

Grace Christian School

School Policy 2025-2026

Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Grace Christian School to further your child's education. We believe that you have made a decision that will yield positive results for many years to come.

Grace Christian begins its 52nd year educating students in the greater Brandon area. We are thankful to God for his provisions and allowing us to have this ministry for all these years.

We believe that this relationship is a partnership. We desire to have consistent and valuable communication with parents. We invite you to play a huge part in the experiences of your child while here at Grace Christian School. Always feel free to contact me if I can be of any service to you.

Again, thanks for making this choice for your child.

Sincerely,

Barry A. McKeen

Pastor, Administrator

The mission of Grace Christian School is to provide the highest quality education based upon Biblical principles. It is our belief that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, and that salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ, who as God in the flesh, came to die, to be buried, and rise again for our sins. (John 3:16) It is our desire to provide the best Christian education and training for ALL children, for God is not a respecter of persons.

The purpose of Grace Christian School is to assist parents in training their children to be Christ-like. This teaching and nurturing process begins in the home and extends to the church and school. The Christian school, in addition to the home and church, offers a course of study where the process of Christian education can take place.

The foundation of Christian education is the Word of God. The philosophy of Christian education is developed from the Bible and stands against the godless philosophies of humanism, materialism, secularism, and New Age.

The goals of Christian education at Grace Christian School shall be the following:

1. To help every student to be “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:17)
2. To encourage all students to “love the Lord their God with all their heart and with all their soul and with all their mind, and to love their neighbor as themselves.” (Matthew 22:37-39)
3. To give Christ the pre-eminence in all things. (Colossians 1:18)

Christian education is first and foremost the responsibility of Christian parents (Deuteronomy 6:7). Grace Christian School has been established to assist parents to obey God’s command to train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Students are only admitted when the administration believes that the student and parents are in full support of the policies and purpose of the school. Expressions of dissention or lack of support for the school’s mission, policies, or leadership are grounds for dismissal of any students of a family in which such action occurs.

Grace Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available to students in the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its academic, admission, scholarship, or athletic policies. Grace Community Church Inc. is non-discriminatory in every area as to race, color, or national or ethnic origin (Romans 2:11, John 3:16).

ALL STUDENTS are expected to abide by the rules set forth by the administration.

Attendance at Grace Christian School is considered a privilege and not a right.

Students forfeit this privilege if they do not conform to the standards and ideals set forth by the administration. The school may insist on the withdrawal of any student that, in the opinion of the administration, does not conform to the spirit of the ministry.

Students are expected to fulfill a code of conduct **whether they are on or off campus.**

Students can be disciplined for infractions that happen off the campus of the school (not limited to examples such as smoking, drinking, using illicit drugs etc...).

Absences & Tardies:

Students who have unexcused absences will not be able to make-up missed assignments and quizzes.

Absences are excused for the following reasons: student illness, death in the family, medical or dental appointments, or any other reason excused by the principal BEFORE the absence occurs.

Students will not be allowed to make up an assignment unless an absence is excused.

A note is required for admission to school after any absence. You can also email: absent@gracechristianschool.com to submit a note to be excused or request permission before an absence. All notes must contain a reason for the absence.

Pre-arranged absences must be pre-approved by the Administration unless it is school business.

Make-up work- It is the student's responsibility to collect these assignments, and students need to schedule a time (outside of class) with the teacher to make-up tests, quizzes, etc. Students will not be allowed to make up work during class time.

Teachers are instructed to issue zeros for all unexcused absences.

School Business Absences- If a student misses class due to school business (i.e.- athletic event, fine arts event, etc.), he must turn his work into the appropriate teacher on the day of the absence before he/she leaves school.

It is also the student's responsibility to get the next day's assignment from the teacher and have it completed the following day he is back in class.

Exceptions can be made for tests and quizzes per administration.

