



# *Teaching* JESUS. *Living* GRACE.

**A PARENT INFORMATION PACKET FOR  
GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**GRACE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

TYLER, TEXAS

**EARLY EDUCATION -  
12TH GRADE**



*What* are your  
**BIGGEST PRIORITIES**  
as you consider school  
options in our area?

*Alignment with your family's  
values? Academic excellence? A  
safe place for your child to grow?*

We believe our core values have something to offer you won't find elsewhere, and we're delighted you're considering Grace Community School.

A commitment to biblical truth and a passion for Teaching Jesus permeate everything we do in and around the classroom. This approach enables us to educate the whole child — body, mind, and spirit — as we develop their academic foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Today we will tell you about our school — a connected, thriving community. At Grace, families don't need to choose between an outstanding Christian education or a school with a deep roster of athletic teams, fine arts offerings, and other exciting extracurriculars. We are pleased to offer all these things because we understand how God will use your child's environment to shape them into the confident young man or woman they will become by graduation day.

Positive friendships, exceptional teachers, a rigorous curriculum, and spiritual formation all foster the most important things you could give your child: a strong start in life, an excellent education, and a desire to bless and serve others. We hope to meet you and your child one day soon. After reading this overview of Grace Community School, schedule a tour so you can see what we're about firsthand.

Sincerely,

**The Grace Admissions Team**

**SHARI WILSON**

Lower Campus Director of Admissions

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# Our Commitment to Families

**Grace Community School's mission is to assist Christian families in educating, equipping, and encouraging their children to influence the world for Christ. We accomplish this by Teaching Jesus, demonstrating to students the meaning of grace and what it looks like to live out God's purpose for their lives.**

**By the time your child has graduated from Grace, they will:**

- Understand that one's worth comes from Christ alone, and that they are a uniquely designed reflection of His glory
- Be well prepared in all academic disciplines, with the ability to use biblical discernment while finding, analyzing, and evaluating information
- Embrace and practice justice, mercy, integrity, courtesy, self-discipline, and peacemaking in relationships
- Develop a desire to respond to the Great Commission locally and globally in a culturally-relevant manner

## ***How do we put our mission into action to accomplish these goals?***

### **Prioritizing safety**

We value student safety and prioritize a secure campus. Our doors remain locked, surveillance cameras monitor the halls, and each campus has Personal Protective Officers. Faculty and staff are background checked, and our safe drop-off and pick-up process provides parents peace of mind. But there's more to safety than a secure campus — our core values foster a healthy culture — one where students feel seen, known, and loved. When they feel safe, they learn better.

### **Teaching for transformation**

The story of scripture is interwoven throughout our curriculum — God's creation of the world and humans, the fall of human beings, their redemption through Jesus Christ, and the ultimate restoration of creation. We don't just talk about these events in Bible class! Grace teachers create rigorous and practical learning experiences, engaging students in living out their faith in the community around them.

### **Partnering with parents**

At Grace, our philosophy puts the family first. We come alongside families to educate their children with a shared perspective and alignment of worldview. Students feel this strong connection between their home and school. Through our Parent Teacher Fellowship, we create opportunities for families to be involved in school life, whether volunteering in homeroom or being a part of extracurricular activities.



*Continue* reading to learn more about our educational philosophy and approach to each age and stage. When you're ready, [schedule a meeting with admissions](#) or a [campus tour](#).



# Grace Early Education

*8 weeks - K4*

*A loving, safe environment where creativity and playful learning meet*

During the early years, we help children experience the fun and joy that leads to an early excitement about learning.

## At Grace Early Education, your child will:

- Feel cared for and known in small class sizes
- Learn about Jesus as they are nurtured by Bible-believing teachers
- Grow cognitively, physically, and socially through hands-on learning activities
- Develop the readiness skills to thrive in kindergarten and beyond

## As a parent, you can expect:

- Committed and loving staff who will communicate with you regularly
- A strong emphasis on safety and quality: Our two early education campuses are highly secure and designed to keep our little learners safe
- Full-day care: Busy parents love that we are open 5 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Early Education Classes

- |                        |                   |                                |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ Infants (8 weeks+)   | ■ Two Year Olds   | ■ Four Year Olds               |
| ■ Toddlers (1-2 years) | ■ Three Year Olds | ■ K4 (Four and Five Year Olds) |



# Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten

## *Meeting each child where they are developmentally*

Knowing when your child is ready to start kindergarten or what type of program will best meet their needs can be challenging. As a parent, you want your little one to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, all while developing strong character.

