

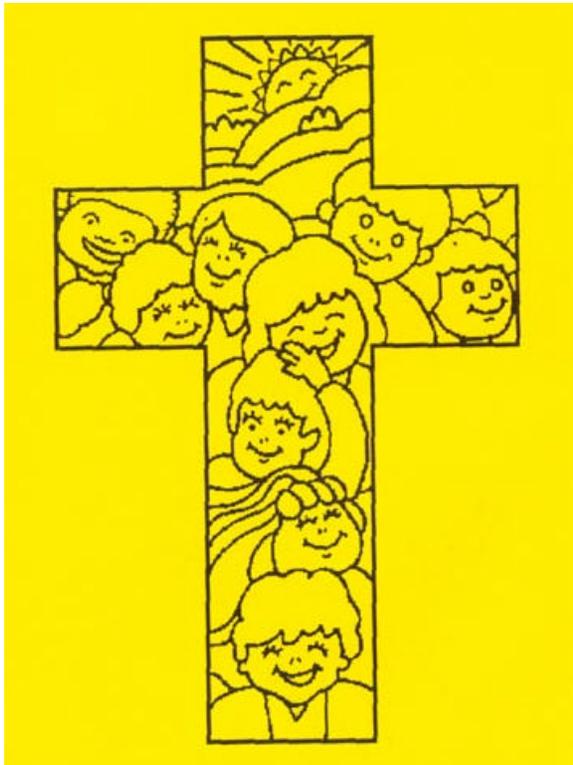
*Grace Christian Academy
Handbook*

498 Arlington Avenue
P.O. Box 1099
Bryson City, NC 28713
(828) 488-1042



“Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me;
and whosoever shall receive me shall receive him that sent me:
for he that is least among you, the same shall be great.”

Luke 9:48



Children should be instructed in the ways of God...

*“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
[Proverbs 22:6]*

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GRACE
Christian Academy
a ministry of
Hillside Baptist Church

Mailing address:
Grace Christian Academy
498 Arlington Avenue
P. O. Box 1099
Bryson City, NC 28713
Telephone: (828) 488-1042
Office Hours: 7:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Principal..... Al Alemany, B.S.
Assistant Principal..... Marie Alemany, B.S., M. Ed.
Director..... Dr. Byrdie E. Eason, B.S., M.Ed., PhD.

Statement of Purpose

The primary purpose of Grace Christian Academy is to train children in the knowledge of God and the Christian way of life and to give the student an excellent traditional education.

Non-Discriminatory Statement

Grace Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the school. Nor does it discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, in the administration of its educational policies, scholarship programs, or other school administered programs.

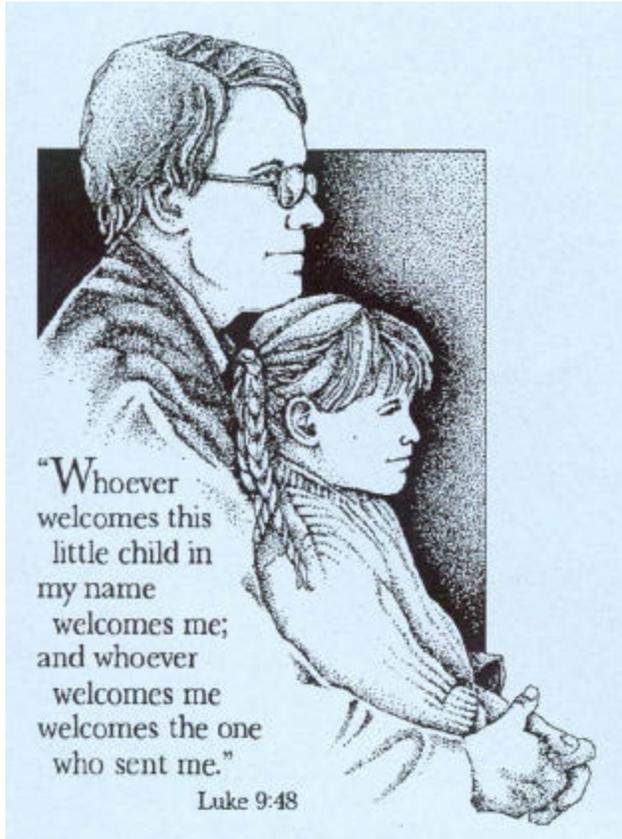
**Welcome
to
Grace Christian Academy**

It is a privilege to have you as one of our school families. Since Grace Christian Academy is a private, Christian school, we uphold high standards and objectives. Things may be different in many some respects from schools with which you have been previously associated. This handbook has been written and presented to you to better acquaint you with the goals and policies of GCA. A careful reading of this information and a supporting attitude will make our task of teaching and learning a profitable and pleasant experience for your child. We must all work together!

