

LIVING GRACE
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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message:

Is the Sacrifice Worth It?

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

In this economy, family budgets are often stretched to the limit. With the cost of school tuition, many parents may be asking the question, "Is the sacrifice worth it?" I know of many families who go to great lengths to make sure their children are able to come to Living Grace Christian School. I admire their commitment to ensuring their children receive an education that partners with them to raise up their children to be champions of God. Still, the question is raised, "Is the sacrifice in terms of time and finances worth the effort to have our children go to a school that supports the Christ-like training that we desire for him or her?" This article endeavors to answer this question.



First, at Living Grace Christian School, our children receive a thoroughly integrated Biblical education. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 tells us as parents to impress God's Word upon our children. We're to train our children in the way that they should go. Our children are very impressionable. The teacher that we place in front of our children as well as the curriculum that we give our children to, will make an impression on them. Therefore, we want to make sure that we are impressing our children with the Word of God. God calls us to sow the Word of God into our children in order that the soil of their hearts will be of good substance.

Second, at Living Grace Christian School, our children are regularly encouraged that God has a special purpose and destiny for their lives. They are taught that they have been created by God Himself—in His image—with God-ordained value. The Lord tells our children that they have been created for a reason—that there is a purpose for their existence. By our mission, the students come to school with the express purpose to be raised up to be champions for God. That means that they will intentionally commit themselves to the cause of Christ as well as seek to find out how God desires to use them in His cause. They will find their destiny in Christ. Our teachers focus on each child's true value and worth in the sight of the Lord. We help them to discover their gifts, and we challenge them to be growing as servant leaders of godly character. We equip them in leadership principles of servanthood, being an example, walking in courage, and strong communication skills.

Third, at Living Grace Christian School, our children are placed in a nurturing environment that promotes their growth in the Lord. We take very seriously the need for an encouraging environment—one in which each student can thrive. One of our

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting Living Grace Christian School in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. **Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Endowment Fund.” Contributions to this fund support the building of the expanded facility. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo. Also, we ask you to invite family and friends to give toward your child’s school expansion. Gifts can be made online at lgcs.northgatecc.org—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.

Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
 2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
 3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
 4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
 5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
 6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
 7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire student body.
 8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with their Biblical beliefs.
 9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
 10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
 11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
 12. That these children would know that God has a purpose for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations!
- Thank you for your prayers!**





Is the Sacrifice Worth It?

(continued from page 1)

five standards is “Wholesome and encouraging talk” taken from Ephesians 4:29: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (NIV). In addition, our environment is one in which children “do not get lost,” so to speak. Rather, teachers and parents

are able to keep “tabs” on the children’s spiritual, behavioral, and academic progress. And that leads me to the next point.

Fourth, at Living Grace Christian School, our children have teachers that are committed to working well with parents. We believe in the principle that a strong three-stranded cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12) of the parents, the church, and the school working together enables the children to prosper in their growth as disciples of Christ. We seek to close the communication gap, which is an infamous problem in schools. In other words, when parents need to talk with teachers, they are able to do so. Students don’t fall “through the cracks.” Instead, any developing issues are dealt with quickly so that all students can continue to move forward positively.

Lastly, at Living Grace Christian School, our children receive an excellent education with the finest of curriculum materials. With the A Beka Books as the backbone of our curricular resources, our children are ensured of a godly, thorough, and high-quality educational program. In an educational environment marked by many fads that come and go, we use a consistent approach across the various subject areas and throughout the grades that has been shown to be effective as demonstrated in standardized test scores.



So, “Is the sacrifice worth it?” The answer is a resounding—“Yes!” When we take a **long-term viewpoint** regarding the very important need of our children being raised up not simply to blend in to the culture but rather to make a difference as champions of God, we realize that this education is worth the sacrifice. As we parents faithfully train up our children in partnership with the church and the school, we will see God use this consistent message from His Word to make a strong impression upon our children, and they in turn will make an eternal difference in the lives of others—all for the advancement of the cause of Christ!

Vaccination Requirements Effective 2015-16 School Year

K & 1st Graders: Two doses of Varicella vaccine

7/8th Graders: Single dose of Tdap vaccine

Single dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine

WHAT-TO-BRING-ON-THE-FIRST-DAY-OF-SCHOOL LIST

Enclosed is the “What-to-Bring-on-the-First-Day-of-School List.” Please bring each of the items listed on the first day of school.

Be sure to label each item with your child’s name or initials. Also, please be sure to label each item of clothing. This practice is very helpful in locating the owners of lost pieces of clothing. As you shop, please avoid purchasing items with worldly pictures, such as “pop” stars. Thank you!



EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT NEEDS A LAPTOP COMPUTER THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

This is an important reminder for parents of seventh through twelfth graders. Each secondary school student must bring a laptop to school each day. These students take a technology course and need their laptops for technology integration with other courses. The laptop computer must have the program MS Word installed on it. In addition, a case is needed for carrying the laptop to and from school.

Tuition Payments to Smart

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Each of you should have received a welcome letter and invoice from Smart Tuition. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

Uniforms

Students are to be dressed in the proper school uniform upon arrival to school. The school uniform (not the physical education uniform) is obtained from Flynn & O’Hara Uniforms, Inc. Our school code with the uniform company is M0349. The company is located at Loehmann’s Plaza, 5210 Randolph Road, Rockville, MD 20852. Their phone number is 1-800-441-4122. Their website is www.flynnohara.com. Any items purchased from other stores are to be of the same color and style of the uniform.

Physical Education Uniform (for Tuesdays and Thursdays)

On physical education days (Tuesdays and Thursdays), students are to dress in gray gym shorts, **the school p.e. t-shirt**, white socks, and sneakers. During cold weather, students should wear gray sweatpants and a gray sweatshirt. **The school p.e. t-shirt may be purchased from the school office.** Other items for the P.E. uniform may be purchased at the store of your choice. **Note: On the first day of school, please have your children wear the regular uniform (not the p.e. uniform).**

Start-of-School Announcements

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 1st. The school doors open at 8:00 a.m. The school day begins at 8:25 a.m. However, arrival is encouraged by 8:15 to help students get ready for school. The school entrance is through the back door of the building. Parents, please walk your children down the back sidewalk to the school entrance. Pick-up of students is at 3:00 p.m.

Note: Please have your children wear the regular school uniform (not the p.e. uniform) on the first day of school.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Back-to-School Night for all parents is Thursday, September 10th, at 7:30 p.m. This is one of the four team meetings for all parents and teachers. We will have an opening session and then parents will meet with their children's homeroom teacher(s). New families will receive the *Parent/Student Handbook*. Essential information will be communicated.

We ask that you do not bring your children to Back-to-School Night. We are not able to provide childcare for this meeting. Please plan in advance to provide childcare for your own children at home.

DONATED USED UNIFORMS SERVICE. Mrs. Damaris Diaz leads a donated used uniforms service for our school families. With this service, families can donate used (cleaned) uniforms, which will in turn be passed on to other families. You may give any uniforms you would like to donate to Mrs. Diaz. The proceeds of this service will go to the Student Champions Fund. Mrs. Diaz may be contacted through the summer at 240-406-0706. Please donate those uniforms that you would otherwise discard in order to help other families through this service. Thank you very much!

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Please be aware that we will be communicating with you as parents via email. As a general rule, please expect an email communication from the homeroom teacher each Monday. We will highlight upcoming events and show you how you can interact with your children that week on a specified learning assignment. Please respond to the email, even if by a simple "thank you" so we know that you have received the communication. Of course, you may also communicate with the teachers via email. Communication is very important to us.

WELCOME, MRS. GRINEY! We want to welcome Mrs. Denise Griney as our fifth/sixth grade homeroom teacher and high school English teacher. Coming highly recommended, Mrs. Griney has much Christian school experience working in multiple grades.

AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB. Parents may register their children for the after-school homework club from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Children can receive help with their homework as well as some supervised recreation. The cost is \$1,200 for the year per child. If this club is needed on an occasional basis, the cost is \$10 per day.

LUNCH MONITORS. A great way to bless the teachers is to give them a lunch break. If you would like to be a lunch monitor from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. on a regular basis, please call or email Dr. Switzer. We particularly need lunch monitors on Wednesdays because of our staff meetings.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS. We have a small need for substitute teachers. If you would like to be available to be called upon in the event a teacher needs a substitute, please call or email Dr. Switzer. A small payment is made for this service.

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN AT LGCS!

Although the school is just about at capacity, we always encourage you to share with family and friends about the school. Share your own testimony about what God is doing with your child. We seek to be a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Also, families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

STAFF TEAM. We are pleased to announce the following as our staff team this year:

Kindergarten Teacher—Mrs. Perez
 1st/2nd Grade Teacher—Mrs. Robinson
 3rd/4th Grade Teacher—Mrs. Bazis
 5th/6th Grade HR Teacher—Mrs. Griney
 7th/8th Grade HR Teacher—Dr. Switzer
 9th/10th Grade HR Teacher—Mr. Silva
 11th/12th Grade HR Teacher—Mrs. Switzer
 Spanish Teacher/Administrative Assistant—Mrs. Perdomo
 Teacher Assistant—Mrs. Diaz
 11/12th Grade Math Teacher—Professor Toman with asst. Ms. Toman.
 Secondary Science Teacher—Pastor Pratt

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 First Day of School	2	3	4	5
6	7 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	8	9	10 Back to School Night—7:30 pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

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