

**Grand Rapids Christian Elementary School  
Evergreen Campus**

# **Parent Handbook**

**1630 Griggs St. SE | Grand Rapids, MI | 49506  
TEL 616.574.5900 FAX 616.574.9010  
[www.GRCS.org/Evergreen](http://www.GRCS.org/Evergreen)**

## SCHOOL DAY

### **SCHOOL HOURS**

8:00am	School Begins
10:25 -10:50am	Recess
12:30am	Lunch
12:45 -1:10pm	Recess
3:00pm	Dismissal

### **PRESCHOOL HOURS**

8:15 -10:50am	Morning Preschool
12:10 - 2:45pm	Afternoon Preschool
8:15am - 2:45pm	All Day Preschool

Half Day Dismissal 12:00pm

Because teachers often have commitments (meetings, preparation, etc.) prior to the start of classes, students are encouraged to arrive at school no earlier than 15 minutes before their class starts. Students are expected to go home right after school. Supervision typically ends 15 minutes after school dismisses or once the last bus has left. Children who are without supervision before 7:45am or after 3:15pm will be sent to the Kids Care at the expense of the parent/guardian.

**BEFORE & AFTER CARE** - Kids Care provides before and after school care at the Evergreen Campus on school days only from 7:00-8:15am and 2:45-6:00pm. If school is cancelled or delayed before care will not be available. On scheduled half days there will be no aftercare available. For registration or more information about Kids Care please visit the website [www.grcs.org/KidsCare](http://www.grcs.org/KidsCare).

**LUNCH** – Lunch is available for purchase daily and provided by Grand Rapids Christian Schools Food Service. Monthly menus with hot and cold lunch options are available in the school office and on the website [www.grcs.org/Schools/HotLunch](http://www.grcs.org/Schools/HotLunch). Milk, white and chocolate, is available for purchase as well.

Grand Rapids Christian Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program, a free and reduced price meal benefit available from the federal government. Applications and information about the program are available on the food service website [www.grcs.org/Schools/HotLunch](http://www.grcs.org/Schools/HotLunch).

The Grand Rapids Christian School's lunch service is a prepay program through The Meal Magic Account System. Deposits can be made by check or cash through the school office free of charge or by credit card at [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com) for an additional processing fee.

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS** - Should it be necessary, we have arranged with radio and television stations in the area to make announcements about school closing. It is well to be tuned in when weather conditions seem to warrant school closing. Radio stations include WOOD (105.7 FM), WCSG (91.3) WCUZ (101.3 FM), and TV Channels WOOD TV 8 and WZZM 13 OR check the website at [www.grcs.org](http://www.grcs.org). This decision rests with the Superintendent or his designee. The announcement might not mention "G.R. Christian Elementary School – Evergreen Campus" but rather the "Grand Rapids Christian Schools". Generally, school closings will be broadcast by 6:00 am.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance is compulsory by Michigan law. Grand Rapids Christian School is responsible to keep complete attendance records. Regular school attendance is extremely important and essential for successful school progress.

**ABSENCES** - When a student will be absent from school, a parent or guardian must contact the office by phone or email by 8:00am, the same day of the absence. The voicemail is accessible 24 hours so messages may be left the night before as well. If a student is not reported late or absent by 8:00am, calls will be made until we can be certain of the child's safety and well being. Please also use this

message system for reporting absences and/or times your student (s) will be late due to appointments or other reasons.

Please report: Your student's name

The day/date of your child's absence or tardiness

The reason for their absence (if sick please report symptoms)

If a late arrival, please indicate if a school lunch is to be ordered for your student

Students who arrive after the school day has started must report to the school office in order to sign in and receive an admission pass.

If a student becomes ill or must leave school for an appointment, school staff must be notified and the student needs to be signed out in the school office before leaving. Students will not be sent home from school for any reason without parent consent. We will have an emergency authorization form on file including the name of an emergency contact if the parent is not at home.

**EXTENDED ABSENCES** - When a student is absent as a result of a family vacation, teachers will work with parents to keep the student up-to-date in his/her school work. Teachers are not required to prepare student homework prior to the student's leaving. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the teacher to find out which was missed. The teacher will decide what and when make-up work and tests will be given and must be completed.