Grace Christian Academy expects full cooperation from both students and parents in the education and discipline of all students. Attending Grace Christian Academy is a privilege and not a right; therefore, all students are required and expected to abide by the standards of the school.

In His Service,
Principal Al Alemany





Concept Of The Christian School

The faculty and other members of the staff at Grace Christian Academy are concerned with mastery of the fundamentals of human knowledge. We believe that the Christian school is necessary to implement the command to "teach diligently to thy children the words which I command thee this day." [Deut. 6:4]. We will strive for good academic learning founded on good Christian education through the teaching of the inspired Word of God. It is the purpose of Grace Christian Academy to make available an excellent education system, and to guide the student to a knowledge of God and the Christian way of life. At Grace Christian Academy we give the Bible pre-eminence and stress its importance in transmitting to our student their spiritual obligations:

AN OBLIGATION TO GOD: To honor God and cultivate the sanctified life.

AN OBLIGATION TO THE STUDENTS: To train them to glorify God and mold their wills to that of the Creator as they go forth in their academic learning here at Grace Christian Academy.

Admission and Testing Policy

Inasmuch as students develop at widely varying rates and times, the school accepts the obligation of working with a child and his family to determine the proper placement of the child within the academic and social framework of the school. Acceptance by the parents of the school's evaluation of the proper placement for the child is a requirement for admission.

Registration and testing fees are not refundable. Grace Christian Academy is here to serve you, and we will try our very best to do everything to help you. Through both formal and informal elements of our program, we seek to provide the following:

- ?? The development of full Christian personalities on the premises given by God in the Scriptures.
- ?? An awareness of responsibility to self and others.
- ?? The learning of information necessary for life and for long-lasting personal relationships.
- ?? An allegiance to the country.
- ?? Meaningful citizenship for the student enrolled.
- ?? Basically, not only how to make a living: but

HOW TO LIVE

Payment Policy

School Tuition & Preschool Child Care Program - School tuition and GCA Preschool Child Care Program is due each month beginning in August and there after for a total of ten pay periods with the last pay period ending in May.

Action-Plus - The afternoon recreational program will operate as an independent after school program. This program allows students in both the GCA Preschool Child Care Program and the regular school program to stay at GCA after they are dismissed at noon and remain until 5:15 p.m. The program will also allow the elementary grades [1st Grade and up] to stay from 2:45-5:15 p.m. The program starts, the day school starts, and will end the last day of school in May. Details of the Action-Plus program are described in a brochure that can be picked up in the school office or call 488-1042.

GCA Preschool Child Care Program

A. The Morning Child Care Program

7:45 a.m. - 12 Noon

B. The Action Plus Afternoon Program

Noon - 5:15 p.m.

C. Whole Day Child Care Program [A + B = C]

7:45 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Note: Before a 3 and/or 4 year old child can enter any part of the GCA Preschool Child Care Program, they must be able to go to the bathroom without assistance.

Note: Parents are reminded that this program is available on regular school days only, not during any school holidays and not during the summer.

School Report Cards

GCA is on the six-weeks reporting system, and report cards will be issued every six weeks. There are six, six-weeks reporting periods in a school year. All incomplete work must be completed within each six-weeks period [unless illness prevents]. Students are not to mark or fold the report card but take care of it. If you have any questions concerning your child's grades, please call the school office and leave a note for the teacher to call you. Parents are to view the report cards and discuss the grades with the child and then sign it on the back in its respective place and return it within three days. If for some reason, the report card cannot be returned within three days, a note from the parent or guardian stating the reason should be sent to the teacher.

Student Priorities - Children attending the GCA Preschool Child Care Program, parents will receive a Student Profile Evaluation Sheet every 12 weeks of school.

