



# GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

# ADMISSIONS PROCESS

# 2021 – 2022

## CONTACT:

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[www.grcs.org/admissions/getting-started](http://www.grcs.org/admissions/getting-started)

## GRCS ADMISSIONS PROCESS STEPS

### 1. VISIT OR ATTEND AN EVENT *(See reverse for complete visit options or visit [www.grcs.org/visitgrcs](http://www.grcs.org/visitgrcs))*

*PLEASE NOTE: Students from Grand Rapids Christian Middle, Rockford Christian, Ada Christian & West Side Christian Schools do not need to complete the Application for Admission or subsequent application materials. Students should plan on attending their school specific course scheduling night with counselors beginning in January. Please proceed to STEP 2*

### 2. INQUIRE

**REQUIRED.** Complete the inquiry form online at [www.grcs.org/inquiry](http://www.grcs.org/inquiry).

### 3. APPLY

**REQUIRED.** Parents and/or guardians are required to complete, sign, and submit the Application for Admission. The application is available online after an initial inquiry.

### 4. ACADEMIC RECORDS

**REQUIRED.** Applicants are required to complete the Grand Rapids Christian Records Request Form and submit one copy to their current school and one copy to the Grand Rapids Christian High School Director of Admissions. Required items include the following:

#### ALL STUDENTS

Current course list  
Standardized test results, 3 years (NWEA-MAP, PSAT/SAT, ACT)  
IEP, 504 Plan, accommodations/support services list (if applicable)  
Discipline records, 3 years (if applicable)  
Attendance records, 3 years  
Immunization record or waiver

#### CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school transcript (unofficial)  
Most recent grade/progress report  
9th graders: 7th & 8th grade report cards

#### CURRENT MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

6th-8th grade report cards  
Most recent grade/progress report

### 5. APPLYING TO INCLUSION

Grand Rapids Christian Schools strongly desires to be an inclusive community reflective of God's Kingdom and provides individualized services to learners of differing abilities. Therefore, students in kindergarten through 12th grade who have mild to moderate physical, cognitive, and/or emotional disabilities are valued members of our school communities.

Because we are committed to having the resources to serve all students well, we regretfully cannot accept all students who will require inclusion services. Therefore, applications to Inclusion at Grand Rapids Christian Schools for the 2021-2022 school year, including all supporting documentation, must be received by March 1, 2021, in order to be considered for the 2021-2022 school year. Our Director of Inclusion Services will review all applications and respond by April 15, 2021.

Applications received after March 1, 2021, will be considered for the 2022-2023 school year.

### 6. EDUCATOR'S EVALUATION

**REQUIRED.** Applicants will be asked for the contact information for a current teacher or administrator to complete the Confidential Student Evaluation Form.

### 7. STUDENT ADMISSIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

**REQUIRED.** Applicants will be sent a link to the online *Student Admissions Questionnaire* for completion by the student applicant.

### 8. NWEA STANDARDIZED TESTING

**REQUIRED.** All new incoming 9th graders are required to have current (most recent school year) NWEA-MAP testing scores. (\*New incoming 10th-12th may use PSAT, SAT or ACT testing results instead.) If the applicant's current school does not administer the NWEA test, he/she will be required to take the test through Grand Rapids Christian High School and assessed a \$15 testing fee. Tests will be offered in March, April, May and July. Please visit the website for specific testing date options.

## 9. FAMILY INTERVIEW

**REQUIRED.** The family interview is the final step in the application process, following completion of the application paperwork. Interviews are with the student, at least one parent or guardian, the GRCHS Director of Admissions, and an administrator.

The interview offers the chance to sit down and meet each other, as an alternative to having an admissions team only evaluate a student's application. A typical interview lasts approximately 30 minutes, and is a time when the student and parent(s) may ask any questions and share their perspectives. The Director of Admissions works directly from the student's application and supporting materials to discuss academics at GRCHS, involvement in co-curricular activities, and the unique spiritual opportunities we offer each student as a Christian school.

Interviews are scheduled during regular school day hours (between 8am – 4pm) and on occasion in the evening. The Director of Admissions will initiate the interview appointment and contact you after the completion of all application and testing materials.

*\*Applicants receiving educational or inclusive educational support services will also be required to meet with the program coordinator to determine support level and accommodations.*

## 10. DEADLINES AND DECISION

All materials (application, records, test scores, questionnaire, etc.) should be submitted by one of five application deadlines. Once all items have been received, the Grand Rapids Christian High School Admissions Review Committee will review your child's application, and an admissions decision will be made. Admissions notices will be sent out via email communication.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

• December 4 (mid-year transfers) • February 19 • March 19 • April 16 • May 14 • July 23 (Final deadline for 2021-2022)

## 11. HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT FEE

**REQUIRED.** Once the admissions process has been completed and the applicant has been accepted as a new student, you will receive an email with a link to pay the \$250 High School Assessment Fee. This annual fee for all high school students covers the costs associated with: textbooks, laptop insurance, parking, student admission to regular season home athletic events, and admission to student theater productions at the Center for Arts and Worship.

