



Grace Family
A C A D E M Y

GFA HANDBOOK

Families and Students

2026-2027

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All of the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”

-Matthew 22:37-40

Dear Prospective GFA Families,

I heard it once said, if parenting is the hardest job you'll ever love, then homeschooling is the highest mountain you'll ever joyfully summit! The fresh air will invigorate you, while the altitude will make you dizzy. The rigorous exercise will make you stronger as your legs beg you to take a rest! Yet, when the summit is reached, the view will remind you that it was well worth the sacrifice. The choice to homeschool isn't a choice made lightly and certainly isn't the path for the faint of heart. Thank you for your faith and courage!

Some might choose Grace Family Academy thinking that it will lessen the incline of that mountain. However, GFA is no beach vacation! But, have no fear! We are here to join you in the journey and to assist and encourage you to the peak! Can you imagine what it would feel like to reach the top of Mt. Everest? Just as Sir Edmund Hillary had his sherpa guide, Tenzing Norgay, to help him successfully navigate the climb of a lifetime, we are here to help you and your student successfully reach the summit and take in the incredible view. Sir Hillary said, "People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." He implies that you become extraordinary through the choice to do the extraordinary.

For the past 26 years, I've had the privilege of being on staff at Grace Family Church. It has been a consistent endeavor to attempt the extraordinary for God's glory. Whether mentoring our youth, leading our children's ministry, or pioneering our missions efforts among the unreached, pursuing God's calling to attempt great things for Him has been my labor of love. Grace Family Academy is yet another adventure God is calling us all into; calling us to the extraordinary as we attempt to cultivate our children to become extraordinary young adults, spouses, parents, contributors to their fields, leaders in their churches...people who choose to put God first, who don't shy away from a challenge, and who will succeed. Won't you come join us and enjoy this wonderful view?

Pressing on toward the Goal,

Kenneth J. Crisler
Grace Family Academy

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THE FOUNDATION OF GRACE FAMILY ACADEMY

Grace Family Academy

Endeavors to equip, support, and encourage parents and engage, inspire, and prepare students using the powerful and proven tool of classical and Christian education in a hybrid school format.

- To foster love of the Lord, passion for learning, and strength of character in children.
- To empower parents to help their children reach their God-given potential by creating critical thinkers who are logical, thoughtful, and articulate.
- To create an academic program that follows classical methods in both the subjects taught and classroom pedagogy.

Grace Family Academy strives to partner with parents to raise young men and young women who...

Love God - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Matthew 22:37

Love Others – GFA students love others by treating them as they would like to be treated, by showing others respect, by caring for our school and church home, and by serving our community.

Reason Well – “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it” - Aristotle

Learn Independently - A classical education taught in a hybrid model captures the attention and imagination of students in developmentally appropriate ways. It promotes independent scholarship, inspiring them and equipping them for a lifetime of learning.

Engage Society – GFA students learn to understand and critique culture against a Biblical worldview to represent Christ well, communicate truth winsomely, and argue persuasively.

Embody Virtue - Inside and outside the classroom: In all things Christ preeminent.

Delight in Beauty – GFA students learn to discern and love beauty as manifested in art and all of God’s creation.

Statement of Faith

Our beliefs are simply a summary communication of what Scripture teaches. These basic beliefs are foundational to Christianity and Christian living.

We believe:

- We believe the Scriptures are true, authoritative and sufficient. ([Psalm 19:7-11](#); [2 Timothy 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#))

- We believe there is only one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, who eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6; 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 12:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Genesis 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; 110:1; Matthew 3:13-17; 28:17-20).
- We believe all things exist for the glory of God. (Psalm 148; Proverbs 16:4; Isaiah 61:3; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 1:3-14).
- We believe all humanity, Christ excluded, is sinful by both birth and action. (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; 5:8-21; 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3).
- We believe the deserved penalty for sin is physical and spiritual death. (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:19; Romans 5:12; 6:23; James 1:14-15)
- We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human. (Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3)
- We believe Jesus Christ died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for sin. (John 1:29; 10:1-18; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4)
- We believe Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will one day physically return. (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21, 25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7)
- We believe there will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward. Those who do not will be raised to eternal punishment. (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
- We believe that only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ and repentance from sin can one be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy. (John 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

Full Statement of Faith

The Scriptures: We accept the Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament, as the written Word of God. The Bible is an essential and infallible record of God revealing Himself to mankind. It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Given by God, the Scriptures are both fully and verbally inspired by God and are, thus, free of error. Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord who speaks through it in living power. All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives. The Scriptures are the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice and doctrine. They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession or theology, must be tested by the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture.

The Triune God: There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal and co-eternal. The Father is not the Son. The Son is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not the Father. Yet each is truly Deity. One God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is the foundation of Christian faith and life.

God the Father: God the Father rules over all and, together with the Son and the Spirit, is the only Sovereign. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love Him and, in His unfathomable grace, gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for mankind's redemption. He made all things for the praise of His glory and intends for man, in particular, to live in fellowship with Himself.

Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the eternal Word made Flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is fully God and fully man. Through Him, all things came into being and were created. He was before all things, and in Him, all things hold together by the word of His power. He is perfect in nature, teaching and obedience and is the only Savior for the sins of the world, having shed His blood and died a vicarious death on the cross. By His death in our place, He revealed divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Redeeming us from sin, He rose bodily from the grave on the third day, victorious over death and the powers of darkness and performing many convincing proofs of His resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all, awaiting His return. He is the Head of His body, the Church, and should be adored, loved, served and obeyed by all.

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel, He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit, a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son who, in turn, came to glorify the Father. He will lead the Church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored and worshiped as God, the Third Person of the Trinity.

Man: God made man—male and female—in His own image, as the crown of creation so that man might glorify Him through enjoying fellowship with Him. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. Being estranged from his Maker yet responsible to Him, man

became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and, apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone.

The Gospel: The gospel is the good news of God's grace invading the darkness of this world. It is the grand narrative of creation, fall, redemption and consummation ordained by God and orchestrated through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel. His resurrection is the power of the gospel. His ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases His holy wrath. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men can be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have in glorifying God because of what He has accomplished. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches and ministries to proceed from and be related to the gospel.

Man's Response to the Gospel: The proper response to the gospel is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, a faith that is naturally accompanied by repentance from sin. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by kingdom service and works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple. This response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations.

Man's Inheritance Through the Gospel: Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Anyone repenting of sin by the miracle of regeneration and looking to Christ and His substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as a free gift. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin, an individual is reconciled to God as Father and becomes His child. The believer is forgiven the debt of his sin and liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Spirit.

Sanctification: The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification, seeking to produce His fruit in us. Our minds are renewed, and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though indwelling sin remains a reality, the Spirit leads us to grow in the knowledge of

the Lord, freely keeping His commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith, knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve His people until the certain end.

Empowered by the Spirit: We believe the Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness & service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion. Being indwelt by the Spirit & being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life & witness, & imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body & for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the first-century church are available today and are to be earnestly desired and practiced in an orderly manner. This includes those gifts that are considered miraculous, as well as those which might be seen as more mundane, as both are works of the Spirit. The healthy exercising of diverse gifts within a unified body is essential to the mission of the Church in the world today.

The Church: God, by His Word and Spirit, creates the Church, calling sinful men out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ's body. By the same Word and Spirit, He guides and preserves that newly redeemed humanity. The Church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, the Church is made up of those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ and have personally appropriated the gospel. The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It also exists to serve Him by faithfully doing His will on earth. This service involves a commitment to see the gospel preached and churches planted in the entire world. Page | 4 Full Statement of Faith The ultimate mission of the Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples. Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church in which they devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer. All members of the Church are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. In this context, they are called to live out the implications of the gospel as the people of God and demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God. The ascended Christ has given gift ministries to the Church, including prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the equipping of Christ's body so that it might mature and grow. In the context of the local church, God's people receive pastoral care and oversight and the opportunity to steward their gifts for His glory and the good of the others. Ordinances of the Church Water

baptism is only intended for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become His disciple. In obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to God, the Church, oneself and the world, a believer should be immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that a former way of life has been put to death and vividly depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin. As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we come to the table with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body.

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The Consummation: The consummation of all things includes the future, physical, visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the consummation, Satan, with his hosts and all those outside Christ, is finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment, but the righteous, in glorious bodies, will live and reign with Him forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise and glory. Then the eager expectation of creation will be fulfilled, and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God, who makes all things new.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please make a note of the following important dates:

June 3, 2026	Registration Opens
June 26th, 2026	GFC Families Must Register to Secure Spots
August 16, 2026	Final Day of Enrollment
August 17 – 18, 2026	Orientation Parents and Children
August 25, 2026	1 st Day of Classes for Semester 1
November 24-25, 2026	Thanksgiving Break
December 16, 2026	Final Day Semester 1
December 22 – January 11, 2027	Christmas Break
January 12, 2027	1st Day of Classes for Semester 2
March 30-31, 2027	Spring Break
May 11-12, 2027	Testing for All G1-L2 Students
May 25, 2027	Final Day of GFA Classes
May 28, 2027	Graduation Dinner

CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

General Description of a Classical Christian Education

A classical Christian education is made up of three distinct elements:

1. God is the foundation of ALL teaching.
2. The proven method of the Trivium is followed and dictates what is taught and how it is taught.
3. Great Works are read and used.

The Trivium includes three stages:

1. The **Grammar** stage studies the fundamentals of disciplines in order to build a framework of knowledge on which later information can be hung. Questions of who, what, where, and when are the focus. Teachers at this level act as lecturers and coaches. They transmit information, plan and supervise the practice of that information, motivate and tutor until the skills are mastered.
2. The **Logic** stage brings the grammar of disciplines into ordered relationships. The goal is to equip students with the thinking skills necessary to recognize sound arguments and ideas and to detect and correct fallacious ones. This stage addresses the questions of how and why. Teachers at this level act as midwives. They use the Socratic method (leading questions) to help students give birth to an idea.
3. The **Rhetoric** stage seeks to produce students who can use language, both written and spoken, to express their thoughts eloquently and persuasively. Teachers at this level act as tutors. They set students on their own, supervise, and give feedback.

