



## ADMISSIONS PROCESS 2023 — 2024

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

### 1. INQUIRE

Complete the inquiry form online at [www.grcs.org/inquiry](https://www.grcs.org/inquiry).

### 2. 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 for grades kindergarten through eighth grade 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
- 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 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.

### 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 any 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. 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](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.*

## 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 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 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 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.

## 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)

## 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 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 days and times that you are available. They are happy to accommodate your schedule.

## PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Come and explore all that Rockford Christian has to offer students! Your child will visit our preschool and kindergarten classrooms and meet their teachers. At Rockford Christian School, your child will discover God's love through nature-rich experiences in His world. Preschool and kindergarten registration for new families opens at this event.

# 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. Students should be interested in becoming citizens 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 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 and 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 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 Rockford Christian 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.*