH FEES**

Lunches are ordered on a monthly basis through RENWEB or paper-based order forms for faculty and staff. Emergency lunches may be ordered during homeroom. Charges are added to the individual's account based upon the order. All food charges must be cleared by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. Failure to keep the account current will result in the individual being restricted to providing their own lunch meals. If special circumstances arise, arrangements may be made with GCS Board approval.

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

GCS stands unashamedly upon the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired and inerrant Word of God. This Word of God is the foundation for all our activities, including our curriculum design. As the "light to our path," study of the Scriptures in Bible class is of the utmost importance. Reading is vital, and we teach reading by the phonics method in all grades. Handwriting is taught to insure legible, neat work. Creative or expressive writing begins in third grade; students must learn how to communicate their thoughts effectively. Language study emphasizes that students must learn and use proper rules of grammar. Mathematics is taught in order that the students may understand more of God's orderly world. Science study (which is openly creationist) teaches children to analyze and appreciate God's creation. History and Social Studies present our society and the institutions in it as the work of God and as under His control. Music and Art are taught so children may sing and illustrate their praises to God effectively and appreciate the glorious purposes for which God created music and the arts.

### HOMEWORK

We believe in the value of learning through repetition, drill, and practice. Children are able to master significant amounts of material through repeated practice. However, with the number of subjects taught each day, there is often not enough time to spend on sufficient amounts of drill and practice. Homework is used to give children more practice in skills they need. Homework is thus very important for your child's learning. Not only does completing an assignment help him learn better, but also the task itself teaches him to be diligent in carrying out responsibility. A student who does not do his homework is learning irresponsibility.

Parents can help in these ways:

1. Check daily to see if your child has homework. Every student (1st–6th grade) is required to use a daily assignment book, which is issued by the school at the beginning of the year. Students (7th–12th grades) may be required to do the same.
2. Provide a quiet, well-lit location for homework, free from distractions such as television, conversation by others, other children playing, etc.
3. Go over the child's homework after he has done it, and help him to correct mistakes.
4. If you believe the child's homework load is excessive, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEACHER IMMEDIATELY.
5. If something unforeseen arises and your child is not able to finish his homework, send a signed note explaining the situation to the teacher the next day. The assignment will still need to be completed by the student when there is time to do so.

## GRADING

Grades at Grace Christian School must be understood in the proper perspective. Grades are not to be considered a reflection on the child's worth as a person, on his state before God, or on his future potential. Grades are purely indicative of the child's achievement in a particular subject, in relation to the set standard.

In grades 1st – 8th the numerical grades are:

90-100	=	"A" (for the student whose work is superior)
80-89	=	"B" (for the student whose work is above average)
70-79	=	"C" (for the student whose work is average)
0-69	=	"F" (for the students who are failing academically).

In grades 9th – 12th the following standard is used:

Letter Grade	Grade Point Average	Numerical Average
A	4.0	90-100
B	3.0	80-89
C	2.0	70-79
F	0.0	0-69

(70 and above is passing)

**Important Note:** All graded papers will be sent home for parent signatures in Grades 1-6. In Grades 7-12, teachers may send home significant graded assignments for parental signatures.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

All GCS students complete Keyboarding (.5 credit- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade), Algebra ½ (1 credit- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade), Computer Applications (.5 credit- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade), and Algebra I (1 credit- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade).

**College Prep Diploma:** Freshman- Promoted to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and have 2 credits; Sophomore- a minimum of 8 credits; Junior- minimum of 14 credits; Senior- minimum of 20 credits with the capability of completing 24 total credits by the end of the school year. *Recommended Study Track.*

**Completion Diploma:** Freshman- same as above; Sophomore- same as above; Junior- minimum of 12 credits; Senior- minimum of 17 credits with the capability of completing 21 total credits by the end of the school year. \*\*\*A signed Parental Choice Option Form must be on file for this diploma.

## REPORT CARDS & CONFERENCES

A Progress Report is issued after 4½ weeks of each grading period and is available on RenWeb. A Parent Teacher Conference is scheduled for all students at the end of the first nine weeks, and Report Cards will be provided at this conference. All subsequent Report Cards will be provided through RenWeb. Parents may request a hard copy of the Report Card from the office. Other Parent Teacher Conferences may be requested by the teacher or parents at other times during the school year.

## PROMOTION

### ***Grades 1–6***

In order for students to be promoted, they must pass Language Arts (which includes Spelling), Reading, and Mathematics. The primary teacher may or may not recommend promotion to the next grade even when grades are passing. In case of a student not being recommended, it will be the parent's decision on promotion.

### ***Grades 7-8***

In order to be promoted, a student must have a passing average in English, Mathematics (at the lowest level taught for that grade), and an overall passing average. To determine the average, grades are weighted according to the amount of time spent in that class. The conduct grade is excluded.

### ***Weighted grades***

The following optional classes will be weighted by adding an additional 10% to averages:

Fourth year in-house English, Advanced Alg. II (Pre-Calculus), Calculus I and II, and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Foreign Language. These will appear on report cards, transcripts, and will be used to compute class rank.

## ACADEMIC HONORS

### ***Academic Honor Student Awards***

Students who annually have an overall weighted academic and conduct average of 92 with no single average, including conduct, average below a 90 when weighted, and who exhibits an attitude of acceptable nature will receive the Honor Student Award. This award is given at the end of the year based on final averages.

