

Jay Ferguson, PhD

Head of School

Lanny Witt

High School Principal

Tandy Hicks

High School Assistant Principal

Joseph Walker, EdD

Athletic Director

Kelley Bell

Director of College Guidance

MISSION

To assist Christian families in educating, equipping, and encouraging their children to influence the world for Christ.

CHARACTERISTICS

Grace Community School was founded by Grace Community Church in 1973.

Today the school exists as a JrK-12, coeducational, college-preparatory school with selective admissions. The curriculum is rigorous, and high moral standards are encouraged and expected. Grace is composed of predominantly college-educated families with business and professional backgrounds.

STUDENT BODY

JrK-12: 1037

High School: 326

Senior Class (2022): 81

Average HS Class Size: 15

ACCREDITATION & CERTIFICATION

AdvancED (SACS); Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI); Council on Educational Standards & Accountability (CESA)

AFFILIATIONS

Texas Assoc. of Private & Parochial Schools (TAPPS); Texas Private Schools Assoc. (TPSA); National Assoc. of Secondary School Principals (NASSP); Texas Assoc. of College Admissions Counselors (TACAC); North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP); Assoc. for Supervision & Curriculum Development (ASCD)



COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL
STANDARDS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Highlights

Academics: A primary goal of Grace is to provide an outstanding academic education, where the courses are demanding and intellectual rigor is required. Authentic biblical integration is the hallmark of our curriculum as we seek to unify an uncompromised core of knowledge, a thoroughly biblical worldview, the opportunity to discover individual gifts and talents, the practice of moral and social responsibility, and a transcendent purpose. Our Academic Success Center exists to support and implement accommodation plans for students with diagnosed learning differences, as well as come alongside those students who need additional learning support through the reteaching of classroom content and explicit instruction in executive functioning skills.

Technology: We strive to enhance student learning through the effective use of digital technology in every class and to equip students to be productive, responsible digital citizens. We currently have a one-to-one iPad program to help equip GCS high school students for a digital world. We also offer an introduction to computer programming course, a course in video production, an engineering design course, where computer-aided software is taught, and opportunities for students to assist with middle school STEM.

Fine Arts: The Grace fine arts department offers choir, band, orchestra, drum line, drama, and visual arts, including ceramics and film. Regular programs include several plays and concerts each year, a musical every other year, and numerous competitions. All of our arts programs have enjoyed great success through the years, and in 2022-2023 earned the following honors at the state level: 2nd in One-Act Play; 2nd in Field Band; Drum Line State Champion for the seventh time; 3rd in Art and Film; State Champion in Band for the first time; 2nd in Orchestra; and State Champion in Choir for the tenth time. All of these honors contributed greatly to GCS receiving the honor of the Henderson Cup for the 5th time.

Athletics: Grace athletic teams compete in TAPPS 5A in football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, soccer, swimming, track, tennis, golf, baseball, softball, cheerleading, drill team, and Esports. In 26 years of TAPPS competition, Grace has won 29 state championships, been runner-up twelve times, and won over 100 district championships.

In the Overall State Competition, which is determined by performance in athletics, fine arts and academics, GCS has placed in at least the top 6 every year for 23 of the last 24 years and been Overall State Champions four times. This distinction is a fitting illustration of our success and balance in academics and extracurricular programs.

Accelerated Courses

The following courses are taught at an advanced level. In order of increasing level of difficulty, courses may be designated as Honors (H), Advanced Placement (AP®) or Advanced (ADV). Weighting is explained under "Grade Average Computation."

Humanities

AP® English Language & Composition • AP® English Literature and Composition
AP® US History • AP® US Government and Politics

Mathematics

Geometry H • Algebra 2 H • Pre-calculus/Trig H • Statistics ADV • AP® Calculus AB

Science & Technology

Biology H • Chemistry H • Physics H • AP® Chemistry • AP® Physics C: Mechanics
Cell Biology ADV

Foreign Language

Spanish 3 H • AP® Spanish Language and Culture

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Graduation Requirements

GCS offers two programs of study. The Required program corresponds to the Texas Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement. The Prestigious Scholars program is more rigorous, including a minimum of four AP® classes and a third year of Foreign Language.

