

## True Success

Our unique recipe of character education, the pursuit of excellence, and being kind to others leads students to true success!!!! In this issue we will show you how our students fulfill different aspects of our mission, how they are prepared for their future, and how they rise above by following God's path for their lives. People are made up of body, mind, and soul/spirit, Luke 2 "Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God and man." At GCS we train all three aspects!

- Live with character-just having manners will get you so far, saying yes please and no thank you, etc. Or developing good work habits-showing up on time, working hard while there, being an effective team member. We train students to be people of character-how many people have fallen due to poor character choices.
- Learn with excellence-We desire to raise students to find their areas of giftedness, and pursue perfection. Children and young people who not only know facts and data, but also know how to learn. This will set them up to thrive in today's fast changing world. Our graduates have become leaders in college, the workforce, and in the military.
- Love with the Hands of Jesus-Of course it is not just about jobs or worldly success, but about making disciples of Jesus! Teaching students to live how Jesus lived-loving with His hands, reaching out with kindness to others, making their world a better place-this is a core GCS distinctive.

As we look ahead to 2020, I believe our focus on Living with character, Learning with excellence, and Loving with the hands of Jesus will continue to lead our students to true success in every way!



## Meet our New Principal

It has been my privilege to serve at Grace Christian School since the fall of 2015. My ministry at Grace has grown from first teaching a self-contained sixth grade class, to teaching grades six through eight in our middle school, to now serving as principal.

I attended Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO where I majored in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education. Upon graduation I spent one year teaching third grade at D.A. Mallory Elementary School in Buffalo, MO. I enjoyed teaching third grade but needed to resign from my position because my husband, Chuck, and I were starting our family and I deeply desired to stay home with my children. **Cont'd on page 2**

**OUR MISSION**  
*Inspiring each student to live with character, learn with excellence, and love with the hands of Jesus!*

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### GCS ALUMNI

170 GRADUATES



Nurses  
Counselor  
Pharmaceuticals  
Service Specialist  
Autistic Children  
Speech & Language  
Pathologist



Christian School  
Teacher  
Associate Professor  
Academic  
Coordinator at  
Accossication of  
Christian Schools  
Guidance Counselor  
Lawyer



Engineer  
IT Specialist  
Retail Store Manager  
Family Business  
Chef



Youth Pastor  
Pastor  
State Trooper  
Military Personnel



*“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.”*

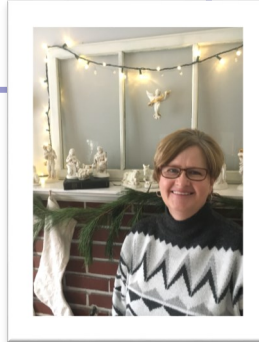
*Alissa Boucher  
Class of 2018*



## Save the Date

- 12/17 Christmas Concert & Tree Lighting 6pm
- 1/24 GCS Learning Fair & Donor Reception
- 4/23 Annual Corporation Meeting 6pm
- 6/12 Senior Graduation 7pm
- 6/16 K Grad & Spring Concert 7pm
- 6/29 Summer Programs Begin

January-April Walk-in Wednesdays 8:30-11:30am for interested families



Principal Connie Lee

## New Principal

### Continued from page 1

While raising our boys, Andy and Kevin, we became more and more convinced of the need for continuous godly teaching and training as described in Deuteronomy 11:18 and 19 where God was encouraging his people to know and follow after him and to teach their children to do the same. *“So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”* I had always intended to go back to teaching once our youngest child, Kevin, reached kindergarten age, but the idea of sending our children to public school did not set well with us so we made the decision to homeschool.

As our oldest son, Andy, neared middle school, we moved to Missoula, MT with the intention of continuing with homeschooling. One afternoon I was driving around and came upon Valley Christian School. I was curious as to what types of curriculum they were using so I decided to stop in for a visit. On the way out I was handed an application and remember saying, “Thank you, but we homeschool.” The response I got was, “Take it anyway. You never know what God may be leading you to do.” To make a long story short, I began teaching third grade the following year. Over the years we grew to love Valley and were blessed by its impact within our family. One of the greatest blessings was that our boys were hearing “one voice”. The things we had been instilling in them over the years were now being said by other adults who were loved and respected by them. We were living out Isaiah 30:21 - *“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”* We thank God for the teachers at Valley Christian who were a part of that voice, partnering with us as we parented godly children. After 14 years of teaching third grade at Valley, we moved to Bennington to be closer to our grandchildren. As I began teaching at Grace Christian School I was delighted to find an administration and teaching staff who are committed to partnering with parents to raise up a generation who live their lives with character, learn with excellence, and love with the hands of Jesus. As I take on this new role as principal, I look forward to what God will do as we, together with that “one voice” say to our students, *“This is the way; walk in it.”*

## Enrollment Growth

We are very excited that our enrollment has again grown this year! Our largest area of growth was Pre-School, where we hired a second full-time teacher. Both Pre-School & Middle School are full this year!

We have also started a program where Chinese students in 5th & 6th grade come to GCS for one semester to experience American culture and education. This year we have 13 International students, four in 5th grade, four in 6th grade, and five in High School. These students are from 4 different countries and languages!





# Love with the Hands of Jesus

Our students learn how to help and serve others from our community to around the world!



Serving at True North Pregnancy Center



BPI & Local Church Help



Helping an older couple and a Veteran



## Summer Camps

GCS now offers 12 months of ministry for children! For the past two summers we have been running **Summer with Grace, for 3 through 5 years old students.** Judith Galusha, has done an amazing job setting up a fun, and academic summer for our youngest learners. As long as the weather is anywhere close to nice, the students spend all morning outside! The theme two years ago was insects. Judith downloaded an app, so students could identify insects when they found them. Last year's theme was trees; the students learned about the importance of trees, and what animals live inside them. Judith led

the students on nature hikes to Willow Park to further investigate and learn about the beautiful world God created. The campers also enjoyed playing outside with the hose, the water table, and of course the bike track.