### ***STAR Student, Valedictorian, Salutatorian***

To be considered for these honors, a student must be a graduating senior and have attended Grace Christian for six consecutive semesters as a full-time student immediately prior to graduation. Their credits must include at least three years of In-House English, one In-House math credit above Algebra II, one credit in Foreign language, Physics, and Chemistry. Conduct must also be of an acceptable nature. Candidates for Valedictorian and Salutatorian must have completed at least 40 hours of volunteer service throughout their four years of high school (volunteer service can be in their church or community). Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be based on GPA at the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks of their senior year.

**\*\* If a student voluntarily opts out of a required core course offered at GCS, they will be ineligible for these honors \*\***

***REPORT CARD HONOR ROLLS***

Honor status is computed based on nine week averages. A student receiving an overall average of 90 – 94 will earn Honor Roll standing. A student receiving an overall average of 95 – 100 will earn Headmaster’s Roll standing. In each case the conduct average must be 90 or above. Also, classes will be weighted. Overall averages are weighted based on hours spent in class.

## **AWARDS DAY CRITERIA**

**Bible Memory Awards** – Bible Memory awards may be given at the closing program by the Bible teacher or Bible Memory supervisor of each class. Individual teachers may set their criteria for these awards as long as the results recognize ONLY those students who have learned WELL all the assigned Bible memory for the entire year for that grade level.

**Academic Honor Student Awards** – Students who have an overall subject and conduct yearly average of 92, with no grade below a 90 for the year end average and those who exhibit a positive attitude will receive the Honor Student Award. The conduct grade must be 90 or above.

**Timothy Award** – A student receiving this award is one who has had a CONSISTENTLY ENCOURAGING ATTITUDE exhibited in all phases of his or her school life. It should have OFTEN been witnessed by the faculty involved with this student that his or her attitude was contagious with an obviously positive or encouraging result. This is a student whose attitude could be pointed to as an example to be followed by other young people.

**Outstanding Achievement** – The student receiving this award is one who has exhibited EXCEPTIONAL achievement over “self” or through overwhelming circumstances in a particular area of his or her life, which is culminated with very real and positive accomplishment, over the course of this school year. This accomplishment can be of an academic or non-academic nature. The attitude exhibited by this student should definitely be a positive one overall.

**As with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, these awards will be determined at the end of the 3rd nine weeks.**



## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **DRESS CODE**

#### ***School Uniform Policy***

The basis for the dress code of Grace Christian School is the scriptural guideline of modesty and respect for authority. Student appearance should enhance a Christian's testimony of life adhering to biblical principles, rather than worldly standards. We ask for the cooperation of both parent and student in this matter of school dress. The following guidelines will be enforced on school property from student arrival to dismissal. After school activities still require adherence to the principles of modesty, neatness, cleanliness, and respect for authority as these activities are still times in which students represent Grace Christian School.

1. All clothing and accessories are to be modest, neat, clean, and in good repair.
2. No hats or caps to be worn in any building.
3. Any item purchased via the school approved uniform distributor may be worn during the school day. All uniform items are required to be purchased through the distributor for grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and are thus approved clothing items by the school administration.\*
4. GCS sold t-shirts, sweatshirts, or hoodies are allowed on all school days.
5. No opened-toed shoes or high heels will be allowed. Shoes with open backs are permitted.
6. Only natural hair colors are allowed. For boys, hair should not extend below the collar, eyebrows, or middle of the ear. Additionally, boys are prohibited from wearing any hair accessories.
7. The face must be clean shaven. Side-burns should not go below the earlobe.
8. No visible body piercings or tattoos are permissible for boys or girls. Girls may, however, wear modest ear jewelry.

In all matters regarding Grace Christian School's dress code, the school administration will have the final say on what is or is not approved for school attendance.

#### ***Cold-Weather Policy***

All classrooms are maintained at a comfortable temperature. Jackets and coats cannot be worn in the classroom. Long sleeve shirts in solid black may be worn underneath the uniform shirt if the student desires. For girls, solid black leggings may be worn underneath the school uniform.

### ***School Activities Policy***

While afterschool activities do not fall under the same expectations as the school uniform policy, GCS administration does expect a certain level of modesty to be maintained at all events where the school is being represented. As such, students are not allowed to wear pants with holes, shirts with spaghetti straps, or other like clothing deemed inappropriate by the school administration.

#### Dress Code for K5-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Royal Blue Polos
- Khaki shorts, skorts, jumpers, and pants
- Black shorts, skorts, jumpers, and pants
- Grace t-shirts
- Black leggings only
- Jeans on Fridays for \$1

\*Regarding Item 3:

Grace Christian uses the uniform provider French Toast for all students 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. This will prevent the various errors that arise from purchasing items from multiple vendors that “mostly” fit the uniform policy, but actually fall outside of the GCS uniform requirement. Parents will need to visit ([www.frenchtoast.com/schoolbox/schools/grace-christian-school](http://www.frenchtoast.com/schoolbox/schools/grace-christian-school)) to gain access to all ordering options available to GCS students. The items that can be found there are:

- Royal Blue Short Sleeve and Long Sleeve Polo Shirts
- Khaki or black pants, shorts, skorts, dresses, and jumpers
- Jackets and sweaters
- Winter Hats (beanie/toboggan)

Outside of the clothing options available through (***French Toast***), the only other items allowed to be worn at Grace Christian School are the various t-shirts, sweatshirts, and/or hoodies that have been or will be sold by GCS directly (often called “spirit wear”). All students are allowed to wear Grace T-shirts any day.

