



GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



GRACE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

12407 PINTAIL STREET
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

907-345-4814
www.GraceChristianAlaska.org

WELCOME

This is a description of events that occur throughout the year at Grace Christian School. Please remember to always check the website for the most up to date information in regards to dates, times, and locations. This list is printed prior to the start of school and is subject to change.

Please also note that there are some events that will occur during the year that may not be on the list. Be sure to check the website, Facebook, Two Minute Tuesday (2MT) and any emails that come from the school to stay informed.

Sports – Here you will find when each season begins and generalities of the sport. Full details pertaining to each sport is communicated by the coach. The Grace Christian School calendar you were given and the school website will have further dates and details with precise game and practice times and dates.

Missions – Every year we send Grace High School students to several locations throughout Alaska and the world on mission trips to share the love of Christ with others. Please be sure to watch the website, Facebook and 2MT for more information as the year progresses. Announcements will also be made to students as to when applications will be accepted for each trip.

Fine Arts – Our choir, band and orchestra perform many times at various events throughout the year from singing the national anthem at a basketball game, or performing in the Anchorage community. Students who are involved in these activities will be informed about all performances by their teachers.

Junior High – Pay special attention to the items in **ORANGE** and **PURPLE**, as these are new items for you and your grade level.

High School - Pay attention to the items in **BLUE** and **PURPLE**, as these are potentially new items for you and your grade level.

AUGUST

HS Cross Country Practices Begin – July 27

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. All paperwork required by Grace and ASAA (Alaska Schools Activities Association) is due before your athlete attends their first practice including a sports physical conducted by a physician. A \$100 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. Participation in 10 practices is required before the athlete is able to participate in a meet. *Please direct any questions to our Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

HS Volleyball Tryouts & Practices Begin – August 3

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. All paperwork required by Grace and ASAA (Alaska Schools Activities Association) is due before your athlete attends their first practice including a sports physical conducted by a physician. A \$100 athletic fee is due after tryouts for those placed on teams and will be charged through your FACTS account. Participation in 10 practices is required before the athlete is able to participate in a match. *Please direct any questions to our Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

JH Cross Country Practices Begin – August 8

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. Online Athletic Registration is required by Grace is due before your athlete attends their first practice. A sports physical is NOT REQUIRED for JH Athletics. A \$100 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. Practices are after school at the Hilltop Ski area. The school does NOT provide bus transportation to and from practices. *For more information please contact the Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

New Family Orientation & Back-2-School Night – August 21

What: New Family Orientation

Location: Grace Christian School Chapel

Time: 4:45 – 5:45 pm (Just prior to Back-2-School Night)

What: Back-2-School Night

Where: Grace Christian School

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Cost: Free

We are firing up the grill and serving dinner compliments of Alaska Sausage and Seafood. We are also partnering with Coke-a-Cola of Alaska to bring you refreshments and we will provide something to satisfy your sweet tooth. All GCS administration, faculty and staff will be on hand to

welcome you to the start of a fantastic year. This is a fun, productive and important event for the whole family.

Elementary Students

Meet your teacher
See your classroom
Drop off your school supplies

Secondary Students

Pick up schedule
Visit your classrooms and meet your teachers
Pick out lockers

All GCS Families

Sign up to volunteer
Purchase lunch cards
Buy yearbooks (secondary only)
Purchase GraceWear
Sign up for sports and activities

One more reminder - New Parents Orientation 4:45 p.m. Back 2 School 6:00 p.m.

First Day of School (Grades 1-11) - August 23

Elementary Start Time: 8:00 am Grades 1-5 Dismissal: 2:45 pm
Secondary Start Time: 8:15 am Grades 6-12 Dismissal: 3:00 pm

Welcome! We are back for another year of Grace-filled, rigorous learning to be had by all. Hopefully you attended the Back-2-School night and any questions or concerns have been answered. If not, please be sure to reach out to your teacher or an office staff member to ensure that you and your child feel equipped and ready for the year ahead.

HS Retreat - August 23-25

Location: Victory Bible Camp near Palmer, AK

We are delighted to announce our theme for the 2017-2018 school year: "All In," Luke 9:23-24. At the end of each school year, the newly elected student council convenes to pray, discuss and brainstorm the theme for the upcoming year.

All high school students depart for the Fall Retreat on Wednesday, August 23rd at 8:00 a.m. from Life Church at 12245 Jerome Street. Students NEED to be in parking lot and boarding buses no later than 7:45. They will return to Life Church on Friday, August 25th, around 3:00 p.m. Please be punctual as we depart at 8:00 a.m. sharp on Wed. and need to be cleared out of the Life Church parking lot by 3:30 on Friday. Victory Bible Camp's number is (907) 745-4203 and should only be used in case of serious emergency. All Student Handbook rules apply at the Fall Retreat.

Students, please bring the following to the Fall Retreat:

- Completed and signed Permission Slip/Medical Waiver. You cannot attend without it. Since we leave for the Fall Retreat on Wednesday, you may turn it in at Back 2 School night or FAX (644-2261) it in on or before Tuesday. Please do not mail them to GCS.
- Bible, notebook, & pen
- Water bottle
- Sleeping bag & pillow
- Rugged, outdoors & active clothes for 3 days. Include modest swimwear if you like icy cold water. (continued on next page)
- Hat, warm coat, closed-toe shoes
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, comb or brush, eyewear, shampoo, soap, towel
- No money is needed unless you want to spend it at the snack bar
- Your great, hard-working, cooperative attitude
- An open heart to hear God speaking

Do NOT bring:

Knives (including Leathermans)

For more information please contact the Secondary office at (907) 868-1203.