**TARDIES** – Please make every effort to have your student at school before 7:55am. This allows your student time enough to put away their things and get into the classroom before 8:00am, the start of school. The first fifteen minutes of your student's schedule is very important in setting the mood and performance for the rest of the day. All the classrooms begin the day in devotions, daily announcements and hot/cold lunch ordering.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM SCHOOL**

**HOME BULLETIN** - The school communicates primarily through the home bulletin, which is published electronically on Tuesdays when school is in session. The home bulletin is sent to the email addresses provided on your enrollment agreement. It is also archived on the GRCS- Evergreen website. If you desire a paper copy please contact the school office.

**CLASSROOM BLOGS** - Teachers update classroom specific events and learning specifics on their classroom blogs. An email is sent to notify parents/guardians of new blog posts.

**PROGRESS REPORTS** - For students in grades K-5, a copy of your student's Progress Report (report card) will be sent home at the end of each semester. It will also be available online. Please contact the office for your login name and password.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES** - In the fall and spring classroom teachers set aside time for parent/teacher conferences. While it is not required, we encourage parents to take the time to meet and review their child's progress. Also, please be respectful of the time the teacher has set aside to discuss your student. Notify the office immediately if you cannot keep your scheduled time.

**PROBLEM SOLVING** – Open and honest communication between parents and teachers is very important and the responsibility of both. It is within the context of open communication that problems will be solved. If parents have questions or comments regarding general school policy, they should contact administrative staff to discuss these concerns. In other situations parents are asked to contact the staff person who is closest to the situation. If the situation is unresolved, the principal should be contacted.

## **BUILDING SECURITY**

It is very important for our students, staff and parents to feel safe and secure at school. When we partner together on safety issues we can be assured that all will respond with caution and confidence in the case of an emergency.

**VISITOR SIGN IN** - The GRCES-Evergreen Campus requires that all non-GRCS employees sign in at the school office and obtain a visitor nametag which should be worn for the duration of their time in the building. Visitors need to sign out upon leaving.

**DRILLS** - State regulations require that we have fire, tornado and lockdown drills during the school year. A log of each schools drills can be found on the website at [www.grcs.org/schools/emergencydrills](http://www.grcs.org/schools/emergencydrills) in accordance with Public Act 12 of 2014.

**CRISIS PLAN** - There is comprehensive crisis management manual that addresses what the staff will do in case of various emergency situations. A copy of this manual is given to and reviewed with each staff member yearly. Necessary crisis documents are kept in a pouch hung by each classroom door. Copies are available to parents upon request to the school office.

## **WEATHER SAFETY**

**RECESS** – Students are expected to spend their recess time outdoors. Please send your students dressed appropriately for the weather. In the summer this includes sunscreen and in the winter snow pants, coat, boots, hat and gloves/mittens. Please clearly mark these items with your student's name or initials. The school assumes no responsibility for lost items. In the case of inclement weather, including temperature OR wind chill that has fallen below zero, children will be allowed to stay indoors.

**TORNADO WATCH** - School will not be dismissed if a tornado watch is issued. The school will monitor the weather conditions closely. No after-school activities will be conducted if a TORNADO WATCH is in effect at the site of the scheduled activity at 3:00pm. If a TORNADO WATCH is in effect at the site of a scheduled evening activity one hour before the beginning of that activity, the activity will be cancelled. Parents who wish to pick up their children at school may do so.

**TORNADO WARNING** – Students will not be dismissed during a tornado warning. The school will guide students to their designated take cover areas until the warning is lifted. If the warning is lifted during school hours students will be dismissed from school at the normal time.

**WINTER STORM POLICY** - For school closing information tune into WOOD (105.7 FM), WCSG (91.3) WCUZ (101.3 FM), and TV Channels 8 and 13 OR check the website at [www.grcs.org](http://www.grcs.org). There will be NO School if a general closing is announced for the GR Christian Schools.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & GUIDELINES**

**RESPECT** – Students are responsible for treating themselves and all other students and adults with the respect due to them as given by God. For example this means no put-downs, verbal abuse, back-talk or inappropriate remarks to other students or those in authority. Students are responsible for carrying out the instructions of teachers, administrators, aides, substitute teachers, coaches, tutors, etc.