## CONDUCT CODE

A student's general responsibility in his own personal behavior will be expected and worked toward as follows:

1. Cheerful, immediate obedience to authority (parents, teachers, etc.) and school regulations even when the person in authority is not immediately present.
2. Responsibility in doing assigned or expected tasks.
3. Cooperation with others in playing and working at school and on the playground.
4. Courtesy and respect for other students, teachers, and visitors. Students should learn to be quiet in class, raise their hands to speak, not interrupt others, walk/not run in the building, and eat with proper manners.
5. Cleanliness in person and property. Put all trash in trash cans, pick up paper on floor and grounds, keep desk neat, dress neatly.
6. Truthfulness and honesty in word and life.
7. Respect for the property of the school and other people.
8. Promptness in attendance and assignments.
9. Morally good conduct in respect to recreation, social relationships, and language.
10. Learning to love God.

When the student deviates in these areas, it is the responsibility of the home and the school to help by both correction and guidance. While the discipline of the child is ultimately the parent's responsibility, parents and teachers must cooperate fully with one another. Anything said or done which tears down respect and confidence for either will harm the child. Mutual understanding can be gained by conferring with and praying for one another often.

Exposure to movies, music, television, and literature should be carefully selected and supervised by the parents in accordance with Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." Remember, children do often share with their class in detail what they have seen and heard outside of school as well as inside school.

Conduct grades are cumulative to the student regardless of class. Conduct grades are awarded by the homeroom teacher in Junior High and High School and the primary teacher in Elementary School on a weekly basis. The nine week grading period is a cumulative average of the grades each week. A score of 100 is given and the following deductions are applied:

- 1) For each Conduct Notice – 4 pts.
- 2) For a disciplinary warning – 15 pts.\*
- 3) For a detention – 20 pts.
- 4) For a suspension – 40 pts.

***Only the highest level penalty is used (four Conduct Notices would generate a Disciplinary Warning, but only the Warning deduction would be used, not the 4 Conduct Notices)***

## **CLASSROOM/ASSIGNMENT CONTENT POLICY**

The purpose of GCS is to glorify God. This concerns not only what we teach, but the materials we use. We are concerned to honor God with what we study. Some materials contain language and expressions which conflict with honoring God. The Scriptures give us some clear guidelines on what ought to fill our mind and be on our tongue.

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." Exodus 20:7

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things." Philippians 4:8

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret." Ephesians 5:3-12

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

"I will be careful to lead a blameless life - when will you come to me? I will walk in my house with blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil . . . No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence." Psalms 101:2-7

Based on this, we will avoid profanity and the misuse of God's name. However, there are materials with such educational and historical value that students ought to be familiar with them. Where such contain art work, profanity, and the misuse of God's name, the teacher will notify parents of its inclusion. Summer reading assignments (library books) will be more difficult to deal with, however it is our desire to give sufficient choices in books so our policy can be followed. It is our desire to prepare our students to interact in a world where these things exist rather than pretend that they are not there.

## **COMPUTER/NETWORK USAGE POLICY**

Grace Christian School provides access to technology resources for all students (7th grade and above), faculty, and staff. These resources include: General office and productivity applications, educational applications and telecommunications. Every effort is made to insure that resources are provided securely and safely within the mission and philosophy of GCS.

If a user identifies a security problem on the GCS wide area network, they are responsible for notifying a teacher. Users should not demonstrate the problem to other users.

### ***Using the Internet***

1. Internet use is restricted to school hours.
2. A teacher must be present in the classroom to monitor all Internet use by students.
3. Students may not access the Internet during class unless directed by their teacher.
4. Students may not access email (unless directed by teacher for the purpose of submitting or receiving assignments), social networking accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), or media download sites.
5. Personal information (address, phone numbers, passwords, etc...) should never be given out over the Internet.
6. All efforts are made to filter the Internet at school for student safety. Even so, occasionally, objectionable materials may get past our filters. Should this happen, students should immediately report this to the teacher in attendance.
7. Downloads from the Internet should not be made without a teacher's permission.
8. Use of the GCS network is a privilege. Abuse or violation of usage policy can and will result in loss of privilege.

### ***General Computer Use***

1. Internet use is restricted to school hours.
2. Students are not allowed to load any software onto school computers without school clearance.
3. Students using any computer must have adult supervision at all times. This will include use of personal lap tops at school.
4. The creation or spreading of computer viruses is illegal and unethical.
5. Photos of students are often incorporated into school documents and school-related presentations. All reasonable care will be taken to consider the safety of each child in these publications.

**Any infringement of these guidelines should be reported to school authorities. Students who fail to do so will be viewed as accomplices.**

## **PROHIBITED MATERIALS/DEVICES**

### ***Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, Vaping, Illegal Drugs:***

All such items are prohibited on school grounds. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, GCS parents must consent to random drug tests for their student(s).