Absences & Tardies (cont):

Extended Absences- Students who miss three consecutive days must bring in a doctor's note for an excused absence. Extended vacations during academic times are strongly discouraged. Any absences from family vacations (including excused/pre-arranged absences) will be subject to our absences policies regarding grade deductions.

Excessive Absences- A student who is absent more than 25 days during the school year may be required to repeat the entire school year at the same grade level.

Students absent 20-24 days during the school year may be required to attend summer school or perform additional hours of in school attendance in order to acquire the necessary hours for grade promotion or for awarding of academic credit on the high school transcript. (The Administration may waive this requirement only if the student has received approval or suffered from a medical issue that required hospitalization.)

A student who is absent more than 9 times in any class in a quarter, will be required to repeat the quarter in full.

Students who miss more than 14 days of the school year, will be required to take final exams, regardless of GPA.

Tardy: A student will serve a two-hour detention (at a cost of \$10) for every three tardies that they receive. A student who fails to appear when assigned detention will be automatically suspended from school for one day.

Any middle/high student that has an unexcused tardy and is more than 3 minutes late will receive automatic detention for skipping.

Excused Tardy: Parents may only excuse their student for four tardies per quarter to homeroom. Each subsequent tardy will be considered unexcused, even if the parent walks the child into the office. A doctor's note is needed to be considered an excused tardy after 4 in the quarter.

Elementary Tardy: An elementary student may only have four un-excused tardies per quarter. After four tardies, un-excused tardies will accrue a \$20 fine for each additional tardy in that quarter.

Address or phone number changes: The office must be advised of any changes in address or in phone, cell phone, and email address. Emergency phone numbers must be updated in the school office. It is imperative that, at least, one parent regularly checks emails. The school sends several per day.

After-care: Students who are enrolled in after-care must be picked up by 6 PM daily. Any student not picked up by 6 PM will incur a charge of \$1 per minute for each additional minute after 6 PM. These charges will be invoiced and must be paid immediately. Failure to pay any extended care invoice may result in services being restricted. It is imperative that students are picked up on time as after-care workers have places to be and families to tend to.

Arrival Policies: 6-12 grade students who arrive at school before 7:45AM will report to morning care before being released to their classrooms. Students in K4-5th grade who arrive before 8AM will be sent to morning care. Students will be charged a fee for

morning care drop in, unless they are a younger student with older siblings reporting for the first bell.

Athletics: Students who participate in GCS sports teams cannot play a game until the sports fees (which includes uniform rental fee) for that sport have been paid. Sports fees are non-refundable. Students who quit a team at GCS may not be eligible to play on future teams at GCS for, at least a calendar year. All students must turn in uniforms in a timely manner at the end of the season. Lost or damaged uniforms will be replaced by the parent at the replacement cost of the uniform. No student may try out or participate without a current physical and signed statement of cooperation.

Athletic Eligibility: For a student to be eligible to play sports at GCS, the following conditions must be met:

- a) A student must have a 2.0 GPA on the 9-week report card.
- b) A student may not fail ANY class.
- c) A student must take a minimum of four major courses.
(English, Math, History, Foreign Language, Science)
- d) Previous School Year: A student who failed to pass (4) unit (academic) subjects the previous school year or did not earn a 2.0 GPA shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition during the first quarter of the school year.

Background Checks: All parents are asked to do a basic background check when participating with school sponsored functions. Forms will be given out at Orientation and will be available in the office. A background check must be done before you can be on campus volunteering in any way.

Bible & Chapel: All students must have a **King James Bible** with them at school each and every day. Bibles must be brought to all chapel services. Chapels are held for elementary on Wednesday mornings and for 6-12 grades on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. There is not a special uniform for chapel.

Students cannot be removed from chapel to go to appointments. Please get them before chapel begins or when it has ended.

Car Line: In the morning, there are two drop-off options. Option one is to the right of the driveway. If you choose to stay right, you will be in the quick drop off lane. This lane should be used if the student is ready to get out of the car quickly and the car will be pulling away immediately. Please pull as far forward as possible before dropping the student off. Furthermore, do not let students out of the car if you are not in the unloading zone.