The goal of the Trivium is to educate students not on what to think primarily but on how to think thoroughly, maturely, and biblically.

Trivium and GFA

GFA serves students from kindergarten grade through eighth grade. Primary grades are referred to as Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. However, our Grammar and logic students are referred to by their progress through the Trivium. G1, G2, G3, and G4 are in the Grammar stage and are the equivalent of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades. L1 and L2 are in the Logic stage and are the equivalent of 7th and 8th grades.

School Philosophy: The EXCEL Framework

Our goal is to cultivate wise, virtuous, and courageous students who are rooted in God's truth, equipped by classical pedagogy, and trained for a life of purposeful impact. Our educational philosophy is encapsulated in the EXCEL framework, which provides a comprehensive model for building a thriving classical Christian education.

- **Educate with Eternal Purpose:** Beginning with God as the foundation of all learning and the ultimate source of truth.
- **eXemplify Classical Pedagogy:** Using time-tested methods that shaped history's greatest thinkers to cultivate wisdom and virtue.
- **Conserve Civic Virtue:** Instilling a deep love for our country, the principles of freedom, and the responsibility to lead the next great generation.
- **Empower through Innovation:** Offering a dynamic platform that personalizes learning and equips parents and teachers with data-driven insights and guidance.
- **Launch Leaders for Life:** Preparing students with character, skills, and readiness to fulfill their God-given calling with courage and conviction.

Note to Parents: Considering our commitment to collaboration and the importance of our GFA community growing in our understanding of classical Christian education, we highly recommend that you read:

Battle for the American Mind by Pete Hegseth with David Godwin. This book reminds us of the importance of education in forming our children and the need to restore education to its rightful place under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Wisdom and Eloquence for Parents by Robert Littlejohn & Charles Evans. Written specifically for parents, this book provides a compelling case for classical Christian education as the surest path to forming wise and eloquent servant-leaders, lifelong learners and biblically faithful Christians.

Recovering The Lost Tools of Learning by Douglas Wilson. From the perspective of one of the most influential pioneers in the classical Christian education movement over the last few decades, Wilson's biblical knowledge coupled with the wisdom of his experience in Christian education combine to communicate the great benefits unique to a classical Christian education.

Scope and Sequence

PRIMARY LEVEL (K–2ND Grade)

A joyful, hands-on introduction to classical Christian education.

Core Characteristics

- Developmentally appropriate, creative instruction
- Gentle academic introduction through play, discovery, and modeling
- Focuses on prayer, relationship, and Christian virtue
- Foundational exposure to Bible, phonics-based language arts, Latin, literature, math, science, and history
- No formal grading; emphasis on wonder and love of learning

For detailed scope and sequence and reading list click [here](#).

GRAMMAR LEVEL (3rd–6th Grade)

Laying the foundation of knowledge through memorization, recitation, and joyful learning.

Core Characteristics

- **Delight in Memorization:** Students naturally enjoy chants, songs, and recitation.
- **Concrete Thinking:** Children learn best through clear structure, examples, and stories.
- **Imitation as a Learning Tool:** Students thrive on modeling, copywork, and dictation.
- **Formation of Essential Habits:** Cultivating attentiveness, diligence, and order.
- **Building Block Knowledge:** Gathering the “grammar” of every subject.

For detailed scope and sequence and reading list click [here](#).

Logic Level (Grades 7-8)

Core Characteristics

Training students to ask good questions and reason through arguments.

- **Beginnings of Abstract Thinking:** Questioning, analyzing, and seeking the “why.”
- **Love of Debate and Argument:** Learning to reason carefully and detect fallacies.
- **Connecting Knowledge:** Synthesizing information across subjects.
- **Development of Discernment:** Testing ideas against Scripture and truth.
- **Structured Expression:** Organizing thoughts through outlines, analytical writing, and formal logic.

For detailed scope and sequence and reading list click [here](#).

Academic Details

ASSESSMENTS

It is important that students are ready for the rigors of GFA. Please review *Admission Requirements for Families* on pages 29-30 of this Handbook. Primary students will be casually assessed during the family interview. Prospective Grammar, and Logic students should bring work reflective of their skill level with them to the family interview. In addition, potential Academy students will be required to take an assessment in language arts and math.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Rounding out your student’s academic life with fun and enriching experiences is important. We will strive to offer some different enrichment activities and field trips that we hope you will take advantage of great learning opportunities in our immediate region. They are all optional and some come with an additional cost above tuition and fees.

PORTFOLIO PRESENTATIONS

A Student Portfolio Presentation is an exhibition of a thoughtful collection of work documenting the student’s performance, focusing on what the learning has accomplished in him/her. Student Portfolio Presentations are for students completing their G4 and L2 Academic Year.

There are several benefits of Student Portfolio Presentations:

- Student Portfolio Presentations provide an academic “game day” – a public, exciting, encouraging event that gives purpose to the “practice” they do throughout the year.
- Students take greater pride in their work, knowing that it will be showcased for a larger audience to see.
- They give students the confidence to move to the next level.
- The Presentations give room for reflection about what has been learned, how far the student has come, and how that learning has transformed him/her.
- Presentations provide another opportunity for students to practice speaking in front of others.
- Presentations provide another outlet for student creativity.
- Work presented by our older students serve as an encouragement to younger students and their families.

