



ADMISSIONS PROCESS 2023 — 2024

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grcs.org/admissions

1. INQUIRE

REQUIRED. Complete the inquiry form online at www.grcs.org/inquiry.

2. VISIT OR ATTEND AN EVENT (See Visit Opportunities and Events sheet or visit 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.

3. APPLY

REQUIRED. Parents and/or guardians seeking enrollment 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 (provided by the Admissions Director) 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
- 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 require inclusion services. Therefore, applications to Inclusion at Grand Rapids Christian Schools for the 2023-2024 school year, including all supporting documentation, must be received by March 1, 2023, in order to be considered for the 2023-2024 school year. Our Director of Inclusion Services will review all applications and respond by April 14, 2023.

Applications received after March 1, 2023, will be considered for the 2024-2025 school year.

6. EDUCATOR'S EVALUATION

REQUIRED. Applicants are asked for the contact information of a current teacher or administrator to complete the Confidential Student Evaluation Form.

7. FAMILY MEETING

REQUIRED. The family meeting is the final step in the application process, following completion of the application paperwork. Meetings are with the student, at least one parent or guardian, the Director of Admissions, and the school principal.

The meeting offers the chance to sit down and meet each other and is a time when the student and parent(s) may ask questions and share their perspectives. Our staff 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.

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 meeting has taken place, the Grand Rapids Christian Middle School Admissions Review Committee reviews your child's application, and an admissions decision will be made. Admissions notices are sent out via email communication.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: February 17, March 17, April 21, May 12, July 1 (final deadline for the 2023-2024 school year)

9. COURSE REGISTRATION

REQUIRED. Once the applicant has been accepted as a new student at Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. Final course registration takes place in early June. The Director of Admissions will contact families to set up their phone appointment.

10. 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 parents 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 \$40 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, 2022.

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.

11. CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT CONTRACT

REQUIRED. Once the admissions process is complete 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 2023-2024 tuition.

Continuous Enrollment at GRCS is a simple, one-time process. Once you sign your Continuous Enrollment Contract, you will never have to re-enroll again. You are part of the GRCS community until you tell us otherwise, and your child's spot in their class is secure until 12th grade graduation.

12. PARENTVUE ACCOUNT SET-UP

REQUIRED. Grand Rapids Christian Schools (GRCS) utilize 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 is stored. The Admissions Team will send you instructions for setting up your ParentVUE account after we have received your Continuous Enrollment Contract.

13. 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 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.

14. FALL OPEN HOUSE AND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Over the summer, you will receive important school information. Included in this information, are details about the Fall Open House and New Student Orientation which take place prior to the start of the school year.

Visit Opportunities and Events

grcs.org/visit

MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOWCASE: March 14, 2023 www.grcs.org/showcase

Bring your child 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 technology 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.

MEET US IN THE MIDDLE 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.

2022-2023 School Meet us in the Middle Days

- January 20, 2023 @ 8:30 am
- February 10, 2023 @ 7:30 am
- April 21, 2023 @ 8:30 am

CAMPUS VISIT DAYS

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 are arranged through the Admissions Director. We can't wait to show you around!

INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEETINGS AND TOURS www.grcs.org/inquire

The Director of Admissions is happy to set-up a family meeting and tour with you to introduce you to the school. During your visit, we discuss any questions you may have about Grand Rapids Christian Middle School, and we'll get to know your family better. Please feel free to contact the Director of Admissions with the days and times that work with your schedule. The Director of Admissions will contact you with an appointment time.

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 their God-given abilities and talents. Prospective students should be 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 themselves to grow in all these areas.

Graduates of Grand Rapids Christian Schools are 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, student interview, 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 — 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 and 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 AND CHARACTER

- The applicant's previous conduct with regards to their 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 Middle School Parent-Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY

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

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- The applicant and their 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 their 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.