

Grace Christian Preschool & Kindergarten

WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Grace Christian Preschool/Kindergarten. It is an honor and privilege to work hand in hand with you as we share the responsibility of providing a Christian education for your children.

This handbook has been assembled by the administration to give parents and students general guidelines and information concerning the organization and administration of our school. Please read the information carefully with your child and keep it for future reference and information as needed.

History - Grace Christian School began as the result of Pastor and Mardel Watterud's vision as they were elected to the position of Senior Pastor at Gladstone Assembly of God. At that time there was an existing preschool known as Kiddie Kampus. Their vision soon grew to a full elementary and Jr. High program. With the addition of two modular buildings, the school was able to complete the vision and expand the educational program through the high school grades.

Mission Statement

Grace Christian Preschool/Kindergarten is a ministry of Gladstone Assembly of God church in Gladstone, Oregon. GCS believes we have a spiritual and educational mission to the younger children of our community.

GCS is dedicated to the principle that a balanced education is fundamentally based on the Word of God. We believe in the concept that education is best achieved when the needs of the whole person are considered. GCS endeavors to create an environment in which the student can attain growth, and develop spiritually, intellectually, psychologically, physically, and socially; both as an individual and as a contributing member of society.

In this setting we are committed to provide an educational environment that stresses the highest level of academic excellence and the promotion of Christian character and ideals.

GCS's Goals and Objectives

1. Christian Commitment: To train young children in the Christian faith, in accordance with precepts outlined in the Bible; to see each student develop an understanding of who God is.
2. Prayer: In accord with our Christian commitment, the school holds that the development of a spirit of prayer is an essential part of Christian living. With this in mind, we pray each day in the classrooms.
3. Bible: GCS believes the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, and it is our sole authority for the student's faith conduct. Therefore, the school provides the daily study of God's Word in the school's setting.
4. Education: The school's commitment is to create an educational environment in which all its members, administrator, teachers, and students can achieve maximum academic growth through:
 - ❖ providing strong teachers who are a positive witness to their faith in Christ by their lives and teaching.
 - ❖ exercising leadership with a commitment to Christian values and Christian character.
 - ❖ providing an education program in which Christ is honored and the teaching of God's Word is freely shared with a generation of youngsters who are reaching out for light in a darkened world.
5. Personal:
 - ❖ to teach the student to treat everyone with love and respect.
 - ❖ to teach the student the art of self discipline-of their body, mind and spirit.
 - ❖ to help the student develop a proper understanding and acceptance of himself as an individual.
 - ❖ to promote habits that contribute to good health and wise use of the body as the temple of God.

The ABC's of Salvation

According to the Bible there are basically 3 things to know about beginning and maintaining a relationship with the one true God.

*To know God and be ready for heaven,
follow these steps:*

A. Admit you are a sinner.

"There is no one righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:10,23. (See Romans 5:8; 6:23.)

Ask God's forgiveness.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13

B. Believe in Jesus

(put your trust in Him) as your only hope of salvation.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (See John 14:6.)

Become a child of God by receiving Christ.

"To all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (See Revelation 3:20.)

C. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (See verse 10.)

Classroom Goals - Preschool

Language Arts:

1. Recognition of name, sound, and pictures of long and short vowels and consonants
2. Sounding of beginning blends

Manuscript Writing:

1. Formation of letters, blends, words, etc.
2. Writing of first name

Numbers:

1. Number recognition 1-100
2. Number concepts 1-20
3. Numbers before and after 1-20
4. Numbers largest and smallest 1-20

Art:

1. Identifying colors, coloring
2. Painting
3. Use of scissors, cutting and pasting
4. Craft and art projects

Music:

1. Singing
2. Finger plays

Health:

1. Cleanliness
2. Safety rules

Reading Readiness:

1. Left to right progression
2. Recognizing difference and likeness in size, shape, etc.
3. Rhyming words
4. Poems
5. Flag salute
6. Bible pledge
7. Story time
8. Weather/Calendar
9. Action games

