



SCHOOL INFORMATION

2017-2018

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Thursday, August 17, 2017

- 5:00-5:30 For students involved in 7th-12th grade athletics, a **required** parent athletic meeting will be held in the Hansen Chapel.
- 5:30-6:00 **A required school-wide meeting will be held for all parents and students in the GBC main auditorium.**
- 6:00-7:00 Visit classrooms, meet teachers, and pick up important first-day information.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL: See the green Arrival and Dismissal sheet in this packet for the daily schedule as well as traffic directions. School begins **Monday, August 21**, following the **early dismissal** schedule.

FINANCES: The first tuition payment is due August 1. To give parents a convenient way to pay tuition, GCS offers a "Tuition Deduction Program." See the enclosed pink financial policy sheet and Preauthorized Bill Payments flyer for details.

SUPPLIES: A supply list for all grades is enclosed. Students should bring all supplies to Back to School Night.

ATHLETICS: Soccer/volleyball tryouts will begin Monday, August 7, 8:30-11:30pm. *Athletic physicals are required **before** tryouts begin. You must bring your completed physical form to tryouts.* Pick up forms from the high school office. (If your student plans to participate in any sport this year, it is recommended that you schedule a sports physical during the summer. Students are not excused from classes for sports physicals once school starts.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

DRESS CODE: Parents, please review our Land's End uniform page and make sure you purchase uniforms in time for the first day of school. Carefully read the school uniform information sheet in this packet. Go to our website at www.gracelions.com and click on the Land's End link to be sure you purchase only items approved for GCS.

FORBIDDEN ARTICLES/ACTIVITIES: Please be familiar with those items listed in the Parent-Student Handbook. Students may not have in their possession any item that does not directly relate to school. **No cell phones, iPads, iPods, laptops, recorders, or any electronic devices can be brought to school, even in purses, book bags, or athletic bags.** If a device must be brought for a specific reason, please contact the appropriate school office.

Any GCS student who creates a personal web page or social media profile is responsible for the content of those pages. Nothing on any page (language, comments, music, pictures, etc.) can be inconsistent with the purpose and mission of Grace Christian School. Parents, please monitor your child's personal web pages.

SCHOOL SECURITY: Please read the enclosed green sheet regarding our building security and procedures for visiting school.

STUDENT INSURANCE: Secondary insurance coverage is provided for each student.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS: In accordance with State regulations, the following vaccinations are applicable for this year:

1. **Third grade has been added to the requirement for two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine.** A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.
2. **Fifth grade has been added to the requirement for three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine** with at least one (1) dose received **on or after the fourth birthday.**
3. **Eleventh Grade** has been added to the requirement for **one (1) booster of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine.** A dose administered on or after the seventh birthday will meet this requirement.

Your child must meet the immunizations requirements BEFORE school starts August 21.
Schedule with your doctor or the health department quickly! Immunizations are given at specific times.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY: UPDATE TO PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK P.7

Please refer to this information regarding attendance instead of the printed information on p.7 of the handbook.

GCS follows South Carolina law regarding school attendance. Students are allowed up to **ten absences per year** with parent notes and up to ten absences per year with doctor notes, for a **total of twenty absences per year**. Any student exceeding these totals may be asked to repeat the class/grade during summer school or the following year.

All student absences not related to sickness must be pre-approved so that the student can obtain any class information/work needed. A note must be submitted to the school office five school days in advance for every pre-approved absence. A note must be submitted to the school office the day the student returns from an absence related to sickness. **Any absence not accompanied by a note will be considered unexcused and will result in a two point grade deduction for that quarter in all classes missed.** Once attendance is recorded for the quarter, the attendance record is final.

It is the student's responsibility to make up all missed assignments. Absences do not exempt students from assigned work. This includes, but is not limited to, homework, quizzes, and tests. For absences related to sickness, the student will have the same number of days to make up the work as he/she was absent. For pre-approved absences, all work should be completed before the absence unless otherwise instructed by the teacher.

Junior High and Senior High student attendance is taken in each class period. Elementary and K5 student attendance is taken on a daily basis. Elementary students are considered absent for the entire day if they arrive after 11:30 or if they leave before 11:30. K5 students are considered absent for the entire day if they arrive after 10:00 or if they leave before 10:00.

Exceptions to the attendance policies must be approved by the administration.

LUNCH PROGRAM: Please take advantage of our hot lunch program. Tickets are sold for \$35 (10 lunches) or \$70 (20 lunches). Drink tickets are also available for \$12 (20 drinks). **Individual lunches may not be purchased.** We recommend that all students should purchase at least one lunch ticket to use when lunches are lost or left at home. If you plan to purchase a lunch ticket for the first day of school, please do so with your first tuition payment instead of waiting until Back to School Night.

MUSIC LESSONS: If your child is interested in private piano lessons (Grades 2-12) or private or group band and string instrument lessons (Grades 4-12), please contact Miss Fleming at rfleming@gracelions.com if you have any questions.

SCRIP PROGRAM: GCS will participate in a scrip card program again this year. Families order scrip cards from over 150 companies where everyday purchases are made—drug stores, gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, car repair shops, retail stores, etc. For each card purchased, the school receives a percentage of 2-13%. **You receive 100% of the cash value on every card you purchase; Scrip pays the percentage to GCS.** This is a great way for you to plan your spending and to help GCS! More information will be given out at Back to School Night.

RETREAT FOR JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH: All students in Grades 7-12 are required to attend our annual GCS overnight school retreat. We will leave school on Thursday morning, August 24, and return the evening of Friday, August 25. Detailed information sheets will be available at Back to School Night.

WATER BOTTLES: For Grades 1-12, students are allowed to have personal water bottles at school, **but ONLY if they are 24 ounces or smaller, are clear, and have a sealable top.** GCS offers a bottle that meets these requirements. You may purchase these at the Back to School Night for \$5.

SPIRIT SHIRTS: We offer a GCS Spirit t-shirt that may be worn to school any day there is a home athletic event. Shirts are available for purchase and order at the Back to School Night for \$6.