



Grace Notes

THE GRACE DIFFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2017

CORE PRINCIPLES

Excellence

Values

Relationships

MISSION STATEMENT

Partnering with parents to provide an exceptional spiritual and academic environment consistent with Biblical truth.

SCHOOL VERSE

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

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GCS Happenings

The Lobby Becomes the Common

This summer our lobby was transformed into The Common. So many people helped to make this transformation happen. A Mission Team from the Buncombe Baptist Association in North Carolina started us off. In one week, they removed all the old planters and the two feet of dirt within them. They built a new fish pond area. They also hung new sheetrock on the feature wall and painted it a beautiful burgundy.

The Common reflects what we are all about as a school. The feature wall showcases the Cross and the Ten Commandments, telling all who enter that we are committed to God and His beautiful plan of salvation by Grace through faith

in Jesus' sacrifice.

The Common is a place where our students gather for study halls, lunch, and conversation. It is a blessing to have our students in this hub of action. Also,

there is also a piano for students to play. The best part is, at both ends of the day, the Grace community gathers here - at the heart of the school!



Getting the Bible In Students' Lives

A main part of The Grace Difference is to incorporate the Bible into every class, and even every lesson. This year we have made a concerted effort to get our students interacting with the Bible directly. In HS Bible class, the students are reading a passage from Scripture and reflecting upon it weekly. The Bible App allows high school students to sign up for a reading plan and then discuss their plan with friends. Furthermore, we are hosting a community youth group for all children in grades 6-12. The youth group, Building Lives Around Solid Truth (BLAST), has been a great success so far. Our prayer is that the Word of God will be living and active in our students' lives!

Save the Date

- 12/12 Christmas Tree Lighting 6pm
- 3/24 Silent Auction 7pm
- 4/28 Family Fun Day
- 6/08 Senior Graduation
- 6/12 K Grad & Elementary Closing Program



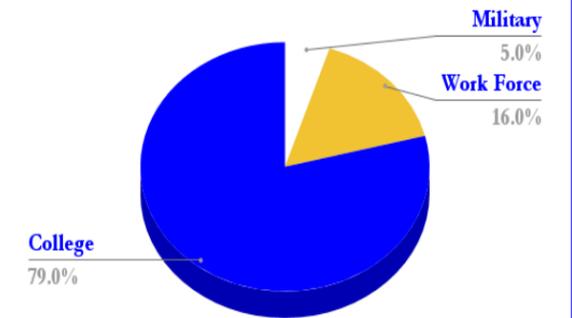
GCS is a place where students grow and flourish from ages 3-18. Come see The Grace Difference!

"To me, Grace feels like a home rather than a school, and the teachers and staff have had a huge role in shaping me into the person I am today."

Grace By the Numbers

- 22 Churches
- 14 Towns
- 3 States
- 5 Countries

Launching GCS Graduates



Feature

Keeping the Foundation Building for the Future

What does an excellent education look like? We desire our students not just to gain knowledge, but to be able to succeed at new and different skills. We desire our students to apply their learning to their lives. This is especially true for their spiritual education, but also for all aspects of their education. The world is rapidly changing, as we can all attest. The foundations of literacy, mathematics, science, history, and theology are not changing. At GCS we are training our students in the foundations of learning and for what they will need in the future. Our students are engaged in content that is interdisciplinary,

applied to real life situations, and promotes global awareness. All learning at GCS is in a framework which encourages collaboration between students and teachers. This is an education primed to develop students into leaders who will take an active role in managing their own learning, time, project teams, and service projects. In order to help us to become even more effective, we have hired Christian School Management, a consulting firm who will help train our school community. The CSM staff will be at our school for 2 days, following which we will have trainings

with them for the next 6 months. The training outcomes will include all of the following: increased emphasis on 21st Century learning, multi-age approach, academic outline for the next three years, identification of GCS distinctives, and the development of a mini strategic plan.



21st Century Learning

Reaching the Community



Bennington Rural Fire Dept. visit for Fire Prevention Month



2nd & 3rd Graders interact with attendees of an adult day service monthly



BLAST Community Youth Group meets at school with GCS student leaders



Vermont State Troopers discuss their use of Algebra in their jobs



Packing over 60 boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Spotlight

Transforming Students



Senior Alissa Boucher -Attending Grace has been such a blessing to me, because it has given me so many opportunities that I wouldn't have found anywhere else. Throughout my thirteen years here, I have gotten to know the teachers on a personal level, and now consider them to be like family. Additionally, in my junior year, I was fortunate enough to travel to Guatemala on a mission trip with my class. Although it was a huge step outside of my comfort zone, it was one of the most rewarding and educational experiences of my life. Finally, Grace allows me to worship and praise God on a daily basis. I am able to grow in my faith and draw closer to God, thanks to our daily devotions, Bible classes, and weekly chapels. **To me, Grace feels like a home rather than a school, and the teachers and staff have had a huge role in shaping me into the person I am today,** and for that I am extremely grateful and blessed.