Option two is to stay left and find a parking space. This option should be used if the parent is entering the building or if the student is not ready to get out of the car.

Note: Parents may not pick up students between 2-3PM (excluding K4 and K5 who get out at 2:20PM). If you will need a student early for an appointment, please pick them up before 2PM.

Parents who refuse to follow car line protocol may be asked to remove their students from the school. The protocol is designed for the safety of the students.

Cars...Students who drive: Students must have a valid driver's license, have a safe driving record, and provide proof of insurance to drive to school. Students must obtain a permit in the school office (each school year). The permit to drive to school is \$40 per year.

Any student who drives recklessly will forfeit their right to drive to school. Students will park at the rear of the school.

Cars...Students who drive (cont.): Students are to exit their cars immediately upon arrival at school. Students cannot sit in their cars listening to music etc.... Also, students may not return to their cars during the day until the bell rings or permission has been granted for them to leave.

Cellular Phones/Devices: Students may bring cell phones to school; however, phones are expected to be in their locker, a book bag, or somewhere that is not on their person. **Any student seen with/using their cell phone/device during school hours or any student whose phone/device goes off in class will be suspended for one day from school. Students will be suspended whether they are using the phone/device to text or call parents.**

Apple watches and other such devices are classified as cellular devices and held to the same standard as cell phones. Students who have their phones/devices confiscated will require their parents to pick the phone up from the school office.

Students who contact their parents via cell phone during school hours will be punished in the same manner as above. Cell phones may not be used during school hours to contact anyone. **If a student has an emergency, they must use the office phone to call home.**

Cheating: Any student caught cheating on an assignment, test, or exam will be suspended for a period of at least one day.

Cheating is defined as using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance or advantage in academic work that is submitted as one's own individual efforts or the giving of such assistance to others and includes the following:

- a. Copying homework from another student without specific approval from the teacher.
- b. Working with others on any assignment that was given as an independent assignment.
- c. Using workbooks and notebooks from any previous year with answers already completed.

- d. Having notes or textbooks visible during a test.
- e. Giving or receiving information about a test, quiz, or other assignment prior to receiving the assignment or using any technology to send or receive testing information.
- f. Glancing at someone else's test or quiz or allowing someone to look at your paper during a test or quiz.
- g. Reading a condensed or Cliff's note/Spark notes, etc. version of a book and representing that you read the entire book.
- h. Not accurately giving correct information to a teacher about grades and completed work.
- i. All forms of cheating will result in disciplinary action from the administration, and academic credit will not be given for the work. Repeated offenses could result in expulsion.

Cheating (cont.): Plagiarism is defined as literary theft, misrepresentation, and falsification and includes the following:

- a. To copy directly, paraphrase, or summarize without clearly marking the source of the information, thoughts, or ideas (including electronic based documents, i.e. PowerPoint presentations).
- b. Plagiarism is prevented when the proper form of documentation is followed. Items that must be documented are facts, quotations, paraphrases, and summaries. Writing that expresses one's own thoughts, experiences, or interpretation and is stated in one's own words does not require documentation. Also, when information is common knowledge or is from a specific text, it does not need citation. As a standard for proper documentation, GCS will use the MLA format.
- c. Inadvertent documentation that allows another's words and ideas to be mistaken as one's own is plagiarism.
- d. Students should ask for assistance from the teacher when a question of documentation arises.
- e. Plagiarism will result in receiving a zero or failing grade on the assignment depending on the extent of the plagiarism and a Saturday school. Repeated violations could result in expulsion.

Demerit System: Grades 6-12 use a demerit system of discipline. The following guidelines exist for demerit accumulation.

* **15 demerits** in one quarter will equal a two-hour detention after school.
(see Detentions)

* **25 demerits** in one quarter will result in a one-day suspension from school.

* **50 demerits** for the year will result in two days suspension and warrant a parent conference.