Jr. Hi-5 - August 23-25

Junior Hi-5 is designed to launch the Junior High school year with a spiritual emphasis wrapped around activities that build friendships and leadership. Students will attend classes in the morning and chapel and activities in the afternoon, including a special speaker, student-led worship, team-building activities, and lots of FUN. *For more information please contact the Elementary office (K-8) at 345-4814.*

No School - August 28

Teacher Inservice

Senior Night - August 28

Time: 6:30 pm Location: Chapel

Grace Christian School is a rigorous, Christ-centered college prep school, serious about preparing students and parents for a successful college experience. 99% of our seniors graduate and 95% attend a 4-year university. Seniors and their parents are highly encouraged to attend an informative evening that helps you understand your child's senior year. *For more information contact the School Counselor, Janet Pargeter, for more information jpargeter@gracechristianalaska.org*

First Day of Kindergarten, Tears & Cheers Reception - August 30

Morning Bell: 8:00 a.m.

After you drop off your Kindergartner, please come down to the North Commons where Administration and Advancement team will have coffee, treats and tissues for this monumental occasion. They will also be available to answer any questions about upcoming events and

volunteer opportunities. It's also a great time to meet other parents from your child's classroom. *For more information please contact the Elementary office at (907) 345-4814.*

Elementary Parent Night - August 31

Time: 6:30 pm Location: Chapel

The evening will kick off in the Chapel with a welcome and short intro by the Administration and Principal Graham. Parents will then be dismissed to their children's classroom. Teachers will give a brief overview of curriculum, major projects, and classroom expectations. *For more information please contact the Elementary office at 345-4814.*

Mission Information Night – September 11

Time: 7:00 pm Location: Chapel (subject to change)

Trip leaders from each mission trip will present details, pictures and stories about their specific trip and answer questions and concerns parents and students might have. Students who have previously been on the trips will also be there to share testimonies and answer questions. This night will give students and parents a broad view of each mission opportunity as well as the costs and time involved so that they can decide which, if any, is the right fit for the student to apply.

SEPTEMBER

Secondary Parent Night - September 7

Time: 6:30 pm Location: Chapel

The evening will kick off in the Chapel with a welcome and short intro by the Administration and Principal. Parents will be given their child's schedule and will be dismissed to follow an abbreviated bell schedule. Parents will go from class to class as the bell rings. In each classroom they will have time to visit with the teacher and get an overview/vision for the year by the teacher. *For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

No School – September 4

Labor Day

School Photo Day – September 12

Who: All School

A professional photography company will take individual and class photos. Photo packets will be sent home prior to this day and will need to be returned by your student with the appropriate amount of money for the package you have chosen. *For more information call the school office at 345-4814.*

New Student Lunches with Principal

New Students grades 7-8: September 14

New Students grades 9-12: September 21

Time: During regular lunch Location: TBA

We love to welcome our new students. All new students are invited to a special lunch and welcome from their principal and GCS Administration. Bring your appetites, questions, and ideas. Meet other new students and make new friends. *For more information, contact the Secondary Office at 868-1203.*

JH Basketball Practices Begin - September 14

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. A sports physical is NOT REQUIRED for JH Athletics. Practices are after school at Grace. Once the teams are finalized a \$75 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. *For more information please contact the Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

Pancake Breakfast – September 15

Time: 7:00 am Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. There are several Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one!

Pastor Appreciation Luncheon - September 19

Time: 12:00 pm Location: North Gym

Each year, in conjunction with Pastor Appreciation month, GCS hosts a luncheon to bless our local community pastors, youth leaders and children's ministers who are represented by students from their church through our student body. We will send them an invitation, but we encourage you to invite your pastors as well. It's a wonderful time for our school to honor them and allow them to fellowship with other community clergy.

Parent Coffee Connection – September 22

Who: All GCS parents are invited

Time: 8:00 am or 2:00 pm Location: South Commons

Join the GCS Administration team for a cup of coffee, treats and an opportunity to connect with fellow GCS parents. Share summer stories, chat about the new school year, welcome new GCS parents and reconnect with old friends. The GCS Administration team will also be there to answer questions about what to expect during the first semester. So mark your calendars and join us for

Parent Coffee Connection. *For more information please contact the school office at 345-4814 or 828-1203.*

HS Wrestling Practices Begin - September 27

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. All paperwork required by Grace and ASAA (Alaska Schools Activities Association) is due before your athlete attends their first practice including a sports physical conducted by a physician. A \$100 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. Participation in 10 practices is required before the athlete is able to participate in a meet. *Please direct any questions to our Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

No School – September 28 & 29

Teacher Inservice

OCTOBER

Brown Bag Lunches

September 26: Kindergarten

October 3: 1st Grade

October 5: 2nd Grade

October 10: 3rd Grade

October 12: 4th Grade

October 17: 5th Grade

October 19: 6th Grade

These lunches are an opportunity for you to come in to school and have lunch with your student and their class. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and connect with the teacher and students in your child's class. An invitation with times and dates will be sent home with your child a week or two prior to the lunch. Just look for the brown bag! *For more information please contact the Elementary office at 345-4814.*

Annual Lady Grizzly Volleyball Tournament - October 6-7

Come out and cheer on your Lady Grizzlies at home in the GCS gym as we host teams from throughout the Alaskan community. We also consider this a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate to our community what Christian character means to sportsmanship. *Please direct any questions to the Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

Christian College Fair - October 6

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: South Commons at GCS

Grace is your connection to Christian colleges nationwide. Swing by the school to meet representatives from nearly two-dozen Christian colleges and universities. Ask the tough questions. Find the right match. Bring your friends from other schools and make it a rendezvous. Local food trucks will be there to make this a fun event for all! *Contact Guidance Counselor, Janet Pargeter, for more information at jpargeter@gracechristianalaska.org*

Pancake Breakfast – October 20

Time: 7:00 am

Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. There are several Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one!

