



Grace Beginnings

DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL
K2, K3, K4

Parent-Student Handbook



Faith
Filled



Loving
Teachers



Nurturing
Environment



Partnering
with Families



GRACE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A proud part of Grace Christian School
gcscolumbus.org



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Welcome to Grace Beginnings Daycare & Preschool! We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with families during the important early years of a child’s development. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing, orderly, and Christ-centered environment in which young children can grow spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Grace Beginnings (GBD) is a ministry connected with Grace Christian School (GCS) and Grace Baptist Church (GBC). Our program serves children in K2, K3, and K4 and seeks to support parents in their God-given responsibility to train and educate their children.

SCHOOL PROFILE

OUR DAYCARE/PRESCHOOL PERSONNEL

GBC Pastor/GCS Superintendent	Pastor Seth Hon
GCS Administrator	Mr. William Pacba
Daycare Director/School Office Manager	Miss Kaleigh Henderson
Elementary Supervisor	Ms. Cindy White
Controller	Mr. James Horton
School Board	Mr. Don Edmondson, Mr. Denny Henderson, Mr. Daniel Henderson, Mr. Richard Miller, Mr. Brian Miller, Mr. Steven Mills, Mr. Chris Song

OUR SCHOOL HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Grace Christian School was founded in 1979 as a ministry of Grace Baptist Church. Grace Beginnings is part of that ministry and is concerned with the spiritual as well as intellectual growth of each child. The school’s desire is to help students develop a biblical foundation, Christian character, strong academic habits, courtesy, kindness, and a love for Christ.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Grace Christian School and Grace Beginnings are ministries of Grace Baptist Church and operate under the authority and doctrinal position of the church. The Bible is regarded as the sole and final source of faith and practice. A complete copy of Grace Baptist Church’s Statement of Faith is available upon request.

A full provision of GBC's Statement of Faith can be presented upon request. Below is a portion of that Statement of Faith:

- We believe in the verbal inspiration and authority of Scripture.
- We believe in the triune God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity, virgin birth, bodily resurrection, and personal return of Jesus Christ.
- We believe salvation is by grace through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the ministry of the local church and the Great Commission.
- We affirm the doctrinal positions of Grace Baptist Church regarding creation, human sexuality, marriage, and Christian conduct.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

GBD holds to a philosophy that is founded upon the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. We believe that the responsibility for the education of a child is given to the parents (Deut. 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-4; Eph. 6:4). Our Christian school operates as an extension of the church and the Christian home to benefit parents in their God-given responsibility to educate their child. Two outstanding elements contribute to the school's philosophy of education. First, our curriculum is both Bible-based and Christcentered. The truths of the Bible are not substituted or separated from academics at GBD; rather, they are integrated into the entire educational program. Second, our staff consists of dedicated and compassionate Christian teachers who are concerned about each student's physical, mental, and eternal welfare. Because we recognize the nature of man to be sinful, selfish, and rebellious, GCS strives to place a proper emphasis upon morals and discipline to restrain that fallen nature. GBD desires order and accountability for the students with the goal of developing selfcontrol. Standards of conduct and discipline are Bible-based to develop Christian character and sound values. With this truly Christian philosophy of education, high academic standards, and the mutual efforts of the home, church, and school, our desire is that children are trained up in the way that they should go. (Proverbs 22:6)

OUR MISSION

The mission of Grace Christian School is to promote the cause of Christ by providing a distinctively Christian, traditional education that develops students spiritually, intellectually, morally, culturally, and socially. Grace Beginnings supports this mission by partnering with parents in the earliest years of a child's education.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Spiritual — introduce children to Bible truths, Scripture memory, prayer, worship, and Christian character.
- Intellectual — build an age-appropriate foundation in language, pre-reading, number concepts, fine-motor development, listening, and classroom habits.
- Moral — encourage honesty, obedience, responsibility, self-control, and respect for authority.
- Social — teach children to share, take turns, use kind words, solve conflicts with help, and show courtesy to others.

OUR AFFILIATION

GCS and GBD does not seek or accept funds from local, state, or federal governments or agencies. GCS holds membership in the Georgia Association of Christian Schools (GACS) and American Association of Christian Schools (AACS). GCS is a member of the Georgia Christian Athletic Association (GCAA) for all athletic competition. Our high school is accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND ADMISSIONS

PROGRAMS

Programs	Age Requirement	General Focus
K2	Child must be 2 years old	Routines, language growth, play, early concepts, Bible, social development
K3	Child must be 3 by September 1.	Preschool routines, early academic readiness, Bible, language, number concepts, fine-motor skills, and social development.
K4	Child must be 4 by September 1.	K5 readiness skills, Bible, phonics/readiness, number concepts, handwriting readiness, classroom independence

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Grace Beginnings has a racially nondiscriminatory policy and does not discriminate against applicants or students on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin. Admission is also based on available space, the program's ability to safely meet the child's needs, completion of required records, and the family's willingness to support the Christian mission and policies of the school.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

1. Parents must complete and return a student application form (available at the school office or on Brightwheel) to the admissions office, with the application fee. This fee is non-refundable.
2. The admissions office will arrange an interview with each new student accompanied by at least one parent or legal guardian. During this interview, parents will have an opportunity to tour the facilities and discuss enrollment with the Daycare/Preschool Director.

The following factors are consideration for admission into GBD:

- Conduct, attitude, and previous behavior
 - Previous record of disciplinary history or expulsion
 - Commitment to the standards and policies of Grace Beginnings
3. Once the registration fee has been paid in full, the admissions office will then send the official enrollment packet for acceptance along with enrollment fee (also non-refundable).
 4. Required health, immunization, emergency-contact, custody, medication, and other enrollment records must be submitted before attendance begins.
 5. Textbook fees must be paid on or before the first day of school.