* **75 demerits** in total at any point in the year will result in expulsion from school.

Detention: Classroom detention will cost \$10 in cash to be paid on arrival. If a student does not show up for detention, they will automatically serve an in-school work suspension the following day.

Demerit Infractions:

Description	Amount
After School - Loitering	5+
Bullying	25 (possible expulsion)
Campus - leaving without permission	25+
Cell Phone – during school hours	25+
Chapel – No Bible	3
Misbehavior	5
Cheating – giving/receiving	25
Class – Skipping	25
Grooming during class	3
Talking without permission	3
Tardy	3
Sleeping	3
Touching teacher's materials	10
Throwing items in class	10
Using computers without permission	25
Inappropriate Touching	5-10
Disobedience - toward teacher	5
Disrespect - towards teacher or student	5+
Dress – Not wearing school uniform correctly.	5
Immodest dress (school, games, events)	5
Eating – outside of dining hall or outdoor eating areas	5
Fighting	25+
Fire Drill – misconduct	10
Forgery	25
Gum – Not allowed in any school building	5 (second offence detention)

Hair – does not conform to school standards (students can be denied entrance until the issue is solved)	10
Internet – posting inappropriate comments or pictures on social media	25+
Lockers – messy, food or drink in lockers	5
Material -failure to bring books/ learning material to class. -Bringing inappropriate materials to school	3 10+
Music – listening to ungodly music on campus	10
Notes – writing, passing, or receiving notes	3
Profanity – using inappropriate language/swearing	10
Property – damage or defacing school property	Appear before Vandalism Panel
Ungodly – symbols or words	5+
Unshaven – boys face	5
Other offenses not listed	3+

***The school administration reserves the right to change, alter, or add to demerits, as it deems necessary.**

Any student found to be using drugs, smoking, drinking, or possessing profane materials will be evaluated by the administration for expulsion.

A student at GCS may not be married or be an expectant mother or father.

Any parent who seeks to cause problems for the teaching staff or the administration will result in the student being dismissed from school.

Disrespect: Disrespect will not be tolerated by students. We believe that respecting elders is a fundamental principle that must be taught to our young people.

STUDENT DRESS CODE:

Students are expected to wear modest clothing to school and all activities and events that involve Grace Christian School. School uniforms must be worn in their entirety. **All school uniforms must come from Risse Brothers in Tampa, Florida.**

Parents and family members are also expected to dress modestly when attending school events.

Parents should assist their students in avoiding fads. The school may amend this policy at any time and often needs to deal with changing styles, fads, and social pressures.

When school begins, we generally give a 10 day grace period. After the grace period, students out of uniform will have to be picked up or they will have to buy whatever is needed to be in compliance.

Extra -Curricular Events: Modest dress is required for all athletic events and other school events. Short shorts, tight pants, revealing tops are not allowed at GCS events. Students who arrive dressed inappropriately will be asked to change or leave the event. Offensive or inappropriate writing on shirts is also unacceptable.

Outerwear: Only GCS outerwear (jackets and sweatshirts) PURCHASED FROM A GCS APPROVED COMPANY is allowed on uniform days.

PE uniforms: PE uniforms may only be worn on PE days (elementary = one day per week, some classes twice). Middle/high school students (7-12) will dress out for PE and are expected to be in uniform each day they have PE.

GIRLS DRESS:

Girls are to wear the school uniform as prescribed below:

K4-2nd

Shorts, skorts, jumpers or pants (November-February) ...with school shirts. Skirts and shorts may be no more than 3 inches above the top of the knee. They may wear plain all-white tennis shoes or navy or black Mary Jane's. Socks may be solid black, white, or blue.

3rd-12th

Shorts, skirts, or pants (November-February) with school shirts. Skirts and shorts may be no more than 3 inches above the top of the knee. They may wear either plain white tennis shoes or brown/tan Sperry boat shoes. Socks may be solid black, white, or blue.

