WINTERIM

GATHER

2027





God has given each of you a gift
from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another.

- 1 Peter 4:10

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Winterim at Grand Rapids Christian High School engages students in a two-week amplified learning experience, allowing them to choose their own courses of interest.

- **Five components serve the Winterim objective:**
  dual-enrollment college courses, unique courses for on-campus instruction, college research and visits, travel, and shadowing professionals in internships throughout the community.

  During these two weeks, students may recognize new gifts and talents, have their directions affirmed or changed, or feel their spirits influenced.

- **Christian teachers and mentors**
  support students in unveiling their unique passions and abilities, instilling confidence in their potential as children of God.

- **Partnership with the community**
  is a vital part of Winterim. We are blessed this year by those who have offered to share their gifts of teaching, passions in life, and professional experience, leading students to discover their own true talents.

- **Learning beyond four walls**
  increases students' momentum and desire to learn, advancing Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission of preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society.

- **Winterim occurs during the first two weeks following Christmas break, between semesters.**
  Attendance is required as Winterim is a fully credited term composed of morning and afternoon sessions, five days a week.



Winterim Overview

Schedule

Winterim is a two-week term based on the college interim model, starting immediately after Christmas vacation.

- Roughly one-third of students will spend Winterim off campus participating in educational or mission trips, college visits, or internships.
- For students taking courses, the day is divided into two sessions, with one course taken per session.

Morning session	**8:20 am — 11:20 am**
Lunch	**11:20 am — 11:45 am (on campus)**
Afternoon session	**11:50 am — 2:50 pm**

Attendance

- Because Winterim is only two weeks, attendance is crucial. Students who miss excessive classes may be denied credit for the course. Each circumstance will be considered on an individual basis.
- Students involved in extracurricular activities must choose a Winterim schedule that does not interfere with their commitments. Students should see a coach or administrator with questions.

Credits and Grades

- All morning and afternoon courses receive 0.25 credits each, while trips, internships, college visit experiences, and full-day courses receive 0.50 credits. Each student is required to earn 0.50 Winterim credits per year as a graduation requirement. Winterim courses will not count toward fulfilling non-Winterim graduation requirements.

Winterim Personnel

- Principal, Brad Mockabee / bmockabee@grcs.org / 574-5500
- Winterim Coordinator, Brian Karsten / bkarsten@grcs.org / 574-5508
- Winterim Assistant, Carolyn Groendyk / cgroendyk@grcs.org / 574-5819
- Winterim Internship Coordinator, Betsy Bray / bbray@grcs.org / 574-5503
- Winterim Registrar, Carrie Doezema / cdoezema@grcs.org / 574-5554
- Cover Illustrations and Catalog Layout, Krista Krygsman / kkrygsman@grcs.org

Courses

New and exciting courses give students fresh and unique choices while allowing GRCHS teachers to share their own individual passions for specialties not offered in the core curriculum. Courses also allow for community partnerships as guest instructors come from a variety of disciplines.

During Winterim, GRCHS teachers and guest instructors mentor and expand student knowledge in key areas of interest, revealing gifts that can otherwise be hidden. With smaller class sizes and a more concentrated time frame, students are able to form a meaningful Christian bond with their teachers.

Enrollment

WinterimFest is a time when students are introduced to all Winterim course offerings. This will take place during Lunch Hour/Office Hours on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, in Grand Rapids Christian High School's Town Square.

Registration is done online by seniority and on a first-come, first-served basis:

12th Grade Registration: Monday, October 19, lunch break
11th Grade Registration: Tuesday, October 20, lunch break
10th Grade Registration: Wednesday, October 21, lunch break
9th Grade Registration: Friday, October 23, lunch break

Instruction

Guest instructors from the community join GRCHS staff to teach Winterim courses. Small classes in three-hour blocks provide unique opportunities for instruction. Many courses include service-learning or hands-on, project-based experiences that can't happen in a normal school day. Other courses are team-taught and some courses take place partially or entirely off-campus.

All guest instructors have formally applied to teach a course and have been approved by Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

Expectations

Students taking courses must sign up online for either one morning course and one afternoon course or one full-day course. Attendance is mandatory, and absences may result in a loss of Winterim credits. Students may not repeat a Winterim course unless granted permission by the Winterim Coordinator.

Some classes tend to be more rigorous in nature, while other classes may be more hands-on and experiential. Students and parents must read course descriptions carefully to understand prerequisites, fees, and expectations.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Grand Rapids Christian High School is blessed to partner with Cornerstone University to offer dual-enrollment Winterim courses. 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students can take these dual-enrollment courses and receive both GRCHS Winterim credit and college credits. This is a great opportunity to earn college credit and get a taste of life on a college campus.

Participation

Students wishing to participate

- Must be able to attend class at the scheduled time.
- Must meet the minimum 2.8 GPA requirement of Cornerstone University.
- Must complete an application for admission to Cornerstone University. Online application links will be emailed to registered students.
- Should expect assignments, homework, and exams appropriate for the college level.
- Will need to provide or arrange for their personal transportation.
- May be required to purchase a textbook or visit the help desk for needed software.
- Are not required to take a second Winterim course.