CHILDREN NEEDING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Grace Beginnings desires to serve children compassionately and safely. Parents should share information about developmental, behavioral, medical, allergy, speech, sensory, physical, or other needs that may affect the child's participation in the program. The school may request a conference, written care plan, medical guidance, developmental information, or information from outside professionals when reasonably necessary to understand and support a child's needs.

Grace Beginnings is a general daycare and preschool program and is not a specialized therapeutic, clinical, behavioral, or special-education program. Our teachers and staff are not employed as special-education teachers, therapists, behavioral specialists, or medical providers, and the program is not designed to provide intensive one-on-one care, specialized therapy, or services that require staffing or expertise beyond the normal scope of our daycare and preschool program.

Children with diagnosed or suspected disabilities, developmental differences, or other individual needs will be considered on an individual basis. A diagnosis alone does not determine whether Grace Beginnings can appropriately serve a child. Rather, the school will consider the child's specific needs, the supports requested, the safety and well-being of the child and others, the ability of the child to participate meaningfully in the program, and the school's available staffing, training, facilities, resources, and program structure.

Grace Beginnings will consider reasonable supports that are consistent with the nature of its program and that can be provided without fundamentally altering the program or requiring services, staffing, supervision, equipment, or expertise that the school is not reasonably equipped to provide.

At times, despite the best efforts of the family and school, a child may require a level or type of support that Grace Beginnings cannot safely or appropriately provide. When concerns arise, Administration will communicate with the family, discuss the child's needs and possible supports, and determine appropriate next steps. If the school determines that it cannot adequately meet the child's needs within the scope of the Grace Beginnings program, the school may recommend that the family seek a program with more specialized services or may determine that continued enrollment is not appropriate.

FINANCES

ENROLLMENT FEES

All enrollment fees are to be paid prior to the start of school as listed below. A student will not be admitted to class if all enrollment fees have not been paid. Enrollment fees are non-refundable and nontransferable.

Admission Fees

<u>New Student Application Fee</u>	<u>\$50/student</u>
<u>Registration/Enrollment Fee</u>	<u>\$200/student</u>
<u>Early Registration Fee (February 8-26, 2027)</u>	<u>\$150/student</u>

Textbook Fees (due by first day of school)

K2	\$50
K3	\$172
K4	\$172

TUITION AND PAYMENT PLAN

Enrollment Grade	Annual Total	Monthly Total	Weekly Cost (summer only)
K2	\$8,319.96	\$693.33	\$160.00
K3	\$8,319.96	\$693.33	\$160.00
K4	\$8,319.96	\$693.33	\$160.00

Year Plan

- A 5% discount is given for full payment prior to August 1

PAYMENT EXPECTATIONS

Tuition is essential to the operation of Grace Beginnings. Parents are responsible for keeping their Brightwheel or school financial account current according to the enrollment agreement. Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Administration promptly rather than allow an account to remain unresolved.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND FEES

Withdrawal fees go into effect the day after the student’s registration is completed. GBD has many expenses of a continuing nature, including faculty salaries and campus costs. These are covered through annual income from tuition. Due to these expenses, GBD relies on its families to uphold the financial agreement signed at registration time. This includes paying the withdrawal fee and the prorated tuition for the days the student was enrolled.

TO WITHDRAW FROM GRACE BEGINNINGS:

- 1.The parent/guardian must complete a withdrawal form stating the student’s last day of attendance. (Forms may be requested in the admissions office)
- 2.Parent/guardian Brightwheel financial account will be billed for the prorated tuition and withdrawal fee based on the student’s last day of attendance.
- 3.Student’s records will be released from the school when the student’s financial account is made current.

Month of Withdrawal	Cost	Month of Withdrawal	Cost
July 2026 -	\$500.00	February	\$200.00
September	\$450.00	March	\$150.00
October	\$400.00	April	\$100.00
November	\$350.00	May	\$50.00
December	\$300.00	June	\$100.00
January 2027	\$250.00	July (summer)	\$100.00

2026-2027 DAYCARE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change.
We will always keep you informed!



August

- Meet the teacher (7)
4:30-6:30 p.m.



September

- Daycare closed - Labor Day (7)
- Yearbook Pictures (11)



October

- Daycare closed - Columbus Day (12)
- Picture retakes (27)



November

- Thanksgiving food drive (2-20)
- Daycare closed - Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving spirit week (16-20)
- Daycare opens at 8:30 a.m. (17-18)
- Daycare closes at 12 (24)
- Daycare closed for Thanksgiving (25-27)



December

- Red and Green day (18)
- Daycare closes at 12 (23)
- Daycare closed for Christmas (24-25)
- Christmas party (TBD)
- Daycare closes at 12 (30)
- Daycare closed for New Years (31)



January '27

- Daycare closed for New Years (1)
- Daycare closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (18)
- Spirit Week (19-22)



February '27

- Special Reenrollment Period/K4 only (8-26)
- We love our school week (8-12)
- Red and pink day (12)
- Daycare closed for President's Day (15)
- Daycare opens at 8:30 a.m. (18-19)



March '27

- Open House (2)
- Daycare hours change to 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for Spring Break (15-19)
- Spring pictures (25)



April '27

- No planned events!
Subject to change

May '27

- Field Day (7)
- Daycare closes at 12 (14)
- Daycare closed (20-21, 24)
- Summer camp begins (25)



