

# GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

# ADMISSIONS PROCESS

# 2021 – 2022

## **CONTACT:**

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## **GRCMS ADMISSIONS PROCESS STEPS**

- 1. VISIT OR ATTEND AN EVENT** (See reverse for complete visit options or visit [www.grcs.org/visit](http://www.grcs.org/visit))  
**RECOMMENDED.** A tour is a great way to get to know our school and and take a look at our campus. We recommend this to all new families. Tours can be either virtual or in person.
- 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 Middle School Director of Admissions. Required items include the following:
  - Final report cards, 3 years - including most recent report
  - Standardized test results, 3 years (NWEA-MAP)
  - IEP, 504 Plan, accommodations/support services list (if applicable)
  - Discipline records, 3 years (if applicable)
  - Attendance records, 3 years
  - Immunization record or waiver
- 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. 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 GRCMS Director of Admissions, and the school principal.  
  
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 GRCMS, 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.*
- 8. DEADLINES AND DECISION**  
Once all materials have been submitted and the Family Interview has taken place, the Grand Rapids Christian Middle 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:**

- February 19, 2021
- March 19, 2021
- April 24, 2021
- May 14, 2021
- July 24, 2021 (Final deadline for 2021-2022)

## 9. COURSE REGISTRATION

**REQUIRED.** Course registration will take place at a later date once the applicant has been accepted as a new student at Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. Staff will be in contact with the applicant's family after acceptance to schedule courses.

## 10. VARIABLE TUITION

**OPTIONAL.** Because Grand Rapids Christian Schools is committed to making a Christian education accessible to families from a range of 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, first-served basis.*

## 11. 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.

## 12. 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.

## 13. 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.

## 14. FALL OPEN HOUSE

Over the summer you will receive a packet by mail with important school information. Inside there will also be details about the Fall Open House which will take place prior to the start of the school year.

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# VISIT OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

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

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOWCASE — [www.grcs.org/showcase](http://www.grcs.org/showcase))

Bring your son or daughter to Showcase and learn more about our dynamic, Christ-centered community where 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders can grow, achieve, and thrive. Discover the difference a Grand Rapids Christian education can make in your child's life! Explore our broad array of outstanding academic, athletic, and fine arts programs, as well as extracurricular activities designed to enrich students' lives. Learn about iXplore Week, our 1:1 MacBook program, and the many other ways GRCMS works to enable all types of learners to be successful. Tour the campus and hear how it enhances learning every day.

*Save time at check-in by letting us know you are coming ahead of time! Please go online to [www.grcs.org/showcase](http://www.grcs.org/showcase) to pre-register for the Middle School Showcase.*

## MEET US IN THE MIDDLE — ([www.grcs.org/meetusinthemiddle](http://www.grcs.org/meetusinthemiddle))

Join us at one of our upcoming Meet Us in the Middle days. The middle is a great place to be! We welcome the opportunity to show parents and students all of the outstanding things happening at our school. Children are able to shadow a GRCMS host student and experience our school for the day. Parents join us for an overview presentation of GRCMS and information about the admissions process, then take a tour of the school. Advanced registration is required.

## 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 to take you on a tour of the school, tell you more about our programs, and discuss any questions you may have about Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. Please feel free to call or email the Admissions Director to arrange a day and time that works best for you.

# GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN MIDDLE 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. Grand Rapids Christian Middle School'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 Middle School is based on many criteria including application, family meeting, the academic transcript, test scores, participation in extracurricular activities, and a visit to Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. While each piece of the application plays an important role in assisting the admission committee in making a decision, no one piece 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 Middle 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 demonstrated character qualities of integrity, self-discipline and motivation, consistent effort, obedient spirit, positive attitude and respectful behavior.

### 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.*