AI and the Human Experience (AAI 110)

College Credit Hours: 2 credits

Schedule: TBD
(4 hours per day for each day of Winterim)

This course introduces students to the world of artificial intelligence and explores how it shapes, and is shaped by, human experience. Students survey the history, foundations, and major applications of AI, including machine learning, natural language processing, and creative generation. Emphasis is placed on understanding human interaction with AI from a biblically informed perspective, examining how these technologies influence communication, creativity, decision-making, and cultural life. Through hands-on engagement with AI tools and guided ethical reflection, students develop AI literacy, gaining the ability to use and evaluate AI responsibly in ways that promote human dignity and flourishing.

Covenant and Calling: Old Testament (BBL 210)

College Credit Hours: 3 credits

Schedule: TBD
(4 hours per day for each day of Winterim)

This course provides a survey of the Old Testament literature and theology. It equips students with skills in reading and interpreting the Bible. Students will explore the overarching

storyline of the Old Testament, examining its historical and cultural context, literary genres, and major themes. Special attention is given to the theological significance of key passages and how they reveal God's character, covenant purposes, and redemptive plan, showing how the Old Testament fits within God's redemptive story.

Christ and Community: New Testament (BBL 220)

College Credit Hours: 3 credits

Schedule: TBD
(4 hours per day for each day of Winterim)

This course provides a survey of the New Testament literature and theology. Students will explore the historical and cultural context of the New Testament writings, their literary forms, and their place within the overarching biblical narrative. Special attention is given to major theological themes and how these shape Christian faith and practice. The course equips students to interpret New Testament texts faithfully and apply their message to contemporary life within a Christian worldview.





All Day Courses

Capturing Winterim

Instructor: Nate Vanderzee (GRCHS Video Production Teacher and Technology Coach)

Step behind the lens and showcase all that Winterim has to offer in "Capturing Winterim." As part of this course, you'll get to experience and document every other course we offer. Along the way, you'll learn fundamental photography techniques and core video production skills. Put your new knowledge into practice by photographing daily activities, recording live action, doing interviews, and designing promotional materials. You'll help craft eye-catching social media posts and produce the highly anticipated end-of-Winterim video. If you want to build digital media skills, explore everything Winterim offers, and showcase our school's community, this immersive course puts you behind the scenes and in front of it all.

Additional Note: This could be an all-day class, but morning OR afternoon options are also available. Also, students would be required to travel along with Winterim classes at times to document various field trips.

Prerequisite: Students interested should email or see Mr. Vanderzee before registering.

Creator's Retreat

Instructors: Abby Zwart (GRCHS English Teacher) and Steve Tuit (GRCHS English and Psychology Teacher)

In our busy lives, we don't often take time to pursue our passions. On the Creator's Retreat, you'll get the chance to spend two intentional weeks on a personal project—something you'll be proud of. We'll start in the classroom to prepare for our work, and then we'll head off campus to a retreat center to live and create together. We'll eat, worship, work, and play, then return to school to present our products. So what might you create? Music, visual art, film, poetry, fiction, nonfiction, spoken word, forensics speeches, podcasts, science experiments, inventions, woodworking, scrapbooking, dance, or whatever else you are moved to create.

Additional Note: Course includes the weekend (January 10-11).

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $200 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Prerequisite: Students will complete a post-sign-up application. See Ms. Zwart or Mr. Tuit for more information.



Morning Courses

- (Almost) Licensed to Drive, but Clueless About My Car
- Ball Don't Lie: The GOAT Debate
- Books, Bookstores, and Baking
- Christian Fit Body Bootcamp
- Come Away & Find Rest
- CSI: Grand Rapids
- ESports: Team Building, Competition & Careers
- Family History Detectives
- Food and Fitness
- Hooked on Crochet
- Intermediate / Advanced Rock Climbing
- Life Together
- Scary Stories We Tell in the Dark
- Segment 1 Driver Education (Grades 10-12)
- Today I Will: Try Something New!
- Woodworking

Afternoon Courses

- 3D Video Game Development
- ACT/SAT Bootcamp
- American Red Cross Lifeguard Training
- Big Color: A Community Mural
- Butter, Sugar, Flour.
- Created to Create: Music Composition for All
- Dogs!
- Grand Rapids City Police Department: Youth Academy
- The Great Outdoors
- Introduction to Rock Climbing
- Joy on Tour
- Lights, Camera, Action!
- Phenomenally Made: "Your Voice"
- Radio Free Grand Rapids
- Second Vibes: Thrifting, Consignment, Vintage, and Up-Cycling
- Segment 1 Driver Education (9th Grade)
- Strategy Games
- Take a Ride on the Magic School Bus
- Tee to Green
- Upcycle Bikes: Tinkering with a Purpose
- Watercolor Workshop
- WHODUNIT: A Murder Mystery Class
- Winterim Intramurals Adventure: Tournament Style

Morning Courses

■ (Almost) Licensed to Drive But Clueless About My Car

Instructor: Donna Kamerman-Houskamp (GRCHS Academic Skills Teacher and Service Manager at Houskamp's Auto Services)

In this course, you will learn the various systems of a vehicle and understand the maintenance and repair demands for each. Thus, you will be able to communicate intelligently when your vehicle has a problem and not be at the mercy of a repair shop. You will also learn how to take preventative measures in vehicle maintenance.