The Student Portfolio Presentations consist of:

- **Personal Objectives:** To begin, students talk about their focus for this stage of their development.
- **Evidence of Growth:** During this section of the presentation, students will choose characteristics that they think were developed by their work at GFA (i.e., Critical Thinking; Spiritual Maturity; Creativity; Knowledge; Strategic Thinking and Problem Solving; Integration; Character, Leadership; Confidence; Perseverance; Teamwork; and Independent Scholarship). How many characteristics a student must highlight and how many different pieces of work a student must feature are dependent on the student’s level.
- **Self-Reflection:** In this section, the student will answer questions: 1. What was your greatest challenge at this level of development? 2. How do you think you’ve grown? 3. How has your relationship with Christ grown? 4. What do you think is your best work? Why?
- **Teacher Feedback:** At this time, leadership will read thoughtful teacher feedback publicly. E.g., “Amylia, I’ve been very impressed with your work ethic improvements over the past year. I see how your extra effort is increasing your understanding and commitment to your school work....Next area of growth you might want to focus on is your attention to detail...”

- **Future Goals/Areas of Improvement or Growth:** The presentation will end with the student looking forward and answering the following questions: What are my goals for the next stage? How will I get there? How will I measure my success? Who will keep me accountable?

How it works:

- Students collect work they think is reflective of the characteristics outlined throughout their years.
- Students begin to add the work to a provide standard template during the second semester or they are welcome to create one of their own.
- Presentations occur at the beginning of May. Students are divided into different rooms with a mix of Grammar and Logic. Students and family members watch the presentations.

Parent Responsibilities Regarding Portfolios

We kindly ask that parents help in three ways:

- **Encourage the improvement of pieces for the presentation:** Encouraging your student to see pieces of work as potential portfolio pieces is critical. By you saying something like, “I see that you worked very hard on this assignment. I think that if you made these few revisions, it could be something that you present as evidence of work for _____.”
- **Encourage doing a little at a time:** Encourage your student to add pieces and reflections a little bit at a time over the year so that your student isn’t rushing at the last minute. Don’t forget to have your student work on PRESENTING the material too.
- **Attend the Student Portfolio Presentations:** This is a great event to which to invite grandparents.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

Writing

Writing well is an important skill; therefore, GFA requires frequent writing practice. Writing is a process. We require parents of our students to take an active role in that process. At the beginning of each week, parents are expected to review the requirements of the week’s writing assignments with their students. Parents should expect students to organize thoughts into an outline during the mid-week. From this, students should produce the first draft. Because all forms of communication assume an audience, parents should be the first “audience” for **every** piece of writing created by their students. It is

then the parent's job to make age and skill-appropriate edits pointing out places that don't flow or make good sense. Parents can also encourage student-editing skills by not marking every spelling or grammatical error but saying, "Be sure to check your spelling and grammar. I saw several mistakes." All edits should be reviewed with students, encouraging them to create a second draft based on editing feedback independently. This second draft is the first draft he turns in to his teacher. The teacher will make comments and suggestions on each student's paper. Students must incorporate teacher feedback into the submitted second draft.

HOMEWORK

Parents frequently ask how much time students will need outside of GFA to accomplish their homework assignments. This is a difficult question to answer because it depends on the student's ability to grasp the concepts and both the student's and parent's ability to focus on getting the work done. The best we can do is share our homework goals with you and some age-appropriate guidelines.

Our homework goals:

- To help you give your student the best and most complete classical Christian education;
- To accomplish what is expected by the high-quality curricula we have chosen in one academic year's time;
- To focus on the majors. This means that the primary focus of the homework time will be spent on the most significant subjects: Latin, Biblical Studies, Literature, Composition, History, and Math.
- To focus on mastery markers. Our desire is that our students master the critical components of each subject. The bulk of the assigned work will be about growing in the mastery of that subject and/or effectively conveying their knowledge.
- To not assign busywork. We have no interest in assigning work just to keep your student busy for hours each week, nor do we want to grade that kind of work. Each assignment is designed to excite your student and move learning forward

With that said, we believe that a school-aged child's full-time job is to be a student. GFA is academically rigorous, and rigor takes time. It is also important to remember that our formally schooled counterparts spend at least seven hours a day in school and an additional couple of hours on homework each evening. Please leave room for the possibility that school might take a little longer than it has in the past and/or that on a field trip week homework might have to be finished on Saturday.

We expect all homework to be done independently (within reason considering age appropriateness) completely, neatly, to the best of the student's ability, and on time. All assignments must have the proper heading. The heading should be located in the upper right-hand corner. The heading should have the student's name, subject, level, and date.

It is important that at each stage you are also helping your student have a healthy relationship with technology. Make sure that you are working with your student to develop good time management habits that involve technology free times while studying to avoid distraction.

Illness

If your student is ill and unable to complete his assignments, you or your student must contact the School so that the absence can be recorded as excused.

