

# Grace at a Glance



**Grace Christian Academy** (formerly Grace Baptist Academy) was established in 1973 as a ministry of Grace Baptist Church, with 85 students (K-6) enrolled during the first year. The junior high was added in 1975, adding a high school program two years later. Grace Christian Academy joined the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) in 2001.

Today, the faculty, staff, students, and parents of GCA benefit from the vision and faith of Grace Baptist Church. Serving young people from all areas of Kankakee and neighboring counties, GCA has provided an educational environment in which achieving one's best and developing Godly character are synonymous. Grace Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national, ethnic and religious origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

## Credits

Bible	4	Math	4	Health	0.5
English	4	Science	4	J-Term	1
History	4	P.E.	1	Electives	6

## Expected Student Outcomes

It is our desire to produce students who have a deep, personal relationship with God, as exemplified by the following:

- Are proficient and knowledgeable in all academic disciplines with an additional appreciation and understanding of co-curricular activities and the arts in the pursuit of educational excellence.
- Can understand, articulate, and defend a Christian worldview while having a basic understanding of opposing worldviews and understand the historical, literary, transformational, and theological value of the Bible based on their Biblical worldview.
- Understand and commit to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through their personal walk and willing to search, know, understand, apply, and submit to God's Word.
- Begin the lifelong discovery and utilization of their God-given gifts, talents, and passions, and pursue wisdom as they value and practice intellectual inquiry and critical thinking and seek to influence their world for Christ through the honest and humble exchange of ideas.



## Academics

**Grades K3-5<sup>th</sup>:** Grades K3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> lay concrete foundations and stress phonics, reading, cursive handwriting, math facts and procedures, and composition skills. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades, critical thinking is a focus with additional emphasis on science, history, and literature. In all grades, Bible is taught every day, and each subject is naturally integrated with Biblical truth.

**Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** Building on the foundation of the lower grades, Junior High students begin to move from concrete to abstract ideas as they hone their skills in grammar, composition, math, and science, while addressing more challenging content in Bible, literary analysis, and social studies. Intensive involvement in the band and/or choir begins in 6<sup>th</sup> grade while Spanish I begins at 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



## Mission

To assist families by helping equip students to embrace Biblical truth, strive for academic excellence and model Christ-like leadership to influence homes, churches, and the community for Christ.

## Accreditation & Credentials

- Registered with the Illinois State Board of Education
- Member of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI – an association of 5,500 schools in 100 countries) since 2001
- In process of obtaining accreditation by the Association of Christian Schools International

## Faculty and Class Size

100% of GCA faculty hold bachelor's degrees in education and many of them have or are pursuing graduate degrees. The student/teacher ratio is 12:1, with an average class size of 14 students.

## Graduation Requirements

GCA's graduation requirements are rigorous and exceed those of most schools in the area. Each student is placed in classes that will challenge them to pursue a rigorous academic course load throughout their four years.

Percent	Letter Grade	GPA
100-98	A+	4.0
97-94	A	4.0
93-91	A-	3.67
90-88	B+	3.33
87-84	B	3.0
83-81	B-	2.67
80-78	C+	2.33
77-74	C	2.0
73-71	C-	1.67
70-68	D+	1.33
67-64	D	1.0
63-60	D-	.67
Below 60	F	0



**GRACE**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
*Encourage, Educate, Equip*

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[www.gracecrusaders.org](http://www.gracecrusaders.org) (815) 939-4579

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## Academics

Grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Preparing students to be critical thinkers and successful in college while equipping them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace is strongly emphasized in GCA's secondary program. Science, math, communication, history, and fine arts are among the offerings. Honors and Advanced placement (U.S. History and calculus) courses are available for qualifying students. Four years of Spanish courses are also offered. In addition, online-dual credit courses are an option for juniors and seniors. Above all, students learn Biblical truth, both in Bible class and throughout the academic disciplines. Cutting-edge technology and a fully-functioning science lab aid the effort of challenging students to reach their full potential.

## Athletics

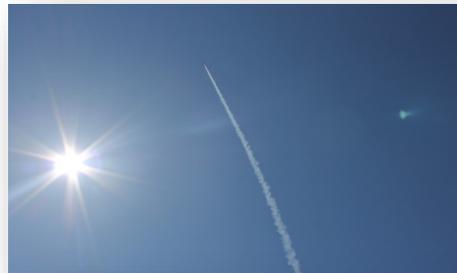
Crusader athletics stresses building character through competition, inspiring a passion for excellence, developing leadership through hard work and service, and growing champions for Jesus Christ.

Grace competes within the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Midwest Region, the Illinois Christian Conference (ICC) and the Great Lakes Christian Conference (GLACC), and with Numerous IHAS schools in the area. The program includes:

Girls	Boys
Volleyball	Soccer
Basketball	Basketball
Softball	Baseball
Cheerleading	

## Extracurricular Activities

GCA offers several strong programs in fine arts including recognized choral and instrumental music groups, as well as a new broadcast media program that will broadcast weekly on local radio. Additionally, GCA students are strong competitors and regular top finishers in the area Spelling Bee and Math Olympics. GCA's Rocket Club is nationally ranked and has traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in the Team America Rocket Challenge (TARC). GCA also offers a wide variety student led clubs including a weekly Apologetics club and Bible studies.



## Religious Affiliation

Grace Christian Academy is both a private and Christian educational institution. GCA cares deeply about the holistic development of our students – academically, socially, physically, and spiritually. Serving young people from all areas of Kankakee and neighboring counties, GCA has provided an educational environment in which achieving one's best and developing Godly character are synonymous. Students and teachers integrate a Biblical worldview into every subject area, in addition to taking Bible classes in doctrine, as well as philosophy and theology. Students also participate in chapel once a week with speakers both from within the school in addition to recognized leaders and pastors from the community.



## January Term

In addition to two traditional semesters, GCA features two weeks of intensive curricular experiences called J-Term. These academic courses focus on practical life skills like Home Economics, Financial Planning, Technical Mechanics, Study Skill, ACT Prep, Coding, Engineering, Film, Apologetics, etc.

## Facilities

The 15-acre campus in a quiet, semi-rural setting includes 20 classrooms, science laboratory, cafeteria, full-sized gym, playground, soccer field, softball and baseball diamonds, band room, and chapel.

## Colleges Accepting GCA Alumni

- Arkansas State
- Bethel College
- Butler University
- Calvin College
- Cedarville University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Furman University
- Illinois Wesleyan University
- Kankakee Community College
- Liberty University
- Loyola University
- Missouri University of Science & Technology
- Moody Bible Institute
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Southern Illinois University
- Taylor University
- Trinity Christian College
- University of Illinois
- University of South Carolina
- West Point
- Word of Life Bible Institute

Mr. Stephen Bull	Head of School
Mr. Tim Berg	Asst. Principal
Ms. Joanne Clupper	Asst. Principal
Mrs. Julie Betz	Business Manager



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