Academic Standards

We strive for high academic quality here at Grace Christian Academy in a Christian atmosphere. The grade scale is as follows:

A = 94 - 100
B = 85 - 93
C = 75-84
D = 70-74
F = Below 70

Conduct Grade.
E - Excellent
S - Satisfactory
N - Needs improvement
U - Unsatisfactory

Principal's List - All A's
A/B - Honor Roll - A/B Average

Homework

We believe that homework is an integral part of the school program. Each teacher is at liberty to give homework to aid the students to advance in their studies. Therefore, each student is required to complete his homework assignments on time. Homework is given for several reasons:

1. For reinforcement: We believe that most students require adequate review to master material essential to their educational progress.
2. For practice: Following classroom explanation, illustration, and review of new work, homework is given so that the material will be mastered.
3. For remedial activity: As instruction progresses, various weak points in a student's grasp of a subject become evident. Homework following instruction is given to overcome such difficulties.
4. For special projects: Book reports, compositions, special research assignments, and projects are some of the activities that are frequently the subject of homework attention.

We do request parents' full cooperation in seeing that the assignments are completed. Failure to complete homework will affect the student's daily grade. Repeated delinquent homework could result in a parents' conference.

Please note: There will be a study hall time in the afternoon ACTION PLUS program [for the older children], whereby each child will have some time to work on his/her written homework. We will leave reading assignments for home.

Children should be taught diligently:
And these words shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,
And shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house and
when thou liest down and when thou risest up."
Deut. 6:4

School Progress Reports

All grades, except Kindergarten, will send a progress report home once during the six-weeks period. The report will show the student's tests and quiz grades up to the third week within that six-weeks period. Parents are to sign and have progress report returned on the following day.

Teacher Homework Packages

In the elementary grades, teacher homework packages will be sent home on Monday. These packages will keep you informed on a weekly basis as to what your child is doing in class and the help he needs at home. This will vary from teacher to teacher. Students should come to school prepared for each day.

Attendance

In order to secure the best possible education, a student must attend school for instruction, as well as to conform with the state laws. In case of absences, the parent MUST write a dated and signed note of explanation to the teacher when the student returns to school.

Excused absences are recognized only for an illness of the child or death in the immediate family, medical/dental appointments, or for any absences approved in ADVANCE by the school administration. Advance approved absences will be recorded as excused. Assignments must be secured and completed in advance by the student.

Illness

For the welfare of your child and others in the school, all children who are sick must be kept at home. When the child is well enough to participate in a normal school day, please send hat, coat, etc., as an aid to prevention of future illness. The class does participate in outdoor activities each day, weather permitting. If a child is to receive any medication during the school day, the parent or guardian must have on file in the office, an Authorization for Administration Medication form which is available in the school office. (It is to be completed each year.) The medicine to be dispensed will be kept in the office and dispensed according to the doctor's instructions. Medicine must be properly labeled. If your child requires medication during school hours and we do not have signed authorization, it will be necessary for you to stop by and personally give it to him. Teachers cannot be held responsible for carrying out these duties.

Visitation

For the safety of the children, we ask that any person wanting to see any student, during school, should first, check in at the main office.

Because of the disturbance to the classroom, parents wanting to observe in a classroom must check in through the main office.

Inclement Weather

For inclement weather Grace Christian Academy follows the same decision as the public schools. Their decision is our decision.

Exception: Whenever the public schools announce a delayed schedule, GCA will start at 9:00 a.m., a delay of one hour only, so that the GCA Preschool Child Care Program and the Kindergarten classes can be released by noon.

School Hours

School begins at 8:00 a.m. and terminates at 12:00 noon for the GCA Preschool Child Care Program and the Kindergarten school program and 3:00 p.m. for Elementary grades. Students may arrive any time after 7:40 a.m. each morning. Students may go directly to their classroom upon arrival. Parents are urged to be prompt for pick-up! Tardy regulations vary from teacher to teacher. If a student is tardy more than four times in any one six weeks period, the parents will be asked to discuss this with the Principal. We consider tardiness a poor example for a child's character building process.

Parents who wish to have a child dismissed during the school hours may come to the school office and the student will be contacted in the classroom to, come directly to the main office. Parents should not go directly to a classroom without reporting first to the main office.