**APPEARANCE & GROOMING** - We believe that there is a connection between clothing and behavior. We expect, therefore, that our students should come to school clean, neat and in clothing

that is in good taste and in good repair. Clothing and grooming considered distracting, indecent, or inappropriate will not be allowed.

**STUDENT LANGUAGE** - If a student uses profanity, violent phrases or other inappropriate language our teachers and administrators consider it a teaching opportunity and will deal with it directly in a firm, loving manner. Our students are taught that bad language does not honor God and will not be tolerated at school. If the problem persists with a particular student the parents will be then notified.

**PROPERTY** – Students learn good stewardship in caring for their own belongings and respecting the property of others. Students are expected to treat school property with respect including buildings, their furnishings, learning materials, technology, and school grounds. Students are also expected to respect other’s property (desks lockers, locker contents, supplies, etc.) It is important for students to take responsibility when they cause damage to things that do not belong them. If this occurs the school will work with the student and parents towards an equitable agreement for restitution.

**CELL PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – Students may bring their cell phones and communication devices to school but must have them turned off/silenced for the full school day and while on our campus. The school prohibits the use of any video or picture taking device from any restroom, locker room, classroom or other location where students and staff have reasonable expectation of privacy. GRCS staff reserves the right to confiscate any cell phone, or similar device when a student is not using it accordance with our guidelines, policy or expectations. Any confiscated device must be picked up by a parent or guardian.

**PROHIBITED ITEMS** - The use of some items is prohibited on school property. This includes, but is not limited to fireworks, water or air pistols or anything that can be used as a weapon. If these items are seen at school, they will be confiscated. Possession of these items may also result in additional disciplinary actions.

**POLICY ON WEAPONS, DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO** - A student apprehended in possession of an illicit or controlled substance(s) or alcohol during the school day or at school functions shall be subject to discipline as follows:

- A. The student will immediately be placed in the custody of the Principal or her appointed representative.
- B. The Principal will immediately contact the student's parents and a designated member of the Principal’s Advisory Team.
- C. Following this, there will be a conference attended by the student, the parent, and the Principal. The discussion will include therapeutic action to be taken and a warning of what the results of a second occurrence would be. The student will be released to parental custody or police custody if appropriate.
- D. The student will be suspended from school for up to two weeks.
- E. The student will be allowed to return from suspension following a conference with the parents and the Principal concerning actions, which have been taken by the family to correct the problem. The student will be on probation in accordance with terms set by the board.
- F. The distribution or sale of either alcohol or illicit or controlled substance(s) at school or school functions will result in immediate expulsion and notification of the police.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Discipline is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for others. The goal of school discipline is the development of the child in these areas.

The focus of discipline is our deep desire to have students learn from their mistakes and to develop an intense commitment to do right. We are training children to live by God's command to love their neighbor as themselves. Our discipline practices encourage children to always give their best effort. We expect them to be God's healing agents in the world they live in.

## **EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT DIGNITY POLICY**

GRCS seeks to provide its employees and students an environment that is free of offensive kinds of behavior. Conduct, whether intentional or unintentional, which subjects another person to unwanted attention, unwanted comments, or unwanted actions because of race, national origin, age, sex, physical characteristic, or disability, or other harassment or activity which robs the person of self-esteem, is not permitted.

Harassment of others, whether engaged in by employees, supervisors, students, or other persons who may be present in our facilities, is not allowed by GRCS.

We live in an age when one person might interpret behavior as harmless bantering or flirtation, while another might view this same behavior as intimidating or harassing. Any person, therefore, who believes s/he has been subjected to what s/he would interpret as intimidating or harassing behavior is encouraged to confront this person in the spirit of reconciliation so that a mutual understanding of what is appropriate behavior can result.

Should the victim find it too difficult to confront the person, or should this contact not reach satisfactory resolution, then the victim should report it to an appropriate superior.

Students should report to a teacher or administrator so that this matter can be dealt with in a timely manner. This staff person (other than the principal) will notify and brief the building principal within 24 hours of receiving information from a student, parent, or guardian. The staff member would assist in bringing resolution to the matter.

In situations involving unresolved allegations between students, the principal will conduct a timely investigation using the same formats s/he would use to investigate any alleged wrong inflicted on one student by another student. Any student who is determined to have violated this policy will be subject to corrective action and discipline. Repeat violations could result in expulsion.

