



Guide to Grace

2026-2027



Welcome to Grace

Dear Families,

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we begin a new school year. For some of you, this will be your first year at Grace, while others have been part of our community for many years. No matter where you are in your journey, we are grateful that you are here.

Each school year brings opportunities for new experiences, new challenges, and new relationships. It is a season of growth, discovery, and possibility. One of the things that makes Grace so special is the meaningful connections that are formed within our community. We cherish the fact that every student is known, valued, and recognized as an important part of our school family.

As we embark on this year together, we look forward to celebrating achievements, navigating challenges, and creating lasting memories. From the excitement of the first days of school to the many milestones that will mark the months ahead, we are honored to partner with you in your child's educational and spiritual journey.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We are excited for all that God has in store for our school community this year and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, service, and joy.

With excitement and gratitude,
Angela Bast
Head of School



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Important Contacts

Key Dates

AUGUST 2026

Sunday, 8.9 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Monday, 8.10 - Family/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, 8.11 - Family/Teacher Conferences; Back to School Bash

Wednesday, 8.12 - First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday, 9.7 - Labor Day; Student/Teacher Holiday

OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 10.9 - Teacher Planning Day

Monday, 10.12 - Student/Teacher Holiday

Friday, 10.23 - Fall Festival

NOVEMBER 2026

Wednesday, 11.11 - Veterans Day; Student/Teacher Holiday

Friday, 11.20 - Ingathering Chapel; Thanksgiving Program; Grandparents' Day

Mon.-Fri. 11.23-27 - Thanksgiving Break; Student/Teacher Holiday

DECEMBER 2026

Friday, 12.18 - Lessons and Carols

Mon.-Mon. 12.21-1.4 - Christmas Break; Student/Teacher Holiday

JANUARY 2027

Monday, 1.4 - Professional Day

Tuesday, 1.5 - Students Return to School

Monday, 1.18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Student/Teacher Holiday

FEBRUARY 2027

Saturday, 2.13 - Superhero Run

Monday, 2.15 - Presidents' Day; Student/Teacher Holiday

MARCH 2027

Mon.-Fri. 3.22-26 - Spring Break; Student/Teacher Holiday

Monday, 3.29 - Easter Monday; Student/Teacher Holiday

APRIL 2027

Saturday, 4.3 - Grace Auction

Wednesday, 4.21 - Art and Music Chapel

Friday, 4.30 - Spring Conferences

MAY 2027

Monday, 5.3 - Student/Teacher Holiday

Tuesday, 5.11 - Athletic Breakfast

Wednesday, 5.26 - 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, DO NOT pull out and around other cars as this could cause a collision.*

***Please note:** There is a “Skip the Carpool line” family for both the Preschool and Upper School that was purchased in our April auction. These families are allowed to pull to the front of the line.
If you arrive first to carpool, please leave the first spot open for these families.*

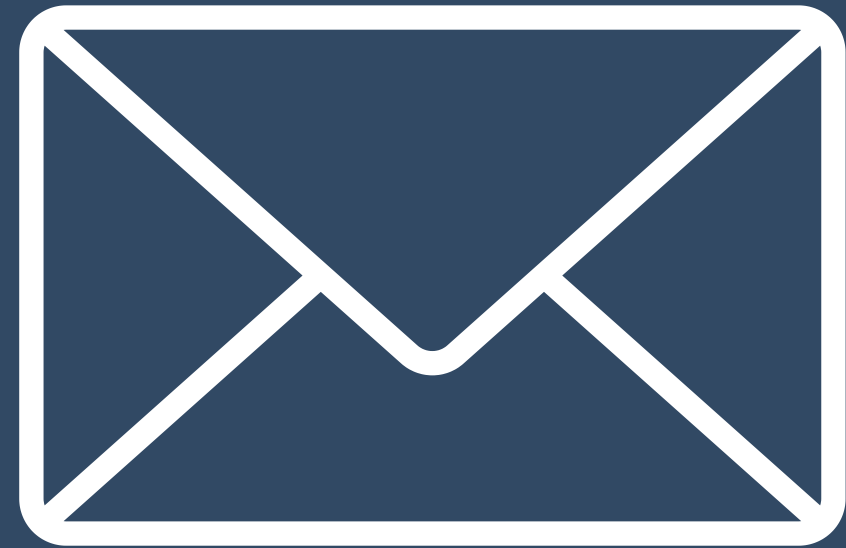
Hi from Grace!

A Guide to School Communications



Eagle Extras

Weekly School Newsletter
Emailed 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



The Eagle's Nest

Our morning and after school care on campus, also called "extended day."



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 must 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 must 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.