Paying this non-refundable fee will hold your child's spot and allow him/her to register for classes. In subsequent years, the fee will automatically be charged to your Smart Tuition account.

## 12. COURSE REGISTRATION

**REQUIRED.** Course registration will take place once the applicant has been accepted as a new student to Grand Rapids Christian High School. Registering for classes early ensures that your child will have first pick of the classes they desire. It does not cost anything to register for classes, and it does NOT serve as a commitment to send your child to Grand Rapids Christian.

## 13. VARIABLE TUITION

**OPTIONAL.** Because Grand Rapids Christian Schools is committed to making a Christian education accessible to families from various economic backgrounds, we offer a range of tuition rates called Variable Tuition. While every family is expected to contribute to the cost of tuition, Variable Tuition allows families to apply for a reduced tuition rate based on their family's unique financial situation. In order to apply for Variable Tuition, parents must submit an online application to FACTS Grant & Aid. There is a \$35 fee to apply. More information, including a list of rates and a link to the application, is available at [www.grcs.org/variabletuition](http://www.grcs.org/variabletuition). The application opens December 1, 2020.

*Please note that while we work within our resources to make GRCS accessible to as many students and families as possible, funds to support Variable Tuition are limited and are distributed based on need as well as on a first come, first-served basis.*

## 14. CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT CONTRACT

**REQUIRED.** Once the admissions process has been completed and the applicant has been accepted, you will need to complete the Continuous Enrollment Contract. The Admissions Director will send you an email confirming the Application for Admission has been accepted and will include the link to the online contract. A \$200 per student enrollment deposit is required for families new to Grand Rapids Christian Schools. This deposit will be applied to your 2021-2022 tuition.

## 15. PARENTVUE ACCOUNT SET UP

**REQUIRED.** Grand Rapids Christian School (GRCS) utilizes Synergy's ParentVUE portal to provide parents/guardians with access to student and school information. This tool assists parents/guardians in staying informed and connected with day-to-day insight into their student's academic experience. In addition, ParentVue is where parent and emergency contact information are stored. The Admissions Team will send you instructions for setting up your ParentVue account after we have received your continuous enrollment contract.

## 16. SMART TUITION ACCOUNT SET UP

**REQUIRED.** The final step in the enrollment process is to set up your payment plan by creating your Smart Tuition account. You will receive an email from [CustomerService@smarttuition.com](mailto:CustomerService@smarttuition.com) as well as an email from a member of the GRCS business office with instructions for setting up your account. The applicant will not be considered officially enrolled until this step has been completed.

## 17. ORIENTATION

**REQUIRED.** Over the summer you will receive information about the orientation dates, along with other important school information.

# VISIT OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

[www.grcs.org/Visit](http://www.grcs.org/Visit) and [www.grcs.org/AdmissionsEvents](http://www.grcs.org/AdmissionsEvents)

## SHOWCASE 2021 — December 3, 2020 ([www.grcs.org/showcase](http://www.grcs.org/showcase))

See how our Christ-centered, student-focused approach to learning has made us one of the West Michigan's top-performing high schools —and a place where each student is prepared for more.

## FUTURE EAGLE DAYS — multiple dates to choose from! ([www.grcs.org/FutureEagleDays](http://www.grcs.org/FutureEagleDays))

Join us for a FUTURE EAGLE DAY, where students and parents will get the opportunity to learn more about what makes Grand Rapids Christian high School distinct. After the morning breakfast & presentation program, your child will be paired with one of our high school students and have the opportunity see what it's like to be a Grand Rapids Christian Eagle for a day. After the morning session, parents are given a tour of the high school.

2020—2021 School Year Dates

- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 18
- Wednesday, December 9

## SHADOW DAYS ([www.grcs.org/shadow](http://www.grcs.org/shadow)) *We have temporarily suspended our Shadow Day program.*

On the prearranged Shadow Day, your child will meet his or her Student Ambassador in the main office before school, attend classes, meet teachers and other students, and experience our wonderful lunch offerings. Your child may request a specific shadow host student, or will be paired with a Student Ambassador who shares similar interests, academic strengths, and athletic preferences.

## INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEETINGS AND TOURS ([www.grcs.org/inquire](http://www.grcs.org/inquire))

The Admissions Director would be happy to set-up a Family Meeting with you to discuss any questions you may have about Grand Rapids Christian High School, give you an opportunity to learn more about the school, tour the facilities, and give me the opportunity to learn more about your family as well. Please feel free to contact the Admissions Director to let her know some available date/time options that work best for your schedule, and she would be happy to accommodate.

# GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

## ADMISSIONS NOTE

Grand Rapids Christian Schools focuses on attracting students prepared to thrive in a rigorous academic program designed to help every student discover and develop his or her God-given abilities, and interested in becoming a citizen of our school community through their development in academics, arts, athletics, leadership and spiritual life. Rockford Christian's model applicant will challenge himself or herself to grow in all these areas.

