

Grace Christian School

2017-2018 State of Athletics

We have been blessed at GCS to have experienced a tremendous amount of success in our Athletic Department this year.

Our Varsity Girls volleyball team made the state tournament for the first time in over 5 years, placing two girls on the All-Conference Team, Hannah Brown and Gracynne Jensen. The JV Girls Volleyball team took 2nd place in the conference regular season and the MCC Conference Tournament.

Our Varsity Boys Soccer team had a great season, defeating the #1 team in the conference during the season with only 11 players for one game, some just middle school age players. The boys soccer team also made the State Tournament - with 4 players, Christian Galindo, Colby Bussy, Braden Voss, and Ethan Spivey, making All-Conference and one of our players, Christian Galindo earning All-State Honors.

Our Varsity Girls Cross Country team won the MCC meet and placed two girls, Kayden Michael and Elizabeth Black on the All-Conference Team. Our Varsity Boys Cross Country team took 2nd place at the MCC meet and also placed two boys, Jackson Cole and Caleb Holiday on the All-Conference Team.

Our Varsity Girls Basketball team finished the season at 21-7 and made it to the second round of the State Tournament. Shay Brumbles, Lacey Miller, and Hannah Brown made the All-Conference Team with Shay Brumbles and Lacey Miller making the MCC All-Tournament Team. The Girls also won the North Hills Christmas Basketball Tournament with Shay Brumbles and Hannah Brown making the All-Tournament team for the Christmas Tournament. Additionally, Shay Brumbles officially accepted and signed to play Basketball at Averett College in Danville, Virginia this year.

Our Varsity Boys Basketball team had a HUGE turnaround season, finishing at 20-11 with no seniors on the team, taking 2nd place in the conference regular season and MCC Tournament. Nate Yow, Julian Steinfeld, Allan Taylor, and Jonah Murr made the All-Conference Team with Nate Yow and Allan Taylor making the All-Tournament Team. They also went to the NACA tournament in Dayton, Tennessee and took 4th place overall. Jesse Wilson, our Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, was named the MCC Coach of the Year.

Our Cheerleaders did an excellent job cheering, supporting and encouraging our teams this season and I was very thankful to have them as part our athletic program.

Our Varsity Baseball team finished the season at 9-7 and made it to the 3rd Round (Quarterfinals) of the State Tournament finishing in the top 8 in the state. We are extremely proud of these boys as they fought to the very end.

Our Varsity Girls soccer team was in a rebuilding process this year as a good portion of last years team graduated but they also qualified for the state tournament - placing Hannah Brown on the All-Conference Team.

We were able to field middle school teams of Girls Volleyball, MS Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Girls Soccer to help prepare and develop our athletes for the future. All our middle school teams experienced a great deal of success.

And finally, Hannah Brown and Colby Bussy were named Female and Male Athletes of the Year. We give full credit to Jesus Christ for the success of our teams and players this year.

My goal will continue to be to develop the GCS Athletic Department with competitive greatness. True competitiveness and success is not simply defeating an opponent. It is more than winning and losing. It comes from bringing one's best to every situation. It is striving mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually (I Timothy 4:15 and I Corinthians 9:24-27) to reach one's God-given potential. We will continue to strive to provide an excellent sports program that will allow and encourage student athletes to develop their God-given abilities. I want each athlete to be loved, respected, honored, cared for, and valued. A large part of our success has been the blessing of great coaches on our staff. These are coaches that are not only spiritual mentors but also have a vision and passion for their particular sport, and a love for our student-athletes. I am also thankful for our Head of School, Mr. Shumway, and our administrative team who have brought a tremendous amount of support for our growing program.

Some of the many new and exciting plans in place for the 2018-2019 school year are as follows along with important information for our families:

1 - GCS will look to field the following MCC sports for the 2018-2019 school year, which will be open to 5th grade through High School depending on levels of teams :

Fall: Middle School Volleyball / Junior Varsity Volleyball / Varsity Volleyball / Middle School Boys Soccer / Varsity Boys Soccer / Coed Cross Country

Winter: Middle School Girls Basketball / Junior Varsity Girls Basketball / Varsity Girls Basketball / Middle School Boys Basketball / Junior Varsity Boys Basketball / Varsity Boys Basketball / Cheer

Spring: MS Girls Soccer / Varsity Girls Soccer / MS Boys Baseball / Varsity Baseball

2 - GCS will look to hire and develop a staff of qualified and tenured GCS coaches who have clear personal walks with Christ and who value practicing and competing to win without sacrificing the development of Christ-like character. Coaches who can teach advanced techniques, have organized practices to develop skills, and an understanding of team strategies and physical conditioning. GCS desires coaches who want to see their programs grow and are willing to put the time in that is necessary for this to happen. GCS strives to increase the stipends paid to these coaches, which in turn increases accountability and responsibility, along with showing value to what our coaches are doing with and for our athletes.