June '27

- Summer camp calendar will be given

July '27

- Summer camp calendar will be given



2026-2027 Calendar of Events

August 2026

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

3-7.....Teacher In-Service
 7.....Meet the Teacher
 10.....First Day of School
 10-14.....Early Dismissals (2:00 p.m.)
 17.....Resume Normal Dismissal Time
 17-19.....School Revival Chapel

4.....Future Pathways Night (6:30 p.m.)
 7.....NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
 11.....Yearbook Pictures
 15.....Quarter 1 Elementary Progress Reports
 15.....New Parent/Teacher Fellowship
 23.....See You at the Pole Day
 25.....Grandparents Day (Half-day K3-6th)

5-9.....First Quarter Exams (4th-12th grades)
 9.....Early Dismissal - 12:30 p.m. (K5-12th grades)
 9.....End of First Quarter
 12.....NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
 13.....Quarter 1 Report Cards Issued
 13.....Parent-Teacher Conferences
 23.....4th – 6th Grade Sword Drill
 27.....Picture Retakes & Senior Cap & Gown Pictures

2-20.....Thanksgiving Food Drive
 12-13.....Thanksgiving Luncheon
 11.....NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
 16-20.....Thanksgiving Spirit Week
 15-17.....GBC Fall Revival
 17-18.....Late start at 9:00am
 17.....Quarter 2 Elementary Progress Reports
 23-27.....NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

11.....Christmas Program (6:30)
 14-17.....Semester Exams (4th – 12th)
 18.....Red and Green Day
 18.....Early Dismissal (12:30 p.m.)
 18.....End of 2nd Quarter
 21-Jan. 4.....NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

January 2027

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
34	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2027

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4.....School Resumes
5.....Semester Report Cards Issued
18.....NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
19-22.....Spirit Week
21.....100th Day of School Celebration
23.....Homecoming/Alumni Festivities

4-5.....Elementary Spelling Bees
8-26.....Special Reenrollment Period
9.....Quarter 3 Elementary Progress Reports
9.....Parent/Teacher Conference
8-12.....We Love Our School Week
12.....Red and Pink Day
15.....NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
17-21.....Grace Baptist Church Missions Conference
18-19.....Late start at 9:00am

2.....Open House
4.....Junior High GACS Fine Arts Competition
5.....Senior High GACS Fine Arts Competition
8-12.....Third Quarter Exams (4th-12th grades)
12.....End of Third Quarter
12.....Early Dismissal (12:30 p.m.)
15-19.....NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
23.....Quarter 3 Report Cards Issued
25.....Spring Pictures/K5 Cap and Gown Pictures
25.....Fine Arts Gala

March 29-2.....Achievement Testing
2.....Early Dismissal (12:30 p.m.)
2.....Junior/Senior Fellowship
20.....Quarter 4 Elementary Progress Reports
19-23.....Senior Trip
23.....Elementary GACS Fine Arts Competition (4th-6th)
27.....Secondary Academic Fair

7.....Elementary Field Day (12:30 Dismissal)
14.....Last Day of School for K3-K5
14.....Kindergarten Graduation at 6:30pm
17-21.....Final Exams (4th-12th grades)
17-21.....12:30 Dismissal each day
21.....Last Day of School for 1st-12th grades
21.....Awards Assembly for 1st-11th grades (8:15am)
21.....Senior Commencement (7:00pm)
28.....Summer School Registration Deadline
June 1.....Summer School Begins

PRESCHOOL LIFE (HOURS, ARRIVAL, ATTENDANCE, & PICKUP)

PRESCHOOL AND DAYCARE HOURS

The preschool instructional day begins at 8:00 a.m.

- K2 students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. year-round.
- During the school year, K3/K4 early-care drop-off is available from 7:00–7:40 a.m.; students may enter the school building beginning at 7:40 a.m.
- During summer, K2–K4 students may be dropped off beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the daycare building.
- Students are not permitted to be dropped off after 11:00 a.m.

LATE PICKUP

Children must be picked up by the posted closing time. The current policy assesses a late fee of \$1 per minute. For recordkeeping and consistency, this draft recommends that all late fees be billed through the school's normal financial system rather than paid directly to an individual staff member.

OFFICE HOURS

The school office will be open from 7:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Parents are welcome at the school; however, any adults who are not employed by GBC, GCS, or GBD, must check in at the office starting at 8:00 am and obtain a visitor's badge.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

When arriving at school, please drop your children off and move as quickly as possible through carline so that others may also drop their children off quickly. The carline runs along Pierpoint Avenue and Rose Hill Street, and into the Hodges Hall parking lot. Parents should not park on the streets along the school property, especially in front of the driveways of the neighbors. If a parent would like to park and walk the student to the classroom, please use the designated paved and gravel parking area north of the campus along Rose Hill St. Please ensure your student is ready to exit the vehicle upon arrival.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance helps young children build routines and relationships. Parents should notify the school when a child will be absent. A child who is ill should remain home. Grace Beginnings may contact a family when attendance patterns interfere with the child's participation.

AUTHORIZED PICKUP AND CHILD RELEASE

- Children will be released only to a parent, legal guardian, or person authorized in the school's current records.
- Staff may require government-issued photo identification from anyone they do not personally recognize.
- Pickup changes must come from a parent or legal guardian through an approved school communication method. Staff will not rely on a young child's verbal instructions about who may pick up.
- Parents must provide the school with current custody orders or other legal documents that affect release of the child.
- The school may refuse to release a child to a person who appears impaired, threatening, or otherwise unable to transport the child safely. Administration or law enforcement may be contacted when necessary for safety.
- If a minor is permitted to pick up a child, Grace Beginnings should establish and publish a minimum age and written authorization procedure before this policy is adopted.