Late Work

GFA is training students in time management and responsibility. Late work needs approval from a member of the Leadership Team. Late work without approval will receive a late grade (L = 69%).

Testing

Life is full of challenges. Tests are one of those challenges that students must face. At GFA, we see tests as an opportunity to apply what students have learned. They also serve as practice for students who don't test well. Every test is an opportunity for student growth.

We feel that quiz and test scores are a good measure of a student's mastery of a subject, and as a result, we may ask students to repeat classes based on a student's quiz and test scores rather than their overall course grade.

In May, GFA offers a standardized achievement test for G1-L2 students (Grades 3-8) . These tests evaluate reading, grammar, and mathematics and provides a comprehensive measure of achievement and aptitude.

GRADING POLICY

Purpose

There are many positive reasons to grade students' work. Grading helps develop accountability in students. It also motivates students to meet deadlines. Grading provides a good (not perfect) natural reward for hard work and a consequence for lack of effort. It is also a capable measure of how well a concept is grasped.

Grading

At GFA, most grading and recording of those grades is done on the digital learning platform. Most grades will be given immediately at the completion of any lesson done using the lessons provided on the digital platform.

Criteria

It is our desire to grade objectively. Whenever possible, teachers will be as detailed and upfront as possible about how grades will be determined, especially with essays, presentations, participation and extra activities.

Grading Scale

GFA desires for students to master the material they are taught. A student's grades are one way that we can determine whether mastery has been achieved. Our grading scale at GFA is A, B, C and F, because if a student has less than 70% competency in a particular subject we are setting them up for failure if we advance him/her to the next level. A student must have a cumulative score of 70% or above in a subject to be considered for advancement.

Mastery Markers

More important than grades is the mastery of the fundamental components of a given area of study. Every course your student takes at GFA will have a syllabus that explains the course, teacher expectations, and Mastery Markers. Demonstration of mastery is required before promotion to the next level.

Academic Probation

Any student who receives a first or second-semester final grade of 69% or less in any subject will be placed on academic probation. The parents of the student, the student, the Principal and/or the Academic Director will meet to discuss the issues surrounding the poor grade. If the student shows a willingness to improve, he/she will be allowed to continue at GFA. If the student is able to achieve 70% or higher in all of his/her subjects during the following semester, the academic probation will be lifted. If the student's grades don't improve, he/she may be asked to take the course again or leave the program. If a student receives a 69% or less in more than one class during any one semester, the student may be asked to leave the program. These issues will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

GFA CLASS AND HOME SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Class participation is an important part of a successful classroom experience at Grace Family Academy. Class preparation is critical for productive class participation.

Students will be given a grade for their class participation that will impact their final grade. If a student is absent due to illness **and School has been notified**, his/her class participation grade will not be affected. Students are granted three vacation days per semester. This allows students to have three day's worth of class participation not be affected by an absence due to something other than illness.

MISSING WORK

If you believe that a grade was misreported or an assignment was not recorded when it should have been, it is important that you show the Director of Administration the GFA graded assignment within one week of the grades being delivered. No grades will be changed after one week's time.

RESUBMITTING TESTS, QUIZZES AND PAPERS

The resubmission of quizzes, tests, and papers is at the complete discretion of the teacher who assigned them. Students (not parents) must get permission from the teacher before resubmitting a quiz, test, or paper. The resubmission must be typed and attached to the original. True or false questions must be accompanied by an explanation. Every resubmitted correct answer will be given half credit, unless the teacher decides otherwise. All resubmissions must be returned by the next school day. Final exams cannot be resubmitted.

GRADE REPORTS

Grade reports will be given two times per year – end of December and end of May. Final tests and assignments will be graded and final grades will be available within two weeks after the final day of the semester.

PLACEMENT

Both the parents and Principal will determine the placement of students with the aid of past report cards and current assessments. We believe that students should be placed at a level where they can complete the assigned work fairly independently and successfully. Please remember that GFA is a rigorous and demanding program covering subjects your students may not have been taught before. As a result, students may be placed at a level different from where they would be placed in a traditional school. It is also possible that students will be asked to spend more than one year at a level to ensure that they have a firm grasp on the material taught.

ADMISSIONS AND FEES

ADMISSIONS SCHEDULE AND PROCESS

Enrollment for the 2026-27 school year will begin on June 3, 2026.

Admission to GFA is a four-step process for prospective families. **All four steps** must be completed before students can be accepted for enrollment.

1. Review the entire GFA handbook.
2. Attend an informational meeting to learn more about the school and meet with school leadership.
3. Complete and submit the enrollment application form.
4. Join a member of the GFA Leadership team for a family interview. Bring any evaluation materials and recommendations to this meeting if necessary.

Review the Entire GFA Handbook

We have spent a lot of time thinking through the details that will make or break our program. Those important details are in this handbook. **We ask that both parents read the entire handbook.** Your family's intimate understanding of what this program is all about and what is expected of our families will contribute to your student's success.

Attend Our Information Meeting

We will be hosting informational meetings bi-weekly until the final deadline for registration. Please see the school's webpage to register for a meeting that suits your schedule.