Mandatory Uniforms for girls

K4-2nd Grade Girls:

Plaid jumper, White Peter Pan Shirt, Peter Pan shirt,

Navy/Black Mary Jane Shoes w/ white socks

3rd-12th Grade Girls:

Khaki skirt, Girl fit/blue dry-fit shirt, Brown/Tan Sperry

Make-Up: Make-up is allowed on girls in 6th grade and up. Make-up should be natural looking. No GOTH make-up is allowed. Nail polish must be neutral and matching. No black lipstick or nail polish will be allowed.

Hair: Girl's hair may not be faddish or extreme. Hair should be kept neat and clean. Girls may not shave their heads or have haircuts that resemble a man's style. Girls' hair should be one natural color. If highlights are used, they should be natural colors and tastefully done.

Hair Accessories: Girls may wear hair accessories in school colors ONLY.
(Red/White/Navy/Black Bows, headbands, clips etc.)

Jewelry: Girls may wear a class ring and ONE other small ring. Traditional color watches may be worn. Girls may not wear necklaces or bracelets. Girls may wear no more than three earrings in each ear. Earrings must be modest sized (small stud, small hoop etc.). Gauges may not be worn. Only ears may be pierced (no lip, nose, eyebrow rings etc.).

BOY'S DRESS:

Boys are to wear the school uniform as prescribed below:

K4-12th grade boys wear uniform pants or shorts along with school shirts. Shirts must always be tucked in. Boys may wear plain all black tennis shoes or brown/tan Sperry boat shoes. Boys' pants and shorts must be worn at the waist. Shorts may be no more than 3 inches above the top of the knee. Socks may be solid black, white, or navy. **Boys must wear a belt in all pants and shorts that have belt loops.** The belts must be black or brown.

K-12th Grade Boys Mandatory Uniform

Khaki pants, Blue Dry-Fit shirt, Brown/Black Belt, Solid black tennis shoes
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Jewelry: Boys may wear a class ring and a traditional watch. No other jewelry is acceptable on boys. **Boys may not have their ears pierced.**

Hair: Boys' hair must be neat and clean (combed). Hair should be worn no longer than the bottom of their uniform collar and out of the eyes/eyebrows. Boys may not wear faddish hairstyles (mulletts, mohawks etc...), color their hair in un-natural colors, or shave lines or designs into their heads. Boys must be clean shaven every day (students can be asked to shave at school or be sent home). Boys' hair may not have stark contrasts where the hair goes from very short to long without being blended.

STUDENTS WHOSE HAIR IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE HAVE 24 HOURS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGE.

Dress Down Days: On designated dress down days, students may pay \$3 and wear non-uniform clothing. Clothing should be modest fitting (no short shorts...on boys or girls). Clothing may not have questionable or offensive wording on it. Pants should be loose fitting. Yoga pants, jeggings, leggings “as pants”, or pajamas cannot be worn to school or school events. Girl’s shirts may not be low cut and their stomach should not show (with their hands straight up in the air). Any student violating the modesty code will not be admitted to class and will forfeit their right to dress down. Hats and necklaces are not part of the dress-down experience. Sleeveless shirts may not be worn on dress down days. Girls may not have their stomach showing. Crocs may not be worn on dress down days, not may house slippers or the like. T-shirts should not have the name of bands, rappers, etc...Body suits may not be worn.

Drugs and Alcohol: There is no toleration for any GCS students being involved in drugs or alcohol on or off campus. GCS may perform drug testing on any student at any time at the expense of the parents.

Extended Care Services: Students who are in after-care regularly/continually must complete the Extended Care Enrollment form and will need to enroll at the monthly extended care rates. All monthly extended care invoice payments are due on the first of each month with a net 5-day payment term and considered late on the 6th of each month.

Drop in for morning-care will be charged at a rate of \$0.25 per minute (\$15.00/hr) per child.