Dress Code

Justification For Dress Code:

1. The Bible says in Psalm 127:3 that "children are a gift from God". In other words they are on loan to us and we have the responsibility to guide and direct them toward the things of God, not the things of the world.
2. When the Bible speaks to the Christian about adornment it usually uses the word "modest" and carries the meaning that people should not be drawn to you by "what you wear" but by "who you are" as a person.
3. We live in a society that says, "I know how important you are by what name brand you are wearing." This philosophy causes people to try to "keep up with the Jones" even though their finances are not adequate for them to do so. More the reason your child should be known for "the inner person" not by "the outer look"
4. We, at GCA, would like to take as many distractions as possible out of the picture in order to concentrate on what a Christian school is suppose to be doing: (a) building Bible character (b) academics -- all aspects of school work (c) social character – acceptance by character and personality not by what one has or is wearing.

A General Description of GCA School Dress Code

A General Description of our Dress Code is that we desire the boys to wear long khaki pants with a belt, and a navy blue Polo shirt, with shirt tails tucked inside the pants. We desire the girls to wear a jumper dress, knee length, and have tights or bike shorts under their dress during the hot months and long stockings under the dress during the cold months.

Both boys and girls should wear tennis shoes in order to be active during Movement Education classes. No sandals, plastic shoes, or shoes with hard leather soles --- these kind of shoes tend to cause a child to fall and in some cases the shoe actually flies off.

School Dress Code (continued)

With the exception of Kindergarten [optional], all students are to be in GCA uniform. Uniforms must be purchased from Land's End or JC Penny Company, **(uniform information available through our school office)**. All students are expected to abide by our dress uniform code, and to keep the uniform neat in appearance. The uniform will be worn during the school hours unless you have been notified otherwise for a special occasion. Note: For the GCA Preschool Child Care Program, uniforms are optional but girls wear dresses and boys wear long pants with polo shirt with collar.

Hair Code

Boy's hair should be neatly groomed in a masculine style at all times. Hair should be cut short for the boys on the sides and trimmed neatly in back so that it does not touch the collar or exceed beyond the collar. Hair that is combed on the forehead cannot come down more than one-half the width of the forehead. We want our girls to have their hair combed nicely, too, because we want them, as well as our boys, to look nice in their appearance at all times.

The administration of the school reserves the right in all cases to make the final decision concerning conformity to these standards. The key word is "modest"--modest hair cuts, modest attire and adornment. We covet that the children look like children, not miniature "adults". Therefore, please keep everything to a minimum.

Note: The reason for dress codes and hair codes in a Christian school is to help the faculty, students and parents to have and maintain a standard in these matters. We realize that the Christian life is more than a set of rules and guidelines, but they have their place. We hope that we have your cooperation in this matter.

Discipline and Conduct

The Bible teaches respect for authority (Colossians 3:20; Romans 13:1; Hebrews 13:17) and it requires discipline for children (Proverbs 6:23, 13:24, 29:15-17.) An important phase of education is to develop character. We believe that discipline is necessary for the welfare of the student as well as for the entire school. Therefore, each teacher is given the liberty of making and enforcing classroom regulations in the manner he/she feels is in accordance with the Bible. The ultimate goal for external discipline is internal or self-discipline and a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of one's life. Obviously not all students have attained this level and need certain external forces to guide them at times.

Trust and freedom will be granted by the teacher as long as the student demonstrates the ability to conduct his activities in a purposeful manner.

Discipline: Believing that discipline is necessary for the welfare of the student as well as the entire school, school authorities will administer progressive levels of structured discipline when necessary. If a child does not respond to the disciplinary measures taken, the father will be called to the school to discuss further discipline. The school authorities will not administer corporal punishment.

The booklet, "Under Loving Command" and the book Dare to Discipline, by James Dobson are highly recommended as helps to parents. Both are available in bookstores, libraries and for loan through the school.