Complete the Application Form

On our website, you will find the required application form. Please fill it out completely.

Join a Member of the GFA Leadership Team for a Family Interview

This interview gives us a chance to talk about the program, what your family would like to get out of it, your student's academic history and desires, and to answer any questions you may have. Enrollment is based on your student's desire to learn and willingness to cooperate with students and teachers.

Enrollment Deposit

An Enrollment Deposit of \$100.00 per family must be submitted upon acceptance into GFA. If writing a check, it should be made payable to Grace Family Church or it can be submitted through the webpage. This deposit will be applied to your families tuition costs for the upcoming school year.

Please Note: Due to a generous donation, we can offer a special rate for Pioneering Families from Grace Family Church available until June 26th, 2026.

Tuition for Pioneering GFC Families Enrolling on or Before June 26, 2026

Grade Level	Tuition (Per Student)	Monthly Payment (10 Months)
Primary (K-2nd Grade)	\$1,500.00	\$150.00
Grammar (3rd-6th Grade)	\$1,500.00	\$150.00
Logic (7th & 8th Grade)	\$1,500.00	\$150.00

Tuition for All Families Enrolling After June 26, 2026

Grade Level	Tuition (Per Student)	Monthly Payment (10 Months)
Primary (K-2nd Grade)	\$1,500.00	\$150.00
Grammar (3rd-6th Grade)	\$2,500.00	\$250.00
Logic (7th & 8th Grade)	\$2,500.00	\$250.00

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

GFA is a self-funded ministry that relies on your timely tuition payments to purchase curriculum, buy supplies, and pay teachers. Please understand that when you enroll your student in GFA we are counting on your financial commitment for the entire school year.

Tuition payments are due on the first campus day we are in session each month we are in school (August-May). Tuition payments can be paid online or placed in the tuition box before chapel begins. Checks should be made payable to Grace Family Church. If you need to delay a payment or require financial assistance, you must contact the school before tuition payments are missed. We will do everything we can to help you.

BOOK EXPENSES

In our handbook under the sections detailing the Scope and Sequence for Primary, Grammar and Logic stages, you will find a preliminary book list for each level. This list includes all required books for each grade level and are the responsibility of home-schooling parents to provide. These books can be borrowed from your local library or you can purchase them through an online “thrift” used book dealer to reduce the expense of purchasing all new books.

POLICIES

This section focuses on the details that help our program run well. Our intention is to be as clear as possible about our expectations so that GFA and all our families are set up for success. Many of these policies help protect the time and well-being of our students, parents, staff, teachers, and the Leadership Team.

WEB AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

It is the responsibility of every family to make sure that GFA has your current email address. It is critical that you **check your email regularly for important updates**. GFA is not responsible for un-received or un-read electronic communication.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

It is our expectation that all students and their parents are fully engaged in the academic process. We expect students to complete all assigned work, try their very best, and ask for help when needed. Parents are expected, in the very least, to facilitate the learning process by knowing what is required of their students each week, helping when necessary, and making sure that all work is complete.

Students are expected to maintain a 70% or above in each of their classes. Any student who receives a first or second semester final grade of 69% or less in any subject will be placed on academic probation. The parents of the student, the student, the Head of School and/or the Academic Director will meet to discuss the issues surrounding the poor grade. If the student shows a willingness to improve, he/she will be allowed to continue at GFA. If the student is able to achieve a 70% or higher in all of his/her subjects during the following semester, the academic probation will be lifted. If the student's grades don't improve, he/she may be asked to take the course again or leave the program. If a student receives a 69% or less in more than one class during any one semester, the student may be asked to leave the program. These issues will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Any form of academic dishonesty or misconduct will not be tolerated at GFA. This includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and a misrepresentation of one's work and/or efforts. **Utilization of AI or answer keys to aid in the completion of homework is not allowed.**

We agree with Dartmouth College's code of conduct which states, "Any form of plagiarism violates the Academic Honor Principle. Plagiarism is defined as the submission or

presentation of work, in any form, that is not a student's own, without acknowledgment of the sources."

If a student copies the words of another author and does not give credit to the original source, he/she has plagiarized. If a teacher suspects that a student has plagiarized, that student will be asked if the words on his/her paper are his/her own. If the student confesses and asks for forgiveness, he or she will be forgiven, and be given a zero for the assignment. If a student is confronted, does not confess, and evidence proves otherwise or if a student commits a second offense, the misconduct may lead to expulsion from the program. The ultimate decision will be made by the Leadership Team.

ILLNESS

We ask that you keep ill students at home. We would like to keep our school as healthy as possible. Please notify the Head of School if your child is ill and unable to attend GFA.

BRINGING ITEMS TO SCHOOL

Students should bring only items necessary to participate in class to GFA. Toys, video game consoles or weapons of any kind are not allowed. Any teacher, staff member, or member of the Leadership Team may confiscate any items they deem inappropriate and parents will be immediately contacted.

