



For this is the message you heard from the beginning:
We should love one another.
1 John 3:11

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL BROWER

Bright Spots

Grandparents Day. Preschool Grandparents Day was a joy! Our kids light up when they see their grandmas and grandpas.

Thanksgiving Chapel. Gathering together is special. Being led by our students makes it all the more meaningful. We have so many things to be thankful for! Thank you for joining us for our All School Thanksgiving Chapel.



Looking To Next School Year

2026-2027 School Calendar

Following are key dates for our 2026-2027 school year. Professional Development dates will be added in January.

August 17	New Staff Orientation
August 18-20	Staff PD
August 24	Open House
August 25	1st ½ day
September 4-7	Labor Day Break
October 15-16	Convention
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break

December 21-31	Christmas Break
January 1	Christmas Break
January 4	School resumes
February 12-15	Mid Winter Break
April 2-11	Spring Break
June 4	Last ½ day

WSCS COMING EVENTS:

December	1-8	All School Service Project - Stuff-A-Bus
	4	Elementary Christmas Worship Service
	5	Elementary Chapel at 8:45am
	6	WSCS Christmas Marketplace
	8	Middle School Christmas Concert
	11	5th Grade Band/Orchestra Concert 8:40am
	12	Elementary Praise and Worship at 8:45am
	12	BUDS Playgroup at 10:00am
	19	All School Christmas Chapel at 8:45am
	19	K-8 Early Release - Dismiss at 11:30am for Christmas Break

CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE HOURS: The school office will be closed during Christmas break. If assistance is needed with any year-end giving circumstances, please contact Dale Burghgraef at dburghgraef@wschristian.org or 453.3925 ext. 111.

January	5	Classes Resume
	9	Elementary Praise and Worship at 8:45am
	14	Report Cards
	15	Early Childhood & Kindergarten Preview Night
	16	Elementary Praise and Worship at 8:45am
	19	MLK Day - No School (Staff Inservice)
	23	Elementary Praise and Worship at 8:45am
	28	BUDS Playgroup at 12:15pm
	30	Pastor's Day

STUFF-A-BUS ALL SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT runs until December 8! More information can be found [here](#).

ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE: Join us for our Elementary Christmas Service Program this Thursday, December 4 from 6:30-7:30pm. An invitation is [attached](#) for your information and for you to forward to relatives and friends you wish to invite.

CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE: The WSCS annual Christmas Marketplace is this Saturday, December 6. Once again, over 50 vendors will be on hand with a wide variety of gift items to assist you with your holiday shopping. There will also be a new book sale going on in the library. Doors open at 9:00am and admission is FREE. A full concession area will be available to keep your energy up. You won't want to miss it!

THE WSCS BOOK FAIR will be taking place December 2-6. Students may shop during library classes or at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, December 6 from 9:00-3:00. You may also shop online at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/westsidechristianschool1>. All proceeds go directly back into our school library!

MS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Our middle school band, orchestra, and choir students have been working hard to prepare a night of worship and song for you and your family! During the concert, the following groups will perform in the gym: 6th grade band, 6th grade choir, 6th grade orchestra, 7th/8th grade band, 7th/8th

grade choir, and 7th/8th grade orchestra. We hope you can come and celebrate the birth of our Savior this Monday, December 8 at 6:30pm!

5TH GRADE BAND AND ORCHESTRA are giving their winter performance for parents and supporters next Thursday, December 11 at 8:40am. The band will perform in the band/music room. The orchestra will perform in the orchestra room. Please check in through the office and then head down to the music rooms.

BUDS: Join us for BUDS, a monthly playgroup for families with children ages 0–5. This month is all about Christmas! We'll read a story together, sing a few songs, enjoy playtime, and make simple Christmas ornaments for little ones to take home. It's also a great opportunity to meet West Side staff and connect with other families.

When: Friday, December 12, 10:00–11:00AM

Where: 3s Preschool Classroom

BUDS is open to the public, and no RSVP is needed. Just stop by the office, and our staff will point you in the right direction.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW NIGHT: You are invited to the WSCS Early Childhood and Kindergarten Preview Night, taking place on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Stop by anytime between 6 and 7:30 pm and experience all that WSCS's Early Childhood program has to offer. This evening will offer a variety of opportunities for the whole family. Registration for the Open House is encouraged but not required, so mark your calendars and [sign up](#) today!

TRIP

CHRISTMAS ORDERS: In order for gift cards to be guaranteed before Christmas break, the ordering deadline is Monday, December 8. Any orders placed after that date MAY arrive before break, but are not guaranteed.

