

# GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL



## ADMISSIONS PROCESS 2023 — 2024

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[grcs.org/admissions](https://www.grcs.org/admissions)

**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. However, if we are not able to access student records, parents from these schools may be asked to complete step 5 below.

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

**2. INQUIRE**

**REQUIRED.** Complete the inquiry form online at [www.grcs.org/inquiry](https://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. 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 15, 2023.

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

**5. 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

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

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

**6. EDUCATOR'S EVALUATION**

**REQUIRED.** Applicants are asked to complete the Educator Evaluation Request and provide contact information for three current teachers or administrators 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, they are required to take the test through Grand Rapids Christian High School and be assessed a \$15 testing fee. Tests will be offered in March, April, May, and July.

**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 Director of Admissions, and an administrator if necessary.

The interview offers the opportunity to sit down and meet, 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.

**10. DEADLINES AND DECISION**

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

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:** December 2 (mid-year transfers), February 17, April 14, May 23

*\*Applications received after the May 23 deadline will be reviewed based on class size and the availability of open courses and student support resources. **Late applications will not be received after July 1, 2023.***

**11. COURSE REGISTRATION**

**REQUIRED.** Course registration will take place once the applicant has been accepted as a new student to Grand Rapids Christian High School. Completing the admissions process early ensures that your child will have first pick of the classes they desire.

**12. 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 \$40 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, 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.

**13. HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT FEE**

**REQUIRED.** This annual \$250 fee for all high school students covers the costs associated with: textbooks, licenses, laptop insurance, parking, student admission to regular season home athletic events, and admission to student theater productions at the Center for Arts and Worship. The fee is automatically charged to your Blackbaud Tuition Management account.

**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 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.

**15. 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. You will receive instructions for setting up your ParentVUE account after we have received your Continuous Enrollment Contract.

**16. 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 is not 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 back to school information.

# Visit Opportunities and Events

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

## **SHOWCASE 2023: January 25, 2023** [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 campus visit. Prospective students and parents have the opportunity to participate in an admissions presentation and building tour. Guest students will interact with current GRCHS students through classroom observations as they discover what it is like to be a Grand Rapids Christian Eagle for a day. Light refreshments are provided on arrival and students will receive lunch.

### **2022-2023 School Year Future Eagle Days**

- Friday, November 18, 2022
- Friday, December 2, 2022
- Friday, February 3, 2023
- Friday, February 10, 2023
- Friday, February 24, 2023
- Friday, March 10, 2023
- Friday, March 24, 2023
- Friday, April 21, 2023
- Friday, April 28, 2023

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

The Director of Admissions is 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 the Director of Admissions the opportunity to learn more about your family as well. Please feel free to contact the Director of Admissions with available date and time options that work best for your schedule. They are happy to accommodate.

# 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 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 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 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 High 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 High 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.*