At Grace, our Christ-centered kindergarten gives parents the flexibility to choose a program and schedule that best supports their child.

### **JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN**

(4-years-old on or before September 1)

*Junior kindergarten students may attend half or full days, two, three, or five days per week.*

### **KINDERGARTEN**

(5-years-old on or before September 1)\*

*Our kindergarten program is five days a week; students may attend half or full days.*

\*Young fives, or students who could benefit from the gift of time to continue developing their academic, social and emotional skills, may enroll in our junior kindergarten program.

## *Our junior kindergartners and kindergartners flourish through:*

### **Care and support**

Our experienced, loving teachers model Jesus daily. They will get to know your child — their personality, strengths, and gaps — and provide individualized attention to help them grow, keeping you informed along the way.

### **An active learning approach**

Your child will be active and engaged as they build foundational skills in the core subjects of reading, writing, math, and Bible. Kindergartners also attend enrichment classes such as music, art, Spanish, and P.E.

### **A stimulating environment**

From the playground to our classroom learning centers, kindergartners are immersed in an environment that encourages growth in motor skills, critical thinking, and creativity.

### **Spiritual growth**

At Grace, we're committed to Teaching Jesus at every age and stage. Bible memory verses, daily prayer, worship opportunities, and lessons on godly character help kindergartners develop a biblical worldview.

## → **LEARN MORE ABOUT JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN ON YOUR CAMPUS TOUR!**

Come see one of our kindergarten classrooms and explore all Grace has to offer. To set up your campus tour, please visit [gracetyler.org](http://gracetyler.org) or scan the QR code.



# Elementary School *Grades 1-4*

## ***Building a strong foundation for lifelong learners***

Elementary students are engaged in hands-on exploration as they develop strength in academic fundamentals. It's a time when deep and lasting friendships are formed, and students discover new interests in music, art, sports, and more. Our teachers and staff are passionate about teaching Jesus, whether it is in the classroom, on a field trip, or in Chapel.



### **Academic Development:**

Students will find a fun and challenging curriculum that includes Bible, math, phonics, cursive writing, vocabulary, reading comprehension, history, and STEM.



### **Teaching Jesus:**

Our passionate elementary teachers weave God's story into every lesson. Parents can rest assured that the biblical values they've instilled at home are being reinforced at Grace.



### **Enriched Learning:**

Every child has unique, God-given gifts. We encourage growth in these areas through hands-on STEM projects, music, art, P.E., and Spanish. Field trips, performances, and academic competitions enrich the experience.



*"The elementary campus is a structured and loving environment where in the halls, the love for Christ and children can truly be felt. Grace provides an academically rigorous education that puts Christ at the forefront of everything they teach. Grace has accomplished the very difficult task of balancing both preparing our children to succeed in higher education while also preparing them for an even higher calling — ambassadorship for Christ in a world that needs HIM!"*

**-The Foreman Family**

# Middle School *Grades 5-8*



## *Cultivating their emerging gifts and academic interests*

Middle school is an exciting time when students become more independent, but still need a supportive environment where they can feel safe to try new things. Our intentionally designed campus groups 5th and 6th graders in one space, and 7th and 8th graders in another, which aligns with their maturity and academic development. These four years are filled with opportunities for growth — a rigorous curriculum, arts, athletics, service, and leadership help students make the most of this season.