	Required	Prestigious Scholars
Bible	4 credits	4 credits
English	4 credits	4 credits
History	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits	4 credits
Lab Science	4 credits	4 credits
Foreign Language	2 credits	3 credits
Physical Education/Athletics	1 credit	1 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit
Speech	½ credit	½ credit
Elective	1½ credits	1½ credits
	26 credits	27 credits

All students are required to earn service hours during the four years of high school through the service learning model. Students earn hours through student activities, service to the school, church service, local community service and national/world service.

Grade Average Computation

Classes are assigned numeric grades on a 100 point scale. The cumulative average is derived from the averages of all courses completed at GCS in grades 9-12. Courses transferred from other schools are not included in the cumulative average.

Due to an increased level of difficulty, all courses designated AP® or ADV are weighted 5 points, and courses designated H are weighted 3 points. This is reflected in the student’s weighted cumulative average and weighted GPA.

Numeric Grade	4.0 Scale	Honors Course	AP/ADV Course
90-100	4.0	4.3	4.5
80-89	3.0	3.3	3.5
70-79	2.0	2.3	2.5
below 70	0	0	0

Class Rank

Grace Community School provides a rigorous college preparatory curriculum for all students and does not report class rank outside of the top ten percent. Students are ranked solely to identify those who fall within the top ten percent of each grade level and to determine valedictorian and salutatorian. Students are ranked based on their weighted cumulative averages for all classes completed at GCS in grades 9-12.

National Merit History

In 23 years of participation with the National Merit Scholarship Competition, 45 Grace students have been recognized as Commended Scholars, and 13 have been named Finalists.

ACT Averages (class of 2022)

	Top 10%	Mid 50%	Entire Class
English	35.3	21-29	25.4
Math	26.7	21-27	24.3
Reading	34.0	22-32	26.8
Science	31.0	22-26	25.7
Composite	31.7	22-28	25.7

SAT Averages (class of 2022)

	Top 10%	Mid 50%	Entire Class
EBRW	685	530-630	575
Math	632	510-560	546

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College Acceptances

(Bold indicates matriculation)

Abilene Christian University
Auburn University
Aurora University
Austin Community College
Baylor University
Bellhaven University
Belmont University
Blinn College
Brown University
California Baptist University
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
City College of New York
Colorado Christian University
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado State University
Colorado School of Mines
Cornell University
Dallas Baptist University
DePaul University
East Texas Baptist University
Eastfield College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gordon College
Grand Canyon University
Harding University
Hardin-Simmons University
Henderson State University
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Houston Baptist University
Howard Payne University
John Brown University
Kansas State University
Kilgore College
Lamar University
LeTourneau University
Liberty University
Lipscomb University
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
Lubbock Christian University
McLennan Community College
Middle Tennessee State University
Millsaps College
Mississippi College
Mississippi State University
Missouri State University
Montana State University
Northern Oklahoma College
Ohio State University
Oklahoma Baptist University
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Wesleyan University
Oral Roberts University
Quachita Baptist University
Pennsylvania State University
Point Loma Nazarene University
Purdue University
Rice University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Sam Houston State University

Samford University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Southeastern Oklahoma State
Southeastern University
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
St. Bonaventure University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University, Galveston
Texas Christian University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The College of New Jersey
The George Washington University
The Master’s University
Trinity University
Tyler Junior College
Union College New York
Union University
United States Air Force Academy
University of Alabama
University of Arkansas
University of California, Merced
University of Central Oklahoma
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Dallas
University of Florida
University of Houston
University of Kansas
University of Louisiana at Monroe
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Memphis
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri Columbia
University of New Mexico
University of North Texas
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas, Arlington
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, Dallas
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Texas, Tyler
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Toledo
University of Washington, Seattle
Vanderbilt University
Vanguard University
Washington University in St. Louis
Western Colorado University
Westmont College
Wheaton College IL
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University



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