DAILY CARE AND CLASSROOM LIFE

DAILY RHYTHM

Young children thrive on predictable routines. Classroom schedules may differ by age, but a typical day may include arrival, Bible, teacher-directed learning, centers or play, outdoor activity, lunch, rest/quiet time, snack, music or movement, and supervised free-choice activities. Teachers may adjust the sequence to meet developmental needs, weather conditions, special events, and the school calendar.

K2 remains primarily in the daycare building except for outdoor recess. K3 and K4 begin in their classrooms, eat lunch at approximately 11:00 a.m., participate in recess and nap time, and then join the daycare program for the remainder of the day.

MEALS AND SNACKS

Families will receive classroom-specific information explaining what meals, snacks, cups, water bottles, or food items should be sent from home and what, if anything, the school provides. Parents must inform the school of all food allergies or medically necessary dietary restrictions. Food shared for classroom celebrations must follow school allergy and food-safety expectations. Teachers may limit or decline outside food when necessary to protect children with allergies or other health needs.

REST AND QUIET TIME

Grace Beginnings will provide a developmentally appropriate rest or quiet period for children whose schedule extends into the afternoon. Families will receive classroom instructions for any required mat, sheet, blanket, or comfort item and the schedule for sending these items home for cleaning.

DIAPERING AND TOILET LEARNING

Toileting is a developmental process, and Grace Beginnings desires to partner with families as children learn this important skill.

K2 students are not required to be potty trained. Staff will assist with diapering and toileting needs and will work with parents to support a consistent potty-training routine between home and daycare. Parents are responsible for providing an adequate supply of diapers or pull-ups, wipes, and extra clothing as needed.

Students entering K3 or K4 must be fully potty trained. K3 and K4 students must be out of diapers and pull-ups and able to recognize when they need to use the restroom and complete their restroom routine independently. Teachers will provide age-appropriate reminders and assistance when necessary, but regular diapering or pull-ups are not provided for K3 or K4 students.

We understand that occasional accidents may still happen. For this reason, all K3 and K4 students are required to keep a complete extra uniform, including underwear and socks, in their backpack. Toileting accidents will always be handled respectfully and without embarrassment or punishment.

APPEARANCE/DRESS CODE (K3-K4 ONLY DURING SCHOOL YEAR)

K2 DRESS

K2 does not have a uniform code, but should keep in mind activities that will be done throughout the day. We encourage them to dress comfortably and appropriately.

K3/K4 UNIFORM CODE

Appropriate dress standards are an integral part of Christian character training. GCS desires to stress the Biblical principles of modesty, neatness, and distinct differences between men and women. Casual dress leads to casual attitudes, which adversely affect the disciplined educational environment. These standards play a vital role in keeping GCS a pleasant and positive place. Due to the constant change in fashions and the variety of dress that is accepted today, all GCS students must wear full uniforms to school. The School Administration reserves the right to initiate policies on fads and changes in clothing style, and on dress regulations at any time during the school year.

Primarily, school uniforms are noted by the GCS monogram embroidered on the face pocket area of the uniform shirt. The school offers monogramming service through Janet Kittrell, a local individual who specializes in school uniforms. The cost is \$7/shirt. Shirts can be dropped off in the school office to be monogrammed and picked up once completed. Parents may purchase uniform items from local retail vendors and online retail vendors. New students are allotted two weeks to have uniform shirts monogrammed. The school staff will determine if there is a violation of the uniform policy, either in fact or attitude. Students not complying with the uniform policy will be required to rectify their appearance as quickly as possible.

GIRLS must present a wholesome, feminine appearance.

HAIR — Hairstyles should be neat and appropriate.

- Hair must be long enough so that it does not appear to be a boy's haircut. Hair is not to be shaved.
- Hair color and highlights must be in natural tones. Hair extensions must also match a girl's hair color. Hair should not cover the eyes. Headbands and hair bows and other accessories must coordinate with the uniforms and are consistent with school colors.

EARRINGS - If earrings are worn, they must be a matched set. Girls may wear one set of earrings which should be worn in the ear lobes only. In a wide earring, the diameter is to be no more than 1¼ inch. In dangling earrings, the length should be no more than 2 inches from the bottom of the earlobe. Gauges should not be worn.

BRACELETS - Students may wear no more than one bracelet per wrist. Bracelets must be modest in appearance and may not create excessive noise or become a distraction in the classroom. Students may also wear one necklace.

TATTOOS OR OTHER FORM OF BODY ART - Tattoos or other forms of body art are unacceptable.

DRESS - Uniform clothing must be worn at school and at all school functions, including field trips, unless otherwise stated. The uniform for young ladies consists of a polo and a skirt or jumper.

- Polo shirts may be short-sleeved or long-sleeved with two or three buttons. These shirts should be navy blue or gray. Only the top button may remain unbuttoned. Girls' necklines must be modest, no more than one inch below the collarbone.
- Skirt or jumper colors for the girls should be khaki or navy blue (no jean/denim skirts). Girls' hemlines are to be modest in length and are not to be above the middle of the front of the knee or an inch above the line of the back of the knee. Slits in skirts may not be above the skirt regulation length.
- Tight-fitting clothing will not be allowed.

LEGGINGS & SOCKS - Girls may wear leggings of solid color coordinating with their uniform of the day. Designs on leggings are not permitted in the secondary.

SHOES - All girls may wear athletic shoes or dress/leather-type casual shoes. No flip-flops are permitted. Shoes must have a full back or a strap. Rubber or plastic shoes ("Crocs" or "jellies") may not be worn.

