



Greater Portland Christian School



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Our Mission

Provides a distinctively Christian education which complements the home and church, brings a Biblical perspective to each subject, and helps parents prepare their children for a God-glorifying life.

WHAT WE VALUE

Truth - We will stay faithful to the truth of God's Word.

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." - 2 Timothy 3:16

Stewardship - We will wisely use and care for the resources entrusted to us.

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." - 1 Corinthians 4:2

Wisdom - We will seek God's wisdom in our decisions, choices, and actions.

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise." - Proverbs 19:20

Excellence - We will seek the highest possible quality in everything we do.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." -1 Corinthians 9:24

Servanthood - We will strive to follow the example set by Jesus Christ in how we serve people.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." -Romans 12:10



Why A Christian Education?

God has commanded parents to train their children to know and serve Him (Deuteronomy 6:1-9). Training at home is a vital part of that. Utilizing the resources of churches and Christian schools also can help. Good education prepares young people to understand God's world and to serve God and others in all areas.

A Christian school seeks to teach students to:

- † Learn to know and love God through His Word, the Bible and His creation
- † Learn to distinguish truth from error, right from wrong
- † Learn to serve God and others, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- † Learn the value of Christian character in all of life's decisions

The Christian school offers an education founded on God's word. Does such a school, dedicated to serving God, provide an effective means for teaching the principles and values you want to instill in your children? Consider the options Greater Portland Christian School provides for you and its students.



About Us

WHY GREATER PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?

Greater Portland Christian School is committed to a God-centered, biblically based education. By God's grace, it is celebrating over 35 years of academic excellence.

GPCS was founded on the belief that Jesus Christ must have preeminence in the lives of all believers. Therefore all subjects are presented and studied in the light of God's Word.

Study of academic subjects increases knowledge of God since math, science, history and language are a study of his creation (Romans 1:20).

Nonacademic subjects, such as music and art, and extracurricular offerings, like drama and sports, also develop a greater understanding of God and the beauty and design of his creation (Genesis 1).

GPCS seeks to provide excellence in academics within a Christian environment and from the Biblical perspective; to develop the whole person in intellect, spirit, emotion and body; and to train and disciple students to glorify God in their personal lives and in their vocations.

WHAT GPCS OFFERS

- † Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12
- † Dedicated, certified, experienced Christian teachers who are accessible to children and parents
- † Quality curriculum that is filtered through the truth of God's Word
- † College-preparatory focus, Grades 9-12
- † High academic standards
- † Supportive peer groups and Christian fellowship for students

- † Small class sizes and low student to teacher ratio
- † Computer lab, fully equipped science lab, gymnasium with stage
- † Drama, music and other extracurricular offerings, from the yearbook to Model UN to Class D basketball, plus field trips and other group opportunities.
- † Committed parents who recognize the need for and embrace the cause of excellent Christian education.
- † Opportunities for parental involvement in many areas
- † A spirit of unity and cooperation in a multi-denominational, parent-sponsored Christian school

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- † We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- † We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- † We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, and His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.
- † We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- † We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- † We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of the damned.
- † We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

They will be called oaks of righteousness. A planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

- Isaiah 61:3b

OUR HISTORY

The history of Greater Portland Christian School began over thirty-five years ago. In the fall of 1971, a number of interested parents met regularly to draw up a constitution, the same constitution that governs GPCS today. Original plans were to open the school in the fall of 1972, but not enough students were enrolled. Therefore, work continued another year, and in September of 1973, GPCS did open, with one teacher and ten students in Grades 1-2. The next year the school expanded in two directions, adding a 3rd Grade and kindergarten, and enrollment more than doubled to 24.

During the first three years, the school met in the education wing of the South Gorham Baptist Church. Desiring a more central location, the Board negotiated to rent the Oakdale School in Portland, where GPCS stayed for three years, during which Bee Mouton became the first principal, faculty increased to five teachers, and enrollment grew to nearly 100 students in Grades K-6.