Graduates of Grand Rapids Christian Schools will be creative solution finders, thoughtful neighbors, communicators and collaborators, lifelong explorers, culturally competent, justice seekers, and disciples of Christ who are prepared to use their unique gifts to glorify God, pursue personal faith, and bring about shalom in the world.

## CRITERIA

Admission to Grand Rapids Christian High School is based on many criteria including application, family meeting, student interview, the academic transcript, test scores, participation in extracurricular activities, and a visit to Grand Rapids Christian High School. While each piece of the application plays an important role in assisting the admission committee in making a decision, no one piece — neither student interviews nor test scores, for example — will be the deciding factor.

We understand that every student who applies is unique and has strengths and weaknesses in many areas that are different from one student to the next. We examine the following areas when making our decision:

### ACADEMICS

- The applicant having successfully completed the appropriate levels of core subjects including but not limited to English & math.
- The applicant's academic performance including grades and standardized testing scores.
- The applicant's ability to meet the academic rigor of Grand Rapids Christian High School.
- The applicant's academic goals.

### INTEGRITY & CHARACTER

- The applicant's previous conduct with regards to his or her previous school(s), authority figures, and/or peers.
- The applicant's emotional stability and behavior record.
- The applicant's demonstrated character qualities of integrity, self-discipline and motivation, consistent effort, obedient spirit, positive attitude, and respectful behavior.
- The applicant's stated ability to adhere to the Grand Rapids Christian High School Parent-Student Handbook & Code of Conduct.

### INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNITY

- The applicant's eagerness to fully participate in school, home, and church activities.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

- The applicant and his or her parents stated understanding and willingness to adhere to the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission to provide students with a faith based education and that all subjects are taught through the lens of a Christian world view.

### OTHER

- The applicant's previous school attendance – the applicant should have minimal tardies and/or absences on his or her record.

*Grand Rapids Christian Schools values diversity and nurtures the lives of a spiritually, culturally, and economically diverse student body of nearly 2200 students. Enrollment at GRCS is open to all families who desire a comprehensive Christian education for their children, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, family structure, or denominational affiliation, and agree to have their children educated according to GRCS' Statement of Faith.*

# PART-TIME STUDENT ENROLLMENT POLICY

## APPLICATION

Part-time applications will be reviewed and evaluated using the same admissions and enrollment standards that are currently used for full-time applicants, including providing 3 years of academic records, test scores, and any additional testing or information deemed necessary by the Director of Academic and Innovative Programs to ensure accurate class placement.

## COURSE REGISTRATION AND TRANSCRIPTS

Students who would like to enroll on a part-time basis will be allowed to take up to 4 courses per semester. There are no limitations or restrictions on courses that part-time students are able to take; however, when scheduling courses and space is limited, preference and priority will be given to full-time enrolled students.

Grade level and course placement will be determined by Grand Rapids Christian High School based on student's age, student's demonstration of achievement, and number of credits accepted. Required prerequisite courses at Grand Rapids Christian High School will not normally be waived.

Students enrolled part-time at Grand Rapids Christian High School for one semester or the full year may also register for *Winterim* courses, but will not be eligible to register for *Winterim* trips, internships or dual-enrollment courses.

Part-time students will not receive a Grand Rapids Christian High School diploma, but may receive a transcript with completed coursework.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As important members of the Grand Rapids Christian Schools community, part-time students may participate in many of activities and clubs offered at Grand Rapids Christian Schools. The following programs and activities, however, are only available to full-time students:

- Graduation ceremony
- Valedictorian consideration
- Homecoming Court
- Honors Convocation
- Athletics
- Theatre Productions
- Performing arts courses requiring director placement
- Select extra-curricular activities or clubs
- Student Support Services

## TUITION, FEES, AND PAYMENT PLAN

Students enrolling under the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Part-time Student Enrollment Policy will pay all tuition and applicable program fees set for each school year by the Board of Trustees.

Parents will be asked to set up a tuition payment plan with Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Smart Tuition payment system.

GRCS Variable Tuition rates will not be offered to part-time student enrollees. Families who attend a supporting church and wish to apply for assistance through their church, may do so.

**High School Student Assessment Fee:** An additional fee of \$250 will be assessed yearly for each student enrolling as a part-time student at Grand Rapids Christian High School. This fee covers the additional workload of staff to issue and process the laptops and technology set-up as well as laptop insurance. It also covers the costs associated with textbooks, student ID, and parking, and gives students admission to regular season home athletic events, and admission to student theater productions at the Center for Arts and Worship.

# PART-TIME STUDENT TUITION RATES

## 2021 —2022 GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Number of Courses	1 semester	2 semesters	High School Assessment Fee	Total Due
1	\$750		\$250	\$ 1,000
1		\$1,500	\$250	\$ 1,750
2	\$1,500		\$250	\$1,750
2		\$3,000	\$250	\$3,250
3	\$2,250		\$250	\$2,500
3		\$4,500	\$250	\$4,750
4	\$3,000		\$250	\$3,250
4		\$6,000	\$250	\$6,250
<i>Winterim</i>				\$200