In situations involving unresolved allegations between a student and a staff member, that student, or parent, or guardian is expected to contact the building principal and file a report. After determining that attempts to bring resolution between the two parties are either inappropriate or have left either party feeling unsatisfied, the principal will inform the superintendent that a report has been filed. The principal will follow with a timely, discreet investigation. (A complete copy of this policy is available at the school office.)

## **TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA USE POLICY**

**TECHNOLOGY** - As we prepare our students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society,

staff incorporate digital tools into learning experiences for content creation, communication, and collaboration. In order to facilitate a Christian educational environment, students are expected to adhere to the expectations in the [GRCS Technology Handbook](#). Parent permission is required for students to access some website content that is pre-selected by staff to support and deepen learning.

**MEDIA CENTER (LIBRARY)** - The media center has books, magazines, and pamphlets for assigned study and recreational reading. Students are expected to treat these materials with respect returning them in the same condition and in a timely manner. Students may be required to pay for damaged or lost books. Fines may be assessed for overdue materials.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES** - When a student is not feeling well, s/he should be kept home from school until it is determined that no contagious disease is present. Having a student absent for a day is better than exposing an entire classroom to a communicable disease.

We are required to report the following immunization preventable diseases to the Health Department immediately upon diagnosis. PLEASE CONTACT US RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR CHILD CONTRACTS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: Encephalitis, Haemophilus Influenza Type B, Hepatitis, Measles, Meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), or Rubella.

In effort to keep the number of illness at school to a minimum please consider the following guidelines provided by the Kent County Health Department in determining the appropriate amount of time before your student should return to school.

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>INCUBATION</u>	<u>EXCLUDE FROM SCHOOL</u>	<u>MAY RETURN</u>
Acute Cold	12-72 hours	At least 3 days	Upon Recovery
Chicken Pox	2-3 weeks	At least 7 days	When skin is clear
Diphtheria	2-5 days	Variable	Permit necessary
Fever		At least 1 day	After fever free for 24 hours
Fifth Disease	4-20 days	No longer contagious when rash appears	
Head Lice		24 hours AFTER last treatment provided student is clear	
Impetigo	2-5 days		When sores are dry, no scabs
Influenza	1-2 days	Variable	Upon recovery
German/Red Measles	14-21 days	At least 7 days	Upon Recovery
Mumps	12-26 days	At least 7 days	When swelling is gone
Pink Eye	3-5 days	Variable	When eye is clear
Polio	7-14 days	At least 7 days	When Doctor permits
Rheumatic Fever	3wks-6mos following strep infection		
Ringworm	8-16 days	Not necessary if under medical treatment	
Scarlett Fever	2-7 days	At least 7 days	
Strep Throat		At least 24-48 hours after antibiotics	
Whooping Cough	7-10 days	At least 21 days	Upon recovery

**FIRST AID** – The school does not employ a medical nurse. Office staff have been assigned to distribute medication, handle emergencies, pass out band aides, etc. Office staff and designated teaching staff have been trained in first aid and CPR. If a student has special circumstances, detailed information must be given to office staff.

**HEAD LICE POLICY** – Although head lice do not cause great medical harm they are contagious and raise anxiety in students and families. We will work to prevent the spread of head lice at school by checking the homerooms of students and siblings of students who have a confirmed report of head

lice. Also, periodic checks will be done in classrooms where there are students who have signs of head lice such as scratching or visible nits (eggs). Notification and treatment recommendations will be sent home in the event of a confirmed case. Students with head lice may not return to school until the condition is treated.

**IMMUNIZATION POLICY** – Grand Rapids Christian Schools, in accordance with Michigan law, requires that all students have and maintain adequate written records that a student has been immunized against illness required by Michigan statutes. Compliance with this policy is requested within fifteen school days after admission. Thereafter your student may be excluded from school. Students who are exempt from required immunizations for medical or nonmedical reasons must have a copy of the certified waiver on file in the school office before a student may be enrolled.

**CRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS** – Students with chronic health conditions (ie. diabetes, asthma, etc.) may enroll at Grand Rapids Christian Schools and will be eligible for accommodations/modifications/interventions of the regular classroom, curriculum, or school activity with every effort made to provide them the same access to an education as students without disabilities. Designated staff will be provided appropriate training specific to procedures in order to assist student's needs.

**LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY** – As a Christian school community we have a legal and ethical obligation to follow physician's recommendations to safe guard the health of students who have been diagnosed with life threatening allergies. Therefore, when students with life threatening allergies are diagnosed and/or enrolled GRCS will designate the school and/or specific classrooms as allergen free zones. The office will notify all parents of the allergen free zones on an annual basis or as changes arise. **Parent cooperation is essential to implementing this policy. Please help us keep our students safe.**

#### **MEDICATION POLICY - Administration of Oral Medication**

The act of administering oral medication to students constitutes the practice of medicine. The Grand Rapids Christian Schools recognizes that the law authorizes school administrators, teachers, and other designated employees to administer oral medication when requested in writing by a parent, guardian, or adult student in accordance with the instructions and supervision of the student's physician.

In order to assist parents/guardians and adult students in promoting and maintaining the health of students and to maintain the highest possible level of functioning of impaired students, the Board of Education authorizes the administration of prescribed and non-prescribed oral medication to students by school administrators, teachers, or other school employees designated by the school administrator, pursuant to a written request of the students' parent/guardian or adult student. The oral medication must be administered in compliance with the instructions of a physician.

The Board recognizes that, as stated in the School Code of 1976, Act 451, S1178 a "a school administrator, teacher, or other school employee designated by the school administrator, who in good faith administers medication to a pupil in the presence of another adult pursuant to written permission of the student's parents or guardian and in compliance with the instructions of a physician, is not liable in a criminal action or for civil damages as a result of the administration except for an act of omission amounting to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

**Procedure for Administration of Medication** - Oral medication may be administered to students by school personnel only according to the following conditions:



- A. The parent/guardian has requested the school in writing to administer medication in compliance with label instructions, and:
1. has brought the medication directly to the school office, or
  2. has given the medication to an adult staff person in a properly labeled container
- B. The medication is administered by an administrator or staff person(s) designated by the administrator.
1. The administrator will designate one or more persons to administer all medication in the building.
  2. Medication is administered in an appropriate place so as to preserve the dignity of the student.
  3. Permanent written record is kept of all medication administered. Long-term medication shall be noted in the cumulative file at time of transfer.
  4. Medication is kept in a locked location.
  5. The student's physician must have prescribed the medication and submitted written instructions for its administration.
  6. Administration of medication must cease at the written request of the parent/guardian or at the end of the time period of the prescription.
  7. Changes in the medication dosage may only be made according to the written instructions of the student's physician.
  8. The student's parent/guardian shall provide the school with a renewal physician's order at least annually for students needing to receive medication over a length of time. Renewal orders will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- C. Noncompliance of policy and rules will lead to discontinuation of administration of medication at school.
1. Parents/guardians will be notified of students observed with or taking medication apart from this policy and rules.
  2. Where conditions are not followed, staff may refuse to continue the administration of medication.

NOTE: An aspirin-free pain reliever will only be administered to students with parental permission obtained on the Emergency Contact & Consent Form filed at the beginning of each school year.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

**SUPPORT SERVICES** - Based on our use of a Response to Intervention (RTI) tiered-instructional framework, our Support Service staff members provide educational support for students who require inclusion services, remediation, an academic boost, and/or enrichment. The Support Services program has a wide variety of resources available, including access to psychological and educational diagnostic testing.

Through a partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools, students who qualify can receive the following special services:

- Speech Therapy
- Physical or Occupational Therapy
- Inclusive Education (for moderate to severe impairments)
- Social Work

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**BUSING** - Bus transportation is provided for our constituents by Grand Rapids Christian Schools and Grand Rapids Public Schools as follows:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Qualifying Distance*</u>
<b>Elementary (K-5)</b>	<b>1.0 mile</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>Door to door</b>

\*Qualifying Distance means you must live this far away from school in order to qualify for transportation.

Your specific bus route and pick up/drop off locations will be determined and communicated through the GRCS transportation department. If you have questions regarding busing please contact them at 574-5710.