### ***Weapons:***

Pocketknives or more serious items are prohibited on school grounds. Violations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Electronic Devices:***

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices such as cell phones, headphones, air pods, I-Pods, handheld games, etc. are prohibited as a general rule. Once students arrive on school property cell phones should be kept in the provided container in the student's classroom. Cell phones are prohibited during break or lunch and should only be used when the classroom teacher deems it necessary for instruction. Students will not be allowed to use cell phones, I Pods, air pods, headphones, handheld games etc.. during dismissal. Laptops and tablets are allowed for use in the classroom per teacher's discretion but only for school purposes. If a student's phone is taken up by a teacher, administrator, or other staff member there will be a **\$50.00** fine in order for the student to get their phone back.

## **SPIRIT WEEK**

Spirit Week is sponsored by the Student Council and will last four days. The dates of this event as well as all theme days, games, etc. must be approved by the Headmaster before notice is posted for students. 1st – 12<sup>th</sup> grades may participate in the themed dress up days. If a student chooses not to participate in the themed dress up day, he will wear his school uniform. Games are offered to students in 1st – 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The responsibility for training up a child belongs to the parent (Deuteronomy. 6:4-9; Ephesians. 6:4). The classroom teacher derives authority in training the child only in relation to the Biblical guidelines for fulfilling the parent's obligations before God. These obligations include training in discipline. A parent may use various means of training, such as citing a Biblical principle, spanking a child, or taking away privileges. In keeping with Biblical standards, the parent may use whatever his personal discretion dictates within Biblical boundaries. Therefore, a teacher standing in the parent's stead, and having been enlisted by the parent to do so, may use his personal discretion in regard to discipline. Teachers are to keep within the same Biblical guidelines as the parent and within school administration directives and counsel, the broadest, over-riding guidelines being what honors God and what is best for that child!

Several general guidelines regarding our discipline policy follow:

1. The responsibility and authority to discipline come from God. (Ephesians. 6:1-4)
2. Discipline has moral content. The foundation is our conformity to God and the revelation of His standard of righteous conduct. It is both positive and negative. Disobedience is the core of sin (I Peter 1:16).

3. Christian love is at the heart of all discipline. The seemingly dark side of love (correction and chastening) is an essential part of the consistent and fair firmness of love. They must be balanced. Firmness minus love becomes harsh; love without firmness is sentimentality. Both errors produce problems instead of solving them (Proverbs 3:11-12). Such discipline must also be consistent and fair.
4. All discipline is designed to show the child his sinful will, lead him to trust Christ, and to become a self-disciplined person who wants to do God's Will (Galatians 3:19-24).

Several methods of correction may be used at GCS (this is not an exhaustive list):

1. Private, verbal reproof (Matthew 18:15)
2. Reproof by the administrator (Matthew 18:16)
3. Restitution for vandalism and theft (Exodus 22:1)
4. Spanking (Proverbs 22:15)
5. Suspension from school (allowed to return if conditions met) Suspension carries 40 points off weekly conduct grade.
6. Expulsion (Matthew 18:17), for serious or repeated offenses, that is, incorrigible behavior. Student will not be allowed to return to GCS. Board approved exceptions are possible for an entirely new school year.

With regard to spanking in particular: Spanking will not be the only means of discipline; however, neither will it be a "last resort". It will be used if deemed appropriate in a given situation. The teacher, in counsel with the administrator, will exercise the same discretion a parent would use under the same circumstances. However, it is the policy of the school that the home is the preferable context for correction that requires a spanking. Therefore the school will seek constantly to have the parent informed concerning behavior that might lead to the necessity of a spanking in order that this can be done at home.

### **Parental Contact**

Teachers will post classroom behavior and discipline updates in RENWEB in a timely manner (preferably daily, at a minimum weekly) so that parents may have access to discipline records. In lower grades, teachers will send discipline notes home with students or place notes within the student's daily planner for all but day-to-day, minor corrections and for anything that it would profit the parent to know. All discipline notes must be signed by the parent and returned the next school day.

For Junior High and High School students, parents will be emailed or texted notice of the discipline violation through RENWEB (if a parent does not have email, the note process described above will be used). Parents should acknowledge receipt of the message to the teacher.

Repeated discipline issues will necessitate a Parent/Teacher Conference related to the discipline issue. It is desired that the teacher-parent relationship be one that fosters discipline and responsibility in the student.

# Attendance Policy for Grace Christian School

## REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR LEARNING

Regular attendance is critical to your child's education. Disruptions to your child's school attendance can have a significant impact on his or her academic performance.

Your child should attend school consistently and should be absent only for illness or emergencies.

Excused absences:

- School-related activities, with prior approval from administration, will be excluded from the number of allowable absences.
- A student suffering serious illness or injury will be excused. A doctor's note will be required.
- Students absent from class due to school-related business are considered in attendance.
- Students participating in religious instruction or exercises are excused, not to exceed more than four days a year.
- Family trips will be excused as long as the office is notified at least ONE WEEK in advance of the trip.
- Funerals of immediate family members will be excused.
- The Administration reserves the right to determine whether an absence will be excused on a case by case basis if it is outside of the parameters already given.

***A student who has eight (8) days of unexcused absence in any class in a semester may receive no grade and lose credit for the class. The student will also be prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities for the semester. Parents will be notified of absences on a timely basis.***

***In the case of unexcused absence, the student will not be allowed to make up work and will be given zeros on all assignments, quizzes, and tests on that day.***

***With excused absences the student will be given three days to make up all work if they are in middle school/ high school. The student will have five days if they are in elementary school.***

### WHEN YOU ARE ABSENT —

Parents must call the school during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) the first day the student is absent to notify the school. 662-773-8524

### Student Drivers:

Student's who are leaving school before 3:15 must have a note with a parent's signature before they will be allowed to sign out. A parent may also call the school and check out the student. A text message from the parent will NOT be accepted for the student to check out of school. Seniors will be the only students allowed to sign themselves out.



