



Guide to Grace

2025-2026



Welcome to Grace

Dear Families,
Welcome to Grace! Whether this is your family's first year or eleventh year, we look forward to the memories we will make together during the 2025-2026 school year. This past spring we not only celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of Grace, we also developed a new strategic plan that will guide us through 2030 in important decision-making for our school. We are committed to this vision for Grace and our students':

Grace is a joyful environment where students are eager to learn, and Christ-like values are lived. Our campus fosters a sense of wonder through hands-on exploration and discovery, with a special emphasis on the beauty of our outdoor spaces. By nurturing the mind, body, and spirit of each student, we deepen the connections that positively impact our community.

With excitement and gratitude,
Angela Bast
Head of School



Front Office

904-269-3718

Angela Bast

Head of School
abast@geds.net

Moppy McGee

Director of
Admissions
mmcgee@geds.net

Emma McCabe

Director of
Development and
Communications
emccabe@geds.net

Ginger Neitzke

Office Manager
gneitzke@geds.net

Stephanie Massey

Business Manager
smassey@geds.net

Important Contacts

Key Dates

AUGUST 2025

Sunday, 8.10 Blessing of the Backpacks
Monday, 8.11 Family/Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, 8.12 Family/Teacher Conferences
Student Visiting Hour &
Back to School Bash
Wednesday, 8.13 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday, 9.1 Labor Day
Student/Teacher Holiday

OCTOBER 2025

Friday, 10.10 Teacher Planning Day
Monday, 10.13 Student/Teacher Holiday
Friday, 10.24 Fall Festival

NOVEMBER 2025

Thursday, 11.20 Ingathering Chapel/
Grandparent's Day
Thanksgiving Program
Friday, 11.21 No School for Students
Mon.-Fri. 11.24-28 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 2025

Friday, 12.19 Lessons and Carols Chapel
Monday, 12.22-1.6 Christmas Break

JANUARY 2026

Monday, 1.5 Professional Day
Tuesday, 1.6 Students Return to School
Monday, 1.19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Student/Teacher Holiday
Sunday, 1.25 Grace School Sunday

FEBRUARY 2026

Saturday, 2.14 Superhero Run
Monday, 2.16 Presidents' Day
Student/Teacher Holiday

MARCH 2026

Mon.-Fri. 3.16-20 Spring Break
Monday, 3.23 Planning Day
Student Holiday

APRIL 2026

Friday, 4.3 Good Friday
Student/Teacher Holiday
Monday, 4.6 Easter Monday
Student/Teacher Holiday

MAY 2026

Friday 5.1 Spring Conferences
Monday, 5.25 Memorial Day
Wednesday, 5.27 Last Day for All Students

Morning and Afternoon carpool

Preschool and Kindergarten:

Morning Carpool: runs from 7:50 AM to 8:00 AM starting at the front gate

Afternoon Carpool: starts at 3:00 PM

1st-8th:

Morning Carpool: runs from 7:50 AM to 8:00 AM starting at the back gate

Afternoon Carpool: starts at 3:10 PM

Please allow an adult or patrol to let your child out of the car in the morning. We ask that you pull up to the gate rather than letting your child get out on their own and walk to the gate.

PLEASE do not make a U-turn anywhere on Reed Street to enter the carpool. Please head down Kingsley or Milwaukee Street and up Stowe turning right on Reed Street to enter the carpool.

Please do not park on the opposite side of Reed Street in front of the Methodist church as they use this for their parking/drop off.

If you are one of the first cars in the 1st-8th carpool line, please stop between the two gates (do not pull all the way up to the 5th/6th gate until we begin carpool at 3:10. We need to get the preschool carpool line underway or else a traffic jam is created). Once your child has been loaded in the car, please do not pull out and around other cars as this could cause a collision.

Remember there is a "Skip the Carpool line" family for both the Preschool and Upper School that was purchased in the auction in April. These families are allowed to pull to the front of the line.

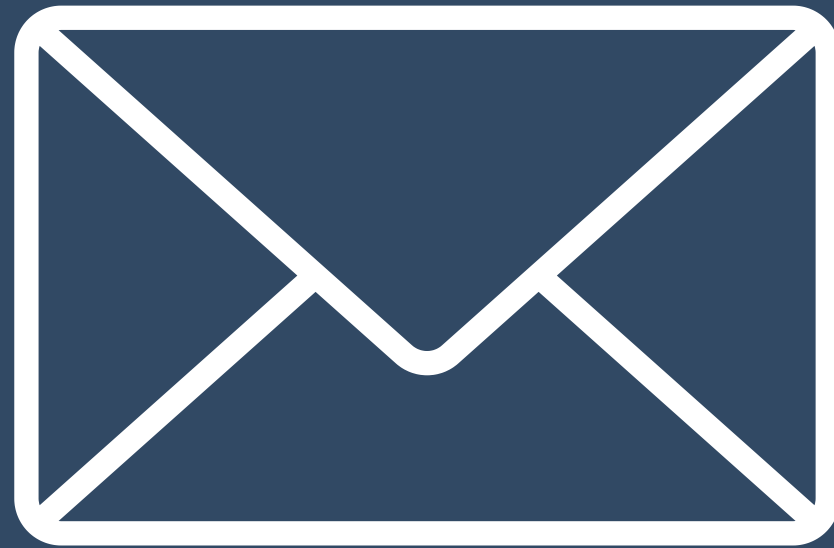
Hi from Grace!