GCS Elementary Spelling Bee – October 20

Location: Wasilla

Students in grades 1-6 compete in the GCS Spelling Bee with the top students from specific grade groups. The results at the GCS Spelling Bee do not effect the ASCI Spelling Bee participants. *Contact the Elementary office for more information at 345-4814.*

HS Fall Social – October 21

Who: High School Students

Location: To Be Announced

GCS Student Council sponsors this event for all Grace high school students. The social will be a themed costume event with several different fun student participation activities. Look for details to emerge from the Student Council as the date draws near. *For further information please contact Student Council advisor, Cindy VanderWeide at cvanderweide@gracechristianalaska.org*

Scholastic Book Fair - October 24-26

Time: During school hours as well as during Parent/Teacher conferences

Location: School Library

School and parent volunteers work with Scholastic Book Fair representatives to organize this weeklong event at school, where children can peruse and purchase new books. At the end of the Fair, the school is awarded either a percentage of the revenue or books and educational materials. Be sure to visit the library and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - October 25 & 26

Elementary Conferences:

A letter will be sent home with your conference time. If the conference time does not work for you please call the Elementary office to reschedule. The conference will be approximately 20 minutes long. The fall conference is a progress report conference where the parent and teacher will be able to discuss comments, questions or concerns about the child's progress to date. Please arrive 5 minutes prior to your scheduled time. Teachers will have chairs set up in the hallway where you can wait for your turn. We encourage you to keep your child home if possible so you can be focused on the conference with the teacher.

Secondary Conferences:

October 25th times: 2:00 – 5:30 pm | October 26th times: 2:00 – 7:30 pm

During these open house hours all Secondary teachers will be available in the North Gym. You will come to the N. Gym and be greeted by support staff where you will then be given a copy of your student's schedule. Teachers will be sitting at tables scattered throughout the gym with their names on the tables. Find the teachers that are on the schedule you received and sit with them individually to discuss grades, behavior, and other various issues, concerns or encouragements. You may find that there will be other parents in line for a teacher you are waiting for. You can wait, or move onto another teacher and come back to that one later. Your student has 7 classes. You can meet with all 7 teachers or you may choose to meet with only a few. We encourage you to connect with teachers whenever you have the opportunity, however how many you meet with is completely up to you. *For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

PSAT – October 25

PSAT is for grades 7-11

The PSAT/NMSQT Measures:

- Critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills that are important for success in college.
- Knowledge and skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses.
- Ability to reason with facts and concepts rather than the ability to recall them.

Reasons why Grace offers the PSAT/NMSQT:

- It's a comprehensive assessment program that helps create a college-going culture by preparing students for the SAT
- The best SAT preparation
- Valuable feedback in math, critical reading, and writing skills – all areas on the SAT
- Important for Juniors – used for National Merit Scholarship Competition

HS Cross Country Ski Team Practices Begin – October 25

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. Online registration required by Grace and ASAA (Alaska Schools Activities Association) is due before your athlete attends their

first practice including a sports physical conducted by a physician. A \$100 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. Participation in 10 practices is required before the athlete is able to participate in a meet. *Please direct any questions to our Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

NOVEMBER

Auction Set-Up – November 2

Who: Anyone willing and able

Location: GCS (meet in South Gym)

We begin when school begins and don't quit until we are done! This is an "all hands on deck" event and we would love to have your help. It's always helpful to know how much help we have, so please contact Laura Isaacson at 306-0199 if you are coming (you can show up even if you didn't let us know!).

Early Dismissal - Annual Benefit Auction – November 3

Location: GCS (event begins in the South Gym)

Theme: Auction in Wonderland

This annual event has become a beloved tradition here at Grace. Tickets for this event will be available online a couple months ahead of time and we encourage you to invite your friends for this outstanding evening. The evening begins with a silent auction in the South Gym. After the silent auction guests make their way down the hall to the North Gym where dinner is served and the Live Auction takes place.

The Auction is an important part of how we annually fund the ongoing excellence of Grace Christian School. *Please contact Laura Isaacson at 306-0199 with questions or to volunteer.*

Jostens for Seniors – November 2

Who: Seniors (Senior Parents are also invited)

Time: 10:00 am

Jostens is the company that provides graduation announcements, caps, gowns as well as a variety of optional senior items. A Jostens representative will be there to talk about what is offered, hand out informational packets and supply order deadlines. *For more information contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

ACSI Spelling Bee – November 3

Location: Wasilla

Students in grades 1-8 compete in the ACSI Spelling Bee with several Christian school students

each year. The top candidate from each class will be selected to participate in the ACSI statewide Spelling Bee. Alternates are chosen, however they do not travel to the event unless the original candidate cannot attend. Each year, the ACSI Spelling Bee is held in a different city. Students and parent chaperones typically travel together on our school bus. On the day of the Spelling Bee, candidates are asked to provide their own lunch. *Contact the Elementary office for more information at 345-4814.*

The Big Read – November 9 & 10

Grades: 4, 5 & 6 Location: Chapel

The Big Read is a reading comprehension and retention team competition. To take part in The Big Read you are required to read all of the books listed for your grade. The reading may be done independently, parents may take turns reading pages with you, or your parents may share the books with the family by reading them aloud. The intent of The Big Read program is to encourage families to read together and to enjoy reading books with your friends. The full list can be found on the school website.

As you read, you may want to journal things you want to remember and review later for the quizzing. Things to include are: author, main characters, problems that occur, unusual settings and themes.