Additional Note: Segment II Driver Education is an option for students that register for this course. Buckle In Driving Academy will spend three 2-hour sessions with students who are interested during the course for Segment II for a cost of $125. See Mr. Karsten with questions.

Prerequisite for Students Taking Segment II: Students taking Segment II must have completed Segment I for at least 3 months and must have driven 30 hours (with 2 of those hours being at night).



■ Ball Don't Lie: The GOAT Debate

Instructor: Travis Kuiper (GRCHS Math Teacher)

Down by 1. Six seconds left. The G.O.A.T. takes it down the court, attacks the rim, and... it's in! The G.O.A.T. wins it at the buzzer! Now stop. Who are you picturing? MJ? LeBron? Someone else? An actual goat? In this course, we will take a historical and mathematical look at answering the question that has polarized basketball fans for years: Who is the Greatest Of All Time? Come along and show your basketball skills (talent not required), watch documentaries, and engage in friendly debate in answering the age old G.O.A.T. question.

■ Books, Bookstores, and Baking

Instructor: Kathryn Camargo (GRCHS World Language Teacher)

Step into the world of stories, local publishing, and culinary creation in Books, Bookstores, and Baking! Students will form small-group book clubs to dive into captivating novels through discussions, literary games, and activities. Beyond the classroom, we will explore the Grand Rapids literary scene through field trips to various bookstores. Students will also bring reading off the page by planning and baking book-inspired treats, curating character playlists, and celebrating storytelling with film adaptation movie sessions! Students will also have time for independent reading.

Morning Courses

Christian Fit Body Bootcamp

Instructor: Jawaun Kenney (GRCHS Academic Interventionist and Varsity Football Coach)

This Winterim course will allow students to develop a workout plan and build healthy eating habits. The course is designed to encourage total body health and strength. There will be an emphasis on positive lifestyle changes and avoiding the improper use of crash diets. We will explore many different ways to stay in shape while working all muscle groups. Our class will also navigate the best options for maintaining a healthy food intake plan. The purpose of "Fit Body, Fit Mind" is not just to create a healthy body but a healthy mindset toward fitness—with God at the forefront.

Come Away & Rest

Instructor: Shelly Hendricks (GRCHS World Language Teacher)

In a fast-paced world that often leaves us feeling worn down, weary, and spiritually drained, this class offers space to slow down, quiet the noise, and re-center our lives on Jesus. Inspired by His lifestyle, our goal is simple: spend time with Jesus, become like Him, and live as He did. Meeting off-campus at spots like Schuler's, the Calvin Nature Preserve, and more, we will evaluate our spiritual health, practice spiritual disciplines modeled after the life of Jesus, and process our growth together in community. If you long for rest for your soul, come practice the Way of Jesus.



CSI: Grand Rapids

Instructor: Dan Hoekstra (GRCHS Science Teacher and Technology Coach)

Do you love a good mystery? Do you want to be the next famous crime scene investigator? Think you have what it takes to crack the case wide open? If you answered "yes," then put on your lab coat and safety goggles and check out CSI: Grand Rapids! Throughout your two-week training period, you will learn from real-life crime scene investigators as you dive into the world of CSI. You will perform the technique of DNA fingerprinting, learn how to analyze bullets, hair, dental impressions, and blood splatter, and study the skills required for successful crime investigation.

Morning Courses

Esports: Team Building, Competition, and Careers

Instructors: Chris Newton and Sandon Newton
(Protégé Game Studios)

Esports have exploded in popularity with high schools and universities looking to harness the good elements of video game play with mental and physical wellness. Esport requires an athletic mindset that focuses on optimizing your mind and body to perform at a high level during long video game competitions. The Protégé Esport experience will teach good health strategies in addition to social communication, teamwork, problem solving, and good sportsmanship through competitive video gaming. A field trip to a college Esport arena or to Protégé's PLAY Studio is possible, and we try to organize an Esport competition with another local Esports team.

Prerequisite: Protégé Game Studios uses the Nintendo Switch gaming console with the tournament-friendly video games *Rocket League*, *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate*, *Mario Kart 8*, and *Splatoon 2/3*. *Fortnight* may also be used, but with parental consent.

Family History Detectives

Instructor: Mark VanderWerf
(GRCHS Bible and Theology Teacher)

Uncover the mysteries of your past as you take on the role of a family history detective. Become a sleuth of your own family story as you explore genealogy using tools like Ancestry.com, online archives, old photographs, and family interviews. Learn how to follow clues, dig through digital records, and piece together your family's unique story. You'll build a mini family tree, uncover fascinating characters, and maybe even solve a few long-lost family mysteries. Everyone has a story—and it's your job to find it. Bring curiosity, a sharp eye, and get ready to follow the clues into the past!



Morning Courses

Food and Fitness

Instructor: Amy Petracek (GRCHS Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher)

Do you want to practice some cooking skills and zest things up with a healthy twist? Are you tired of the same old workout routine, or looking to try something new? Then "Food and Fitness" is for you! We will try a variety of fitness activities, including things such as spinning, yoga, kickboxing, Zumba, ice skating, and more. We'll also refuel after our fitness activities by making a variety of tasty foods, which will also include an Iron Chef-style competition. This class offers fun opportunities to collaborate with your peers, try new things, and learn some new skills.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $40 for this course to offset the cost of cooking/ workout classes. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.