Classroom Goals - Kindergarten

Language Arts:

Phonics and Reading

1. Recognition of names, sounds, and pictures of long and short vowels and consonants
2. Sounding of blends, one and two vowel words, and consonant blends
3. Beginning phonics rules and spelling
4. Reading of sentences and stories with one and two vowel words and consonant blends from 12 books

Manuscript Writing:

1. Letters, blends, words and sentences
2. First and last name

Language:

Recognition of sentences by capital letters and periods

Science; Gods Plan For:

Plants

Animals

Me

Earth and Space

Arithmetic:

1. Number recognition, counting, and writing 1-100
2. Number concepts 1-100
3. Numbers before and after 1-100
4. Numbers largest and smallest 1-100
5. Counting and writing by tens to 100
6. Counting and writing by five's to 100
7. Counting and writing by two's to 100
8. Using number words 1-10
9. Addition facts through 10

ART:

1. Coloring, Painting
2. Cutting and pasting
3. Creative crafts

Music:

1. Singing
2. Musical games

Admission Policies

Age requirements:

- 4yr old preschool Must be 4 years old by September 1st.
Kindergarten Must be 5 years old by September 1st.

Immunizations:

State law requires that we have a certificate of Immunization Status form filled out and on file for each child in attendance at Grace Christian School. The certificate needs to be filled out and returned to the school before or on your child's first day of attendance at school. The forms are available from the front office.

Financial Information

Registration Fees:

Registration fees are assessed on a per family basis. The fee is \$200 per family, or **\$100 for families with ONLY kindergarten or pre-school students.** Registration fees are non-refundable, unless your child is not accepted for enrollment.

Tuition

What is tuition? Tuition is a yearly cost rate with payment options as follows:

- Full year's tuition by August 1st (*5% discount).
- Ten equal payments, the first payment due on August 1st, with each succeeding payment due on the 1st day of each month through May 1st
- Twelve equal payments, the first payment due on July 1st, with each succeeding payment due on the first day of each month through June 1st.

NOTE: Tuition payments do not fluctuate with holidays or with student absenteeism.

* For specific costs, please contact the school office.

Late fee:

Tuition payments are due on the 1st of each month. Payments made after the 10th are considered late and will be automatically assessed a \$25.00 late fee.

School Closures

Grace Christian School follows Gladstone public schools announcements for students in all twelve grades. If Gladstone public schools are closed, Grace Christian is closed. If Gladstone public schools are one hour late, GCS starts one hour late, etc. Please listen to local radio and television stations for specific closure information.

We understand that students come from areas outside of Gladstone and may not be comfortable with road conditions. For this reason, we ask that parents evaluate their situation before commuting to GCS.

Arrival and Departure Procedure

1. Parking is only allowed in the parking lot.
2. Absolutely, **No Parking in the drive through covered area**. This is for dropping off and picking up your child only.
3. Arrival and drop off time is 5 minutes before class begins.
4. If you need to come into the building, please park in the parking area and walk to the building.
5. Teachers will bring the children out to the covered area and put the children into cars.
6. Please be prompt about picking up your child.
7. We encourage car pools.
8. During the first 2 weeks of school when picking up your children, we ask that you hold up a sign with the name of those you are picking up. This assists the teachers in matching cars/parents with the children.
9. No child will be allowed to leave the school with another child unless this is the usual carpool arrangement.
10. If someone other than the parent or guardian is picking up your child, please write a note to inform the school of this change.

Chapel (Kindergarten only)

Chapel is always on Wednesdays at 9:30am or 1:00pm depending upon the week. We require the boys to wear a dress shirt or sweater and dress pants or dress jeans (black or khaki only). Blue jeans are **not allowed** on chapel days. Girls should wear dresses, skirts and blouses or dress pants with dress shirt.