HOT LUNCH

Don't forget to set up your payment account on grchristian.familyportal.cloud, under Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

The monthly hot lunch calendars can be found here: [December 2025](#)

Wednesday, December 3: Roasted Chicken Drumstick or Breakfast Sandwich

Thursday, December 4: French Toast Sticks or Strawberry Yogurt

Friday, December 5: Pizza Hut Pizza

Monday, December 8: Cheeseburger or Cinnamon Toast Crunch

Tuesday, December 9: Walking Taco or Strawberry Yogurt Parfait

Please contact Jill Zondag, jzondag@grcs.org with any questions.

PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday, December 3

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Molly Glass

12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Marianne Krulek / Mike Kelly

1:10 – 1:35pm Middle School: Kimberly Huffman / **Volunteer Needed**

Thursday, December 4

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Molly Glass

12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Sarah Bruischat / Hannah Beckwith

1:05 – 1:35pm Middle School: **Volunteer Needed / Volunteer Needed**

Friday, December 5

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Kim Zondervan

12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Tara Hernandez / Katie denHollander

1:05 – 1:35pm Middle School: **Volunteer Needed / Volunteer Needed**

Monday, December 8

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Molly Glass

12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Lianne Carmody / **Volunteer Needed**

1:05 – 1:35pm Middle School: **Volunteer Needed / Volunteer Needed**

Tuesday, December 9

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Josh Zondervan

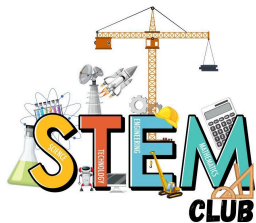
12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Lori Cox / Stacy Groggel

1:05 – 1:35pm Middle School: Lori Cox / Stacy Groggel

Sign up here: [Playground Volunteer Sign Up Link](#)

BEYOND BELIEF

Sign Ups Now Available For:



STEM CLUB | Grades: 3-5

[Parent Information](#)

[Student Registration Form](#)

TECH BYTE

Looking for DIY activities and other resources for your children? [Kids Corner](#) has activities like [Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and Devotionals](#), [God's Big Story Coloring Book](#), [The Bible in One Year Plan](#), [songs](#), [ebooks](#), and more.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES: Parents, please make sure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothing (gloves, hats, boots, coats, etc.) for keeping warm while outside. Students are expected to go outside if the temperature or wind chill is above -5 degrees.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION OR DELAY: When school is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances, all after-school or evening event cancellations will be an administrative decision and will depend on the circumstances. Two hour delay notice and cancellation notices for school and/or evening school-related events will be posted on WOOD TV8 and WZZM TV13. School will also notify you via text and email.

GIVING TUESDAY IS TODAY! This year, our theme is **Sharing God's Goodness: Fostering Christian Community Through Spaces**. From the moment family members and guests walk through our doors, we want them to experience God's goodness flowing through WSCS. More information can be found [here](#).

WE'RE CELEBRATING when families take home fresh, student-grown produce from our school greenhouse each week! Five weeks are remaining, and two prorated shares are still available. If you'd like to sign up, be sure to click [the subscription link](#).

In addition, you may see Greenhouse Pop-Up Shops in the atrium from time to time when extra produce is available. Be on the lookout for text message announcements or check the atrium fridge for availability.

And a sneak peek: we're anticipating extra lettuce next week!

This week's harvest will take place tomorrow as part of our middle school project-based learning experiences, where students are learning to steward God's creation while also developing real-world business skills such as marketing, planning, teamwork, and community outreach.

SHOPPING FOR TEACHERS? Will you be looking for the perfect Christmas gift for a WSCS teacher or staff member? Each staff member's "favorite" things can be found at [Staff Favorites](#).

KEY CARD BOOKS: Middle School Students are selling Key Card Books/Cards. They are \$30 each and valid through the end of 2026. If you are interested in purchasing, find a middle school student or stop by the office to make your purchase. The sale runs until this Friday, December 12th.

SCHEDULES

8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, December 2 at 5:15pm vs. Jenison 1 (Away)

Thursday, December 4 at 4:00pm vs. Byron Center (Away)

Monday, December 8 at 4:00pm vs. Dutton (Away)

Tuesday, December 9 at 4:00pm vs. Hudsonville (Home)

Thursday, December 11 at 4:00pm vs. Jenison 2 (Home)

Monday, December 15 at 5:15pm vs. Calvin (Away)

7TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, December 2 at 4:00pm vs. Adams (Home)

Wednesday, December 3 at 4:00pm vs. Byron Center 1 (Home)

Tuesday, December 9 at 5:15pm vs. Byron Center 2 (Away)

Monday, December 15 at 4:00pm vs. Calvin (Away)