A Guide to School Communications



Eagle Extras

Weekly School
Newsletter
Comes Out Every
Friday at 3 PM



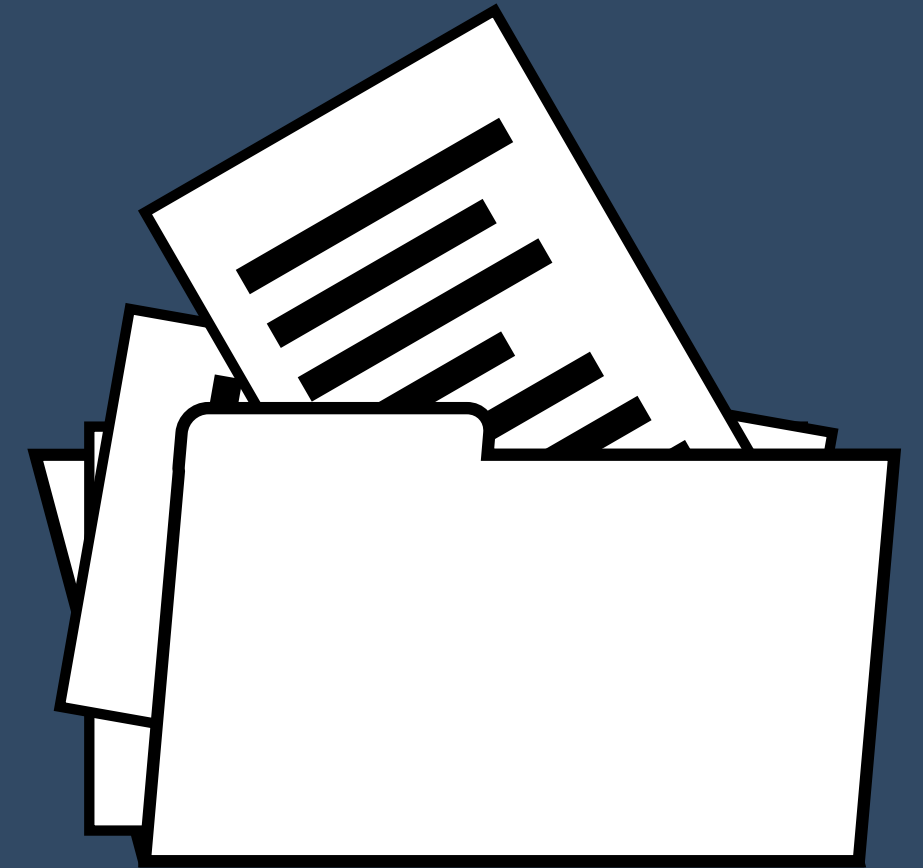
Teacher Communications

Sent Once a Week by
Your Child's
Homeroom Teacher



Text Alerts

Will Show Up as
"GEDS Alert" on Your
Texts - Must Enable Via
FACTS



Folders

Sent Home Weekly in
PK-6th Grade

More about Grace

Our mission is to develop engaged learners and confident leaders who sincerely model the love of Christ.



Mascot: Eagle

Year Founded: 1950

History: Started as a Mother's Morning Out program. First grade started in 1995. 2nd through 6th grade began in 2000. Middle school was added in 2003.

Social Media:

@graceepiscopaldayschool

Grace Church

We are a mission of Grace Church, where we have weekly chapel services for all students: Founded in 1880, Grace is located in the heart of Orange Park, Florida where the original chapel still stands.

Grace provides a meaningful place to worship, connect, and grow in our Christian faith together as a church family. We want you to know God's love and purpose through prayer, song, laughter, and learning.

In addition to church services on Sundays, we have groups, ministries, and activities for all ages.



Grace Terms



Extended Day-
Our morning
and after
school care on
campus.



Free Dress
Friday-
Monthly
opportunity to
dress out of
uniform (no
pajamas)



GFA
(Grace Family
Association)-
Parent board
that plans
meaningful
social
opportunities.



Spirit Night-
Community
Events held at
local
establishments
to gather
together and
benefit Grace!



Dress Code

On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday students should wear a solid red, solid white, or solid navy polo shirt (Grace logo optional) and navy or khaki shorts, pants, or skirt/skort (girls only).

On Wednesdays, students should wear their chapel uniform.

On Fridays, students may wear their regular uniforms, or a spirit wear t-shirt with uniform bottoms.