The following are things we would like to avoid:

- * Gum chewing. Do Not Bring Gum To School
- * Disrespect or disobedience to any staff member.
- * Misuse of school property (writing in or on walls, books, desks, etc.)
- * Fighting or rowdy activity
- * Lying, stealing, or cheating
- * Use of vulgarity or profanity

School Conferences

Please feel free to consult with the school office regarding any problems or questions that concern your child. It is the desire of the principal and the faculty to be of service to both parent and student. Parents may request a conference by calling the classroom teacher or the office. We do urge, however, that such conferences be made by definite appointment with the teacher at a convenient after school time.

If you need to talk with your child's teacher, please call the office between 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Your call will be returned as soon as possible after school.

Health Form And Certificate of Immunization

North Carolina requires all students attending school in North Carolina for the first time to have a physical examination within the twelve-month period prior to entering a North Carolina school.

North Carolina law requires a physical examination form and a certificate of immunization for all students entering 5-year-old kindergarten. Grace Christian Academy requires any student entering, for the first time, whether it be the GCA Preschool Child Care Program or the regular School Program, to follow the same regulations. Therefore, these students will not have to repeat the process when entering Kindergarten.

Health and immunization records are held at the school office for inspection by the School Health Nurse from the Swain County Health Department. If the nurse sees any discrepancies or neglect, the parents will be notified and given 7 days to correct the matter.

Immunizations can be rendered through your physician or local health department authorities. Forms can be obtained from the school, or county health services.

It will be necessary to bring your child's health report as stated above to the school as near to the beginning of the school year. No child may be admitted to class until this is completed as required by law.

Communicable Diseases

Grace Christian Academy desires to maintain a healthful school environment by instituting controls designed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The term "communicable disease" shall mean an illness which arises as a result of a specific infectious agent which may be transmitted either directly or indirectly by a susceptible host or infected person or animal to other persons. Any student with a communicable disease shall be temporarily excluded from school while ill and during recognized periods of communicability. Grace Christian Academy reserves the right to make all final decisions necessary to protect your child by taking whatever necessary actions to control the spread of communicable disease within the school.

Records That Must Be Filed With GCA

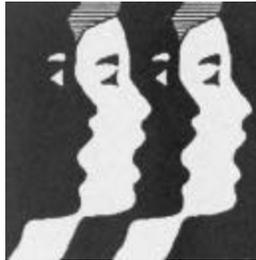
The following records must be filed with the main office before a child can be officially enrolled at Grace Christian Academy:

- Recent picture [optional]
- Copy of birth certificate
- Social Security Number
- County Health Form and immunization records
- Recent physical exam
- Records from previous school [if applicable]

Holidays

A school calendar of events will be available to you. Please refer to this calendar through out the school year. Notice of other events will be sent to you in advance.

For the most part, we acknowledge the regular calendar holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Good Friday, and Easter. Easter usually leads into a Spring Break of one week. All other holidays will be announced in advance. Special Days recognized through **Classroom Activities** are: Veteran's Day [November]; President's Day [February] and National Day of Prayer [first Thursday in May].



Parent-Teacher Meetings

The school year begins with a **Parent Orientation Meeting**. The principal meets with parents first to go over general information about the school and the school year. Then the parents meet with their child's teacher, who then goes over details for the operation of their classroom. Since this is a very important meeting, **we strongly recommend that parents attend this orientation meeting.**

Six Week Parent Teacher Meetings [PTM] are held at 7:00 p.m. on the Thursday, one week after the six weeks ends. Parents are asked to attend these meetings for the benefit of their child. Some teacher's meet by individual appointments and others use a group meeting.

The Preschool Child Care Program [PTM] meetings are held every twelve-week period for the Preschool program. Parents are requested to attend these meetings for the benefit of their child.

Note: Children are not to attend any of the ParentTeacher Meetings



FEES

Kindergarten-graduation fee: The Kindergarten class cap-and-gown rental/or buy fee for graduation is \$20.00 plus \$20 for program fees and should be included with your May tuition payment.

Kindergarten snack: At midmorning each day the kindergarten children will have a snack of milk and cookies or fruit. There will be no charge; **the Lord will provide thanks to our generous parents.**

Lunch: The School and the GCA Pre school Child Care Program will have to "brown" bag their lunches. **Suggetions:** sandwiches, snacks, fruits and beverages.

Yearbook Fee: the school yearbook will be \$25.00 per year. Orders will be taken in March.

