

2018-
2019

GRACE EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL'S

Guide to Family Involvement

There's no time like the present

Now that school is officially under way and we are getting settled into our routines, we want to provide you with a consolidated guide to getting your family involved at Grace. This guide will answer questions you may have about events, fundraisers, dates, volunteering, and expectations. Hold onto this guide! It is full of useful information.

Our families are part of what makes Grace special. We know you are full of talents, wisdom, skills, and gifts. These traits are what help to make Grace feel more like a family and less like "a regular school."

There is a strong tradition of generosity at Grace and we want to make sure it continues, with your time, efforts, and philanthropic gifts. By investing in Grace, you are not only investing in your child's future, but also into the legacy of giving that has made Grace Episcopal Day School what it is today. For that, we are forever grateful.

Dates to Remember

October: The Grace Fund

October 16 - 17: Scholastic Book Fair

October 17: Grandparents and Special Friends Day

November 1: Parent/Teacher Conference Day

November 14: Thanksgiving Ingathering

November 19 - 23: Thanksgiving Break

December 14: Preschool Christmas Program and Lessons and Carols

December 17 - January 2: Christmas Break

Philanthropic Opportunities

Grace Episcopal Day School hosts three fundraising opportunities each school year. They are The Grace Fund, the 8K River Day Race, and the Annual Dinner and Auction. We hope that your family will be able to participate in all of our philanthropic opportunities; however, we hope you make The Grace Fund your top priority.

1. The Grace Fund is an annual campaign that helps bridge the gap between tuition income and operating expenses of the school. Efforts are concentrated in October, but gifts are accepted year round. Parents, grandparents, alumni, Trustees, Vestry members, and friends of Grace are asked to make a tax-deductible donation each year.
2. The 8K River Day will take place February 16, 2019. Proceeds from the road race will be used to support the school's financial aid program, making it possible for students to attend Grace that may not otherwise be able. Annually drawing between 700-800 runners and spectators from the greater Jacksonville area, participants can choose an 8K, a 5K, or a one-mile fun run.
3. The Annual Dinner and Auction is the social event of the year! Each year parents, grandparents, alumni, Trustees, Vestry members, and friends of Grace gather for a themed party, dinner, live, and silent auction. The Annual Dinner and Auction will be held in the Spring. Proceeds from this event support the general operating fund of the school and are used to enhance the art, music, and technology resource programs.



Fundraising at Grace FAQ's

Why am I asked for financial donations when I am already paying tuition?

The Grace Fund is the school's largest fundraiser, and it offers a tax-deductible way to ensure that Grace Episcopal Day School continues to provide a top-notch educational experience. Like most independent schools, Grace relies on philanthropic support to help balance our budget. Tuition and fees cover approximately 90% of a Grace education. Gifts help fund the remaining 10%. Your gifts are essential in closing the gap between what tuition and fees cover, and the cost of providing the outstanding, personalized education you expect. 100% of your gifts will go to our general operations to allow for continued excellence in academics, character education, art enrichment, Christian education, and technology.

What does my financial contribution support?

100% of your gift will go to the general operations of the school. This includes paying teachers' salaries, financial aid for students, facilities maintenance, curriculum needs, and enhancing school resource programs.



Why not just raise tuition?

We strive to keep tuition as affordable as possible and competitive within our market. The Grace Fund ensures our school has all of the necessary resources to provide the exceptional education you expect. Things like a small student to teacher ratio, hands-on learning opportunities, arts education, technology integrated into all classrooms, and the ability to hire exceptional educators are all supplemented by The Grace Fund. A strong development program allows Grace to provide these "extras" for your child, while at the same time keeping tuition affordable.

Is my child expected to participate in any fundraising sales?

Unlike other schools, Grace Episcopal Day School does not require students to participate in "sales" of any type (candy bars, wrapping paper, cookie dough, etc.).

We want your family to actively support the three major fundraisers of the school with your time, energy, and financial support. We also want to encourage you and your family to attend the Grace Parent's Association social events.

Why is it important for all families to participate in The Grace Fund?

Every member of the Grace Episcopal Day School community – parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, Church Vestry members, and friends of Grace – are asked to give. With 100% participation, our ability to procure grant funding and major gifts increases. These sources provide a valuable addition to enriching the curriculum, programming, and facilities at our school. Although the amount of your gift is important, your participation with any amount is crucial to our success. Every gift counts.



Grace loves our parent and grandparent volunteers! One of the great things about Grace is the volunteer support we have from our families. As our school grows, we want to make sure that our families are included in the planning and execution of activities on campus. We do this by including all parents and grandparents as part of our Parent's Association.

Throughout the school year, the Parent's Association sponsors many events that provide wonderful opportunities for the school community to come together. We count on our parents and grandparents to help make Grace special by volunteering time coordinating and helping out with these events. We would not be able to have opportunities to come together without this support. Volunteering is also a fun way to get to know other families in our school community!

We hope you and your families have gotten into the groove of the new school year and have felt welcomed to, or back to Grace. The school's e-newsletter, Eagle Extras, is the best source of information for all school happenings. It arrives by email each Friday afternoon. You can also always find important information on the school website at geds.net, and/or or your child's teacher's classroom website.

We look forward to seeing you on campus and at school events. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents, please complete the Committee Volunteer Form online at <https://geds.net/volunteer-opportunities/> and turn in into the front office.

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