## Tardies:

Tardies will pertain to high school and middle school students grades 7-12<sup>th</sup>.

A student is considered tardy at 7:51

When the student receives 3 unexcused tardies a detention will be issued.

When the student has accumulated 6 detentions due to tardiness a suspension of 1 day will issued and the student will be given an unexcused absence on the day of their suspension.

If the detentions exceed 6 a parent conference will be scheduled to find a solution for the ongoing tardiness.

## Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities

Any student participating in school sanctioned athletics or fine arts events must be present for a minimum of 4 periods to be able to attend practice, games, play practice, or the play/musical. The only exception is in the case of an excused absence, and it must be cleared by the administration before the student is allowed to participate. All students participating in extra curricular activities must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (which is a C average). If a student fails to maintain a 2.0 GPA they will be put on probation for one 9 weeks where they will have the opportunity to raise their GPA. If the student fails to do so they will not be allowed to participate in athletics or fine arts until the GPA is brought up to a 2.0.

## **IMMUNIZATION, SICKNESS, AND MEDICATION**

All new students must have a certificate of immunization (a Form 121) -- INCLUDING K3-K5 STUDENTS. We cannot accept a physician's or parent's immunization records, notes from the physician or any other substitute. The shots and the certificate can be obtained from the family physician, or the Winston County Health Department. This certificate must be brought to Orientation Night if not previously turned in to the school office. There is also a booster shot for 7th grade students that you will need to get and provide documentation of this to the school office.

In a medical emergency, we will try our best to contact you. However, until we are able to do so, we will use our judgment concerning medical treatment, unless specific instructions are given beforehand. **CHILDREN MUST BE FEVER-FREE UNMEDICATED FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILD AND OTHERS, WE ASK THAT YOU NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WHILE STILL CONTAGIOUS. WE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.**

Children who must take a certain medicine during the school day must turn in that medicine with clear instructions. The teacher or front office will store and dispense such medicines.

## SCHOOL OPERATIONS

### START AND DISMISSAL TIMES

Students in grades K3-12 should arrive **NO EARLIER THAN 7:30** (Preschool opens at 7:30 a.m.) Homeroom will begin at 7:50. Students must remain in designated areas until the beginning of Homeroom.

K3, K4, and K5 Dismissal begins at 11:00 a.m. 1st – 12th Grade Dismissal begins at 2:55 p.m. Any student not picked up by 3:15 minutes will be sent to daycare and charged the hourly rate (Minimum 1 hour charge). Teachers have other obligations after school, and should not be asked to supervise children on their own time.

We ask parents not to stay with their children the first day of school (especially K3 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade). The adjustment is easier for both student and teacher if parents are not close at hand for anything other than a brief goodbye.

### DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Please observe the following procedures during GCS school hours. Our goal is to keep the children safe and insure that vehicles entering and exiting the campus do so in an orderly, efficient manner. By working together we can achieve this goal.

1. ALL traffic entering the campus must enter from McLeod Road at the west driveway entrance next to the church. The Brooksville/Beth Eden driveway is considered an EXIT ONLY.
2. During drop-off and pick-up times, vehicles should pull forward to the far end of the main classroom building and form a single line of traffic next to the building.
3. During DROP-OFF, children will exit on the right side of the vehicle and go immediately to their designated area.
4. During PICK-UP, vehicles should pull forward to the end of the main building and form a single line to wait for their child(ren).
5. Drivers may NOT leave their vehicles while waiting in line.
6. If your child is delayed, please loop back around to help expedite traffic flow.

**Please do not block McLeod Road during dismissal; this is very dangerous. Please utilize the drive through of Wess Chapel Baptist Church.**

Parents who need to park and enter the building for any reason should park in the front parking lot off McLeod Road. Children should not be picked up from the Front Office Area during Dismissal. Enter into the west driveway and exit onto McLeod Road using the east driveway. The front office will be closed between 2:50-3:15. If you need to check out your child please do so before or after that time period.

All non-staff children must remain in the designated area for dismissal.

### ***SIGNING STUDENTS IN/OUT OF SCHOOL***

If you need to pick your child up during the school day, parents must sign their child out on the "sign-out" sheet at the front office. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom. Upperclassmen no longer have standing written permission to leave campus.

### **SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

If school is closed due to bad weather or an emergency situation, an announcement will be made on the local radio stations (WLSM AM and FM), broadcast on WCBI TV Channel 4, posted to the GCS Facebook page and REN WEB Alert by 7:00 a.m. Generally, we will be closed when the public schools are closed due to inclement weather.

### **FOOD SERVICE**

Lunches will be served during designated times Monday through Friday. Students may order a lunch or bring a bag lunch. Our limited facilities do not permit each student to heat up lunches brought from home. Kitchen staff will use kitchen microwaves for the heating of ordered lunches only.

Student use of microwaves will be limited to 7th-12th grades. Refrigeration is also available to students in Grades 7-12. Students should keep the refrigerator and microwave clean. Food may not be left overnight.

Snacks are available from the snack machine near the cafeteria, however the snacks may not be taken to the classrooms, and all trash must be disposed of properly.