Before quizzing begins in the fall, you must bring in the list of books along with a parent signature showing that you have read the books. You can get a list of the books from our website. Keep track of your reading. After you have read all the books, bring your signed list to your teacher.

Our school library has several copies of all of the books on the list. You will have time before quizzing to finish your reading, sign up for your team, quiz with team members, and plan your team name and costumes for the final event.

Students who have read all books on their respective list form teams that compete in a Jeopardy-style event, answering questions based on their reading list. **Each classroom teacher will decide how teams will be formed and selected.** Students may only form teams within their actual classroom. It is important after your team is formed to choose a name, practice quizzing and possibly have a team outfit. This is an optional non-graded activity; however, we encourage students to participate.

For more information contact Librarian Tina LaLonde at tlalonde@gracechristianalaska.org

Pancake Breakfast – November 10

Time: 7:00 am Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. There are several Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one!

Veterans Day Chapel – November 13

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Location: North Gym

This is a school-wide assembly. Students, teachers, and parents are encouraged to attend and to invite current and former military members that they know to attend as well. It is an amazing time of thankfulness and reflection for those who have sacrificially served our country with honor and courage in the military. We stand together proudly as a part of “one nation under God.” *For more information contact the Elementary office at 345-4814.*

Declams – November 14

Who: High School Students Time: 7:00pm Location: Chapel

Join us for our Annual Declamatory Contest. Striving to produce students of eloquence, this event for high school students is a Grace classic. Every student memorizes a piece of history or humor and performs it for the English class. Winners from each class qualify to compete at the Declam Contest in front of all students and parents. *You won't want to miss this! For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

Guatemala Missions – Tentative Dates: November 17-27, 2017

Who: Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply

Cost: \$2,200 (approx)

As we strive to educate leaders who have a passion for Jesus Christ, we love to provide opportunities for young Christians to grow in their faith by serving others through global missions. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply. Be sure to listen to announcements for more information about the application process or call the Secondary office for more information at (907) 868-1203. Dates tend to be flexible based on airfare costs and availability, however this trip usually happens around Thanksgiving.

Secondary Band Concert – November 17

Who: 6th grade, Junior High and High School Band & Orchestra Students

Location: GCS North Gym

Come enjoy the culmination of a semester's worth of hard work as our students' offer their gifts back to our Creator with tremendous excellence. The public is welcome! *For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

All State Music – November 16-18

Who: HS Choir & Band Location: East HS & West HS

The very strong music tradition at Grace Christian School continues! Secondary students audition with your music teacher and send your recording to the state judges. Participants are chosen from schools around the state to compete in this incredible event. The public is welcome to

attend and treated to incredible performances. *For more information please contact music teacher, David Dunlap at ddunlap@gracechristianalaska.org*

Grandparent Day – November 21 & 22

Location: North Gym

Elementary: November 21 | Secondary: November 22

A month prior to this date invitations will be mailed to all Grandparents in our RenWeb database. Please be sure to login to your RenWeb account and be sure that we have the correct mailing info for all Grandparents that you want to receive the invitation. We will also have extra invitations available in the school office should you need an extra one to mail to someone who fulfills the role of “grandparent” to your child.

During this special occasion students who have Grandparents attending the lunch will join them in the North Gym for a light meal and student entertainment. For Elementary each class will have a short presentation and for Secondary a few students will make short presentations. This is an event that is loved by both the students and the grandparents and we love that we have the opportunity to invite them into the Grace experience.

This is a student/grandparent event only. A great way to get a peek into this event as a parent is to volunteer at the luncheon. *Contact the Advancement office at 644-2233 if you would like to volunteer or need more information.*

No School – November 23 & 24

Thanksgiving Break

HS Basketball Practices Begin – November 29

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. All paperwork required by Grace and ASAA (Alaska Schools Activities Association) is due before your athlete attends their first practice including a sports physical conducted by a physician. A \$100 athletic fee is due after try-outs for those who have been placed on teams and will be charged through your FACTS account. Participation in 10 practices is required before the athlete is able to cheer for or play in a game.

Please direct any questions to our Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at

psalima@gracechristianalaska.org

DECEMBER

Band's Barnes & Noble Takeover – December 1

Who: 6-12 Grade Band Students

Time: TBA

Location: Barnes & Noble

This is a fundraising event for the band. A percentage of the proceeds you purchase during the time they are playing go directly to the band. *Please talk with Mr. Chronister if you have any questions, echronister@gracechristianalaska.org*

Drama Presentation – December 7 & 8

Performance Time: TBA

Location: GCS North Auditorium

Ticket Cost: TBD Purchase Tickets: From the Secondary Office

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.

Elementary Christmas Concert – December 5

Who: Ensemble Groups

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: GCS Chapel

A presentation of musical talents from elementary students will be showcased. As we welcome a new music teacher this year we look forward to this event. Look for further information as this date draws near. *Please talk with Mrs. Walker if you have any questions, walker@gracechristianalaska.org*

Secondary Choir Concert – December 8

Who: Junior High & HS Choir & Ensembles

Location: GCS Chapel

Come enjoy the culmination of a semester's worth of hard work as our students' offer their gifts back to our Creator with tremendous excellence. The public is welcome! *For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

Pancake Breakfast – December 15

Time: 7:00 am

Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. There are several Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one!

Secondary Finals – December 18-20

Who: All Secondary Students

Please check the website in December for the finals schedule and subsequent bell schedule.

Early Dismissal – December 18 & 19

Grades K-5 dismissed at 1:00 pm. Grades 6-12 dismissed at 1:15 pm.

