

# ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



## ADMISSIONS PROCESS 2022 — 2023

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[grcs.org/admissions](http://grcs.org/admissions)

- 1. Visit or Attend an Event** (See reverse for 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 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 link to the online application is available from the Director of Admissions after an initial inquiry.
- 4. Academic Records**  
**REQUIRED.** Applicants are required to complete the Grand Rapids Christian Schools Records Request Form and submit one copy to their current school and one copy to the 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. Reading Assessment**  
**REQUIRED.** In certain circumstances, students entering 1st-4th grades will be asked to complete a reading assessment with GRCS staff. The Director of Admissions will work with you to schedule this assessment.
- 6. 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 2022-2023 school year, including all supporting documentation, must be received by March 1, 2022, in order to be considered for the 2022-2023 school year. Our Director of Inclusion Services will review all applications and respond by April 15, 2022.

Applications received after March 1, 2022, will be considered for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 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 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, 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 8:00 am – 4:00 pm) 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.*

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## 8. 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, 2021.

*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.*

## 9. 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 Director of Admissions 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 2022-2023 tuition.

Continuous Enrollment at GRCS is a simple, one-time process. Once you sign your Continuous Enrollment Contract, you'll never have to deal with re-enrollment again. Sign one Continuous Enrollment Contract and you are done for the rest of your child's schooling at Grand Rapids Christian. You will be part of the GRCS community until you tell us otherwise, and your child's spot in their class will be secure until 12th grade graduation.

## 10. 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.

## 11. Blackbaud Tuition Management Account Set-Up

**REQUIRED.** The final step in the enrollment process is to set up your payment plan by creating your Blackbaud Tuition Management account. You will receive an email from [customerservice@blackbaud.school](mailto:customerservice@blackbaud.school) as well as an email from GRCS with instructions for setting up your account. The applicant will not be considered officially enrolled until this step has been completed.

## Visit Opportunities and Events

[grcs.org/visit](http://grcs.org/visit)

### Campus Visit Days [www.grcs.org/campusvisit](http://www.grcs.org/campusvisit)

The best way for you to get to know Grand Rapids Christian Schools is to spend time on campus. Discover all that GRCS has to offer and see what it is like to be an Eagle. Explore the campus, visit classes, meet teachers, connect with students, and even have lunch on us! Campus Visits are offered on a limited basis and will include necessary safety precautions. Sign up today to reserve the date that works for you. We can't wait to show you around!

### Individual Family Meetings and Tours [www.grcs.org/inquire](http://www.grcs.org/inquire)

The Director of Admissions would be happy to set-up a Family Meeting and Tour with you to introduce you to the school. During your visit, we will discuss any questions you may have about Rockford Christian School, and we'll get to know your family better as well. Please feel free to contact the Director of Admissions with some days and times that you would be available, and she would be happy to accommodate your schedule.

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## 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 Schools' 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 Rockford Christian 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 Rockford Christian 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 Rockford Christian 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.
- The applicant's stated ability to adhere to the Rockford Christian 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 over 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.*