Students desiring to ride a bus other than the one assigned to them must provide the driver with a dated note signed by the principal or office staff.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES –**

1. Be at the bus stop **five minutes early**, both morning and evening. (The driver is responsible for maintenance of the bus schedule and cannot wait for tardy pupils.)
2. No sleds are allowed on the busses.
3. Stand back from the curb edge or roadway - stand quietly.
4. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to get on or off the bus.
5. Be seated and refrain from moving around while the bus is in motion.
6. No pushing or loud talking.
7. Profanity will not be tolerated.
8. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
9. Keep the bus clean and orderly - never put anything in aisles. (Throwing articles out of the bus is strictly prohibited.)
10. Enter and leave the bus at the front door (except in cases of emergency).
11. Emergency doors are for emergency use only. Do not tamper with them.
12. Obey the driver at all times.

The driver has been ordered to enforce the above regulations. They will have no alternative but to report violations, and transportation may be denied. Written permission to ride again would be necessary from the school Principal.

**PICK UP/DROP OFF** – If you plan to pick up or drop off your student at school please only do so in the turn around located at the front of the building at 1630 Griggs St SE. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE PICK UP/DROP OFF LANE. This lane is intended for those who are not getting out of their cars. Also, the Sylvan Ave. side of the building is for bus traffic only. Please do not park or drop off your student on this side of the building.

**BICYCLES/ROLLERBLADES, SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS** - Students may ride bicycles, rollerblades, scooters or skateboards to school. However, bicycles are to be parked and locked in the bike rack located in front of school. Rollerblades and skateboards should be stored in classrooms. Bicycles, rollerblades and skateboards are not to be used on the school grounds during school or noon hours. The privilege of taking these items to school will be denied to any student who cannot exercise acceptable self-control in their use. The school assumes no responsibility for vandalism or theft of these items.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Christian education is a partnership between parents and the school. Parents are valued as active partners and are encouraged and expected to be involved in the school experience of their children, to assist them with school work as necessary, to provide positive home conditions for learning, and to attend and participate in conference, concerts, and special presentations. There are numerous opportunities for parental involvement at school, such as assisting with class trips or special class activities, serving as tutors for students, volunteering in classrooms, office, library, serving on advisory teams, and assisting with PTO projects, events, and fund raisers. Specific information about these opportunities can be obtained from school staff. Educational research continues to indicate that parental involvement is essential to provide students with an excellent academic program.

**PARENT ORGANIZATIONS:** There are 2 standing parent/staff teams

Parent Teacher Organizations: The GRCES PTO supports all GRCS elementary staff, students and school communities by organizing volunteers, activities and fundraisers. The Evergreen PTO is a sub group of the GRCES PTO that focuses on Evergreen specific events.

The Principal Advisory Team: The PAT includes 4-6 parents, 2-3 teachers and the principal. The team reviews school decisions and serves as a sounding board for the principal.

**MOMS IN PRAYER** - Prayer support for our school is essential. One way this is accomplished is through groups of parents meeting on a regular basis to pray for the needs of our school community. The time and place are announced periodically in the Tuesday Home Bulletins. Whether you join these groups or not, always remember to pray for God's guidance in Christian education and for our efforts on His behalf in the lives of our children.

## **STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**SERVICE-LEARNING** – GRCS' mission statement is "GRCS prepares students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society." Service-learning is a natural way for students to become servants. Teachers (in some cases working with parents) will provide both grade level and all school service opportunities for all students each school year. Please note these opportunities when they are announced and consider how your family can support them.

**CHAPEL** – Gathering as a school community to worship is a weekly practice for students and staff. The Chapel schedule rotates through three different types of worship experiences: praise and worship, prayer circles and special speakers. Occasionally the special speakers are our students assisting us in welcoming in a new phase in the religious calendar or a special opportunity. Parents and siblings are always welcome to attend chapel. Please reference the home bulletin for more specific chapel information.

### **SPORTS OFFERINGS -**

GRCS Youth Sports Department offers and advertises many different athletic opportunities for both GRCS students and the Grand Rapids community for Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Their website can be found at <http://www.grcs.org/NetCommunity/YouthSports>.

Through our partnership with the Grand Rapids Christian Middle School we are able to offer middle school sports opportunities to Evergreen's 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this "no cut" opportunity to learn a new sport, be active and make friends. Opportunities will be advertised in the home bulletin or sent home by the GRCMS Athletic Director.