K5 Video Fee : K5 graduation video's will be sold at the cost of \$20.00. Orders will be taken in March.

School Pictures: School pictures will be taken by a professional photographer. Prices will be according to packets chosen.

Missionary Pro-jects: Weekly Chapel offerings are used to support GCA's Child adoption program and the Rock of Ages Prison Ministry.

Field Trips: if students go on field trips with their class or during the ACTION-PLUS program, there will be a minimal cost for transportation and activity fees.

Student Involvement In School Related Activities

We hope that it is the desire of all of our students to take part in all school activities since it is their school. We hope that our parents will encourage their children to take an active interest in all school related events, and support us in seeing that your child/children are present for such events, and also support us by your presence.

Insurance

Grace Christian Academy offers to every student a very affordable policy for an additional charge. Any student that is not covered by some type of insurance is **strongly advised** to buy this coverage. Grace Christian Academy will not be responsible for payment, partial payment, or insurance deductible incurred from any accident resulting from sports activities or any other accident that occurs at any school event, on or away from school property.

Accident protection is the responsibility of the parent and will not be assumed by the school.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

General Information

Any party held within the school will be simple in nature and no extra time will be used for the party. Party treats will be held until a scheduled snack time. Refreshments may consist of cupcakes or cookies and/or drinks. No ice cream please. For days, parents may bring treats to the office before snack time. All refreshments must be left in the office.

Christmas and Easter party

We stress the true meaning of Christmas and Easter. If "Santa Claus" questions or "Easter Bunny" questions come up, the child will be referred to parents for an answer. Some parents would be upset if we told their children "there is no Santa or Easter Bunny." And some would be upset if we told them "there is a Santa and Easter Bunny." Decorations for Christmas in the classroom will focus on the Incarnation of Christ, and for Easter the focus of decorations will be on the resurrection of Christ. As a Christian institution, please respect our desire to present the truth of the Bible to your child. Cupcakes and cookies should be decorated accordingly.

Thanksgiving Party

We believe a Christian school should play an important role in developing patriotism and in recognizing God as the giver of all blessings to our country, home and family. Therefore, Thanksgiving will be one of the holidays we recognize during our school year.

Parents and School Operation

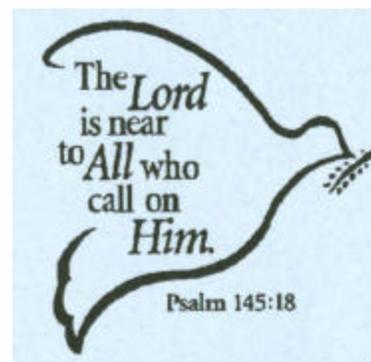
In order to keep the integrity of the operation of the school, parents will not be used as volunteers in the main administration of GRACE Christian Academy. Parents are welcome to volunteer for after school and weekend sponsored activities as well as chaperons for special trips.

There will be six (6) Parent Project Days during the course of the school year. Please see the school calendar concerning these opportunities for service.

*Children should know the scriptures.
"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath;
but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
[Ephesians 6:4]*

BIBLE

Bible study is recognized at Grace Christian Academy as of fundamental importance and is a required subject. We believe we should give prime time to what is "prime". It augments the study of English, history, geography, and science in future years. Without a knowledge of Biblical truth a student cannot be considered educated. The Bible gives direction for the life, and the only hope for the life to come. No other book can so enrich the minds and hearts of men as The Book of Books.



PATRIOTISM

Patriotism is an inner feeling that is difficult to define; for each of us it has a different meaning and each of us meets it with a different emotional reaction--a feeling of pride, a lump in the throat, a tear in the eye, a swelling of the chest, a quickened breath, a fierce desire to battle for that which we believe, and even the dedication of one's life to a cause. Where and when these feelings begin, we do not know, but we feel that the school should play an important part in developing patriotism in all its assets. The small child is just beginning to have feelings of loyalty and pride, and these will grow best in an atmosphere of love and security, in aroused interests and broadened fields of knowledge, in chances to work with others, and through good examples in everyday living." (Excerpt from Planned Patriotism)

School Chapel

A weekly Worship Service will be held for all students attending GCA. A separate Chapel will be held for The Preschool Child Care Program. Chapel for the preschool or school will be a time of Bible sharing, singing, reciting Bible verses and a time of prayer. On occasions, we may have guest ministers, evangelists or children's program for chapel. Students will be required to bring their Bibles to Chapel.