Hooked on Crochet

Instructor: Yeo Myeong Yoon (GRCHS Math Teacher)

Be ready to unravel the magic of yarn, crochet wonders of vibrant colors, and bring creativity to create a craft of your choice. You can be an absolute beginner or be advanced with prior experience to join. In this course, you will be learning the foundational skills and patterns to be a confident crocheter. There will be a variety of options including coasters, a stuffed animal, a scarf, a hat, and many more to choose from and make your own. Come with an open mind and a willingness to challenge yourself and have fun!

Intermediate / Advanced Rock Climbing

Instructors: Frank and Lena Abissi (NYSDEC Level II Rock Climbing Guides)

Take your climbing to the next level! This course focuses on building solid technique and good training habits as you work on more difficult climbs.

Prerequisite: Students must have climbing experience and be proficient in belaying.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $50 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Morning Courses

■ Life Together

Instructors: GRCHS Staff

Life Together is a unique opportunity for all ninth graders to learn what it means to be Christian students who are part of a Christian community. Ninth graders from over twenty-five different middle schools will come together and spend ten days growing—both personally and as the class of 2030—as they participate in fun team-building activities, worship, community service, and a series of sectionals on a variety of subjects. Students will hear from Grand Rapids Christian staff and leaders from the community as they learn more about their gifts and talents and discover ways that God might use them to serve here at school, in their homes, and later in the workplace.

All 9th-grade students will automatically be enrolled in Life Together during the morning Winterim session.



Morning Courses

Scary Stories We Tell in the Dark

Instructor: Priscilla Meeuwenberg (GRCHS English Teacher)

Why do we willingly pay to be terrified? From ancient folklore to the jump scares on your watchlist, horror stories do much more than just make our hearts race. This course explores how scary stories reflect cultural fears, anxieties, and taboos, treating the genre as a mirror for human nature. Each day, we will deconstruct a classic monster archetype or sub-genre—such as vampires or werewolves—using fiction, sacred texts, and film. Ultimately, we will unpack how the darker side of storytelling uniquely highlights deeper moral truths, human vulnerabilities, and the eternal struggle between light and darkness. Enter...if you dare.

Segment 1 Driver Education

(10th, 11th, and 12th grade only)

Instructors: Buckle In Driving Academy with support from GRCHS Staff

Grand Rapids Christian High School is excited to partner with Buckle In Driving Academy to offer Segment 1 Driver Education. Students enrolled in the program will complete all Segment 1 requirements, including basic driving maneuvers, traffic compliance, and safe driving strategies. In addition to core instruction, students will explore practical topics such as car maintenance, identifying fluids under the hood, jump-starting a vehicle, and everyday driving experiences like visiting a gas station or drive-thru—and they will learn how they can serve the community once able to drive. Students will participate in range training (options offered Dec. 19-20 and/or Jan. 9-10), where they'll practice parking skills and learn reference points to help them succeed on the road test. To meet course requirements, students must complete six hours of behind-the-wheel driving and five hours of observation. These will be scheduled on the first day of class and completed within two weeks of the course's end. Driving and observation sessions typically take place before or after class, starting and ending at GRCHS. Buckle In will do their best to accommodate schedules, but students should remain as available as possible throughout the course. A parent meeting will be held before the first day of class to provide additional details.

Additional Note: To meet state regulations, in addition to the Winterim class times, there will be three additional required two-hour sessions of class time: December 17,18, and January 9. December 17 and 18 are mandatory and can't be made up at another time.

Prerequisite: Students must be 14 years and 8 months old by 12/17/2026 to enroll in this course.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $575 for this course that is collected prior to Winterim. (This is a discount from the usual Segment I course fee.)

Morning Courses

Today I Will: Try Something New!

Instructor: Kelly Camp
(GRCHS English Teacher)

This world is filled with SO much opportunity—yet we are so often left feeling bored. In "Today I Will: Try Something New!," we look at every day as an opportunity to learn, grow, find joy, and give it to others. We will work to be creative in unique ways and move our bodies in ways we have not tried before. We will learn about ideas we have not heard of, and have the chance to share our own. We will live in community, see creation as a true gift, and have the ultimate 10-day adventure together!

Woodworking

Instructor: David Mosterd
(GRCHS Bible and Theology Teacher)

Join a hands-on, collaborative course where students team up to design and build high-quality picnic tables for GRCS campuses. With a strong focus on safety, craftsmanship, and meeting deadlines, this class brings learning to life in the most practical way. But that's not all—once the tables are complete, each student will have the chance to build and take home their very own handcrafted Adirondack chair! Throughout the course, students will gain valuable woodworking skills and get comfortable using a variety of tools—all while creating something real, lasting, and meaningful.



Afternoon Courses

3D Video Game Development with Unreal Engine

Instructors: Chris Newton and Sandon Newton (Protégé Game Studios)

Work with a professional video game developer to learn the tools, processes, and techniques to create a 3-D video game. The course will expose students to 3-D Modeling programs and the Unreal Game Engine, which is used professionally in the video game industry. Students will learn to create 3-D video game assets, rig and animate characters, and design a game level by placing these assets into a game level using the Unreal Engine.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $100 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

ACT/SAT Bootcamp

Instructor: Samantha Hartemink (ACT/SAT Workshop Instructor)

Test taking isn't anyone's favorite activity, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun learning the tricks and hacks for the ACT and SAT. This class will help you plan to achieve your best score on the ACT and SAT. It's a Winterim class that has the potential to put money in your pocket—at least in terms of college scholarships!