Hair should be neatly cut and combed. No spikes, tails or extreme haircuts will be permitted. If faculty or administration determine a hair style to be inappropriate and/or distasteful, a modification will be required immediately for the student to remain in school.

Clothing

Comfortable, washable play clothes are a must for school. All jackets, sweaters, etc. should be clearly marked with your child's name. The clothes should be easy for the child to undo so he can take care of his own bathroom needs.

Please don't send your child to school with instructions "don't get dirty." We do a lot of fun activities and sometimes the children get messy. Remember, the children have a short recess time outside when the weather permits, so dress them properly.

Illness

Please do not send your child to school with a suspected illness. Following a fever, a child's temperature should be normal for at least **24 hours** before returning to school. If your child is out of school for more than 1 day, please call the front office and give a report on the nature of the child's absence. We would like to know if there is a serious change in routine at home (such as a illness, new baby, death or divorce) so that we can help your child at school during these times.

We will do our part to keep everyone healthy but we need your help to! Children **should not** be brought to school with any of the following:

1. Fever with 100F or higher
2. Vomiting on two or more occasions within the past 24hr period
3. Diarrhea-three or more watery stools in a 24hr period
4. Draining rash(such as might accompany chicken pox)
5. Eye discharge or pink eye
6. Fatigue that prevents participation in regular activities
7. Abnormal nasal discharge
8. Lice or Nits

School Hours

Preschool and Kindergarten begin each morning, Monday-Friday at 8:30am and ends at 11:30am. Afternoon Kindergarten begins at 12:00pm and ends at 2:50pm.

Student Insurance

Grace Christian School carries the liability insurance coverage required by the state of Oregon. The school expects the parents major medical insurance carrier to be the primary provider covering accidents or injuries.

Show and Tell

Children in preschool and Kindergarten classes will have show- n-tell on designated days only. Each teacher will give you specific information concerning which day of the week to have your child bring in his show-in-tell items. Items brought for show-n-tell should be in a paper bag or a backpack with the child's name clearly written on it. Children should not bring items on days other than the one designated by the teacher.

Birthdays

Every child likes to celebrate his/her birthday. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance. If your child has a summer birthday, we will have a special day during the school year for them to celebrate also. Your child's teacher will give you information regarding birthday policies.

Snacks

A small snack will be given to your child each day at school. Your child's teacher will provide a sign-up sheet to use in determining what day you and your child will bring snacks during each month.

The snack should consist of something to drink as well as something to eat. We highly encourage protein and fruit snacks rather than sugar treats. Remember this snack is not a lunch. If your child has an allergy or dietary difficulty, please give this information to your child's teacher. To minimize high sugar content snacks, here are some guidelines to follow:

1. Children will need guidance from parents in selecting items for snacks. Give them a choice of 2 healthy foods such as apple slices or cereal snacks. You may wish to refer to the snack suggestion list below.
2. Cookies or cupcakes can be brought on the child's birthday or special day. You may want to consider an ice cream treat instead of cookies.
3. No purple or red juice or Kool Aid. Apple juice, orange juice, milk or water are allowed.

Note: The Oregon Health Department recommends that no homemade snacks be brought to school.

Snack suggestions:

- ❖milk, apple juice or orange juice
- ❖apple slices or cheese strips
- ❖celery sticks with peanut butter or cream cheese
- ❖crackers(wheat) and cheese
- ❖bananas
- ❖finger jello and crackers
- ❖popcorn
- ❖Cheerios or other cereal
- ❖Fruit rolls/cut in half
- ❖Rice Krispie bars
- ❖dried fruit
- ❖vegetables-carrot and celery sticks
- ❖graham crackers with peanut butter
- ❖pudding cups
- ❖small muffins

Toys from Home

We do not want guns or weapon-type toys sent to school. We urge parents not to allow children to bring valuable items to school. Although we make every effort to keep things safe, we cannot be responsible for lost or missing items.