Parent Day

Parent Day is a day set aside at the end of the school year for Parents to come into the classroom and see their child in action in the classroom setting. The students recite their drills and techniques of learning while parents observe.

Re-enrollment

The month of March is designated as re-enrollment month for attending students.

Help Classes

Homework and Help classes are available from 3:00-3:30 p.m. during the after school Action-Plus Program.

Additional Information

To receive an application or additional information contact:

Grace Christian Academy
498 Arlington Avenue
PO. Box 1099
Bryson City, NC 28713
(828) 488-1042

School Verses

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding." [Proverbs 9:10]

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." [Isaiah 40:31]

School Colors: Blue and Gold

School Mascot: Eagles



What Is An "Authentic" Christian School? American Association of Christian Schools

The sign over the front entrance of the school is not necessarily proof of a Christian school inside. A Scripture verse displayed in the office or a Christian flag hanging in the corner of the auditorium does not guarantee that a school is Christian. Neat haircuts and appropriate clothing on the students and teachers are not guarantees of a true Christian school. The academic pursuits, the sports championships, and even a church affiliation do not confirm the authenticity of a Christian school. The old adage, "What you see is what you get!" is not always true.

It is impossible to identify an authentic Christian school solely from its appearance. Even though appearances are important, the true issue when determining whether a school is Christian in name only, or in name and practice, is the philosophy that governs the school. Every individual involved in the ministry of a Christian school affects its authenticity. Whether pastor, principal, teacher, parent, student, custodian, secretary, or cook, the genuine Christian school is substantiated in each personal commitment to support the Biblical principles on which the school was founded. In that regard, appearance is a result of a genuine desire to honor God before all people. Ultimately, a parent must determine if the claim "We are a Christian school" is a legitimate claim, or empty words.

Authentic Christian school is founded upon God's Word.

Its mission and purpose statement clearly define the reasons for its existence. The Bible is viewed as the inerrant Word of God, and its teachings and principles are regarded as guiding lights for every aspect of school life. Every policy of the school, every decision made by leadership, every course taught in the classrooms, every extracurricular activity is in accord with Scripture. Teacher and support staff are professing Christians, each faithfully attending a Bible-believing church. The Christian school is different by design.

It unashamedly promotes the Bible and it's teaching. The Christian school is Christ-centered as compared to the man-centered philosophy promoted by the secular public schools.

A critical element of any school, but especially the Christian school, is relationship. How those associated with the Christian school respond to those inside and outside the school reveal the school's commitment to Christian education.

An authentic Christian school orients the total school program to both the students and their parents. The students are important to the faculty and staff because the school exists to serve students in an environment of spiritual inspiration and academic excellence. Students are treated with respect, and are expected to show respect. Parents are also valued by the school, their support is vital to a school's ability to provide a quality program.

An authentic Christian school obeys the Scriptural command about Bible study. A believer is to "study to show himself approved unto God." Bible verses and Bible is taught at all grade levels. Bible verses and Bible stories are a part of the elementary Bible program. Bible doctrines and book studies are taught in the junior and senior high grades. Chapel services challenge students about living a holy life and surrendering to **the** will of God. Speakers include a variety of Christian leaders in the church, school, and from outside the school.

An authentic Christian school is a learning institution that emphasizes academics. Biblical truths are integrated into the academic content on all grade levels. This trains the students in a Christ world view in every subject that is studied. In fact, in a genuine Christian school, Biblical truths are the basis for all that is taught. For example, teachers will emphasize such things as the

relevance of mathematics to the order of God's creation; the use of God's gift of language to communicate knowledge; the value of reading well to be able to comprehend and apply knowledge. High academic standards are imposed, and every student is given the assistance he needs to learn at his highest potential.

An authentic Christian school reveals itself in the sports program, social activities, and class trips sponsored by the school. These activities are well-planned, closely supervised, and are held in accord with Scripture.

An authentic Christian school is distinct in the area of discipline. Discipline policies are founded upon Scriptural principles motivated by love, administered consistently and fairly, and designed to benefit the students. Recognizing that discipline is an extension of discipleship, the genuine Christian school administers discipline for the purpose of training and guiding its students.