We strongly discourage students bringing cell phones on campus. However, if a parent deems it necessary for their student to have a cell phone during school hours please familiarize yourself with our technology policy.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

We recognize both the tremendous benefits and detriment of technology. We also acknowledge that technology isn't going away, so we've created a technology policy that we hope will help us all have a healthy relationship with technology – one where we are, with thoughtfulness and deliberateness, controlling it, rather than mindlessly allowing it to control us. In addition, we have limited time together and want to maximize the opportunity for high-quality, in-person connection.

CELL PHONES

While on campus at GFA (8:00am-1:00pm), students' cell phones should be in "downtime" mode (i.e. games and social media shut off) and stowed in backpacks or in designated areas of the classroom. If a student is caught using a cell phone, it will be taken away and the cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day. If a student is in frequent violation of GFA's tech policy, a meeting with the Principal and a parent will be required, and possible suspension discussed.

If you must get a hold of your student during the school day, please call the Office at 772.878.2040 and your message will be delivered to your student according to it's urgency.

In addition to the above...

- GFA is not liable for personally owned technology that is lost, stolen, or damaged. GFA will not reimburse for lost or stolen technology nor will GFA be able to fix or troubleshoot damaged technology. Technology that is brought into GFA is solely the responsibility of the student and his or her parents.
- Students may not use their personal technology devices for gaming or media sharing during the day at GFA.
- Students may not take pictures or videos of any student, teacher, staff member, or GFA guest without the individual's consent.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

We expect everyone at GFA (i.e. teachers, parents, and students) to behave like ladies and gentlemen at all times. Mannerly behavior yields a pleasant and productive learning environment. Proper behavior requires self-control and shows care and concern (respect) toward others.

Everyone should...

- Be fully engaged in the academic process.
- Complete their work to the best of their ability and ask for help when needed.
- Address each other as Mr. and Miss/Ms./Mrs.. (Peers are welcome to call each other by their first names.)
- Greet everyone you pass.
- Look people in the eye when you speak.
- Respect others and their things. (i.e. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Ask before taking something that doesn't belong to you. Return things in their original condition).
- Do what you are asked the first time you are asked with a happy heart.
- Follow GFA dress code.
- Leave every place BETTER than how you found it.
- Sit up straight. Feet on the floor. Head up.
- No drawing on ourselves, others, tables, or walls.
- Stand when asking or answering a question.
- Do not be alone with someone of the opposite gender in a private location.
- Address grievances biblically (i.e. go swiftly (Ephesians 4:26), go graciously and

humbly (Colossians 3:13), go to the offending person first, then bring in a trusted third party (Leadership) if needed (Matthew 18).

- Do not engage in conversation or behavior unbecoming a Christian (i.e. don't gossip, don't put others down, don't lie, don't make crude gestures/noises, etc.
- Be cautious to not expose others to topics, media, etc. that families believe are unsuitable
- Gentlemen should respect and honor ladies by allowing them to go first, holding doors, carrying items and offering to help.
- Ladies should be gracious and respectful to young men.
- Honor the dress code by wearing the appropriate uniform

First-period teachers will check to make sure that students are in uniform. If a student is not in the dress code, the teacher will let the Principal know immediately after class. (See Dress Code and General Appearance pg. 26)

At the end of each school day, students will pitch in and...

- Wipe down the tables.
- Vacuum the floor.
- Empty the trash.
- Set the room properly.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY

On the rare occasion that a student violates the rules outlined in our handbook or given by a teacher or a member of the Leadership Team, the behavior will result in one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning given during class;
- Dismissal from the classroom; and/or
- Conference with the Principal.

The teacher or support staff member who observed the violation will confer with the Principal regarding the student's behavior. Depending on the offense, a verbal reprimand will occur immediately and/or parents will be contacted.

Discipline must be carried out in a timely and thoughtful manner. It is possible that a student would be asked to write a letter of apology. That written apology must:

- Admit and explain how the offense was wrong;
- Ask for forgiveness;
- State what restitution will be made, if necessary; and,
- Cite biblical references and state how the problem will be prevented in the future.

A student may also be asked to verbally apologize to the person(s) he has offended. If the offense was one-on-one, an apology is made to the offended person with the teacher or Principal present. If the offense was public, the student might be asked to make a public apology, either in class or in the presence of those whose presence the offense took place with the teacher or Principal present. The student may either read the apology or speak directly to the offended party/parties.

Severe Disruptions

In the case of extreme inappropriate behavior, in which the student causes a major disruption in the classroom, or on campus, causes bodily injury to anyone, or harms church property, more severe disciplinary actions may be taken immediately, at the discretion of the Principal and the other members of the Leadership Team, forgoing the process outlined above. The student may be suspended from classes or expelled.

Dress Code and General Appearance

Grace Family Academy maintains a dress code to promote a positive and unified learning environment for our students. All students are expected to adhere to this dress code policy during school hours and at school-sponsored events.

- Students are required to wear polo shirts along with pants (Guys/Girls)
- Girls can wear appropriate length (at the knee), shorts, skirts and skorts.
- Pants, skirts and shorts should be Khaki or Navy blue.
- Polo shirts can be Navy, Green, Grey, Light Blue, White, Burgundy, etc.
- Please no bright or fluorescent colors and no multi-colored shirts.
- Polo shirts should have no manufacturer logos
- Shoes must be closed-toed with backs/heel straps.
- All clothing and shoes must be clean, neat, and tidy at all times
- Clothing should fit appropriately without being too loose or too tight.