Serving the Lord



Hi, my name is Randy Burns. I trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 22. I immediately felt the call to serve God with the rest of my life.

I served in student ministry for 5 years, and I have been a pastor for 12 years. I have earned degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice University in Pastoral Ministry and Theology.

My wife, Kelli, and I have been married 16 blessed years, and we have two beautiful daughters, Sarah Grace and Elizabeth Faith, who both attend Grace Christian School. This year, we also became host parents for a foreign exchange student from Mongolia. We call her Sunni.

On April 1, 2014 our family moved to Bennington, VT pursuing the call God placed on our hearts to share the message of love and hope of the gospel of Christ to the people of New England. In September 2014, we launched Summit Church. We became a part of the GCS family as parents, in the spring of 2014. I began as a substitute teacher in

the Spring of 2016. I was very excited to become a full time teacher this Fall! I have a real passion for sharing God's Word with teenagers and investing in their lives. I am so blessed to be able to do this in a variety of ways. In addition to teaching Bible, Math, and Government/Economics, this fall we also started B.L.A.S.T. (Building Lives Around Solid Truth), an area-wide Student Ministry for 6th-12th graders that meets here at GCS every other Friday night. I also enjoy sports, and I love volunteering with the soccer and basketball teams. Grace Christian School means so much to my family and me. We are so blessed to be a part of this family of faith!

Your Giving Makes an Eternal Difference

Praising and Praying

This year our Annual Fund Drive goal is to raise \$25,000, so that we can continue to provide an excellent education at an accessible tuition and be able to give out staff bonuses. Our faculty deserve this so much! We are already more than halfway to our goal.

We are praising God that He has continued to sustain our school and give us favor. For 21 years now, God has continued to meet our needs and bless our school in amazing ways! He is guiding and directing us as we reach to the future.

Last year, the Lord used you, our support system, to sustain the ministry of Grace Christian School! Your gifts also provided program enhancements including: the transformation of The Common, a science fume hood, acid wash shower, tuned pianos, music supplies, art supplies, and soccer jerseys.

This year we have two specific prayer requests that you could join us in. First, we pray that the Lord would increase our enrollment. You can help by praying mentioning Grace to a family

who could benefit from The Grace Difference. Second, please pray that God would protect our entire community—the staff, students, families, and our school.

We have contact with our students for 1,200 hours a year. In short, this is a disciple-making amount of time, where we focus on changing students' lives for God. Help us to develop lifelong disciples who will glorify and serve God wherever He places them in this world. You can mail in your gift or give online through our website. We will wrap up our fund drive by January 1, if everyone gave \$100 we would far exceed our goal.



Student Grandma Moses Art Project



Cathy Russell, Chemours, Daikin, JPS, Rose & Kiernan, BGF, Blue Shield / Health Now, Cintas, Citizens, George Apkin & Sons, KPMG, Saint Gobain, Slack Chemical Company Inc., Todd Gile, USI, Acton Technologies, Bank of America, John Boucher, JP Morgan Chase, Trans-Border, Troy Industrial Solutions, BestMak International, Jim O'Keefe, Nexeo Waste Solutions, Unicorr Packaging/VT Container

Alumni Corner

Changing Their World



Alumnus Andrew Meerwarth is a driven young man. After leaving GCS, Andrew graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor's degree in English

Literature. He is currently at Notre Dame Law School, specializing in corporate law and governance. Andrew has had some great opportunities including studying abroad in Seoul, S. Korea, internships with the NY Attorney General, and a NY Senator. He has founded an International Moot Court Team competing in Vienna, Austria. He also works with a team which one the National Fiscal Policy competition in Washington, DC. Andrew stated that the support of friends, teachers, and staff at GCS helped him through his teenage years. He attributes the great teachers and high school courses at GCS to setting him on the path to where he is today.

Andrew is looking to graduate in May 2018, and is excited for what God has next for him.

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THE GRACE DIFFERENCE

EXCELLENCE | VALUES | RELATIONSHIPS

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