JACKETS/COATS/SWEATSHIRTS - As the weather becomes cooler, students may wear coats or jackets to or from school as long as they do not endorse people or ideas that do not align with the school's standards. Heavy coats and sweatshirts are not acceptable uniform apparel and are not to be worn to class. Light jackets, sweaters, and hoodies purchased from the school and matching the school colors may be worn during school hours. For high school students, unacceptable uniform apparel should be placed in lockers before homeroom and should remain there until the end of the school day.

HATS/HOODS/KNIT CAPS/GLOVES/SCARVES - Any accessorizing with items such as hats, hoods, knit caps, gloves, and scarves, are to be worn to and from school only, and otherwise stowed, unless worn at recess.

BACKPACKS/LUNCH BOXES - Backpacks and lunch boxes must not endorse people or ideas that do not align with the school's standards.

BOYS must present a clean, masculine appearance.

HAIR - Boys must maintain appropriate haircuts.

- The length of the hair on top should not exceed three inches.
- Hair may not be unnaturally dyed or otherwise colored.
- Hairstyles in the form of dreadlocks, spikes, or unnaturally cut patterns/designs are not allowed. Twists should not exceed 2 inches in length, dreadlocks and cornrows are not permitted.
- Hair must be above the eyebrow and above the collar. Hair should not cover any part of the ear.
- Sideburns should extend no lower than the middle of the ear. Beards and mustaches are not permitted, and boys must always be clean shaven.

EARRINGS, MAKE-UP/NAIL POLISH, BODY PIERCINGS - Male students may not wear earrings or make-up, or have any other body piercings. Nails should not have any polish or paint.

TATTOOS OR OTHER FORM OF BODY ART - Tattoos or other forms of body art are unacceptable.

BRACELETS, NECKLACE - Bracelets and necklaces may not be worn unless specifically permitted by the Administration. The only exceptions are a recognized medical alert bracelet and one rubber wristband. Students may also wear a wristwatch. Smartwatches are permitted provided they are not used in a manner that distracts from learning, violates school policies, or negatively affects the student's or another student's conduct or Christian testimony.

DRESS - Uniform clothing must be worn at school and at all school functions, including field trips, unless otherwise stated. The uniform consists of khaki pants (not joggers or any modifications), polo shirts, and tennis shoes.

- Polo shirts may be short-sleeved or long-sleeved with two or three buttons. These shirts should be navy blue or gray. Only the top button may remain unbuttoned. Uniform clothing must not be oversized. Shirt collars must remain turned down.
- Pants may be khaki color or navy blue (no jeans, cargo, or denim pants). Pants may not be tight to the leg (“skinny pants”). The top of the pants may not be worn below the waist (“sagging”).
- Belts must be worn on all pants, and shirts must remain tucked in at all times.

SOCKS - Socks and shoes are to be worn at all times. Boys may wear athletic shoes or dress shoes with a back. Flip-flops and backless shoes are not acceptable footwear for school.

SHOES - Tasteful, color-coordinating athletic, casual, or dress shoes may be worn. Shoes must be laced and tied (if applicable), and they must not be a style that the Administration deems inappropriate for school (hiking or combat boots, gang-related, etc.). Sandals may not be worn.

JACKETS/COATS/SWEATSHIRTS - As the weather becomes cooler, students may wear coats or jackets to or from school as long as they do not endorse people or ideas that do not align with the school’s standards. Heavy coats and sweatshirts are not acceptable uniform apparel and are not to be worn to class. Light jackets, sweaters, and hoodies purchased from the school and matching school colors may be worn during school hours. For high school students, unacceptable uniform apparel should be placed in lockers before homeroom and should remain there until the end of the school day.

HATS/HOODS/KNIT CAPS/GLOVES/SCARVES - Any accessorizing with items such as hats, hoods, knit caps, gloves, and scarves, are to be worn to and from school only, and otherwise stowed, unless worn at recess or P.E.

BACKPACKS/LUNCH BOXES - Backpacks and lunch boxes must not endorse people or ideas that do not align with the school’s standards.

NON-UNIFORM SCHOOL DAYS

As the Administration determines special days such as dress up days or other theme events, may call for other clothing options. All costumes must be consistent with the “modesty” standards of the uniform dress code. On these days, tank tops may not be worn. Pants must have legs that are traditional (not baggy), classic cut. Blue jeans may be worn, but they must not be baggy or torn. T-shirts that look like undershirts or have sayings, pictures, or words, which are inconsistent with the religious tenets of GCS, may not be worn. Girls should not wear pants. Any additional infractions will result in consequence determined by the Administration of the school. If a student is out of dress code, he/she must take necessary steps to come into compliance, e.g., (removing/storing non-uniform outerwear). If a student is not able to come into compliance, parents may be notified to bring necessary items for student. If a student is immodest, he/she will be required to change.

PERSONAL TOYS AND COMFORT ITEMS

Unless requested by the teacher, personal toys should remain at home. A classroom may allow a small comfort item for rest time. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to unnecessary personal items brought from home.

OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

IN-SCHOOL BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Birthday party celebrations are allowed only during the normal lunch period. Parents may bring a cake or other decor for the class to celebrate, but this must be done during lunch in coordination with the teacher. Be mindful of any food allergies students have.