Drop in for after-care is for parents who run late occasionally and for unexpected / emergency purposes only. At 3:30 PM each school day, any student who has not been picked up will be signed into after-care and a charge of \$10.00 will be invoiced. In such instances, and in the event a student must remain for an extended period beyond the first 40 minutes, charges will revert to \$0.25 per minute (\$15.00/hr) per child. No students will be permitted to roam the school premises, and no students will be permitted to “watch” athletic/drama practices (or other such activities) to avoid being in extended care services.

Families who fail to pay their recurring invoice or incur regular charges on a drop-in basis must be prepared to make payments promptly on those invoices or risk late fee penalties as well as being placed upon restricted status resulting in student/s not being permitted to utilize these services further.

Late after-care pick up fees will be charged beginning at 6:00 PM and will be charged per child at a rate of \$1.00 per minute for each minute after 6:00 PM. Please make sure to pick up your student/s on time each day to avoid being invoiced for late pick-up fees.

All drop-in extended care invoices will be sent within a week of the service date and have a net five-day payment term. Late fees (PER WEEK) will accrue based upon the fee scale below.

\$10.00	invoices below \$50.00
\$15.00	invoices \$50.00 - \$100.00
\$25.00	invoice over \$100.00

Field Trips: All money for field trips must be paid before a student can go on the trip. Any parents wishing to attend, may. However, parents who wish to chaperone a field trip (have charge over children) must have our Live Scan fingerprinting with a background check.

Finance:

Tuition payments are due on the first of each month. The first tuition payment is due August 1st with the final payment due on May 1st of each school year. **Tuition payments are considered late on the 5th of the month and a late fee of \$25 will be assessed.** Students attending school are responsible for the entire year's tuition (whether the student attends one day or the entire school year). **If a family is 2 months late on school payments a recurring credit card authorization form will need to be completed and submitted.**

ALL MONEY PAID IS NON-REFUNDABLE. Families who are not current on their tuition at the end of November and again in April will be subject to student/s not being able to take their semester and final exams.

All GCS invoices will have a Net 5 days or less payment term. Each family's designated "financial responsibility" has the duty and obligation to ensure that your email address is current and accurate and that invoice emails are attended to swiftly. Please be sure to examine your junk/spam folder and make any adjustments your settings so that you are receiving emails to your inbox from finance@gracechristianschool.com and hcurtas@gracechristianschool.com.

GCS fundraising invoices (Patriot Challenge – formerly Sports A Thon) will incur late fees on a weekly basis until the fundraising balance is paid in full. Please note that invoices for Patriot Challenge fundraising fees are sent to families whose fees have not been fully raised and are past the fundraising deadline date.

All other invoices will incur late fees based on the terms of payment (ie: net 5 days, upon receipt, etc.) and will be assessed in the following amounts.

\$10.00	on invoices below \$50
\$15.00	on invoices \$50 - \$100
\$25.00	on invoices over \$100

We will impose an NSF fee for all returned checks/payments.

In Florida, the **lawful rate for NSF (non-sufficient funds) fees** is as follows:

- **\$25** for checks with a face value of up to \$50.
- **\$30** for checks valued between \$50 and \$300.
- **\$40** for checks exceeding \$300.
- **5% of the face value of the payment instrument, whichever is greater²³.**

These fees are applicable when a payment is returned due to insufficient funds and are governed by Florida Statutes Section 68.065.

After two returned checks/payments have incurred, the family account will be placed on payment restriction and will not be permitted to pay via invoice payment links. All payments will be required to be made in the office by cash/money order, or by credit card POS over the phone. Report cards, transcripts, and other academic records will be unavailable to families until all bills have been paid in full.

Fingerprinting: All parents who desire to volunteer in a manner where they will have direct contact with children will need to undergo the Live Scan fingerprinting and background check. Forms can be obtained in the front office.

Flag Pledges: GCS students will begin their school day with pledges to the American flag, Christian flag, and Bible. Students are expected to demonstrate proper respect for the flags and Bible and will participate in pledges to each by standing and reciting the pledges.

