

**CONTACT:**

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ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

2021 – 2022

RCS ADMISSIONS PROCESS STEPS

- 1. VISIT OR ATTEND AN EVENT** (See reverse for complete visit options or visit 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 Rockford Christian families. Tours can be either virtual or in person.
- 2. INQUIRE**
REQUIRED. Complete the inquiry form online at 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 Rockford Christian 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. 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 Rockford Christian School 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 RCS, 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.*
- 7. 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 off 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. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 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.

VISIT OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

www.grcs.org/Visit and www.grcs.org/AdmissionsEvents

SHADOW DAYS (www.grcs.org/shadow) - *We have temporarily suspended our Shadow Day program.*

On a prearranged day, your child will meet his or her host student in the main office before school, attend classes, meet teachers and other students, and we will provide lunch. Your child may request a specific host student or will be paired with a host who shares similar interests. Shadow days must be scheduled at least one week in advance.

MEET US IN THE MIDDLE (www.grcs.org/meetusinthemiddle)

Join us for Meet Us in the Middle. 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 RCMS host student and experience our school for the day. Parents join us for an overview presentation of RCMS 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)

Contact the Admissions Director to schedule a family meeting. This is a great time to discuss any questions you have about Rockford Christian, gives you an opportunity to learn more about the school and tour the facilities, and gives us a chance to learn more about your family. Please feel free to contact the Admissions Director to schedule a visit.

ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN 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 Rockford Christian School is based on many criteria including application, family meeting, 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 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.

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.