### **VISITATION**

Parents and friends are welcome to visit the school at any time. We do ask that you contact your child's teacher and the administrator to arrange a satisfactory time. **ALL** visitors (including parents) must check in at the office. At **NO** time should a parent or visitor go directly to the classroom or other school areas. This is for the safety and security of your children.

## PARENTAL COMMITMENT & INVOLVEMENT

### PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

#### *Rationale*

The scriptural responsibility for "training up a child in the way he should go" is primarily the responsibility of the parents. A parent cannot relinquish this responsibility for his child to anyone else, including a teacher. A classroom teacher does not have specifically stated scriptural authority over the children in his classroom. He derives this authority only from the parent having enlisted him to assist in "training up" his child. Once a teacher has been so enlisted, then his authority over a child at the school would be on the same basis as that of the parent. The parent and the classroom teacher become partners (in a limited way) in training the child. The teacher will be held accountable to God for performing his work as unto the Lord for His glory (Col. 3:23) and to the parent who has enlisted him as a partner. However, the parent is the chief partner since God has specifically given him the Biblical responsibility for training his own child. Therefore, the parent is encouraged to pray for wisdom and grace for the teacher in the classroom as he would for himself in training the child at home and to be in **immediate contact** with the teacher when the parent feels there is a problem. The parent and teacher, as partners, are, therefore, to **communicate as often as either deems profitable for the child's benefit**. Both are encouraged to call each other directly as appropriate concerns for the child arise. Such cooperation and communication **cannot be stressed enough**, for it is of the utmost importance for the child's well-being. Neither should ever degrade the other but follow the example of John 13:34-35 in their attitudes toward one another.

#### *Parental Responsibilities*

To help you understand better what your child is doing and learning in school, we ask you to keep the following things in mind and agree to do them as well as you are able:

- Be familiar with the content of your child's textbooks.
- Check on what he is doing for homework and provide a conducive place and atmosphere for helping him do his best.
- Cooperate with the teacher by periodically providing home-learning experiences in connection with his schoolwork. These may be either assigned by the teacher or planned by you.
- Contact the teacher or the administrator **any time** you have a need; contact someone who **can do something constructive** about the need rather than talking with those who **cannot affect** the situation positively.
- Attend parent conferences and other school functions.
- Cooperate with the teacher in helping your child obey school regulations with the right attitude.
- Cooperate with the teacher when feasible when the teacher requests parent help for class activities.
- **Pray consistently for your child and his teacher.**

#### *Messages*

Please write any messages to the teacher or administrator, or call them personally. Do not trust the child to carry a verbal message; he may either forget it or get confused.

### *Grievance Procedures*

At GCS, we are not concerned to defend our present policies; simply because that is the way we have always done things here. Our only desire, in every aspect of the school's operation, is to act in obedience to the Word of God, the Bible. Thus, we encourage input from and discussions with the parents. Whenever you have a question about something we do in educating your child, PLEASE let the proper person know about it. The Board of GCS has established certain guidelines to insure that this is done in an **orderly, Biblical, and constructive** manner:

1. The **FIRST** person to talk to is **NOT** another parent, but the child's **TEACHER**, in private. The teacher is the person closest to the situation, and thus has the most understanding of the problem, and is the one most able to correct a problem.
2. If the parent does not feel satisfied with the response from the teacher, they are to contact the Teacher Supervisor. The teacher supervisor may, to insure fairness, call in the teacher and the Headmaster for consultation.
3. The final step, if no agreement can be reached, is for the administrator or the parent to present the matter formally to the Board. Please do not contact individual members of the Board and expect one of them to present the matter before the Board. One board member has no authority to act on his own, and he should not be expected to present the matter adequately before the rest of the Board.

This point must be emphasized: The parents should not discuss a disagreement in front of their children. (For example: "Helen, I think your teacher made a mistake in your grade. She is too harsh.") This undermines the respect the children have for their teacher. As long as the child is enrolled in GCS, the parents are expected to exhibit support for the teacher and the school. If the parents feel that they can no longer offer such support, then it is their Christian duty to send their child to a school that they can so support. This is only fair to the school, to the teacher, and, **most of all**, to the student, who often gets caught in the middle of any disagreement and suffers the most from disagreements not being handled properly. It is also very harmful to the child's overall education for the parent to voice openly to other adults his disapproval or disagreement with the teacher or his job performance. This circumstance is certainly very embarrassing for the school and the teacher, but this is not the reason for our concern here. When a parent openly exhibits a negative attitude toward or criticizes a teacher, that bond of trust that is so essential in the parent-teacher partnership is broken and must be laboriously restored so as to return to a profitable, productive working relationship. The faculty of GCS is carefully instructed that the reverse is equally true! We must all diligently "watch" our tongue. If we are guilty of "gossip", we are not only wrong before the Lord, but we will also become its victim!

This in no way means that parents are expected to "never disagree" with what the teacher or the school does. It simply means that when we disagree we should be honest enough and have enough moral character, both school staff and parents, to do so face-to-face and constructively. Also, how can a person "fix" a problem that he or she knows nothing about?

It cannot be said too often or emphasized too much that negatively discussing with others or criticizing before others, the teachers, other school personnel, students, or other parents greatly harms the school's constructive operation and can (and usually does) cause much personal pain!