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE

For the safety of the students, any time a home address, phone number, or e-mail address is changed, please notify the school office. In the event of an emergency, the school would need to contact the parent as quickly as possible through either a personal call from the office or through Brightwheel.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEDIA RELEASE

GBD reserves the right to photograph, videotape, or otherwise record students participating in school activities, programs, and other educational settings. Such photographs, videos, and recordings may be used by the school for educational, promotional, publicity, recruitment, yearbooks, newsletters, brochures, the school website, social media platforms, and other school-related publications without compensation to the student or family.

Students are expected to present themselves in a manner consistent with the school's standards of conduct, appearance, and dress whenever photographs or videos are taken. Any student whose appearance, attire, or conduct is determined by the Administration to be inconsistent with school standards or otherwise inappropriate for inclusion in school publications may be excluded from the photograph, required to retake the photograph, and may be subject to disciplinary action. If a retake is necessary because the student failed to comply with school standards, the student or parent may be responsible for any additional costs incurred. The Administration reserves the right to determine the suitability of all photographs and recordings used in school publications and promotional materials. GBD recognizes and complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parents or legal guardians have the right to refuse permission for the school to use their student's photograph, video, or likeness in school publications and promotional materials. Parents who do not wish for their child's image or likeness to be used must indicate their decision by submitting a written request to the school office. This request will remain in effect until the parent or legal guardian submits written notice revoking or changing the decision. GBD will make every reasonable effort to honor all media opt-out requests. However, parents acknowledge that the school cannot guarantee that a student will not appear incidentally in photographs or videos taken during public events, athletic competitions, performances, graduation ceremonies, or other activities where large groups are present. Likewise, the school cannot control photographs or recordings made by news organizations, visitors, spectators, or other third parties attending school events.

GCS/GBD schedules school photographs twice each year.

- Yearbook photos and class photos will be taken on Friday, September 11, 2026, and students should wear their school uniforms (K3/K4 only).
- Spring individual photos will be taken on Thursday, March 25, 2027. Students are encouraged to wear formal attire (K2-K4).

TEXTBOOKS

GCS/GBD provides new textbooks to students for a textbook fee which is due by the first day of school. If a textbook is lost or needing a replacement throughout the school year, the replacement fee for that particular textbook will be added to the student's account.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

During school hours, all visitors must report to the main office upon arrival, present valid identification if requested, state the purpose and anticipated length of their visit, and receive authorization before entering any part of the campus. Visitors must also sign out through the school office before leaving campus. Visitors wishing to observe or enter a classroom must first obtain approval from the school office or Administration. Permission to visit classrooms may be granted or denied at the discretion of the Administration based on the needs of the school and the educational environment. For the protection of our students, individuals who are not enrolled at GBD, including school-age children and teenagers, are not permitted on campus during school hours unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult and have received authorization from the school office. Any person found on campus without authorization, or who fails to comply with visitor procedures, may be asked to leave the premises immediately. The Administration reserves the right to deny or revoke campus access to any visitor when deemed necessary for the safety, security, or orderly operation of the school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

FIRST AID/CPR

GBD is committed to providing a safe environment for all students. School personnel are trained in basic first aid and Basic Life Support (BLS)/CPR and are prepared to respond promptly to medical situations that arise during the school day. Staff members will provide appropriate care within the scope of their training while following universal health precautions and established emergency procedures.

As the first responders on campus, school personnel will assess the student's condition and administer appropriate first aid when necessary. If a medical situation requires care beyond basic first aid or appears to be an emergency, the school will immediately contact the student's parent or legal guardian and, when appropriate, activate Emergency Medical Services (911). The health and safety of every student remain the school's highest priority, and emergency situations will be handled promptly and responsibly.

ILLNESS OR INCAPACITY

To help maintain a healthy school environment, students who are ill should remain at home. Students may be subject to health screenings when necessary. If a student develops a fever or exhibits symptoms of a contagious illness while at school, a parent or guardian will be contacted and required to pick up the student. Students diagnosed with a communicable illness, including conjunctivitis (pink eye), may not return to school until the risk of contagion has passed. The school may require a physician's note before the student is readmitted. Students diagnosed with head lice may not return to class until appropriate treatment has been completed.

COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS

Upon having the following diseases or conditions listed by the Department of Health Services, a student must have written consent from either a physician or the Health Department to return to School:

- Whooping Cough
- Hepatitis
- Salmonellosis
- Measles
- Scarlet Fever
- Streptococcal sore throat
- Tuberculosis
- Ringworm
- Pinworms
- Mumps
- Conjunctivitis/"Pink Eye"

A physician may re-admit a student to School upon having the following diseases:

- Chickenpox
- Influenza
- Colds
- Pneumonia
- German Measles
- Skin diseases: Scabies, Impetigo

MEDICINES

Students may not receive medication of any kind during the school day unless a current Medication Authorization Form has been completed and is on file in the school office. All prescription and non-prescription medications, including pain relievers and allergy medications, must be given to GBD staff and must be properly labeled in their original containers. If a student requires medication during school hours and the school does not have written authorization on file, a parent or guardian must come to the school and personally administer the medication.

EPIPEN PROCEDURES

In addition to complying with the school's medication policy, parents of students who require an EpiPen for allergic emergencies must provide two current EpiPens to the school: one to be kept in the school office and one to be kept with the student's teacher or in another designated location. Parents are responsible for ensuring that all EpiPens are properly labeled and remain current and unexpired throughout the school year.

INHALERS

Because immediate access to medication may be necessary during an asthma attack, students may carry and self-administer a prescribed inhaler, provided that the school has received the appropriate medical authorization and parental consent forms. Parents must notify both the school office and the student's teacher of the student's asthma condition and follow all applicable school medication procedures.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must meet Georgia's immunization requirements. At enrollment, each student needs a valid Georgia Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231) or an approved exemption on file. Parents are responsible for keeping this current. Records must be current and match the student's legal name.

