

Winter Newsletter



Grace Education Ministries

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Building Holiday Hours

As stated in the annual calendar, GEM will be closed December 22nd through January 2nd and will resume as normal on January 5th. GEM will also be closed in observance of MLK Day on January 19th.

Building Closures

GEM will NOT ordinarily close for severe weather, however, in severe weather situations a minimum of two staff members must be present to open the building. If necessary, we will alert the following television, radio stations, the Playground app and our Grace Facebook page for delays and closings.

WLFI-TV 18, WASK-K 105 FM, WKHY 93.5, WXXB-B102.9

If GEM closes part or all day for severe weather, our policy states that we pay scheduled staff, therefore regular tuition is due.

Holiday Party, Supplies and Gift Exchange

The daycare classes holiday celebration will be on Wednesday, December 17th. This year we will also celebrate the holiday season with a Movie Day (Frosty the Snowman) and Pajama Day on December 19th. There will be alternate activities inside the classrooms if you would prefer your child to not watch. We will have a gift exchange this year. Please see what is needed for your child below:

Young Infants, Older Infants & Toddlers: A wrapped book for your child.

Hurricanes: A wrapped present for your own child.

Sunshine Kids, Raindrops & Thunderbolts: A wrapped gift for a friend gift exchange. All Boys bring a boy gift, and girls bring a girl gift.

NOTE: All children in Readiness will need 2 gifts. One gift for preschool **AND** 1 gift for Day Care. All boys need to bring a boy gift, and girls need to bring a girl gift. The readiness celebration is 12/14(T/TH) and 12/15 (MWF)

Cost: All gifts can range between \$15.00-\$ 20.00

Upcoming Events

Parent Night Out: 12/12 6-8pm

GEM Closed: 12/22-1/2/2026

GEM Closed: 1/19/2026 MLK Day

Christmas Celebration: 12/17

Movie & PJ Day: 12/19

Singing for Young at Heart

Church Luncheon: 12/10 at 12pm

Family Engagement:

Career Bags due 1/6

Career Dress-up 1/12

Chapel: Wednesdays at 9:30

Soccer shots: Monday

Crouching Tigers: Paused

Happy Birthday:

12/3 Ms. Rachel O

12/10 Ms. Emma

12/16 Mrs. Black

12/29 Mrs. Vee

Happy 30th- year Anniversary to:

12/5 Mrs. Black

Kroger Community Rewards: Link your Payless rewards card to benefit Grace! Our school code: JJ381. Visit www.kroger.com to enroll.

Jubilee Christmas

Thank you to all the families that supported Jubilee Christmas. Remember all unwrapped gifts with the ornament chosen must be returned by Friday, December 5, 2025.

Illness & Communicable Diseases

If children become ill during the day, are vomiting, have two loose stools or have a temperature of one hundred degrees or higher, parents will be notified to pick them up. Please remember to have your child mask when they have a cough or are not feeling the best. This will help us prevent the spread of germs. We had a rough fall, so we want to make sure we are more diligent this winter. **Keep children home if they have signs of the following:**

- have a fever or had a fever during the previous 24 hours.
- have a heavy nasal discharge, or green in color.
- have a constant cough.
- seem overtired, fussy, cranky, not their usual selves.
- have symptoms of a possible communicable disease, such as sniffles, red eyes, sore throat, headache, or abdominal pain, especially if accompanied by fever and/or spots.

Signing In & Out:

Please remember to sign your child in. Also, please understand that children are our priority and sometimes, we do not have the time to get everything updated on the tablet due to reasons such as staffing issues, children's needs. If we do not get to it, you are always able to ask at pick up. We do our best but sometimes we have those days where we just do not have time.

Attendance, Drop-off & Pick-up Times:

Please note to make sure all children are at GEM by 9:30 unless you have a scheduled doctor's appointment and have alerted us to a late arrival previously. If your child is not attending on a scheduled day, please message us by 9:30 so we can plan accordingly. When dropping off or picking up, please always keep your child with you for safety reasons. Remember to have your child try to go to the bathroom and wash their hands upon arrival. Especially, with cold and flu season upon us, we want to make sure we all are doing our part to help keep everyone healthy. Lastly, if you have supplies to drop off, please take them to your child's classroom not the morning drop-off room, this helps us when transitioning from room to room especially on the stairs with the little ones.

Bringing Supplies:

When you need to bring supplies for your child such as extra clothes, diapers, wipes. **Please bring those items clearly labelled.** Write your child's name on the tag of all gloves, hats, and jackets. Drop off all supplies in your child's classroom, not your drop off room as it helps us when we transition.

Feeding Plans & Medication Orders for Infants:

Please remember to update feeding plans with your child's teacher as your child grows and develops. The doctor only needs to sign the original plan, and you may update as needed. Please try not to write exact times for feedings and have it every 2-3 hours or as needed. This gives us more leeway to alter the feeding plan if you need a time change. A medication order must be on file, signed by the doctor to administer any ointments, diaper creams, and medications such as Tylenol. Please note we will not administer Tylenol to children over 2+ without a prescription.

Messages & Notes on Playground:

If you have something to share, please send a message to your child's teacher instead of telling the staff at drop off sometimes messages are not relayed. It also gives us a documented note so all staff working in your child's classroom can be informed. If we send a note on your child's profile, especially regarding behavior or concerns we have, please send us a message of acknowledgement so we know you have seen it and will be collaborating with us to make positive changes.

Parent Night Out:

We still have some spots left! Children from infants to age 12 welcome ☺



Family Engagement:

Career Show & Share

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Please complete this questionnaire to share your career with your child's class. Please attach a picture of you in your work environment to illustrate your career for the children. Please return the form by January 6, 2025.

Parent Name: _____

My Career is: _____

What I do at work:

The best thing about my job is:

