

30 Pioneer Rd. S Hattiesburg, MS **39402**

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Grace Community School Statement of Faith

Inasmuch as Grace Community School (GCS) is interdenominational and theologically conservative, the basis of GCS is the Word of God and the great fundamentals of Christianity found in the following unalterable, irreducible essentials of the Christian faith:

- *The Authority and Truth of the Bible.* The Bible, consisting of the original texts of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content, and free from any error or defect. (II Timothy 3:16)
- *The Person and Power of God.* There is one God who exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection. God is the self-revealed Creator, Upholder, Governor, and Lord of the universe. He is eternal in his self-existence and unchanging in his love, goodness, justice, wisdom, and faithfulness. (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14)
- *The Creation and Condition of Man.* Creation was a direct act of God as set forth in the Bible. Man was created by God in the image and likeness of God and is not in any sense the product of evolution. Man inherited a sinful nature due to the disobedience of the first man, Adam, and as a result, mankind became alienated from God and is totally unable without God's grace to reestablish a relationship with God. This sinful nature separates mankind from God, resulting in spiritual death, and there is no hope for salvation, eternal life, or a right relationship with God without the loving, supernatural intervention of God. (Genesis 1:26, 3:1-24; Romans 3:23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:12)
- *The Person and Work of Christ.* The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and miraculously born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. Jesus showed His power and love

by working mighty miracles that were not contrary to nature but superior to it. Jesus was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell, and rose from the dead three days later with the same body with which He had suffered. He ascended into heaven, where He sits on the right hand of God the Father and fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy. Jesus will come again to earth the second time personally, bodily, and visibly. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:16-38; John 1:1-3, 14; Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15:1-8; Philippians 2:5-9; Colossians 1:15; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7)

- *The Salvation and Redemption of Man.* Salvation of people is available as a free gift of God, by His grace alone, and is based solely upon Christ's atoning death and finished work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. No works of man play any part in salvation. God accomplished man's redemption through the death of Jesus on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice. Salvation is received by faith. Persons who receive Christ and His salvation by faith become completely forgiven, spiritually alive, right with God, born of the Spirit, children of God, new creations in Christ, and heirs of eternal life with God. (John 1:12-13; 3:16-17; Romans 5:1; 10:9-13; I Corinthians 15:17; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7, 2:1, 8-10)
- *The Person and Presence of the Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates believers in Christ, lives within believers permanently, empowers believers to live godly lives, and gives spiritual gifts to every believer to be used for God's purposes. (John 14:16-19; 16:7-15; Romans 8:9, 11; I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5)
- *The Mission and Responsibility of the Church.* The church, or the body of Christ, is composed of all true believers in Him, that is, those who have received Christ by faith, regardless of denominational affiliation or church membership. The mission of the church is to fulfill the command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 12:4-27; Ephesians 1:22-23)

Grace Community School Policies for the 2024-2025 School Year

The following policies ensure that Grace Community School (GCS) will have a good relationship with you and your child:

SCHOOL HOURS:

Grace Community School is open Monday-Friday 6:30a.m.-6:00p.m. We ask that you have children ages one year and older here by 9:30a.m. If dropping off after 9:30 with a Doctor's note please call us to ensure that we have an accurate count for lunches. If there is ever a time when you need to bring your child in after 9:30a.m., please bring a doctor's excuse or appointment note.

During the school year, our K3, K4, and K5 program begins at 8:00a.m. We ask that you have your children here when the school day starts to ensure that they are progressing as they should and not falling behind during the school year.

ADMISSIONS:

GCS does not discriminate in their admissions policies by race, color, religion or national origin. Children are accepted from the age of six weeks up through five-year-old kindergarten. Afterschool students are accepted from ages 5-10 years old.

SUPPLIES:

Parents will need to provide the following supplies for their children upon enrollment:

1. For infants & toddlers, all supplies needed for the day: labeled diapers, wipes, powder, etc. Also, any special blanket or toy that the child needs for security would be helpful.

2. Sleeping materials (nap mats, blankets, pillows) may be left at GCS during the week but must be taken home for washing on the weekends. Sleeping cots are provided for children ages one year and older.

3. A change of clothing in a plastic bag labeled with the child's name. Parents should replace the clothing if it has been used, is no longer large enough for the child, or is out of season.

TUITION:

Weekly and monthly tuition must be paid on time each week for admission. You may pay through Tuition Express with either Credit Card, Debit Card, or ACH Bank Draft. Weekly tuition is due every Monday and is considered late if not collected by the close of business on Wednesday of that week. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged to all who do not make their full tuition payment by Wednesday morning. If the full tuition is not received by Friday morning, including the late fee, the child may not attend school that day or thereafter until payment is made. Monthly tuition is due on the 1st of the month and is considered late after the 5th. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged to all who do not make their full tuition payment by the 5th. If full tuition is not received by the 6th the child may not attend school that day or thereafter until payment is made. Even if your child is absent, you will be charged the weekly/monthly tuition rate because the seat must be reserved for his/her return. No deduction can be made for the holiday/weather absences when GCS is closed. These rates are figured into the tuition charge for the school year.

Multiple child discounts are automatically applied. For full-time siblings attending Newborn-K4 classes, there is a \$10 discount for the oldest child(ren). For full-time siblings attending *School Day* K5 and Afterschool, there is a \$5 discount for the oldest child(ren).

ACH Bank Draft is \$5/week lower than Credit/Debit transactions for weekly Credit/Debit Card transactions.

One-time cash payments are permissible in instances of card or bank fraud. Each following cash payment will result in a \$10 convenience fee.

In the event of any returned payment or lack of payment, a guardian to the GCS student will be required to complete our Returned Payment Form before the student can return to GCS.

ABSENTEEISM:

School tuition is contracted as a flat fee for the entire school year.

DRESS CODE for ALL STUDENTS:

At Grace Community School, we seek to abide by biblical standards in all areas of life. This includes how we dress ourselves and our children. We know God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). At GCS we recognize the biblically defined gender distinctions (Genesis 1:27). Therefore, to properly direct our students, we have the following guidelines and requirements surrounding our Dress Code:

- Clothes must not have inappropriate language/images
- Boy clothes must be gender-appropriate (emphasis on style rather than colors)
- Girl clothes must be gender-appropriate (emphasis on style rather than colors)
- Undergarments must not be shown
- Girls wearing skirts/dresses must wear shorts underneath
- Hair beads and jewelry are allowed but must not be distracting (in the face, excessive in number, audible, etc.)
 - Parents, be advised that beads and jewelry are naturally easy-to-pull and can get caught on playground equipment
- Hats/sunglasses are allowed but may be asked to be removed within the classroom

• For "water days", boys must wear shirt with swim trunks and girls must wear one-piece or shirt on top of bathing suit

DRESS CODE for INFANTS, TODDLERS & 2 YEAR OLDS:

For infants, we would prefer that they dress appropriately for napping comfortably and easy diapering.

For toddler and 2-year-old programs, we would prefer that they dress appropriately to play outside and dress appropriately for the weather, such as a jacket or sweater with long pants for chilly days or short sleeved top with shorts for hot days. Shoes appropriate for playing and climbing outside are recommended.

On Fridays, we have "Whale Shirt Day" where the children show their school spirit by wearing their "whale shirt". Children are welcome to wear their whale shirt on other days as well. Whale shirts can be purchased in the office lobby. Additionally, children 2 years old and younger may opt to wear the school uniforms.

DRESS CODE for K3 THROUGH K5:

All children enrolled in K3, K4, & K5 are required to wear the school uniform as outlined in the GCS Uniform Guide during the school year.

HEALTH RECORDS:

It is mandatory by state law for each child infant through kindergarten to have on file in the school office an updated shot record (Mississippi Form 121) or an exemption form (Mississippi Form 122) before they may attend classes. There is a requirement by the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MSAIS) for all children enrolled in K3 and above to have on copy of the child's birth certificate on file. These records are checked periodically by licensing inspectors, and it will be necessary to dismiss a child who does not have the above records on file until such time as their file is up to date. Fines levied from the local health department because of a missing or expired Form 121 will result in a \$100.00 fine being charged to that student's account. Please ask for and obtain an updated Form 121 every time your child receives immunizations. This can be a hard copy brought in or can be faxed to 601-602-5480.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH/SNACKS:

Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are provided at no additional charge for all children in attendance. Outside foods should not be brought into the facility unless there are special dietary needs. Any needs concerning diet restrictions or religious/ethnic requests must be verified with the office, and appropriate documentation must be on file with the school and updated annually. Foods brought from home for birthday parties or holiday parties must be store bought.

DISCIPLINE:

In an effort to minimize behavioral problems, we focus on getting your child so excited about learning that problems are few. We do this by moving quickly from one activity to the next. (See attached "Sample Daily Schedule") Since we recognize that many discipline problems are caused simply because the child needs more personal attention, we lavish the children who are listening to the teacher with the attention they seek.

We use a highly original reward and praise system utilizing "badges" and a lot of positive reinforcement. If the problem is not solved by the above methods (most are), we will give your child a time away from other students to calm down. Our final method to solve problems is to call a conference with you, the parents.

DISMISSAL:

We reserve the right to dismiss a child at any time after a continued effort to search the reason why the child is too unruly (i.e., disrupts the class, undesirable language or dress, physical abuse of self, teacher, or other children such as hitting or biting, destruction of school or personal property, etc.) or if the child or parent is not satisfied with our school. GCS also reserves the right to dismiss a child at any time without warning if GCS feels it is in the best interest of the school, the parent or the child.

HOLIDAYS:

Holidays and staff training days during the year were taken into consideration at the time prices were established. Our full-time teachers and staff are paid vacation days for these holidays; therefore, no deduction or discount may be taken for holiday absences. There will be no adjustments made in the case of closure because of a tornado, hurricane or other acts of God. We will normally follow the same operating procedures as the Lamar County school system under those circumstances. We post our annual closings in the office and on our Facebook page.

GRADUATION:

K4 and K5 kindergarten graduation exercises are tentatively scheduled for a weekday in May 2025 at Magnolia Baptist Church on King Road. GCS could potentially close early on that day. The graduation fee will be \$50.00 and must be paid in April 2025. Students who withdraw after the fee is due will still be responsible for the graduation fee.

ILLNESS:

We have to consider all the children in our school, and we wish to make sure that they are all protected from illness. Therefore, if your child becomes sick at school, we will attempt to contact you immediately. Please make sure that the phone numbers and emergency contact information we have on file are current.

Also, we ask you to please <u>not</u> bring your child to school if there has been any of the following within the past 24 hours: vomiting, diarrhea, fever of 101.0 F or symptoms of a contagious disease.

If your child is on medication and it is necessary to have it administered during school hours, please fill out a medical authorization form in the office, giving permission for school personnel to give out the appropriate dosage at the scheduled time. Medicine must be in its original packaging and/or have dosing information from prescription. Please give medication to the director or office manager. Do not give the medication (this includes cough syrup, cough drops or Tylenol, etc.) to your child or leave it in his/her bag or cubbyhole. A doctor's note may be required in certain circumstances.

Grace Community School has public liability insurance, applying to all operation of the school. Insurance covering immediate medical or emergency room visits as a result of an accident is not provided by Grace Community School.

LATE PICK-UP FEES:

After closing time, a late fee will be charged: The fee for a late pick up is **\$5.00 per child for every 5 minutes or portion thereof**, which is a reasonable fee considering that the entire school must stay open for those students. This fee will be posted to your account. More than 3 late pick-ups in a 60-day period can result in dismissal of the student.

PARENT CONFERENCES:

We send home all of the learning materials of the students as they complete them. Also, we are available daily to discuss problems or concerns so that individual parent conferences are usually not necessary. If, however, you would like to meet with us, do not hesitate to ask for an appointment.

PARENT/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:

We utilize a Parent Communication App called Procare. Parents are required to use this App for signing their children in and out each day via a QR code. Any other individuals authorized for pickup will be provided a four-digit code. Any person picking up a child may be asked to provide an ID for security. We also use this App for messaging between parents and Teachers/Directors as well as for communicating daily reports in Newborn-K1 classes.

In the event there is a school closure or important announcement, parents will find this information in Procare messages/emails as well as our Facebook Page: Grace Community Schools of Hattiesburg, MS.

SUMMER:

Summer is not only spent in fun and play using special theme weeks such as Outer Space, Carnival, Western, Sports, Hawaiian, Water, etc., but we also combine all this fun with some review work to help the students remember what they have learned throughout the school year and to help the new students get up to speed with their classmates. Student uniforms are not required during the summer.

TEACHER TRAINING:

GCS conducts background screenings on every member of its staff as required by state law. This includes fingerprinting, background checks, reference checks, etc. Our teachers also complete CPR and first aid courses as well as continuing education classes as required by state law and the MAIS. GCS will also close a few times during each school year so that its teachers may attend required Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) state and district teachers' meetings.

WAITING LIST:

To apply for our waiting list, simply deposit \$75 and fill out the Application Form. Of the \$75, \$50 is refundable if GCS cannot provide a space for your child within the time frame requested. It is only nonrefundable if you need to withdraw at the time of being offered an available space. Paying the deposit does not guarantee that an opening will arise.

As we communicate periodically regarding your status on the waitlist, we appreciate correspondence verifying you would like to remain on our waiting list. If multiple attempts of communication with you has not been successful for three months, GCS reserves the right to remove you from the waiting list.

Currently enrolled students, children of staff members of GCS and siblings of current students will receive priority enrollment status over new enrollees. This priority enrollment status is only maintained by having an account that is current.

WITHDRAWALS:

Students may be withdrawn with a full two weeks written notice to the office. A week is defined as Monday through Friday; notice must be given by the Friday preceding the last week of enrollment. If written notice is not received in advance, charges for that week will be assessed. We request that your balance is fully paid. Please do not ask us to transfer academic records if your bill is not fully paid. Students who leave with no notice will continue to be charged for a minimum of two weeks. Accounts that are left unpaid will be turned over to a collection agency. Collections will be for the full amount due plus any costs related to the collection process.

FIELD TRIPS:

GCS does not take field trips for children under 3 years old. Fees for field trips for K3, K4, K5 and Elementary will be assessed as each trip is announced.

Grace Community School K4 Sample Daily Schedule

 Before School Care: 6:30 - 8:00

 Books/Blocks/Toys
 6:30 - 7:30

 Breakfast
 7:30 - 7:45

 Quiet Time in Classroom
 7:45 - 8:00

 School Day: 8:00 - 2:00
 8:00 - 8:10

 Routines
 8:00 - 8:10

 Skills Development
 8:10 - 8:30

 Phonics/Spalding Reading
 8:30 - 8:50

Story Time	8:50 - 9:00
Bible	9:00 - 9:15
Handwriting	9:15 - 9:35
Restroom & Snack	9:35 - 9:50
Abeka Math	9:50 - 10:10
Review	10:10 - 10:25
Activity Time (Music, Poetry, Drama & Art)	10:25 - 10:55
Recess & Restroom	10:55 - 11:25
Phonics & Numbers Review	11:25 - 11:40
Language Development	11:40 - 11:55
Hand Washing	11:55 - 12:00
Lunch	12:00 - 12:30
Recess	12:30 - 12:45
Restroom/Lay Down	12:45 - 12:55
Rest Time	12:55 - 1:50
Wake Up/Dismissal	1:50 - 2:00
After School Care: 2:00 - 6:00	
Afternoon Snack	2:00 - 2:15
Music Game & Paper	2:15 - 2:45
Restroom	2:45 - 3:00
Bible	3:00 - 3:15
Song Time	3:15 - 3:45
Show and Tell	3:45 - 4:00
Play Time	4:00 - 4:30
Story/Book Time	4:30 - 4:45
Health, Safety & Manners Paper	4:45 - 5:00
Free Play	5:00 - 5:30
Books/Blocks/Toys	5:30 - 6:00

Grace Community School SCHEDULE OF FEES: 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR (July 29th, 2024-May 23rd, 2025) As of September 1st, 2024

WEEKLY TUITI	ON:		
Infants		\$195.00/week*	\$840/month*
Toddlers		\$185.00/week*	\$800/month*
K2		\$185.00/week*	\$800/month*
K3	(age 3 on/before September 1, 2024 & potty trained)	\$175.00/week*	\$755/month*
K4	(age 4 on/before September 1, 2024)	\$175.00/week*	\$755/month *

K5	(age 5 on/hefe	ore September	1 2024)
KJ	(age 5 on/ben	september	1,2024)

See below

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM (pick up at local elementary schools):

Tuition:	•	•	\$117.00/week*	\$505/month*
			\$150.00/week*	during summer weeks

*The prices listed are the discounted rates when signed up for ACH Bank Draft. Any card payments are an additional \$5/week. Prices are subject to change with ample notice given in the event of a change.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM:

Tuition:

 School Day (7:30-3:00) \$5,500/ year

 Full Day
 (6:30-6:00) \$6,400/ year

 Technology Fee
 \$500 (Due July 1st)

Kindergarten Payment Plans

- *10-month plan:* Your tuition plan divided by 10. Due and drafted the 4th of each month from August 2024-May 2025.
- 2. *Weekly plan:* Your tuition plan divided by 43 or \$149/week for Full Day. Due and drafted on Tuesday of each week from July 29, 2024-May 23, 2025.
- 3. One-time payment: Full tuition payment due July 29th. Receive 50% off Technology Fee.

GCS Tuition Policies:

1. Multiple child discounts apply to children who are enrolled full-time at GCS. These discounts are a

\$10/week discount for Full-Time students and a \$5/week discount for Afterschool or School Day

Kindergarten students.

2. Returned ACH and Credit/Debit Card transactions will result in a \$25 fee.

3. ACH Bank Draft is \$5/week lower than Credit/Debit transactions for weekly Credit/Debit Card transactions. (\$20 charge for monthly)

4. A full 14-day two-week notice of withdrawal is required and agreed upon in signing your child's Enrollment Application.

5. One-time cash payments are permissible in instances of card or bank fraud. Each following cash payment will result in a \$10 convenience fee.

Weekly and monthly tuition must be paid on time each week for admission. You may pay through Tuition Express with either Credit Card, Debit Card, or ACH Bank Draft.

Weekly tuition is due every Monday and is considered late if not collected by the close of business on Wednesday of that week. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged to all who do not make their full tuition payment by Wednesday

morning. If the full tuition is not received by Friday morning, including the late fee, the child may not attend school that day or thereafter until payment is made.

Monthly tuition is due on the 1st of the month and is considered late after the 5th. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged to all who do not make their full tuition payment by the 5th. If full tuition is not received by the 6th the child may not attend school that day or thereafter until payment is made.

Even if your child is absent, you will be charged the weekly/monthly tuition

rate because the seat must be reserved for his/her return. No deduction can be made for the holiday/weather absences when GCS is closed. These rates are figured into the tuition charge for the school year.