Forms: All students must have a registration form, current health forms and immunizations, a school statement of cooperation, school policy statement, emergency contact cards, social security card, birth certificate, on file before they may attend school.

Formal Occasions: All outside dates (students who do not attend GCS) must be approved by the administration. **Girls' dresses must be approved for all formal events.** The dress must be tried on. A ticket to the event will not be given until the dress has been approved. One month prior to the event, dress guidelines will be given. Students who arrive out of dress code, will be denied entry to the event.

Formals at other schools: The principal will not sign the required documentation for a student to attend another school's formal if that student did not attend a similar formal event sponsored by GCS.

Graduation: Graduation from Grace Christian School is a privilege and not a right. Along with completing the curriculum, students must maintain a standard of ethical and moral behavior. Students can be denied graduation if they violate this standard. Diplomas will be handed out on the Wednesday after graduation or upon completion of all financial and other requirements.

All graduating seniors must attend Baccalaureate Service and the graduation ceremony.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined by student GPA and the student's Christian conduct. **To qualify for either of these honors, a student must have attended GCS for a minimum of three years. Student speeches are subject to administration approval.**

Human Sexuality:

(1) We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged outside of marriage between a man and a woman (Hebrews 13:4 and I Corinthians 7:1-4).

(2) We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender identity/lifestyle, self-identification, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful in the sight of God and the church (Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; I Corinthians 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:2-7). Students who are found participating in these lifestyles will be asked to leave the school immediately.

(3) We believe that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal dignity. **Therefore, one's biological sex must be affirmed, and no attempts should be made to physically change, alter, or disagree with one's biological gender – including, but not limited to, elective sex reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary gender fluid acts of conduct** (Genesis 1:26-28).

Internet: Students will be held accountable for all content including messages, comments, pictures, and any other material that appears on any form of social networking website or messaging feature before, after, or during school (both on and off campus). Unacceptable postings on social media include:

- profane and inappropriate language
- posting of inappropriate song lyrics
- posting inappropriate images, pictures, graphics, etc.
- inciting school disharmony
- Liking, re-posting, or sending any inappropriate activity.
- Videoing or taking pictures of a student/staff/faculty without their expressed consent.

Students should not access social media during the school day. Content posted should be in keeping with a Christian testimony. Pictures and videos should not be taken or posted

during school hours. Students who are guilty of posting inappropriate or sexual pictures will be suspended and/or expelled from school.

Students may not post pictures or videos taken at school to social networking sites without permission.

Make-up work: When a student has an excused absence the student will have two days to complete all make-up work (that is work that is assigned when they are absent. Work that was due on the day they are absent should be turned in on the day that they return). It is the student's responsibility to collect these assignments, and students need to schedule a time (outside of class) with the teacher to make-up tests, quizzes, etc.

Mandatory Reporting: All faculty and staff are required to follow established guidelines for suspected child abuse. This is in accordance with the laws of the state of Florida and established policies and procedures.

Medicine: No medicine will be administered unless we have the proper forms on file in the school office. All medicine should be in the school office. Students may not take ANY type of medicine on their own on school grounds or while on a school trip. If cough drops are needed, they will be administered via the classroom teacher.

Patriotism: Grace Christian School has chosen the Patriot as its mascot. The school teaches the importance of love of country and appreciation for those who have served and continue to serve to defend our precious freedoms. **ALL students MUST recite pledges each and every morning** (American Flag, Christian Flag, Bible, 23rd Psalm, The Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed).

Photos: Grace Christian reserves the right to use any student's photo in publications, advertising etc. Students and families at GCS may not publish photos of other students without permission from their families.

Pick-up policy: **Students** cannot be picked up from school between 2 PM and 3PM. If a student has an appointment, parents must sign them out prior to 2PM or wait until 3:00 dismissal (this does not include Kindergarteners who are brought out to car line at 2:20PM). Please note that tardies at the end of the day are as significant as tardies at the start of the day.