Half-Day Dismissal – December 18 & 19

Grades 6-12 dismissed at 11:30 am. Grades K-5 dismissed at 11:45 am.

No School – December 21

Teacher Inservice

No School – December 22 – January 5

Christmas Vacation

JANUARY

Classes Resume – January 8

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

JH Volleyball & JH Wrestling Practices Begin – January 8

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. Online Athletic Registration is required by Grace is due before your athlete attends their first practice. A sports physical is NOT REQUIRED for JH Athletics. A \$75 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. Practices are after school at Grace. *For more information please contact the Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

Geography Bee – January 12

Students in grades 5-8 have an opportunity to compete in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Students are chosen by teachers at each grade to compete in a school level Geography Bee held in the Chapel. The winner of the school bee then takes a test to enter the state level bee competing against students from the entire state of Alaska. *Contact the Elementary office for more information at (907) 345-4814.*

Parent Coffee Connection – January 13

Who: All GCS parents are invited

Time: 8:00 am or 2:00 pm

Location: South Commons

Join the GCS Administration team for a cup of coffee, treats and an opportunity to connect with fellow GCS parents. Share stories, chat about how the school year is going, welcome new GCS parents and reconnect with old friends. The GCS Administration team will also be there to chat and answer questions and concerns. So mark your calendars and join us for Parent Coffee Connection. *For more information please contact the school office at 345-4814 or 828-1203.*

No School - January 15

Martin Luther King Day

Martin Luther King Chapel & Day of Service – January 17

A special chapel honoring the memory and impact of Dr. King will be followed by a day of service and volunteerism by GCS students throughout our community.

Pancake Breakfast – January 19

Time: 7:00 am Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. There are several Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one!

Homecoming Spirit Week – January 22-27

There are several festivities throughout the week including Spirit Week dress up days. All students in grades K-12 are encouraged to dress up and participate.

Spirit Dress Up Days

Monday: Pajama Day

Tuesday: Mathletes & Athletes

Wednesday: 907 (Alaska) vs. 808 (Hawaii) Day

Thursday: Color War

Friday: Maroon & Gold Day

Here are some specific Homecoming events to make note of:

January 25: Homecoming Court Coronation (Secondary Students)

January 26: Homecoming Pep Assembly (All Students)

January 26: Homecoming Basketball Games

January 27: Homecoming Banquet (High School Students)

State of Grace – January 29

Join the GCS Administration and School Board for our "state of the school" address. The evening

will include announcements about any potential upcoming changes, including tuition.

FEBRUARY

Annual Commitment Form & Fee – February 1-28

During the month of February we will ask you to commit to return to Grace the following school year by using a simple online form. At this time you will also be asked to update any personal information in RenWeb and communicate how and when you would like to pay the Annual \$350 Commitment Fee. Forms need to be completed by February 28th. Further detailed information will be communicated in late January and throughout February each year.

The Big Read – February 1 & 2

Grades: 1, 2 & 3 Location: Chapel

The Big Read is a reading comprehension and retention team competition. To take part in The Big Read you are required to read all of the books listed for your grade. The reading may be done independently, parents may take turns reading pages with you, or your parents may share the books with the family by reading them aloud. The intent of The Big Read program is to encourage families to read together and to enjoy reading books with your friends. The full list can be found on the school website.

Before quizzing begins in the fall, you must bring in the list of books along with a parent signature showing that you have read the books. You can get a list of the books from our website. Keep track of your reading. After you have read all the books, bring your signed list to your teacher.

Not all of the books must be read by the beginning of school. Our school library has several copies of all of the books on the list. You will have time before quizzing to finish your reading, sign up for your team, quiz with team members, and plan your team name and costumes for the final event.

First through third graders, feel free to read your books this summer or wait until you have polished your reading skills before reading the books on your list. Remember, your quizzing is not until January.

Students who have read all books on their respective list form teams that compete in a Jeopardy-style event, answering questions based on their reading list. Each classroom teacher will decide how teams will be selected. Students may only form teams within their actual classroom. It is important after your team is formed to choose a name, practice quizzing and possibly have a team outfit. This is an optional non-graded activity; however, we encourage students to participate.

tlalonde@gracechristianalaska.org

College Night for Juniors – February 5

Time: 7:00 pm Location: Chapel

Grace Christian School is a rigorous, Christ-centered college prep school, serious about preparing

students and parents for a successful college experience. Our graduation rate is 99% and 95% of those graduates attend a 4-year university. Juniors and their parents are highly encouraged to attend an informative evening that will help you understand your child's upcoming senior and the road to college. *For more information contact the School Counselor, Janet Pargeter, for more information jpargeter@gracechristianalaska.org*

Parent/Teacher Conferences – February 7 & 8

Elementary Conferences:

A letter will be sent home with your conference time. If the conference time does not work for you please call the Elementary office to reschedule. The conference will be approximately 20 minutes long. The fall conference is a progress report conference where the parent and teacher will be able to discuss comments, questions or concerns about the child's progress to date. Please arrive 5 minutes prior to your scheduled time. Teachers will have chairs set up in the hallway where you can wait for your turn. We encourage you to keep your child home if possible so you can be focused on the conference with the teacher. *Please contact the Elementary office for more information at 345-4814.*

Secondary Conferences:

February 7th times: 2:00 – 5:30 pm | February 8th times: 2:00 – 7:30 pm

During these open house hours all Secondary teachers will be available in the North Gym. You will come to the N. Gym and be greeted by support staff where you will then be given a copy of your student's schedule. Teachers will be sitting at tables scattered throughout the gym with their names on the tables. Find the teachers that are on the schedule you received and sit with them individually to discuss grades, behavior, and other various issues, concerns or encouragements. You may find that there will be other parents in line for a teacher you are waiting for. You can wait, or move onto another teacher and come back to that one again. Your student has 7 classes. You can meet with all 7 teachers or you may choose to meet with only a few. We encourage you to connect with teachers whenever you have the opportunity, however how many you meet with is completely up to you.