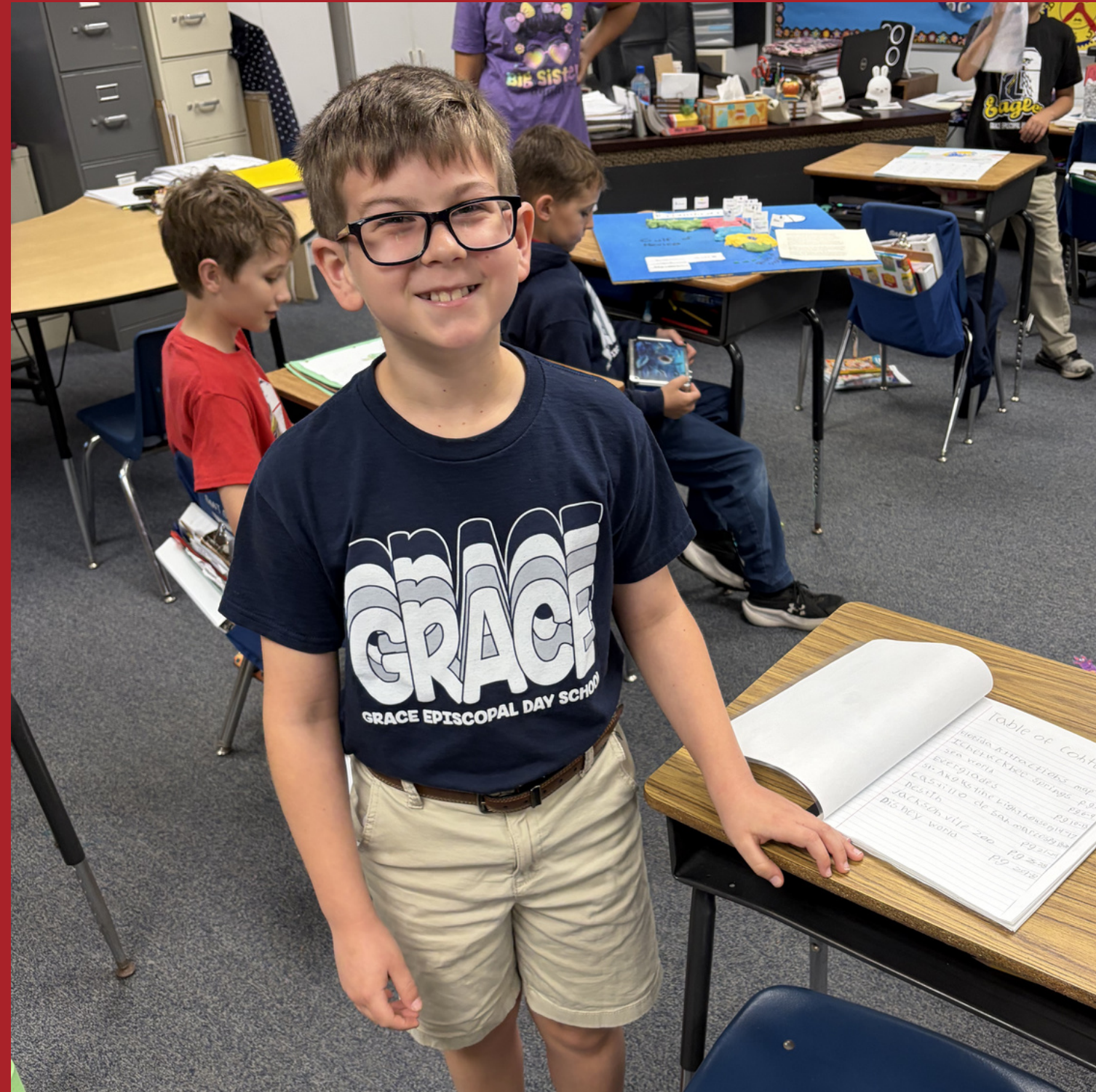
For additional detailed information, [click here](#).



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 order what you like!



Join us on campus!

Monday Morning Flag - Join us each Monday morning as we kick off the week! Flag begins at 8:15 a.m. at the flagpole on the basketball court. Family members are always welcome.

Chapel - Held every Wednesday.

PK and K attend at 9:30 a.m. in our historic chapel.

1st through 8th grade attend at 8:30 a.m. in Grace Church.

On the third Wednesday of each month, we gather for an **All School Chapel** at 8:30 a.m. 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 art.

Athletic Breakfast:

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

Summer Camp & The Eagle's Nest

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

The mission of Grace's Extended Day program (The Eagle's Nest) is to provide a safe after-school experience for students, which focuses on both educational and enrichment activities.

The program includes 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 provide the best educational experience for our students, 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 visible vote of confidence in Grace's mission and the value of our education. Your participation through a gift that is personally meaningful to you and your family demonstrates your support for the Grace experience.

Our goal is to achieve 100% participation from our school community.

Communication Guidelines + Other Reminders



Email Homeroom or Enrichment Teacher

Email is usually the most efficient means of communication. Please remember that during the school day, our teachers' primary focus is on their students. They will respond to your message within 24 hours. Teachers are also available for phone or in-person conferences by appointment. If you have a question that needs an immediate response, please call the front office at 904-269-3718 and someone will be happy to help you.

Students Do Not Use Cell Phones or Smart Watches

Smartwatches may not be worn at school. Students who bring cell phones to school must keep them powered off in their backpacks while on campus. Cell phones may not be removed from 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!