American Red Cross Lifeguard Training

Instructor: James Valentine (Aquatics Manager at the Kroc Community Center)

Want to earn competitive hourly pay and enjoy flexible work hours *while* being at the pool? This course provides the necessary knowledge and skills to become a professional lifeguard. Lifeguard candidates will learn how to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies and provide care for breathing, cardiac, and first aid emergencies until EMS personnel can take over. Training includes in-water and on-land scenarios, videos, and discussion. Upon successful completion of a practical skills test and a score of 80% or higher on the written exams, participants will receive a two-year Waterpark Lifeguard/First Aid/CPR/AED certification.

Prerequisite: Students must be 15 years old or older (with parent permission) and must pass the pre-course skills test consisting of a 150-yard swim (freestyle or breaststroke) with a 2 min tread—no hands—and another 50 yards. Students must also pass the brick test, which requires swimming 20 yards without goggles to retrieve a 10-pound brick from the bottom of the deep end and kicking 20 yards back with the brick within 1 minute and 40 seconds.

Additional Note: There is an online portion that must be completed outside of the class. Information for the online portion will be emailed from the American Red Cross before the class begins. E-learnings typically take about 8-9 hours, and the classroom and pool portion takes about 24 hours.

Afternoon Courses

■ Butter, Sugar, Flour

Instructor: Kelli Basher
(Certified Wilton Method Instructor)

Join me and step into the wonderful world of cake decorating! Learn the essentials of baking from scratch as I guide you through techniques for making cookies, cupcakes, and cakes. From mixing the perfect batter to learning about different decorating mediums, you'll build a solid foundation in creating sweet treats. Explore simple yet stunning decorating techniques, including easy icing designs and beginner-friendly fondant work. Uncover the joy of transforming your treats into edible works of art while gaining confidence in the kitchen. Join me for a hands-on experience filled with laughter, learning, and of course, plenty of delicious goodies to enjoy!





■ Big Color:
A Community Mural

Instructor: Miriam Speyer
(Multidimensional Artist)

Big Color is a hands-on exploration of color, creativity, collaboration, and mural-making. Students will collaborate on the creation of a mural for a local non-profit. The course will cover foundational principles of color theory and also explore the process of working with a client—from understanding a vision and developing a concept to incorporating feedback and executing the final piece in a professional manner. The collaborative execution of a mural will give students the opportunity to contribute their unique ideas and artistic strengths, while bringing joy and meaning to their community.

Afternoon Courses

Created to Create: Music Composition for Anyone!

Instructor: Xander Koops (Director of Music Education at Calvin University)

During this class you will make up your own songs, compose acoustic and electronic music, and learn basic music recording and production techniques. The first week will include song writing and electronic music projects using *Garage Band* as well as notated music compositions using *Musescore*. You will get to "sample" nature sounds and experiment with incorporating recorded sounds into an original piece of music. In the second week you will work individually and in small groups to complete two final projects of your own choice. You will take field trips to visit a recording studio and meet professional composers.

Dogs!

Instructor: Becky Kissinger (GRCHS Math and Educational Support Services Teacher)

Do you have a dog? Would you like to someday? Is there a picture of your dog on your phone? Let's celebrate God's amazing creation by learning more about "man's best friend." We will spend two weeks learning all about dogs, including breeds, genetics, health, training, grooming, and service dogs, just to name a few. We will read the training book *The Loved Dog* by best-selling author Tamar Geller. We will meet dog experts, go on field trips, work with dogs, meet a GRPD K-9 unit, do a doggie service project, and even have a dog show with our very own dogs! If you love animals and enjoy hands-on activities, this is the class for you.



Afternoon Courses

Grand Rapids City Police Department: Youth Academy

Instructor: Ofc. Andrew Snyder (Community Engagement Unit of the GRPD)

This program is intended for students who may be interested in learning about or pursuing a future career in law enforcement. This program is designed to give students a taste of what being a police officer is all about. Students will head off-campus daily to receive hands-on instruction from officers representing many of the different units within the Grand Rapids Police Department. This training will take place at the Grand Rapids Police Department. This is a great opportunity for any student who wants to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of police officers.

The Great Outdoors

Instructor: Ross Graveling (Executive Director of Sportspersons Ministries International)

This class is designed to expose students to the outdoors. We will explore and learn about various activities to enjoy in the outdoors, including hunting, fishing, backpacking, hiking, outdoor survival, and gun safety. Creation is one of the ways we are able to experience and teach others about God; we will look at how to do this together. God has placed us on this earth to be stewards of His creation, so what does this mean for us and how do we care for the world He has given us as we enjoy these endeavors?

Additional Note: Students may be exposed to guns (firing pins removed for safety) and bows. Students will also have the opportunity to do an additional, optional, online component and earn their Hunter Safety Certificate.