### **At Grace, your middle school student will:**

- Master core subjects and explore courses that interest them personally and professionally
- Develop strong community through their Legacy groups (our house system that continues through grade 12)
- Grow deeper in their knowledge of Jesus, solidifying their faith and shoring up their values
- Strengthen important life skills needed for success in high school, college, and career, including self-discipline, initiative, teamwork, and empathy
- Be mentored daily by dedicated teachers who know their students well and care about their success in the classroom and beyond

*“Our children have thrived at GCS! They have made close friends and grown through art and music, athletics, and academics. They’ve heard God’s Word consistently and have been encouraged to study it and treasure it. They’ve had truth and godly character spoken into their lives by their teachers and coaches.”*

**-The Hood Family**



# High School *Grades 9-12*

## *Preparing students for college and life*

By the time our students reach high school, they are well on their way to becoming independent thinkers, excellent communicators, and mature Christ followers. Our academic program is enriched with exciting extracurriculars, inspiring experiences, and leadership opportunities so students can discover their passions and seek God's calling on their lives. As they prepare for the future, they receive unwavering support from teachers and peers in a family-like environment. We see high school as a time of bringing together all the threads of student development for academic, physical, and spiritual formation.

### **At Grace, high schoolers:**

- Become prepared to encounter ideas that run counter to the Christian faith, developing a biblical framework that points back to a loving and wise creator
- Enjoy a wide variety of enrichment opportunities where they can build friendships with like-minded peers and develop their God-given talents
- Exemplify their faith by dedicating time to service each year.
- Spend four years intentionally planning for college, from identifying best-fit schools to submitting compelling applications and securing scholarships

*"While no school is perfect, we have found Grace to be a perfect fit for our family. Grace is truly a unique gift to its students and families in that it offers an award-winning Christian education coupled with opportunities to participate in traditional clubs and sports — all with a unified mission to "teach Jesus."*

**-The Pope Family**



# Grace University

*A flexible hybrid school for students in kindergarten through grade 8*

If you're looking for a non-traditional school experience that combines on-campus classes and at-home learning, we invite you to learn more about Grace University. Our hybrid program allows families to maximize time together, enjoy a flexible schedule, and still benefit from classroom instruction led by expert teachers. All subjects are taught from a biblical perspective and parents serve as co-teachers, supporting their children as they work through lessons crafted by Grace University teachers.

## How It Works:


- Students in K-6 spend two school days on campus each week
- Students in grades 7-8 are on campus two and a half days each week
- When your child is on campus, they will receive individualized attention from caring teachers and enjoy being a part of the Grace community
- At home, your child will practice key concepts learned in class as they work through lessons provided by the Grace University teacher
- As your child's co-teacher, you will assist them as they work through these lessons
- Our Parent University provides you with the training and resources to feel confident in your role as co-teacher and help your child succeed

## As a Grace University student, your child will have access to:

- Grace Community School's exceptional facilities, including the Logos Lab, library, athletic fields, and gymnasium
- Caring teachers who will get to know your child, celebrate their strengths, and nurture their growth as they overcome gaps
- Opportunities to participate in arts programs or athletics (both youth leagues and competitive sports)
- Exciting field trips (self-organized) with other Grace University families

*"We were completely overwhelmed when we first started our school search. There were so many options but not sure which one would fit our family best. After having a tour and seeing how Grace University gave us both time home learning but also provided such an excellent and top notch education. We knew it was exactly what we were looking for! Both of our children who attend Grace University have grown leaps and bounds academically and emotionally! The way the teachers pour into each student in such a personal way is priceless!"*

**Courney O'Kelley - Grace University Parent**



**Character.**  
**Excellence.**  
**Perseverance.**

**56**  
Teams

**20**  
Different  
Sports

## Grace Athletics

On or off the field or court, we're always proud of our athletes. Our Cougars play hard and have helped develop the character of a long line of Grace graduates. Athletic leagues begin in third grade with competitive play beginning in sixth grade. Nearly 80% of Grace High School students are involved in at least one sport. Our teams have won six state championships, had six state runner-up finishes, and eleven final four finishes, as well as 29 district championships and nine regional championships.

- Football
- Volleyball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Golf
- Cheer
- Cougarettes
- Sports Medicine

### *Fun Fact:*

For back-to-back years (2021 and 2022) Grace was the Henderson Cup Champion in the overall state championship sponsored by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). The Henderson Cup is presented annually to the school that earns the most points in 27 TAPPS competitions throughout the school year. TAPPS competitions include three areas: academics, fine arts, and athletics.