Last summer we also ran **Grace Camp for students in grades 1-6.** Last year's theme was space! Week one focused on the International Space Station, and week two focused on the Mission to Mars. Meagan Snide, High School STEM teacher, showed her flexibility in setting up an amazing camp where students were inspired by space.

Meagan showed the students how amazing God is by teaching about the amazing heavens (space) He created. The students learned about: training like an astronaut, coding an actual robot, what space looks like, aquaculture, and more. The camp also focused on students problem-solving, communications in a group, and the design process. The campers literally had a "blast", as the camp culminated in model rocket launches!

**This year we will continue our summer programs, and are hoping to expand them in the future.**

## New Practicum



We launched a Practicum experience for upperclassmen this past year. As part of the Practicum, upperclassmen volunteered for 30 hours at different businesses around Bennington. The main purposes of our Practicum were: to unleash our students' passion for helping through volunteering, to grow their career skills, and to develop good work habits—responsibility, character, and leadership. The students then documented their experience with a journal and class discussion on work-related topics. Our students really enjoyed the Practicum experience as they learned what people actually do in their everyday jobs.

Joshua Boucher participated in Practicum as a junior volunteering at CAT-TV. While he was there, Joshua learned how to edit videos, operate their cameras, etc. After the Practicum, CAT-TV hired Joshua, and he continues to work there. Recently, he received a letter from his boss, which said, **"We think you're doing a great job! Your reliability and dependability are impressive and most welcomed . . . Keep up the good work!"** His boss then gave Joshua a great raise. Joshua will attend MCLA in the fall majoring in IT and hopes to pursue a career in technology. Practicum is another ingredient in the recipe of raising students to true success!

# The Inspire Grace Fund

**The next \$6,000 raised for The Inspire Grace Fund (TIGF) will be matched by generous donors!**

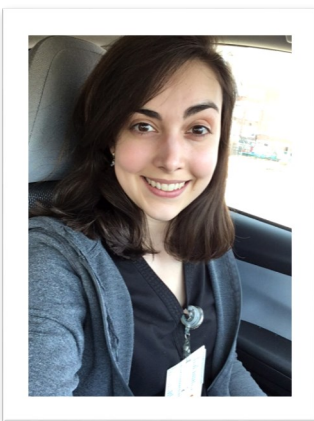
So far we have raised \$112,000 of our \$140,000 goal. **Please help us reach our goal!**

The Inspire Grace Fund allows our school to move forward strategically. God has provided for us so abundantly over the years, beyond what we could ask or imagine. GCS has also always been successful due to the support of people like you who have given to bless our children!

This year as you know TIGF will be directed to 3 strategic areas. First, **financial aid**-this allows more students the chance to attend GCS. (and more parents the ability to choose where their children will be educated). Second, **teacher trainings**-this helps our teachers to stay inspired with cutting edge skills. It is through your support we can offer trainings like Tina Harper and Project-based Learning. Last, TIGF goes toward **classroom resources**-this gives our students great learning tools.

New this year-we have just partnered with Kindful to increase the ways which donors can give, to the benefit of our children. You can give securely through Kindful online at <https://gcsvt.kindful.com/>

## Legacy Student Corner



### Jaime Wiley Class of 2011

Jaime graduated from Southern Vermont College with an ADN and BSN in Nursing. She works as an Acute Care RN and holds a CMSRN certification. She is also currently working on her MSN degree at Southern New Hampshire University. Jaime is married to GCS alum Isaac Wiley (2011), they are brand new parents!

**"I feel fortunate to have attended GCS from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. The supportive, small class sizes at GCS fostered my love for learning and set the ground work for my faith."**

104 Kocher Drive  
Bennington, VT 05201

**THE GRACE DIFFERENCE**

**LIVE | LEARN | LOVE**

(802) 447-2233  
[www.gcsvt.org](http://www.gcsvt.org)  
[ssmith@gcsvt.org](mailto:ssmith@gcsvt.org)

You can make your gift recurring through Kindful as well. You can learn more about The Inspire Grace Fund at our website. Of course we also still accept checks or donations at the office.

**Because you supported TIGF last year, and we hit the goal, this year we are launching something very special, Pottery Days!** You may have heard, we have pottery class back this year. We are so excited! We are using some of the proceeds from last year's TIGF for all students PS through 12<sup>th</sup> to have a special time in our pottery studio. I can't give you more details, because Christmas is just around the corner.

**Your gifts to The Inspire Grace Fund bless our students and families! Please help us reach the goal this year so we can continue to offer an excellent school for God's glory!**



Chemours,  
Daikin, JPS,  
Rose & Kiernan,  
Solvay, TLDG at  
West Point, BGF,  
Cintas,  
Citizens Bank,  
John Ray & Sons,  
George Apkin &  
Sons, KPMG,  
Merrill Lynch  
Bank of America,  
Saint Gobain,  
Slack Chemical,  
USI, Acton Tech,  
Trans-Border,  
Blue Shield,  
JP Morgan Chase,  
AN Deringer,  
Dow Chemical,  
John & Jen Bou-  
cher, Travelers,  
Univar Solutions,  
Ashland, Ray En-  
ergy, Troy Indus-  
trial Solutions,  
Unicorr Packag-

## SCHOOL VERSE

*"Continue to  
grow in the  
grace and  
knowledge of  
our Lord and  
 Savior  
Jesus  
Christ."  
2 Peter 3:18*