Early Dismissal – February 7-9

Grades K-5 dismissed at 1:00 pm. Grades 6-12 dismissed at 1:15 pm.

College Night for Sophomores & Freshman – February 12

Time: 7:00 pm Location: Chapel

Grace Christian School is a rigorous, Christ-centered college prep school, serious about preparing students and parents for a successful college experience. Our graduation rate is 99% and 95% of those graduates attend a 4-year university. Sophomores, Freshman and their parents are highly encouraged to attend an informative evening that will help you understand your child's upcoming

high school years and the road to college. *For more information contact the School Counselor, Janet Pargeter, for more information jpargeter@gracechristianalaska.org*

No School - Speech Meet – February 16

Location: GCS

Each year Grace Christian hosts the ACSI Speech Meet for students in grades 1-8. Students compete in categories such as Bible Memory, Poetry, Dramatic Reading, and Patriotic Oration. Teachers will help students select pieces to be memorized then students will prepare at home for the school level meet. Teachers will judge students at grade level to select competitors for the final meet incorporating several Christian schools in Alaska. *Please contact the Elementary office for more information at 345-4814.*

No School – February 20

President's Day

Kindergarten Experience – February 21

Do you know someone who has a kindergartener next year, or do YOU have an incoming kindergartener? Invite them, or join us at the GCS Kindergarten Experience. It's from 8am-10am. Experience chapel, morning lesson and have a Q&A time with the teachers and principal.

Elementary Bring-A-Friend Day – February 23

GCS Elementary students are encouraged to invite a friend to come to school with them for our "Bring a Friend Day" here at Grace on Friday, February 24th. Public school students do not have classes on this day. Friends should be from Christian families that you might know from church, AWANA, or your neighborhood. They MUST be pre-registered by filling out the online form. Check Two Minute Tuesday for the link.

Rondy Grand Parade – February 24

Time: 10:30 am Location: Downtown Anchorage

Come support members from our GCS band and drum line as they perform in the parade!

Iditaread – February 26-March 8

Who: Grades K-6

The Iditaread corresponds with the running of the Iditarod. This is fun class competition that encourages all students and teachers to read during the Iditarod Dog Sled Race and learn about Alaska history too! Be sure to come in and check out the amazing Iditaread wall mural that tracks the competition. *If you have any questions, please contact the Elementary office for more information at 345-4814.*

Senior Celebration – February 26

Who: Seniors and their parents

The Senior Celebration is a special thank honoring our partnership with parents and students to educate leaders with a passion for Jesus Christ. You will also find out all you need to know to navigate the last few months of school in final preparation for a well-deserved graduation celebration. *Contact the Advancement office at 644-2233 for information.*

Annual Commitment Forms Due – February 28

All forms turned in after this date will be subject to the \$50 late fee.

HS Track & Field and HS Soccer Practices Begin – February 28

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements. Online registration is required by Grace and ASAA (Alaska Schools Activities Association) is due before your athlete attends their first practice including a sports physical conducted by a physician. A \$100 athletic fee will be charged through your FACTS account. Participation in 10 practices is required before the athlete is able to compete in a meet. *Please direct any questions to our Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

MARCH

Pancake Breakfast – March 2

Time: 7:00 am Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. There are several Pancake Breakfasts throughout the year. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one!

Campus Preview – March 6

Who: New Prospective Families/Students

Location: South Commons

You, our Grace Families, are our best promoters! You probably know neighbors, friends and families that have expressed interest in learning more about Grace Christian School. Invite them to attend Campus Preview Day, Tuesday March 7. Tours from 11am-1pm or 6-8pm. Principals and Administrators will share the benefits of a Grace Christian education, give personal tours and be available to answer questions. Look for further information on our website as the date draws near, and contact the office of Admissions with any questions at 644-2234 or

admissions@gracechristianalaska.org

Student Council Speeches & Elections – March 7

Who: Students in grades 8-11

Location: Chapel

Students who have chosen to run for Student Government office for the following school year will be given the opportunity to present a speech to their fellow classmates. Elections will be held the same day.

Senior Donuts & Discussion – March 7

Who: Students in grades 12

Location: South Commons

While the Student Government speeches and elections are taking place, Seniors will meet with Superintendent Karlberg for some donuts and will be asked to fill out forms providing overview information about their time here at GCS.

No School – March 9

Teacher Inservice

End of Quarter

Spring Break Vacation – March 12-16

We pray you have a wonderful time with your family on vacation from school.

Russia Missions – Spring 2018 Dates TBA

Who: Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply

As we strive to educate leaders who have a passion for Jesus Christ, we love to provide opportunities for young Christians to grow in their faith by serving others through global missions. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply. Be sure to listen to announcements for more information about the application process or call the Secondary office for more information at (907) 868-1203. Dates tend to be flexible based on airfare costs and availability, however this trip usually happens around Spring Break. Leaders for this trip are Paul & Susanne Gionet with Russian Encouragement Ministries Alaska.