## Creativity. Innovation. Greatness.

### *The Arts at Grace*

Grace Community School proudly offers our students a wide variety of artistic curricula. From the biblically themed crafts and presentations in our lower grades up through our award-winning Fine Arts department at the Upper Campus, opportunities abound for children seeking creative engagement. Great attention has been devoted to ensuring the arts programs at GCS are top notch. While elementary students automatically have art and music classes built into their weekly schedules, our middle and high school students enjoy electing courses from categories such as visual arts, band, orchestra, drama, film, and stagecraft.



## Building Confidence in Identity:

# What does a Grace graduate look like?

**Consider our graduates — nearly 2,000 since we opened our doors in 1973! While Grace alumni are diverse in their passions, abilities, and professional pursuits, they demonstrate a collective record of achievement that underscores the benefits of their Christian education.**



All students are required to earn service hours during the four years of high school through the service learning model.



Nearly 80% of our high school students participate in athletics, and 60% are involved in the arts.



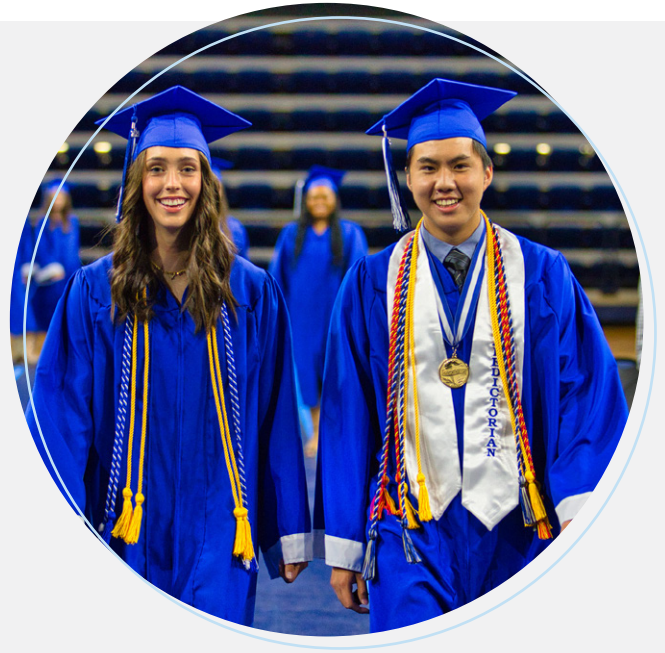
100% of our seniors are accepted to college, and in 2022, they secured over \$9 million in scholarships.



13 Grace graduates have been named Merit Scholarship Finalists. In 22 years of participation with the National Merit Scholarship Competition, 45 Grace students have been recognized as Commended Scholars.



Most importantly, Grace graduates are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world. They understand that the “good life” cannot be purchased, but must be cultivated through the discipline and habits of biblical virtue.



## A look at where our graduates go next...

Auburn University

University of Chicago

Brown University

University of Maryland

Cornell University

University of Tennessee

Baylor University

University of Texas

Mississippi State University

Vanderbilt University

Savannah College of Art & Design

Wheaton College

Texas A&M University

Yale University

United States Air Force Academy

*\*This is only a small sampling of schools to which Grace graduates have matriculated. For a full list of colleges and acceptances and matriculations, please [contact our admissions team](#).*



## WE CAN'T WAIT *to meet you.*

*When it comes to choosing a school for your child, nothing compares to experiencing the learning environment firsthand! Our campus tours will give you the best sense of what we have to offer and provide you with the opportunity to connect with someone who can answer your specific questions.*



### ***What to Expect On Your Campus Tour***

Explore our beautiful campus by joining us for an on-campus visit. On your tour, you will have the chance to see:



- The classrooms where your child will be learning each day
- Our cafeteria, where students form lasting friendships over shared meals
- Enrichment spaces, where talents are cultivated in the arts, music, athletics, technology, and more
- Athletic facilities, where we cheer on our Cougars in 20 different sports
- Our main office, including our secure drop-off and pickup areas

Students in grades 5-12 can also join us for a shadow day to experience life as a Grace Cougar. To register, email [amber.bowler@gracetyler.org](mailto:amber.bowler@gracetyler.org).

## ***Questions?***

Please contact our admissions team at (903) 566-5678 or [admissions@gracetyler.org](mailto:admissions@gracetyler.org).

**GRACE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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