



Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
Psalm 100:4

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL BROWER

Happy Thanksgiving

“Pass the corn, please,” was the request made by the small voice of my little cousin after a Thanksgiving Day prayer was said and about 30 of my relatives gathered around a table ready to enjoy a delicious meal together. That simple, little request set off a ripple of “Pass the corn, please,” appeals. The problem? None of us could locate any corn. When we realized none of us had brought corn to go with our Thanksgiving feast, our first reaction was one of disbelief. We all looked around the table simply waiting for someone to tell us where the corn was. Our disbelief turned into confusion which quickly led to pure laughter. It was actually delightful. We laughed and laughed. Our imperfect meal turned out to be perfect!

We didn’t only survive a Thanksgiving Day without corn, we continue to treasure the memory of that meal and never cease to find joy whenever someone says, “Pass the corn, please.” Sometimes we think we are lacking something only to find out God uses it to bless us in abundant and unexpected ways. Have a Happy Thanksgiving enjoying God’s goodness.

Oh, Lord. Bless us with peace that comes from realizing you can use us, as imperfect as we are, to bring joy to you and this world. Praise your holy name, forever. Amen.

Wednesday, November 26

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 27

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Friday, November 28

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Monday, December 1

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Molly Glass

12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Sarah Herrmann / Heather LaVigne

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

Tuesday, December 2

8:15 – 8:30am Elementary: Volunteer Needed

12:15 – 12:50pm Elementary: Hannah Beckwith / Volunteer Needed

1:05 – 1:35pm Middle School: Lynnae Kauffman / Volunteer Needed

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

BRIGHT SPOTS



8th Grade Play - Finding Nemo. I have to admit, when I realized WSCS did their 8th grade play in the fall I was skeptical. How could we pull off a play that early in the year? Well, WSCS certainly knows how to do it! What a powerful way to bring a class of students together – something to build upon for the remainder of the school year and beyond. We couldn't be more proud of the kids and the way they kept swimming with positive attitudes or more thankful for all who dove in to help keep everything afloat!



Bringing Back the Class of 2025.

We welcomed back our class of 2025 by offering a reception prior to the 8th grade play on Saturday and complimentary tickets to see the show. We were so happy with the turnout! It was great having our kids come "home" again.

WSCS COMING EVENTS:

November	26-28	No School - Thanksgiving Break
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
January	5	Classes Resume

STUFF-A-BUS ALL SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT: We are joyfully partnering with Hand2Hand again this year for a school-wide service project. More information can be found [here](#).

ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE: Join us for our Elementary Christmas Service Program next 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.

DECEMBER 6! The WSCS annual Christmas Marketplace is fast approaching. 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!

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

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1:05 – 1:35pm Middle School: Lynnae Kauffman / Volunteer Needed

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.

TRIP

REMINDER: TRIP is not being processed this week due to the short school week.

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: [November](#) and [December 2025](#)

Wednesday, November 26: No School - Thanksgiving break

Thursday, November 27: No School - Thanksgiving break

Friday, November 28: No School - Thanksgiving break

Monday, December 1: Mac & Cheese or Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal

Tuesday, December 2: Cheesy Lasagna Roll-Up or Strawberry Yogurt Parfait

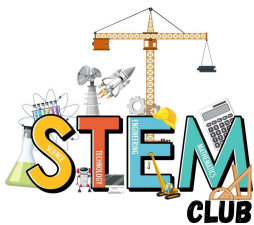
Please contact Jill Zondag, jzondag@grcs.org with any questions.

PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

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

During the holidays, we need to be "careful with cousins!" In December, we often spend time with family we haven't seen in a long time. This means we can help our kids be prepared and protected before we visit and after we get home. Why is this important? Because younger kids who haven't seen each other for a long time talk a lot! Especially if there are older cousins around who sometimes say older cousin things. This can weaponize childhood curiosity. Just like the story of what happened after a family returned home from Thanksgiving. One of the sons googled words he heard at the family gathering, and it led to that child seeing pornography. The parents felt terrible because this could have been prevented if the WiFi had been filtered.

Do you know that your router is your home's most important digital device? This is just ONE layer needed to prepare and protect our kids online. All year long. Why is a good router so important?

- It prevents accidental, early childhood exposure to explicit searches by locking in SafeSearch.
- It helps families keep screen time in check, including night-time access and secret "burner" devices.
- It helps build digital trust, by allowing families to discuss why controlling the internet is good for kids and parents.

If you want to know more about routers, check out Protect Young Eyes' [The Ultimate Guide to Understanding Routers](#).

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GIVING TUESDAY IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER ON DECEMBER 2! 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.

With your support, we hope to:

- Create an attractive indoor marketplace
- Refurnish our entrance to provide a welcoming gathering space

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- Refresh our main hall to beautifully display our school mission
- Construct an outdoor prep area where children can wash, sort, prepare, and taste God's bounty from our gardens

Stay tuned for more details as we approach December 2!

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, November 25 at 4:00pm vs. Hope 2 (Home)

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, November 25 at 5:15pm vs. Heritage 2 (Home)

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

Thursday, December 4 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)