Alaska Missions – Spring 2018 Dates TBA

Who: Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply

As we strive to educate leaders who have a passion for Jesus Christ, we love to provide opportunities for young Christians to grow in their faith by serving others in our own Alaska. Listen in Chapel and apply in late fall to join this team who will train for several weeks to bring hope and

light to the people of bush Alaska. *Contact Sue Heritage, Alaska Missions Coach, for more information at sheritage@gracechristianalaska.org*

Georgia – Spring 2018 Dates TBA

Who: Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply

Cost: \$1,500 (approx)

As we strive to educate leaders who have a passion for Jesus Christ, we love to provide opportunities for young Christians to grow in their faith by serving others through global missions. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply. Over spring break a team of 15-18 GCS students will have the opportunity to minister to disadvantaged students at The Academy at Double H Ranch in the Appalachian region of northwest Georgia. Students will provide one-on-one spiritual and academic mentoring to Academy students as well as assist faculty and older students in projects around the Double H Ranch. The team will also share songs, skits, testimonies, and mimes in various local churches. More information and applications will be available after October 12 in the secondary office or in Miss Morris' classroom (209). *Contacts for this mission trip are Miss Hannah Morris, hmorris@gracechristianalaska.org, and Mrs. Laura Isaacson lauraisacson@outlook.com.*

Elementary Science Fair – March 20

Who: students in grades 1-6 (may be optional for some grades)

Students will complete a scientific project and display board to show their findings. Students and parents will have the opportunity to view projects on display at the fair.

JH Track & Field Practices Begin – March 26

Check Facebook and Two Minute Tuesday for announcements A sports physical is NOT REQUIRED for JH Athletics. A \$75 athletic fee is due prior to the first practice. Please turn checks into the secondary office. Practices are after school here at Grace. *For more information please contact the Athletic Director, Paul Salima, at psalima@gracechristianalaska.org*

No School – March 30

Good Friday

8th Grade Move-Up Night – Date TBA

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Chapel

Welcome to high school, 8th graders! This event is designed specifically to welcome and prepare 8th graders and their parents for the rigors and joys of high school. What will high school be like? How do you make the most of your high school career? Find out right here! *Contact the School Counselor, Janet Pargeter, for more information jpargeter@gracechristianalaska.org*

APRIL

Annual Guardians of Grace Benefit Breakfast – April 4

Who: Anyone who loves Grace or would like to get to know Grace

Time: 7:45 am – 8:45 am Location: North Gymnasium

This annual event raises funds to support the ongoing excellence at Grace Christian School. We rely on the generosity of others to fill in the gap between tuition the cost to educate our students. Join us for a nourishing breakfast and an engaging mission focused presentation. Consider hosting a table and inviting others to hear about Grace. They will have the opportunity to hear from students, watch a visionary video and then be given the opportunity to partner with us. *If you have questions or want to be a table captain please contact the Advancement office at 644-2233.*

3rd Grade Wax Museum – April 7

Who: 3rd Grade Students

Time: TBD

Location: Chapel

This is a time-honored tradition at Grace that 3rd graders and their families have come to love. Students will study a significant character from history and work on a project/report for class. For the final portion of their project they will dress up as that character for a “wax museum” like presentation that family and friends are invited to come view. They work very hard in class to practice their motionless wax figure poses and it is always impressive to watch a room full of 3rd graders be absolutely still for so long. *For information contact the Elementary office at 345-4814.*

Math Olympics – April 6

Who: Students grades 3-8

Location: Anchorage Christian School

Students will be selected by their individual classroom teachers to represent the school in math computation and reasoning problems. This is an event where parents can attend but not be present in classrooms when the students are competing. There will be an awards ceremony at the end of the Math Olympics. *Please contact the Elementary office with any questions at 345-4814.*

Terra Nova Standardized Testing – April 3-6

Who: Students in grades 3-6

This is a national standardized test that helps the school know where students are academically compared to students of the same age across the country. Attendance is important because the results also help the staff evaluate curriculum choices and best teaching practices. *Please contact the Elementary Principal, Sami Graham, with any questions at sgraham@gracechristianalaska*

Big C Relays – April 6 & 7 (dependant on the Dome's availability)

Who: Track & Field Athletes from around Alaska

Location: Alaska Dome

The Alaska chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes hosts one of Alaska's premier athletic events. Grace families are encouraged to partner with them and serve as volunteers.

On April 11-12, 2008, Alaska was introduced to the Big C Relays, a two-day track and field meet held in North America's only 400-meter indoor track. As the snow was falling, twenty-five teams and over 700 athletes from South Central Alaska convened in the comfortable 60-degree climate of The Dome. 2012 saw thirty-seven teams and over 1,100 athletes as word got out about the fun, fast competition.

The Big C Relays is like no other track meet in Alaska - special events, hospitality, student-athlete recognition and unique awards. Of course, there's the King of the Hill.

Look for information to volunteer at this amazing event. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to get out in the community and share GRACE with others.

Kindergarten Experience – April 18

Who: Perspective Kindergarteners & Parents

Time: 8:00 – 10:00 am

Parents can come with their prospective Kindergarten child to chapel and then participate in morning lessons along with our current kindergarten classes. We ask that our current families invite someone to attend.

Spring Drama Presentation – April 19 & 20

Performance Time: TBA Location: TBA

Ticket Cost: TBD Purchase Tickets: From the Secondary Office

For more information please contact the Secondary office at (907) 868-1203.

Pancake Breakfast – April 20

Time: 7:00 am

Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

Cost: \$5 per person \$15/max per family (Cash and checks only. No credit cards)

This event is a fundraiser for the GCS Student Council and all families are encouraged to attend. Pancakes, sausages, toppings, coffee and juice are all part of the breakfast. It's a great time to visit with those you know or meet someone new. Check the calendar to be sure you don't miss one, it's the last one of the year!