Afternoon Courses

Introduction to Rock Climbing

Instructor: Frank Abissi
(NYSDEC Level II Rock Climbing Guide)

Even though rock climbing has been around a long time (the first recorded mountain climb is in the Bible), rock climbing is one of the fastest-growing sports today. This course will show you the basics of climbing, starting with safety and climbing movements. Everyone will learn how to inspect and use equipment. We will look at leadership roles in climbing and climbing instruction. We will also explore teaching climbing to people with disabilities.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $50 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Joy on Tour

Instructors: Megan Karsten (GRCHS Academic Skills Teacher) and Abby Vredeveld (GRCS Philanthropy Specialist)

You have a gift—and we're going to use it to brighten other peoples' days! The purpose of this class is to bring JOY to those who need a boost. We will selflessly serve and deliver and create joy for others. We'll read up on the "why" we do this, discover what we ourselves require to pour out joy, and we'll get out and do the joy-bringing! We will meet ahead of time to plan out our goals and giftings to best fit this group!



Lights, Camera, Action!

Instructor: Chad Kremer
(Professional Film Editor)

You ever wonder what it takes to make a film? Well, wonder no more! Lights, Camera, Action! It is a course with the sole intention to create one short film with your fellow classmates that will be entered in the Digital Arts, Film, and Television (D.A.F.T.) Michigan Student Film Festival. From the script to the screen, learn each role and how faith can play a tangible part in each facet of filmmaking. Experience the value of teamwork in this creative and technically intensive class with one goal in mind: finishing and premiering our short film to the world!

Afternoon Courses

Phenomenally Made: "Your Voice"

Instructor: Laassah Taylor-Marshall (Artistic Director & Owner of Xpressions Of Praise Christian Dance & Performing Arts Studio)

"Your Voice" PM Labs provides a safe, supportive space where young people build self-worth, prioritize mental well-being, and share their stories through creative expression. Across several interactive labs—each concluding with "The Power of Expressive Movement"—students learn to navigate real-life situations using core values like self-examination, courage, balance, and empowerment. Through storytelling and peer improvisation, participants develop personal accountability, inspire one another, and discover the true strength of their voice—all while having fun.

Radio Free Grand Rapids

Instructor: Dave Nieboer (GRCHS Skills Teacher and Varsity Football Coach)

Ever listen to the radio in the car and wonder who picks the songs? Now you have the opportunity to both pick the songs and create a show that will be on the air for everyone in Grand Rapids to hear! Partner with the eclectic WYCE radio station and other media organizations in theatre, TV, and News in Grand Rapids to learn how the media world works.

Second Vibes: Thrifting, Consignment, Vintage, and Up-Cycling

Instructor: Robyn Potts (GRCHS World Language Teacher)

Increasingly, it is challenging to find good-quality, stylish clothing and accessories on a budget. Using clothing as personal expression can reflect individuality and creativity, as well as dignity and respect for self and others. Can we be good stewards of God's earth, fiscally responsible, and have fun with our fashion? Whether your motivation for shopping at thrift, consignment, or vintage shops is price, environmental concerns, or the "thrill of the hunt", this course is for you! We spend time evaluating our personal style, developing a personal philosophy of clothing consumption and financial responsibility, and considering environmental care. We will hear from those directly involved in stocking or selling in these shops and from those involved in waste and textile waste management. Naturally, we will visit some local shops that Grand Rapids has to offer to find out how and why they do what they do. You will have the opportunity to find and purchase your own pieces during our visits, which we will turn into a fashion show at the end of the class!



Afternoon Courses

Segment 1 Driver Education (9th grade only)

Instructors: Buckle In Driving Academy with support from GRCHS Staff

Grand Rapids Christian High School is excited to partner with Buckle In Driving Academy to offer Segment 1 Driver Education. Students enrolled in the program will complete all Segment 1 requirements, including basic driving maneuvers, traffic compliance, and safe driving strategies. In addition to core instruction, students will explore practical topics such as car maintenance, identifying fluids under the hood, jump-starting a vehicle, and everyday driving experiences like visiting a gas station or drive-thru—and they will learn how they can serve the community once able to drive. Students will participate in range training (options offered Dec. 19-20 and Jan. 9-10), where they'll practice parking skills and learn reference points to help them succeed on the road test. To meet course requirements, students must complete six hours of behind-the-wheel driving and five hours of observation. These will be scheduled on the first day of class and completed within two weeks of the course's end. Driving and observation sessions typically take place before or after class, starting and ending at GRCHS. Buckle In will do their best to accommodate schedules, but students should remain as available as possible throughout the course. A parent meeting will be held before the first day of class to provide additional details.

Additional Note: To meet state regulations, in addition to the Winterim class times, there will be three additional required two-hour sessions of class time: December 17, 18, and January 9. December 17 and 18 are mandatory and can't be made up at another time.

Prerequisite: Students must be 14 years and 8 months old by 12/17/2026 to enroll in this course.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of $575 for this course that is collected prior to Winterim. (This is a discount from the usual Segment I course fee.)



Strategy Games

Instructor: Matthew Falk (GRCHS Science Teacher)

Join us if you love to play strategy games and want to play a lot! Learn how to play—and win—a wide assortment of strategy games. We will plan to get off-campus to check out a local game store, but will also spend the bulk of our time learning to play *Settlers of Catan*, *Cities & Knights of Catan*, *Ticket to Ride* (multiple versions), *Bohnanza*, *Splendor* (with expansions), *Power Grid*, *Bears vs. Babies*, and more!