Students who do not comply with the dress code policy will be subject to the following:

- **First violation:** Student will receive a verbal reminder from school staff and must correct the violation before returning to school the following day
- **Second violation:** Parent/guardian will be contacted, and a written notice will be sent home
- **Third violation and beyond:** Student and parent/guardian will be required to meet with school administration to discuss compliance

We appreciate your partnership in helping maintain a consistent and orderly appearance that reflects the culture and standards of our school.

Campus Days and School Hours

Campus days will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The school day begins at 8:00am. All students will be gathered in the Student's Center for a devotion, prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Afterwards they will break off into their individual classrooms. The school day ends at 1:00pm.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

The school day begins at 8:00am. Students will be dropped off at the covered main entrance to Grace Family Church. School ends at 1:00pm and students will be picked up at the same

location. All school clean-up ends at 1:15pm. Students are expected, and parents are encouraged to help clean up at the end of the day.

SEVERE WEATHER

It is possible that severe weather will prevent us from holding classes. Parents will receive an email notification by 6:00am, if classes are cancelled.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

At GFA, all grievances should be resolved by following the process outlined in Matthew 18.

1. First, go to the person with whom you have the conflict or trouble and try to resolve the matter in a biblical way.
2. If not resolved, take the concern to the principal. The two of you will then address the offending person.
3. If the grievance is still not resolved, it should be taken to the other members of the Leadership Team. Then the Leadership Team will address the concern with the offending person.

WITHDRAWAL

Please understand that when you enroll your student in GFA your commitment is for the entire school year. It is very difficult for students waiting in our applicant pool to begin the program mid-year. In addition, our program is counting on your financial support for the year. With that said, we understand that there are unexpected circumstances that occur. If you must withdraw your student from GFA, we would like at least 30 days written notice. You are expected to pay the tuition due during that 30-day period. In addition, the fees paid at the beginning of the school year will not be refunded.

TEACHER DISCIPLINE POLICY

If a staff member conducts him/herself inappropriately, violates confidentiality, or shows an inability or unwillingness to fulfill the responsibilities for the position, the Leadership Team will decide the disciplinary action that should be taken on a case-by-case basis.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT

Our expectation is that all teachers and support staff behave in a Christ-like manner. To accomplish this, all staff must respect the confidentiality of students. They must always speak positively about students and families and keep grievances and private matters private. Any behavior or academic concerns should be addressed privately with a member of the Leadership Team.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILIES

Grace Family Academy, in partnership with parents, strives to cultivate a love of wisdom and learning in our students through classical Christian education. GFA recognizes that God has called parents/guardians to be the strongest influencers in their children's lives in both Christian discipleship and education. We are committed to support and encourage parents in guiding their children into a deeper love of the Lord, in developing a passion for learning, and in strengthening their character in these formative years. Therefore, this collaborative effort requires commitment from families.

Parents/Guardian

- At least one parent or legal guardian must be a professing believer in Jesus Christ and a regular part of a Christian community of believers at least twice per month.
- At least one parent or legal guardian must embrace the God-given role as primary educator and influencer of their student and be committed to home-schooling their child.
- Parent's must be supportive of GFA's mission, policies, practices, and Statement of Faith.

Students

- All students are to exhibit a pattern of respect in attitude and action for others, school policies, and expectations.
- If transferring from another school, student records must provide proof of positive grade level academic standing.
- Additionally, academic evaluations in Mathematics and Language Arts are required during the enrollment process. Students not academically on grade level will be expected to enter their assessed grade level.
- If transferring from another school, a clear disciplinary record is required
- All students are required to successfully complete a 9-week probationary period to evaluate progress and potential future success at GFA in the areas of academics and respectful behavior.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRACE FAMILY ACADEMY

Students entering Primary levels (K, Grade 1 and 2) must:

- Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 yrs. old on or before September 1st.
- Be "school" ready - able to follow instructions, sit without disturbing others, eager to learn
- Be self-care independent (i.e.: must be fully toilet-trained, able to clean themselves, able to dress themselves, etc.)

Students entering Grammar levels 1 and 2 (Grade 3 and 4) must:

- Be proficient, independent readers of books at their grade level or above.
- Be able to give simple summaries of the who, what, when, where facts of a grade-level reading
- Be working at or within reach of grade level in math
- Know the basic structure of a sentence and be able to consistently write a thoughtful and complete sentence

Students entering Grammar levels 3 and 4 (Grade 5 and 6) must:

- Be able to explain the flow of a plot including the conflict, climax, and resolution
- Know, understand, and be able to identify basic parts of speech (nouns, verbs, prepositions, etc.)
- Know the basic structure of a paragraph and be able to consistently write logical paragraphs
- Know the basic tenants of Christian faith and how to use the Bible

Families must meet the minimum admissions requirements to be considered for admission to GFA. Admissions acceptance is not guaranteed. Once the admissions process is complete, you will be promptly notified of your acceptance and next steps to complete enrollment for your child(ren).