Pregnancy: No student may attend Grace Christian School if they are married, pregnant, or an expectant father.

Problem Solving: Matthew 18 Principle

a. GCS is truly a place for us, as believers, to practice Christian principles. As a chosen people, we must act initially to be responsive to God's plan, and secondly to serve as a model for the students. As problems arise, we must handle them in a Godly way. God's Word declares the way to problem solving. We can find the formula for relationship problem solving in the 18th chapter of Matthew.

b. This principle can be exercised in the Christian school and can help maintain strong, serious-minded relationships. The Bible says: "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell about his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou has gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but, if he neglects to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican."

c. As children of God, we need not be easily offended or overly sensitive. When serious problems arise, however, we should be adequately prepared to follow the Matthew 18 principle.

d. Prayerfully and confidentially, the parties involved need to meet and earnestly seek the mind of the Lord. After an open and honest discussion, both must be willing to change as the Lord leads. Most problems are reconciled at this first level. God Himself gives this step first, and with it, he issues the expectation of resolution.

e. Only if this first step fails should a school problem be furthered to the school administration.

f. Following this distinctive practice establishes the Christian school as an ongoing spiritual exercise. Please pray for the willful exercise of this principle in this school, knowing that it works, for the spiritual is always practical.

Note the following regarding school related facebook pages:

(1) Only one page may exist per class/team sport.

(2) The teacher of the class or the coach of the team must be added to the page. If the teacher is not on Facebook, a GCS staff member must agree to be on the page

(3) Only families of CURRENT students or CURRENT team members may be active participants on the page.

(4) The page should be private.

Any family who threatens a lawsuit will be forced to withdraw their child immediately.

Search and Seizure: Grace Christian School and its agents reserve the right to search and seize anything or anybody on the premises. If necessary, outside authorities can be called in.

Security: The GCS campus is under 24-hour security camera surveillance (in all public areas). The administration reserves the right to inspect or conduct searches of lockers, backpacks, purses, student automobiles, iPads, and cell phones. School camera footage cannot be accessed by students or parents without a court order.

Sickness Policy: Students who go home sick from school or stay home from school with a sickness must be free from fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for **24 hours** (without medicine) before they can return to school.

Study Hall: Students opting for Study Hall in lieu of an academic class will receive neither credit nor a grade. A Study Hall is exclusively for a period of silent study. By design, this time is to be used to complete homework assignments, to complete research and writing projects, and to prepare for quizzes and exams. Study Hall must not be viewed as a break from classes or as a social period. It is designed to help students become academically mature and be able to master the art of time management. Attendance will be taken for study hall, and if a student fails to attend study hall, he/she will be removed to take an academic elective.

Supervision: Students should be under adult supervision at all times. Students can be disciplined simply for putting themselves in places without adult supervision.

Students can only leave campus with individuals that they have been permitted to leave with via the yellow card.

Tattoos: GCS students may not have tattoos that are visible. If a student has a tattoo, they must be covered at all times when on campus or at any GCS event.

Touching (Inappropriate): Students should not be touching one another for any reason. This touching includes rough housing amongst students as well as any romantic type of touching.

Transportation: Students may not ride bikes or motorcycles to school. Students who wish to walk, need permission from the administration and must fill out a waiver.

Vacations: Parents are asked to plan vacations during prescribed school vacation days. A family may have FIVE days per year that will be excused for special family events.

Vandalism: Students who are caught defacing or damaging school property will appear before a panel that will help the student understand the seriousness of this and the panel will decide on the punishment for the student. Families will be responsible for immediate payment for the cleaning and/or repairing of defaced or damaged school property.

Visitors: All non-staff individuals coming to campus must report to the office for a visitor pass. Parents cannot go to their child's classroom without an appointment or authorization to proceed. Please dress appropriately when attending school or auditorium functions. Parents must wait in the office, seated, while waiting for their student to come downstairs for an early sign-out. Parents cannot use the school restrooms unless a staff member has cleared that restroom of any students.