Afternoon Courses

Take a Ride on the Magic School Bus

Instructors: Stephanie Boven (GRCHS Science Teacher) and Jillian Konyndyk (GRCHS Science Teacher)

Seat belts everyone! Ride on the Magic School Bus with Mrs. Boven and Ms. Konyndyk as we explore Grand Rapids through the eyes of a scientist. We might not be able to swing through the stars, but we can visit the planetarium. We might not be able to get baked into a pie, but we can bake pizza pies! Each day, we'll watch an episode of your favorite childhood science show, then hop on the bus for an adventure around Grand Rapids to explore the episode's themes. We'll venture to the water works, a local restaurant kitchen, the recycling center, the landfill, the AirZoo, farms, a fitness center, museums, and more. Ride on the Magic School Bus with us! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Tee to Green: Golf Lessons for All Levels

Instructor: Clark Klaasen (Golf Instructor)

Get a jump-start on your golf season with lessons focused on swing instruction and training. Gain balance, speed, mobility, and control on your swing and learn how to use your core and legs to maximize results on the course. Regardless of whether your game is subpar or under-par, this course will help you improve.

Upcycle Bikes: Tinkering with a Purpose

Instructor: Kevin VanHarn (GRCHS Business Teacher and Adventure Club Coordinator)

Come join us as we work out of the bike shop at Upcycle Bikes! Students will learn from a seasoned bike shop veteran and will work on bikes in the shop. These bikes are cleaned, upfitted, and donated to people who need reliable transportation. This course is for those who are interested in serving the community and tinkering with bikes! No previous experience necessary (although those with experience would be useful in completing more bike projects and helping others).



Afternoon Courses



Watercolor Workshop

Instructor: Krista Krygsman
(GRCHS Art Teacher)

Watercolor Workshop is a creative space where imaginative people like YOU can become more experienced with watercolor painting. You will have the opportunity to improve your art skills, learn abstraction and illustration techniques, explore urban sketching and bookmaking, practice color theory, and gain the confidence to paint your world fearlessly! Urban sketching trips will take you out of school and into our community to apply your new drawing and watercolor skills in various locations. All you need is a willing spirit and desire to grow!

WHODUNIT: A Murder Mystery Class

Instructor: Noelle Richter
(Former GRCHS English Teacher)

The scene is artfully constructed. Cue the corpse. Add in an unbecoming suspect or two. Call in the prying, sleuth. Sprinkle in a series of clues, and we have the beginnings of a whodunit. Together, we will dive into the subgenre of whodunit by analyzing various murder mystery fan favorites. Play the role of detective as we uncover the elements of mystery in *Knives Out* (2019), the classic board game and film *Clue* (1985), and the iconic true crime podcast *Serial* (2014). Attend a murder mystery party. Unravel clues at an escape room. Design your very own murder mystery game. This class will give you the opportunity to practice analytical sleuthing skills and be your very own Mabel Mora, Nancy Drew, or Hercule Poirot.

Winterim Intramurals Adventure: Tournament Style

Instructor: Harold Gee
(GRCHS Physical Education Teacher)

Students will participate in a variety of intramural tournaments, such as badminton, volleyball, and table tennis. They will also participate in several off-campus activities including possible sledding at Pando, activities at Craig's Cruisers, and ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle.

College Visit Experience

Finding time to research and visit colleges alongside school work and extracurricular activities is a challenge for many students. The aim of the College Visit Experience is to give students an opportunity to accomplish some of the necessary work needed as they make big decisions about life after high school, and to give time to do visits that are hard to fit in a busy schedule.

Enrollment

Registration for the college visit experience is done through the Winterim Coordinator (bkarsten@grcs.org) or the counseling office (janderson@grcs.org). Students who choose this option are first enrolled in a Google Classroom that is set up to help navigate the required elements. Additionally, students must do some pre-work like setting up visits and preparing a plan for the two weeks of Winterim. The College Visit Experience will be available to 11th- and 12th-grade students (and 10th-grade students with approval from their counselor).

Expectations

Students opting for the college visit experience are required to research and plan eight college visits (either in-person or virtual) prior to Winterim and then, during Winterim, attend those visits (and provide documentation). At the visits, students will complete a college visit note sheet and, if in-person, take some photos of their experience. Additionally, students will be required to research potential scholarship opportunities, write a brief reflection of their experience and future plans, and log their hours. For more information, contact the Winterim Coordinator.



Internships

Winterim internships add to the high school experience by providing 11th- and 12th-grade students (and 10th-grade students upon request) with the opportunity to make connections between what they have learned in their classes and their work in the professional world. These real, working-life experiences can assist students in making college and career choices and provide the potential to gain an additional adult mentor in their field of interest. For example, students may realize that God is calling them to a career in the same field where they interned. They could also realize that their gifts do not align with this career. Either way, an internship is a valuable tool in providing a better understanding of living out one's faith in the workplace.

Enrollment

Students may apply to do a Winterim internship. It is the student's responsibility to line up the internship, and students are encouraged to begin this as early as the previous spring.