Jr. High Awards – April 25

Who: Jr. High Students, parents are welcome to attend

Time: 9:05 – 9:55 am

Location: Chapel

Teachers have been given the opportunity to vote for students for specified awards that are given annually. Awards will be announced and the students will receive a medal if they are named for an award. *Please contact the Secondary office with any questions at (907) 868-1203.*

National Honor Society & Academic Awards Chapel – April 25

Who: High School Students, parents welcome Time: 10:00 – 10:50 am Location: Chapel

To help us honor service, leadership, scholarship, and character in our students, Grace has joined the National Honor Society. The Grace chapter of NHS inducts members who have applied and demonstrated these exceptional qualities. Students are qualified to apply with a GPA of 3.5 or better after the first semester of their sophomore year. This chapel also recognizes other outstanding scholarship and service with awards. *Contact LaShawn Nagel or Tara Edwards our NHS Coaches, for more information at lnagel@gracechristianalaska.org or tedwards@gracechristianalaska.org*

Secondary Spring Music Concert – April 26

Who: Junior High and High School Band & Choir Students Location: North Gym/Cafeteria

What does a strong tradition of music produce? Come enjoy the culmination of a semester's worth of hard work. Come watch as these gifted students and directors offer their gifts back to our Creator with tremendous excellence. The public is welcome! *For more information please contact the Secondary office at 868-1203.*

MAY

Senior Lunch with Principal – College Decision Day – May 1

Time: During school lunch Location: TBA Who: All Seniors

The high school principal feeds and meets with seniors to thank them, bless them, and prepare them for their journey to graduation. Logistics and details of the final weeks are covered. *Contact the Secondary office at 868-1203*

Elementary Spring Concert – May 1

Who: 5th and 6th grade choir & Ensembles Time: 7:00 pm Location: North Gym

A presentation of musical talents from 5th & 6th grade after school choir will be showcased. Look for further information as this date draws near. *Please talk with Mrs. Walker if you have any questions, lwalker@gracechristianalaska.org*

Lunch Hero Day – May 4

Students and classrooms can show their appreciation to our hard working lunchroom workers by honoring them on this day with creative food inspired cards of thankfulness. Inspired by the

children's graphic novel series "Lunch Lady".

AP Testing – May 7-16

All AP testing dates are uniform throughout the United States. Your student will be informed prior to the test as to the testing room location and time at GCS.

Contact the School Counselor, Janet Pargeter, for more information

jpargeter@gracechristianalaska.org

Senior Finals – May 10 & 11

Who: All Senior Students

Please check the website in May for the finals schedule. *Contact the Secondary office for more information at 868-1203.*

State Solo & Ensemble Music Festival – May 10-12

Who: High School Choir Students

Location: UAA

The existence of the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Solo & Ensemble Festival enables outstanding high school musicians to perform as soloists or in small ensembles. The festival promotes the highest standards of musicianship. The goal of this activity is to foster and inspire technical achievement, aesthetic understanding and critical listening skills. Essential to this process are students who are willing to grow; music educators who can clearly visualize, interpret and teach musicianship; and adjudicators who can provide thoughtful, accurate, and educationally sound reactions. The result is a vital interaction that remains one of the more exciting, enjoyable, and worthwhile events in high school music activities. *Contact the Secondary office for more information at (907) 868-1203.*

Graduation & Graduation Festivities – May 16

All graduates report to the GCS North Gym for Rehearsal (Time TBD)

Senior Group Photo & Final Walk (Time TBD)

Grads & Grands Lunch at Grace Christian School (Time TBD)

5:00 pm: All graduates report to ChangePoint Church

6:30 pm: Graduation Ceremony at ChangePoint Church

-Reception to immediately follow at ChangePoint Church

*Grandparent Lunch: This event for Seniors and their Grandparents is held in the Chapel. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. We know many grandparents have traveled in for graduation and we want to be sure that they have some special time with their graduate. The invitations to this event are mailed by you to the grandparents prior to the event. Invitations were given at Senior Celebration.

****Graduation Reception:** Immediately following graduation, graduates, their families and friends are invited back to Grace to celebrate this rite of passage accomplishment. Refreshments, light appetizers and desserts will be served. Everyone is invited.

Kindergarten Graduation – May 18

Who: Kindergarten students and invited guests

Time: 10:00 am Location: Chapel or North Gym (TBD)

This is such a precious and special event. Families of Kindergarten students won't want to miss this momentous occasion. You are welcome to invite guests to attend as well. The Kindergartners will be all dressed up in their caps and gowns, so be sure to bring your cameras and recorders!

Elementary Field Day – May 18

Who: Elementary students grades 1-5

Helpers: Parent volunteers

This event takes a lot of volunteers to pull it off, so please be sure to sign up to help when the forms come home. There is a small fee to participate in field day and a release form will need to be filled out as well. Please be looking for these items to be coming home in your child's backpack/folder in the days prior. *Contact the Elementary office for more information at (907) 345-4814.*

Secondary Finals – May 21-23

Who: All Secondary Students

Please check the website in May for the finals schedule and subsequent bell schedule.

6th Grade Outdoor Education – May 21-23

6th grade students will be whisked away to an outdoor education camp with various activities. This is a time-honored tradition at Grace, and parents are encouraged to come and get involved.

Early Dismissal – May 21 & 22

Grades 1-5 dismissed at 1:00 pm. Grades 6-11 dismissed at 1:15 pm.

Elementary Awards – May 23

Who: Grades 1-3

Time: 8:00 am Location: Chapel

The students have been working hard on reciting their scripture memory in word perfect form. Those who have achieved their goal will be presented with their trophy at a small ceremony in front of all the elementary students. Parents are invited to attend.

Last Day of School – May 23

Half-Day Dismissal

Grades 6-12 dismissed at 11:30 am

Grades 1-5 dismissed at 11:45 am

Have a wonderful summer vacation! See you in August.