What is an authentic Christian school? it is a place known for its integrity and pursuit of holiness in order to honor and please God. It is a vital, active place where students are trained to serve God by instruction and example. It is an academic institution that places a high premium on the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. It is a place that challenges students to do their best in their studies and in their walk with the Lord. The authentic Christian school provides boundaries, inspiration, and instruction for its student that are Biblically consistent and academically challenging. These are the things that are common to the authentic Christian school.

**Parenting:
A God-Given Responsibility**
American Association of Christian Schools

Most adults feel inadequate and ill-prepared for one of life's most important tasks--parenting. The challenge of producing a child who lives a balanced Christian life has been complicated by a society which has trampled upon the values held by our forefathers. Is it possible to err in this God-given responsibility? Although children are quite resilient, they are often injured by the extremes which parents adopt in their parenting practices. A few cautions are in order.

Caution #1. Do not make excuses for your child when he is wrong.

Running to a child's defense every time he errs shelters him from a very important Biblical principle--sin brings consequences. Children must be taught accountability for irresponsibility and wrong-doing. When a parent excuses inappropriate behavior, he diminishes his child's respect for authority and God Himself. Granted, injustices will arise which will necessitate a parent's intervention, but this should be the exception and not the rule. In fact, a few injustices will serve to introduce your child to "real life." Some of life's greatest lessons are learned through mistakes, but not if your child never makes one.

Caution #2. Avoid making all of life's decisions for your child.

Decision making is an integral part of the maturation process. As the drive for independence increases with age, your child must be trained to make some decisions on his own. Undoubtedly, every child will make some unwise decisions. It is far better to make the unwise choices in the smaller matters than

in the monumental decisions which will face your child immediately following departure from home. A child who is forced to depend completely on parents for decisions in areas such as friends, clothing, and money will no doubt be greatly hindered in the major quandries of life. Allowing your child freedom to choose while he is still under your influence will help produce a stable young adult. Teaching your child how to make decisions and providing the freedom to apply the decision-making process in an important part of parenting.

Caution #3. Never compare your child to other children in the family or Christian school.

Although parents know that God has created and gifted all children differently, they often find it difficult to accept. In our performance-oriented society, children must be beautiful, athletic, or intelligent to compete with their peers. Thus, the child is helpless if he does not have at least one arena where he does not have to vie for the top spot. Parents must accept their child, as God made him and not as he compares to his peer group. Naturally, a parent will have high expectation for his child at school, but only as they relate to his abilities, interests, and limitations. Studies show that the home is the major source of self image in the child; thus, parents must not convey, whether consciously or unconsciously, a comparison of the child with his siblings or peers.

Caution #4. Avoid teaching your child to be more concerned about outward appearance than inward character. Unfortunately, many Christians have learned how to maintain an exterior which camouflages the real self. Often, Christians have a way of categorizing and labeling people based on what they see while the Bible teaches that God looks on the heart. True conformity to the principles of God must come from the inside and not the outside. Not only is it the parent's

responsibility to teach children to be genuine for God, it is their duty to demonstrate these principles in their own lives--for in the home the facade of outward conformity is quickly peeled away. Your child must be taught the importance of motives and attitudes as well as actions.

Obviously, no better example of the perfect parent-child relationship can be found than that of God and His children. In love He molds children into the individuals He intended for them to be. When they stumble and fall, He is there to pick them up; however in His wisdom he allows His children to suffer the consequences of their decisions. God lovingly and patiently guides each of His children through the maturing process of growing in Christ. Should Christian parents do any less for their children? Certainly not.



Children should be molded by God's Words.

*"...behold, as the clay is in the potter's
hand, so are ye in mine hand..."
[Jeremiah 18:6]*

Children are capable of praising God.

*"Both young men, and maidens; old men and children:
Let them praise the name of the LORD; for his
Name alone is excellent; his glory
Is above the earth and heaven."
[Psalm 148:12-13]*

Children should be brought to Christ.

*"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch
them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.
But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased,
And said unto them, Suffer the little children
to come unto me, and forbid them not:
for of such is the kingdom of God.
[Mark 10:13-14]*