Internship applications are due November 1, 2026

Hosts

Internship hosts are community partners who support the mission of Grand Rapids Christian Schools and help to guide students and foster their talents as they become productive members of the community. While there is a small number of hosts who contact us with their willingness to take an intern, it is primarily the student's responsibility to find and set up an internship with a host. We encourage students to find their own internships through family, friends, or community relationships.

Expectations

To participate in Winterim as an intern is a privilege that involves significant responsibility on the part of the student and family. The internship is a formally-structured learning experience that starts long before the first day on the job. Student interns and their parents are expected to review and understand the application guidelines and responsibilities. All interns must participate in internship training during the fall of 2026.

A Winterim intern must accumulate a minimum of 50 hours from January 4-15, cannot be paid, and must arrange transportation for themself.

An application will be required for final internship approval by the coordinator. Additionally, the internship will be evaluated through the student's daily record of hours and list of activities, host evaluation, a site visit, and a completed online portfolio. Applications are available online or from the Winterim Internship Coordinator (bbray@grcs.org).

Travel

Tavel offers students distinctive experiences. While being immersed in a cultural experience, students learn firsthand by exploring and serving a community unlike their own. With a variety of locations, budgets, and formats, all students interested in travel have the opportunity to choose trips suitable to them.

Enrollment

10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students may apply to travel for Winterim. Most student travelers applied and enrolled for trips last spring, but certain trips may still have space available. See the trip leader for more information.

Leaders

Trip leaders must be Grand Rapids Christian Schools employees. They will work with a variety of approved agencies to provide a life-changing trip for students. Parents may not create their own trips for their children.

Equity and Financial Commitment

Grand Rapids Christian High School is committed to providing travel opportunities for all students wishing to travel during Winterim. There are a variety of trip options that vary greatly in price. Choosing to travel is a financial commitment, but Grand Rapids Christian Schools will provide some financial support to families that show need by completing an application.

Each year, the Winterim committee will also select recipients for the Lifelong Explorer scholarship, granted to select applicants. GRCHS will also provide a few fundraising opportunities. A student's tuition must be in good standing to apply for travel.

Application Process

Once the Winterim trips are announced, the trip leaders will provide all application materials required. Each sponsoring teacher can use her or his own guidelines in qualifying travelers. A student's age, academic performance, application, and recommendation forms will all be considered.



2027 Trips

- **Colombia:**
  Java and Jesus
  Leaders: Crystal Strickland and Liz Vrooman
- **Colorado:**
  Varsity Ski Team
  Leaders: Caleb Doezema and Chad Mencarelli
- **Costa Rica:**
  ¡Pura Vida!
  Leaders: Jonathan Quist and Sarah Quist
- **Dominican Republic:**
  Serve, Rest, Grow
  Leader: Frank Padilla
- **Egypt and Jordan:**
  Cradles of Civilization
  Leaders: Joe Brower and Seth Davies
- **Galápagos**
  Islands Adventure
  Leaders: Paul Diekema and Kara Kits
- **Iceland:**
  Land of Fire and Ice
  Leaders: John Christians and Neil Karsten
- **London, France, & Spain:**
  Bucket List Europe
  Leaders: Lisa Rozema and Amy Worden
- **New York City:**
  GRCHS Theatre Company
  Leader: Kate Mellitz
- **¡Puerto Rico:**
  es ostra cosa!
  Leaders: Melissa Allen and Raquel Bartaway
- **Sarasota:**
  Alpha Win Triathlon
  Leader: Tim Stapert
- **Spain, Morocco,**
  & the Rock in Between
  Leaders: Larry Borst and Nate Zietse
- **Switzerland & Italy:**
  Swiss Peaks to Italian Streets
  Leaders: Jenn Benson and Dani Bosch
- **Varsity Boys Hockey**
  Leader: Austin Heeres

How to Register

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates for Winterim registration:

12th Grade Registration: Wednesday, October 15
11th Grade Registration: Thursday, October 16
10th Grade Registration: Friday, October 17
9th Grade Registration: Monday, October 20

All Winterim registration will take place during the lunch break.

We will be using a Winterim registration system called SCHED. Prior to registration, students will be emailed directions and a video tutorial on how to register. When your registration window opens, you will be emailed a link to SCHED, and you are free to register. Registration help will be available during the lunch hour in the Front Office on each day of Winterim registration.

If the course(s) that a student wants to enroll in are full at registration, the student may sign up on the waiting lists for capped courses. A link to the waiting lists will be sent to students in a registration email. Be sure to register for courses; do not assume an opening will happen. However, if openings occur, students will be placed into these courses based on the timestamp of the waiting list, so be sure to utilize the waiting list immediately after registration.



We are looking for your **one, best photo** sharing your Winterim experience for our

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST!



THE CHALLENGE

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

- Photos that **tell a Winterim story** will be the most successful.
- Each student may only submit **one photo**, so choose wisely!
- You will be emailed a link for photo contest submission during Winterim.

The deadline for submitting photos is Friday, January 22 at 3 pm.

Three top prizes will be awarded,
and smaller prizes may be awarded for different categories
(trips, courses/dual enrollment, and college visits/internships) as well.

Winners will be announced at the Winterim Celebration chapel