Athletic sneakers are the only uniform shoe permitted.

For additional detailed information, [click here](#).

Spirit Wear

Once a year, during back to school, we hold a spirit wear drive. This includes t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jackets. Students may wear these spirit wear shirts on Fridays, and sweatshirts and jackets year round.

The spirit wear drive only happens once a year - so make sure to get what you like!



Join us on campus!

Flag- Meet us on the basketball court for Monday morning flag to kick off your week! 8:15 AM by the flag pole. Parents always welcome.

Chapel- Chapel happens every Wednesday. PK and K have Chapel in the historic chapel at 9:30 AM. 1st through 8th grade attend Chapel at 8:30 AM in Grace Church. Once a month, on the third Wednesday, we hold All School Chapel and celebrate birthdays. We would love for you to join us.



Yearly Events

Fall Semester Events-

Back to School Bash:

Join us on campus the day before school starts to kick off the year with a fun afternoon! Food, water slides, catching up with friends - we've got it all.

Fall Festival:

Held in October, this event is free for families and includes light snacks, activities for the kids, and time on campus.

Ingathering & Grandparent's Day:

Our Thanksgiving service and meal, held on campus the day before Thanksgiving break. Invite the grandparents!

Lessons and Carols:

This is our Christmas program where students perform before the Christmas holidays.

Spring Semester Events-

Superhero Run:

This 1 mile fun run, 5K, and 8K is always held on a Saturday in February and is one of our favorite events. The run is held at the school and proceeds go to our financial aid program.

Auction:

A good excuse to get a babysitter and dress up! This event has live music, food and drink, and plenty of bidding opportunities.

Art and Music Chapel:

Where our students shine! Join us to see their accomplishments in music and in art.

Athletic Breakfast:

We enjoy this breakfast celebrating our school athletes at the end of the year!

Summer Camp & Extended Day

Grace Episcopal Day School offers several weeks of themed summer camps for 3 year olds through rising 4th grade children every summer. There are options for before and after camp care.

The mission of Grace's Extended Day program is to provide a safe after-school experience for students which focuses on both educational and enrichment activities. The program offers age-appropriate enrichment activities including outdoor play, crafts, and homework assistance.

Grace Episcopal Day School offers Extended Day to all current students on school days as well as many non-school days. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Athletics

Our mission is to foster competition in such a way as to glorify God while promoting good sportsmanship, respect for others, character development, and spiritual growth for all participants.

*“Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules.”
2 Timothy 2:5*

We are happy to offer sports in two different athletic leagues to help foster student involvement and physical activity:

NFISAC – North Florida Independent Schools Athletic Conference (Grades 3-6)

JCAL – Jacksonville Christian Athletic League (Grades 5-8)

Sports include: flag football, volleyball, soccer, tennis and more



Afterschool Activities



We offer four after school sessions throughout the year. These sessions are grouped by different age ranges. Examples of activities include: ballet, little chefs, messy club, soccer clinic, yoga, makers lab and many more! Keep your eye out for school communications to register.

Grace Family Association (GFA)

The GFA plays a key role in supporting our school community.

Board members help plan and coordinate school-wide events, organize social outings for parents and families, assist with communication between the school and homeroom parents, and offer support to the school administration.

The GFA as a whole is open to all parents. We invite you to attend! It's a great way to stay involved, share ideas, and make a meaningful impact on school life. The GFA has three meetings per year.

Giving at Grace

The Grace Fund

The Grace Fund is the foundation of annual fundraising at Grace Episcopal Day School.

Your gift to the Grace Fund helps to provide the best educational experience for the students of Grace, while providing the necessary support and resources to our faculty and staff. We have big plans for our future and need your support to turn our plans into a reality.

Giving can be done online, or by cash or check in person in the front office.

Participation in The Grace Fund is a vocal vote of confidence in Grace's mission and the value of our education. Your participation with a gift that is personally meaningful for you and your family demonstrates how you value the Grace experience.

Projects the Grace Fund has impacted: turf on the back field, water bottle filling stations, Gaga ball pit, campus building enhancements, and more.

Communication Guidelines + Other Reminders



Email Homeroom Teacher or Enrichment Teacher

Email is usually the most efficient means of communication. Please remember the teacher's focus is on the students during school hours, but she will get back to you within 24 hours. Teachers are also available for phone and/or personal conferences, by appointment. If you have a question that needs an immediate response, feel free to call the front office at 904-269-3718 and someone will be happy to help you.

Students Do Not Use Phones or Smart Watches

Smartwatches are not permitted for students to wear to school. Students who bring phones to school must leave them powered off in their backpacks while on campus. Phones may not be out of backpacks during school hours or while attending Extended Day.

Visiting Campus

Students, teachers, and/or parents must have prior approval from the office before bringing any visitor to Grace. Visitors are expected to observe all school rules, including appropriate attire. Parents can visit the classrooms only with a "Visitors Badge" obtained from the office.

It's going to be a great year
at Grace!