Grace Community School Uniform Guide 2024/2025

<u>All</u> children in attendance in grades K3, K4 & K5 are required to follow the uniform policies as stated below:

Boys:

Royal blue, light blue, navy, grey, or white polo shirt embroidered with GCS whale logo in either long sleeve or short sleeve

Khaki or navy shorts or pants (no denim)

<u>Girls:</u>

Royal blue, light blue, navy, grey, or white polo shirt embroidered with GCS whale logo in either long sleeve or short sleeve

Blue plaid, navy, or khaki jumper embroidered with GCS whale logo worn with a white blouse underneath in either long sleeve or short sleeve (shorts should be worn under the jumper)

Royal blue, light blue, navy, grey, or white polo dress embroidered with GCS whale logo (shorts should be worn under the dress)

Blue plaid, navy, or khaki skirt/skort (shorts should be worn under the skirt)

Khaki or navy shorts or pants (no denim)

Shoes:

Students may wear any type of shoes that they choose *except* flip-flops or cleats. Shoes should be easy for your child to get on and off.

The above will be required Monday thru Thursday.

 Fridays will be "Whale Shirt Day" when students may wear jeans, shorts, etc. with their Whale crew neck t-shirts (from GCS).
 Denim can only be worn on FRIDAYS.

All uniform items may be embroidered by Dorrell Robinson with Mr. Stitch It for \$7 per piece. His contact is (601)543-8681 to message and schedule drop-off/pick-up.

If you monogram or know someone who monograms, feel free to monogram your own

uniforms with information/file provided by GCS.

Revised Summer 2024



GCS 2024 CLOSINGS

January 1- New Year's Day

January 15- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 19- President's Day (Staff Training)

March 29- Good Friday

May 27- Memorial Day

July 4- Independence Day

September 2- Labor Day

October 14- Columbus Day (Staff Training)

November 28-29- Thanksgiving

December 24-25- Christmas

December 31- New Year's Eve

January 1, 2025- New Year's Day



GCS 2025 CLOSINGS

- January 1- New Year's Day
- January 20- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Staff Training)
- April 18- Good Friday
- April 21- Easter Monday
- May 26- Memorial Day
- July 4- Independence Day
- September 1- Labor Day
- October 13- Columbus Day (Staff Training)
- November 27-28- Thanksgiving
- Christmas- TBD
- New Year's- TBD



30 Pioneer Road S 601-264-3992 ENROLLMENT APPLICATION FORM

Child's Full Name:		DOB:	
Sex:	Nickname:		
(Pl	lease include area code wi	th all phone numbers)	
Mother (or legal gu		Father (or legal guardian)	
Name:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Name:	
Address:			
	Zip		
Home Phone:	-		
Place of Employment:			
Work Phone:			
Cell Phone:			
Email:			
		ot be reached, please contact the following:	
-	•	Relationship:	
		Relationship:	
		Relationship:	
		ck up and drop off the above child:	
		me:	
		me:	
		me:	
	st any special instructions of		

PARENT'S AGREEMENT

I hereby give my consent to have my child treated by a physician for medical or surgical care should an emergency arise. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me or a relative before such action is taken. I have been advised that Grace Community School provides liability insurance for my child. My child may take approved field trips sponsored by the child care facility. I hereby give my consent to have my child photographed and/or videotaped and his/her picture placed on display at the childcare facility, reproduced and printed in our student yearbook, and/or displayed on the school's website.

I agree to pay the amount due in advance, on a weekly or monthly basis, for the time my child is enrolled. I understand that I may withdraw at any time by notifying the school **two full weeks in advance**. Withdrawal is effective the second *following* Friday of the week of notification, and all fees are payable upon other absences.

I have received and read the policies of Grace Community School, and agree to abide by the regulations set forth in them; including the obligation to confer with the school first if I have any questions or problems. For Infants, 1 and 2 year olds: I have been given a copy and have read a copy of the MSDH Regulation Summary for Parents.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Signature:	
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__ Date: _____

My child is toilet trained _____Yes _____No. If no, a consultation between the parent and caregiver is required to be documented prior to toilet training. Date of consultation ______/____.

My child will eat breakfast at the center _____Yes _____No. If no, my child will eat BEFORE coming into the center.