**If we refuse to be guilty of "gossip" -- we won't be its victim!**

## SCHOOL-SPONSORED FUNDRAISERS

Grace Christian School spends less per student than the state of Mississippi yet has far better results, academics in particular. However, tuition and fees pay for less than 80% of the actual cost of educating a student. The remainder must be made up through fundraisers and donations. **Your active participation in fundraisers is essential to the school's financial well-being.**

We will typically have three "major" fundraising events each year. These funds go into our operating accounts... helping us pay bills and salaries. You will receive specific information prior to each event. Smaller fundraisers may be done by a class or Eagles' Wings Parent Organization with the funds raised designated for a particular purchase.

## FINANCIAL GIFTS

Giving to your local church should be your priority. However, Grace Christian School is a Christian ministry and worthy of your support also. We look to friends for financial help in the same way such great organizations as *Focus on the Family* and *The American Family Association* do. As President George Bush recognized, faith-based programs often do the job better than others. When you consider the amount of time we spend with children and our influence on them, this school should be on your Christian giving list. We are a 501C (3) organization. Your gifts to GCS are tax-deductible.

## EAGLES 'WINGS PARENT ORGANIZATION

*Mission Statement:*

*"Eagles 'Wings parent organization will seek to glorify God through active service at Grace Christian School. The organization will support the GCS staff and faculty through targeted volunteer efforts. In addition, each year Eagles 'Wings will adopt a special project and work to raise funds through board approved fundraising activities."*

*Organization Structure*

The EW Steering Committee is the "link" between GCS parent volunteers and the school administration and board.

- The steering committee will work directly with school leaders to identify areas where support is needed and solicit parents to complete the tasks. Each member will focus on specific categories of support and work to identify and develop leaders within the parent community.
- The steering committee will meet quarterly to share ideas and discuss progress, upcoming events, etc. A report will be submitted to the GCS Board of Directors after each meeting. A recording secretary will be appointed each school year to document the volunteer efforts and best practices for future parent leaders.
- The steering committee will consist of eleven members serving three-year terms. Members may serve more than one term. The existing steering committee will nominate the new committee members each year. The Headmaster and a Board member will serve as advisors to the committee.
- The Steering Committee will coordinate volunteer efforts by sending out a parent sign-up sheet at the beginning of the school year.

## EAGLES 'WINGS STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	Tracy Gregory, Chairperson	
Anje Morgan	Angie Miller	Jamey Willers
Candi Nolt	Brandi Clark	
Gaye Hogue	Angela Harrington	Brittany Weeks
Dawn Gentry		
Judy Clay	Brandi Randle	Lisa Mast
		Rachel Brownlee

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### SPORTS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Starting in the fall of 2020, GCS offers the following sports:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Varsity Volleyball	Fall	Girls	9-12 or coach's decision
JV Volleyball	Fall	Girls	7-9 or coach's decision
Middle School Volleyball	Fall	Girls	5-6 or coach's decision
Varsity Cross Country	Fall	Girls, Boys	7-12 or coach's decision
JV Basketball	Winter	Girls, Boys	7-9 or coach's decision
Varsity Basketball	Winter	Girls, Boys	9-12 or coach's decision
Baseball	Spring	Boys	7-12 or coach's decision
Tennis	Spring	Girls, Boys	7-12 or coach's decision

### SPORTS PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

A Christian philosophy of athletics should be no more than an extension of a Christian philosophy of education since athletic activities are merely opportunities to demonstrate things learned in the educational process. Our goals are as follows:

- To assist the school in developing Christian character in students by emphasizing the principles found in Luke 2:52
  - *Wisdom* – knowledge and understanding of game, sportsmanship, self-control
  - *Stature* – physical training



- *Favor with God* – spiritual training, proper view of winning, response to authority
- *Favor with man* – social teamwork, not selflessness, fellowship with other believers in other schools
- To teach student athletes that a true winner is one who does his best for Christ in all things regardless of the situation or outcome (Col. 3:23 / Phil. 4:13)
- To develop confident application of skills through athletic competition
- To instill a respect for authority
- To increase and build proper school spirit

## **ATHLETIC POLICIES**

### **TEAMS:**

All GCS students and homeschooled students (as needed) in Grades 5-12 are invited to come out to play. Where numbers and coaching staff allow we will strive for three levels of athletic competition. The teams available will be based on the following criteria

#### **1) Middle School**

A. Intramural program Grades 5-6

B. Based on a recreational philosophy which is designed for instruction, skill development and fun.

- it allows any eligible student wishing to play to make the team.
- it allows equal play time for all.
- it allows Grades 5-6 to also play on the Junior Varsity if chosen.

## **2) Junior Varsity**

- A. Competitive program Grades 7-9, no student may turn 16 years of age prior to August 31 of the competing year.
- B. Based on a recreational/competitive philosophy of play which is designed for skill instruction and development and is a lead-in to the interscholastic competitive program.
  - it allows all students Grades 7-9 wishing to play to make the team.
  - it allows all students Grades 5-6 to make either the home team or travel team by way of a tryout.
  - it allows all students, once the team has been chosen, to compete equally for starting and playing time based on attendance at practice, effort, attitude, grades, skill, and his/her ability to contribute to the team.
  - it allows students Grades 7-8 to also play on the Blue/Gray team.
  - it allows students Grades 7-9 to also play on the Varsity team if chosen.