Georgia only allows medical or religious exemptions. Medical exemptions need a physician's documentation; religious exemptions need the state's notarized form. Students without valid records or an approved exemption may be excluded from attending until it's provided. Questions should go to your healthcare provider or the Georgia Department of Public Health.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

To prepare for potential emergencies, the school conducts periodic safety drills throughout the school year. These may include fire drills, severe weather drills, lockdown drills, evacuation drills, and other emergency preparedness exercises as deemed necessary by the Administration. Students and staff are expected to participate in all drills in a serious, orderly, and cooperative manner and to follow the instructions of school personnel at all times.

The purpose of these drills is to ensure that everyone is prepared to respond appropriately in the event of an actual emergency and to help maintain the safety and well-being of the entire school community.

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

When severe weather creates hazardous conditions, regular school scheduling may be suspended. The first concern for deciding to suspend school system operations is the safety of our students. The decision to close school is made by the school administrator. Any time a school closing is a possibility, parents should check for information from WTVM and for an announcement from Parent Alert, our school website, or the school's social media accounts.

STUDENT RETRIEVAL AFTER AN EVENT

In the event of an incident, no student will be dismissed from school unless a parent/guardian comes for him. All parents, or designated parties, who come for students, must have them signed out at the School Office or at the temporary student release station with a school official. Please note that if first-responders are on-site, they will direct you to the correct parking and pick-up locations.

LOITERING

To promote the safety, security, and orderly operation of GBD, loitering on school property is strictly prohibited. Parents, visitors, and guests are expected to conduct their business promptly and may not remain on campus unnecessarily. Individuals who are loitering or who do not have authorization to be on campus may be asked to leave school property. The Administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes loitering and to take appropriate disciplinary or security measures when necessary. These procedures are intended to protect students, maintain campus security, and ensure a safe environment for all members of the school community.

MANDATORY REPORTING

In accordance with Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5), school employees and other individuals designated as mandated reporters who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected are required to report such concerns in a timely manner. Any employee, volunteer, or school representative who becomes aware of suspected child abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall immediately notify the appropriate school administrator and follow all applicable reporting procedures. Reports shall be made in accordance with Georgia law and school policy. School personnel are not responsible for investigating allegations but are responsible for reporting reasonable suspicions to the appropriate authorities. GBD will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and child protective services in matters involving suspected child abuse or neglect. The school prohibits retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, makes a report or participates in an investigation. Failure to comply with mandatory reporting requirements may result in disciplinary action and may subject the individual to penalties under Georgia law.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

A Christian daycare and preschool must provide an environment conducive to the educational and spiritual growth of its students (Prov. 22:6). Learning cannot flourish unless the classroom is well-ordered and disciplined. Accordingly, GBD has established this code of conduct for the benefit of our students, parents, and staff. Parents are required to sign a cooperation form, which also outlines the proper channel for reporting suggestions or complaints. Attendance at GBD is a privilege, not a right; a student who does not conform to school standards and regulations may forfeit that privilege. GBD may request the withdrawal of any student who, in the school's judgment, does not align with the spirit of its ministry. GBD believes Christian students should avoid practices that diminish their sensitivity to the spiritual needs of others or compromise their own physical, mental, or spiritual well-being (Rom. 12:1-2). All students must be treated with dignity and respect, free from threats or harassment. Whether a student's actions constitute a violation of this code of conduct is determined by the pastor of GBC and the director of GBD. These clearly defined, positive Christian standards create a strong foundation for developing stable Christian character.

Parents and students are expected to cooperate with the daycare and preschool and uphold its authority in all matters affecting the program. Parents and/ or students found not to be in harmony with GBD's principles, rules, standards, philosophy, or overall program may be asked by the Administration to withdraw from the program.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Because of the broad diversity among school families, it is important to express some basic guidelines regarding what we expect from you, our parents. Please know that the Administration encourages your input, ideas, and suggestions, but please be careful to express these in a positive, constructive manner.

1. We will not tolerate any behavior on the campus or in the classroom, which, in the Administration's opinion, is violent, aggressive, belligerent, disrespectful, disruptive to the work or academic environment of GBD, or conflicts with the Christian mission or spirit that GBD is trying to encourage.

2. Parents are expected to act in a professional manner when on the property of GBC and GCS. A professional manner includes refraining from intimate acts of affection between partners (i.e., excessive kissing, aggressive hand-holding, petting, etc.).
3. Because GBD is located on the property of GBC, parents are asked to refrain from smoking on our property.
4. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the vicinity of GCS/GBD or at any school function.
5. Appropriate dress is required of all adults visiting the School's campus.
6. The speed limit in the parking lot is 5 mph; please use extreme caution.
7. The conduct of guests is the responsibility of the adult whose child attends the school.
8. Parents should not remain on school property after dropping off their children. This policy is meant to reduce the number of nonstaff personnel as quickly as possible in order to secure the campus. When parents remain on the property, the school staff may not be able to recognize someone who does not belong on campus. Teachers would never want to have a child taken off the school grounds by an adult who pretended to be a parent.
9. Tuition is the primary source of funding for GCS and is essential to its daily operation. Parents are responsible for paying their child's tuition according to the established payment schedule. Delinquent payments adversely affect the school's ability to meet its financial obligations and continue providing a quality Christian education. Families experiencing financial hardship should contact the Administration promptly to discuss available options.
10. Board members, teachers, and staff are not exempt from these rules, and are in fact expected to set the example for others. Failure to comply with these rules may result in the student, parent, or guest being asked to leave the premises, and could result in a student being asked to withdraw from the school.

STUDENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

It is assumed that each student will maintain a high standard of personal integrity, and that only minimal disciplinary action by the school will be necessary.

RESPECTFUL SPEECH AND CONDUCT

All members of the school community, including students, parents, staff, volunteers, visitors, and guests are expected to use language and communication that honors God and demonstrates respect for others. The use of indecent, vulgar, profane, obscene, or offensive language is prohibited. This includes the use of God's name in vain (Ex. 20:7), "curse" words, or other forms of vulgarity. Likewise, inappropriate gestures, written messages, electronic communications, or other forms of expression that are disrespectful, crude, or harmful to others are not permitted (Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6; Prov. 15:1). Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

RESPECT TOWARDS TEACHERS AND STAFF

Students must always address teachers as Mr., Miss, or Mrs. both on and off campus, during and after school hours. Nicknames, regardless of purpose or intent, including but not limited to those that are derogatory, mocking, endearing, overly familiar, descriptive, or based on comparisons, incidents, or inside jokes, are not permitted. When encountering a teacher or staff member, students should politely greet them by saying "Good morning," "Good afternoon," or another appropriate greeting. Likewise, when a teacher or staff member greets a student, the student is expected to respond respectfully and audibly.

Cultivating habits of respect and courtesy contributes to a positive school culture and reflects the character expected of all students. Students are to demonstrate a respectful, cooperative attitude toward any employee/volunteer of GBC and GBD. Any form of persistent disobedience or disrespect to authority or questionable behavior or conversation either at school or on school sponsored activities may result in demerits and/or office discipline.

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

A genuine care and respect for private property is to be exhibited at all times by our students. A student defacing or writing names on any property of GCS will be subject to office discipline. Willful damage to or destruction of school property, staff property, or another student's property will not be tolerated. The student must pay for all damage that the student caused, whether willful or accidental. **RESPECT TOWARDS OTHER STUDENTS** God made us all; therefore, we must show our respect for Him by showing our respect for each other. Any form of derogatory, intimidating, or threatening actions or language will not be tolerated. Offenses deemed to be serious by the Administration, regardless of intent (joking or not), may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

BULLYING AND HAZING

Bullying, hazing, intimidation, harassment, and retaliatory behavior are contrary to biblical teaching and will not be tolerated (Matt. 5:43-45; Luke 10:30-37; Eph. 4:31-32; Prov. 15:1). Bullying is any intentional act, whether physical, verbal, social, emotional, electronic, or nonverbal, that causes or is intended to cause fear, humiliation, harm, intimidation, or 56 distress to another person. Hazing is any activity that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers an individual as a condition of membership in a group or activity. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Physical aggression, fighting, or threats
- Name-calling, teasing, insults, or spreading rumors
- Exclusion, intimidation, manipulation, or harassment
- Inappropriate gestures or written communications
- Cyberbullying through text messages, social media, email, or other electronic means
- Conduct targeting an individual's personal characteristics, background, or beliefs

Students are expected to treat others with Christian love, kindness, and respect. Any student who experiences or witnesses bullying or hazing should report it immediately to a teacher or administrator. Retaliation against anyone who reports bullying or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited.

Reports will be handled as confidentially as possible. After investigation by the Administration, students found responsible for bullying, hazing, or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, including demerits, suspension, or expulsion. Conduct that may violate the law will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

ACADEMICS

ABEKA CURRICULUM

A curriculum that a school chooses to use will include student textbooks, teacher editions, lesson plans, visual and digital aids, workbooks, various other materials, and a particular worldview. Because of the importance of the curriculum, GBD takes great care in the selection of curricula and has chosen to use the Abeka curriculum. Your student will find this curriculum challenging with a Biblical emphasis from the beginning of the year to the end. For more information about this curriculum, access their website at <https://www.abeka.com/>.

BIBLE REQUIREMENT

GBD esteems the Bible to be of fundamental importance as it pertains to the total education of its students; therefore, Bible is a required subject. The King James Version of the Bible is preached, taught, studied, and memorized at GBD. It is used to augment the study of English, history, geography, science, and mathematics. At GBD, the Bible is considered of such importance that without the study of it, a student cannot be thoroughly educated (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17).

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office with any questions or concerns about your student. GBD truly believes in working together with families to support each child's growth. Our teachers are always glad to welcome a visit from a parent; we just ask that conferences be set up in advance through the school office, at a convenient after-school time, so we can give you our full attention. Every conference is kept private and confidential. If you need to speak with a teacher, call during office hours and someone will return your call after school.

New Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Office personnel will arrange this conference. This conference is designed to evaluate how a new student is acclimating to the academics and atmosphere of the school.

School-wide Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 and Tuesday, February 9, 2027. As necessary, office personnel will arrange a 20-30 minute appointment between 3:15-6:00 p.m. on these nights. These conferences are particularly designed to inform parents of the academic challenges their student is facing and to establish goals for improvement.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Grace Beginnings believes children benefit when parents and school staff communicate respectfully and work toward the same goals. Parents are encouraged to ask questions, share relevant information, and raise concerns in a constructive manner.

BRIGHTWHEEL AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parents are responsible for keeping phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, pickup authorizations, and other important information current. Brightwheel and other school systems may be used for daily communication, financial notices, classroom updates, or emergency messages. Parents should review school communications regularly.

Teachers will communicate concerns when a child is struggling significantly with classroom routines, development, behavior, or academic-readiness skills. Parents are encouraged to share relevant information from pediatricians, therapists, or other professionals when it will help the school support the child.

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