3 - We will Build teams with increased accountability, increased levels of commitment and dedication to develop individual skills and teamwork. This will happen through:

- The GCS athlete learning (being coached) to bring their very best to every competitive situation - striving to reach their God-given potential.
- Giving a commitment for the entire season - our Athletic Department should not be looked upon as recreational at the middle school, junior varsity or varsity levels.
- Attendance at all practices and games required, as well as being on time.
- Middle School teams will have in-season practices/games 4 days per week
- Junior Varsity teams will have in-season practices/games 4-5 days per week
- Varsity teams will strive to have in-season practices/games 5 days per week - with some Saturday practices/games also
- Amount of playing time : The amount of playing time an athlete receives on any level team at Grace Christian School is a privilege, not a right. We are committed to developing all of our athletes, and most of an athlete's development should take place during practice. Practice is where you prepare to play. Seniority of an athlete is not a factor in determining if a player will start or how much they will play. Players will be judged by their coaches on their athletic ability, work ethic, attitude, and knowledge of the coach's strategy/strategies when determining playing time.

4 - Physicals

Athletes (grades 5th through high school) that will play sports at GCS **must** have a physical exam before the season begins. A physical is good for 365 days from the date completed. The athlete may **not** compete or practice until a current physical is turned in and on file in the athletic office.

5 - Athletic Fees: 2018-2019

In order to help the Athletic Department operate within the overall school budget, some funding will need to come from athletic fees. Expenses that the Athletic Department incurs include, but are not limited to are: stipends, paying referees/officials, association dues, equipment costs, uniforms, season end awards, etc. The athletic fees cover only a small portion of our expenses. Additional funding will come from contributions, concession sales, admission charges, and fundraising. The Athletic Department will need your help in these areas.

Athletic Fees 2018-2019

Sport	Sport Level	Athletic Fee Per Participating Student
Volleyball	Varsity	\$150
Volleyball	Junior Varsity	\$135
Volleyball	Middle School	\$110
Soccer	Varsity	\$150
Soccer	Middle School	\$110
Basketball	Varsity	\$150
Basketball	Junior Varsity	\$135
Basketball	Middle School	\$110
Cheerleading	All Levels	\$100
Cross Country	Varsity	\$100
Cross Country	Middle School	\$75
Baseball	Varsity	\$150
Baseball	Middle School	\$110

Additional Information:

- Fees are non-refundable and will be billed to your FACTS account upon the student earning a spot on the team.
- Families serving one day in the concession stand **and** one day at the gate per season will earn a \$25 credit.

- This fee does not cover any other elected incidental expenses, not limited to but including things such as team shoes, t-shirts, warm-ups, camps, etc. The athletic fee only covers each student participating in the sport.
- The payment of athletic fees does not imply or guarantee, in any way, game playing time.

6 - Creation of Teams

Additional programs will be decided upon within the athletic department and will be based on some of the following criteria: sports that are officially sanctioned by our conference, with a minimum number of GCS participants (depending on the sport), programs that are sustainable, and ones that can be financially supported while having adequate and/or regulation sized fields or facilities to use.

7 - Fall Sports 2018

With a later school start date, our Fall Athletes will be required to start 3-4 weeks earlier than school beginning. The Fall season officially begins on Monday, July 30 - Varsity and JV level teams will need to be ready to start this week. MS level teams will start on Monday, August 6, if we have enough for a team. (If) try-outs are required for a team, you MUST be present to be considered for that team. Try-outs, practices, and games will begin before the 1st day of school on Monday, August 27 as Mid-Carolina Conference play begins the week before this. Please start to make preparations now if you plan to play a Fall sport at GCS to be available for try-outs, practices and games in the month of August. If you have not signed up for a Fall Sport already please contact me ASAP as the determination of what teams we can fill for the Fall are happening currently.

Further information about the Athletic Department can be found in the 2018 - 2019 Grace Christian School Athletic Manual : <http://gracechristiansanford.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/GCSAthleticHandbook2018-19.pdf> , which is on the GCS website (www.gracechristiansanford.com), The manual establishes policies and procedures for the Athletic Department at GCS. It should serve as a convenient reference for coaches, players, and families.

I am excited about the future of our program and just wanted to share with you some of what transpired this year, and the direction that we are headed. Change and growth are not always easy, but we must develop a program that best prepares our athletes for competition in the future. We are also committed to facing our challenges head on and coming up with viable solutions when necessary. I am very proud of our athletes, coaches and program. GCS is committed to excellence in every aspect of

Athletics. When it is all said and done, we strive to be an Athletic Department that will bring glory and honor to God as well as be a source of pride for the GCS school family and the community. Thank you again for your support and the opportunity to be your Athletic Director.

Stephen Cross