## **3) Varsity**

- A. Competitive program Grades 9-12, no student may turn 19 years of age before August 31 of the competing year.
- B. Based on a competitive philosophy of play which is designed for implementation of knowledge and skills in an interscholastic, competitive environment.
  - it allows students Grades 7-12 to play on the team based on a try-out.
  - it allows all students, once the team has been chosen, to compete equally for starting and playing time based on attendance at practice, effort, attitude, grades, skill, and his/her ability to contribute to the team.
  - it allows students Grade 9 (if under 16 yrs. old) to also play on the junior Varsity team.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Participation in athletic activities at Grace Christian School is considered in the highest sense of the meaning of "student-athlete". Athletic participants are expected to maintain satisfactory performance and conduct in the classroom and must be in good standing financially with Grace Christian School in order to participate in the athletic program activities.

## **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

For students in Grades 5-8, an academic performance baseline for eligibility is established as successfully completing the previous grade. Students who have not successfully completed the previous grade may gain eligibility by obtaining an overall C average (75-84) or higher in the core curriculum subjects (Language Arts, Reading, and Math) for two consecutive nine week periods. Eligibility is maintained by keeping an overall C average (75-84) or higher in the core curriculum subjects (Language Arts, Reading, and Math) during each of the nine week school periods.

For students in Grades 9-12, an academic performance baseline for eligibility is established as successfully completing the previous grade. Students who have not successfully completed the previous grade may gain eligibility by obtaining an overall C-average (70-72) or higher in the core curriculum subjects (English, Science, Math, and History) for two consecutive nine week periods. Eligibility is maintained by keeping an overall C- average (70-72) or higher in all core subjects (English, Science, Math, and History) during each of the nine week school periods.

Students failing to meet academic standards during a nine week period will be placed on Athletic Probation for the following nine weeks. Students may continue to participate in sports activities but are given nine weeks to raise academic performance.

Students failing to meet academic standard for eligibility for a second consecutive nine week period will be placed on Athletic Suspension. Students on Athletic Suspension are not allowed to workout, practice, or participate in team activities but are encouraged to use the time to improve academic performance.

Eligibility can be restored by successfully meeting academic standards for a nine week period.

### **CONDUCT STANDARDS**

Conduct is a direct reflection of student character. Students participating in athletic activities are expected to maintain an 80 or above weekly average in classroom conduct grades. If the weekly average is below 80, then the student will be placed on Athletic Probation. If a second consecutive week occurs during which the student conduct average is below 80, then the student will be placed on Athletic Suspension for one game. If a third consecutive week occurs, then the student will be placed on Athletic Suspension for seven days during which the student may not participate in team activities. If a fourth consecutive week occurs, then the student will be placed on Athletic Suspension for the entire year.

If after returning to satisfactory conduct grades for a period of time, a student athlete fails to maintain the required 80 or above average, then the consequences will begin with the Athletic Suspension for one game and progress with each week that the conduct grade remains below 80.

Flagrant or chronic conduct problems will be addressed separately from this process.

### **FINANCIAL STANDING**

Students participating in team sports activities through Grace Christian School are expected to be in good financial standing with the school. All tuition and other charges must be current or an established plan of payment in place at the time of sports participation. Students with accounts that are delinquent or not in compliance with an established payment plan will result in the student(s) being ineligible for sports activities until the account is brought current.

### **HOMESCHOOL PARTICIPANTS**

Grace Christian School welcomes Homeschool Students for participation in our team sport activities. Homeschool students must provide age and academic performance documentation. Initial eligibility will be established by the School Headmaster and Counselor based on equivalent grade level, previous academic performance, and student age. Homeschool students must provide a copy of their annual academic plan and periodic performance updates (6-9 weeks) indicating satisfactory academic progress. Failure to follow according to the submitted academic plan or demonstrate satisfactory academic performance will result in application of the Academic Standards process.

## OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GCS provides students with additional non-athletic extracurricular opportunities in the form of:

### *Drama/School Play*

Every year GCS plans, auditions, practices, and puts on a full school musical, usually in March or April. Students have the opportunity to try out for one or more roles in the play during the fall; then students work throughout the year to practice their role, design sets, develop the musical aspect of the production, and finally put on several performances. The spring musical is always one of the highlights of the school year.

### *Beta Club*

The GCS Beta Club is an affiliate of the National Honor Society recognizing high school students who demonstrate superior academic performance. Membership is restricted to those who meet academic requirements as established by the National Beta Club. The GCS Beta Club performs service projects, fundraisers, offers tutoring assistance to lower grade students, and participates in State Beta Club activities. Leadership positions are available in the club through direct election of members. Some colleges and universities offer scholarship opportunities for Beta participation and leadership.

### *Yearbook Staff*

The Yearbook Staff assist in the production of the GCS Annual. Assisting with layout and design, photo selection, and advertising sales, Yearbook Staff members gain experience in modern production and communication methods.

### *Student Council*

The GCS Student Council provides input from the student's perspective through working with the Headmaster to address school concerns and needs. Student Council members are elected early each school year and serve to provide leadership to student activities, address campus issues, and positively affect the culture of the school.

### *Fellowship of Christian Athletes*

Faith and sport are combined in this student-driven organization that looks for ways to use athletics to minister both inside and outside our school. Regular guest speakers, community opportunities, and student-led ministry activities are what FCA is all about. FCA is for any and all 5th-12th grade athletes, and this club meets every week.