The next two years were spent at Cummings School on Ocean Avenue in Portland. More Grades (K-9), more teachers, and more students were added. The first yearbook has a picture of Cummings School on the cover. The second principal, Gil Kitchen, had a clear vision that the Greater Portland area needed a Christian high school, and he worked toward that end.

In the summer of 1981, GPCS moved to Presumpscot School, where the enrollment increased to over 200, and the school was finally able to offer all four years of high school. June of 1984 was a very special time as the first senior class, fifteen students, graduated. Later that summer, the school moved once more, this time to the Lincoln School in South Portland, its present home.

To date, GPCS has graduated over 300 students, and there are many more who have attended the school for part of their education.

GREATER PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TODAY

GPCS offers traditional classroom instruction for Grades pre-K through 12, and is fully approved by the State of Maine. Current enrollment is about 120 students in addition to a number of home-schooled children who take advantage of certain GPCS courses or extracurricular activities. The school has an active chapter of the National Honor Society. Graduates include three National Merit Scholars with several more receiving National Merit Letters of Commendation. GPCS offers a full program of study focusing on the classics and core courses whose mastery is expected of an educated person. Both college preparatory and general courses are offered with accelerated classes offered in language and mathematics. The foreign language of Spanish is offered along with Russian as an elective. GPCS students generally score favorably on nationally recognized aptitude and achievement tests, such as the SAT and ACT.

Approximately 90% of GPCS graduates enroll in four-year colleges. The remaining ten percent often defer their college education, entering the work force, military service, or volunteer work including missions. Students at GPCS have received numerous honors in recent years and have achieved recognition in regional and statewide competitions. While these statistics may convey facts concerning the type of quality, character-building education that GPCS students receive, they can not convey the life-changing dimensions that come from instruction in which the Biblical world-view is honored and promoted.

GPCS does not discriminate in any of its programs on the basis of gender, race, color or country of origin.



GPCS COMMUNICATIONS

GPCS communicates regularly with our school families. We have a comprehensive website, www.gpcs.net where you can stay current and download any forms you may need.

- † Weekly flyers are emailed to keep you informed of upcoming events. The weekly flyer's information is also posted on our website, gpcs.net. A paper copy is available upon request.
- † A monthly calendar is produced of school events and is available on our website.
- † Teachers also send home notices concerning their classroom.
- † GPCS corresponds regularly with Friends of GPCS, GPCS Alumni, Grandparents, and Churches.
- † In September, GPCS produces a school directory and an email directory to help our school families communicate.



Academics

GPCS EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM

Greater Portland Christian School overall educational philosophy is:

The basis of the Greater Portland Christian School is founded in historic Biblical Christianity and in the belief that truth is possible only because the Triune God of the Bible has revealed it in His creation and in His special revelation, the Holy Scriptures. Scripture teaches that man is made in the image of God but is dead spiritually by the fall of Adam. Christians are those who have been brought to life through Christ's atonement. Those who God has brought to life and salvation recognize that they are stewards of His creation who are responsible to train their children to know and serve the living God. As an association of Christians, the Greater Portland Christian School Association believes that this parental responsibility can most effectively be carried out in a distinctively Christian school where all knowledge is related to the Sovereign of creation, history, and redemption.

The Association views a Christian school as a crucial complement to home and church. Although no effort is made to proselytize the students toward any particular church denomination, the parents should understand that the Biblical instruction is evangelical in nature. The offering of an alternative to public school education does not imply that the Association feels that students should be shut off from the world. Rather, the Association feels that in a Christian school, parents and teachers can more successfully carry out the God-given mandate to prepare each student for a distinctively God-glorifying life in His world.

This Educational Philosophy is reflected at GPCS by:

- † Selecting highly committed Christian faculty and staff who are Maine State certified and have earned a college degree.
- † Bible classes taught at each grade level with Bible verse memorization.
- † Chapel Service held once a week.
- † Each morning begins with devotions and prayer.
- † GPCS is a member of ACSI
- † God's word is the standard for training in character, conduct and discipline.

Elementary Education Grades PreK-5

GPCS Pre-K

The purpose of our preschool program is to inspire the joy of learning in children from a Biblical perspective, to start them on a life long journey of learning, and to prepare them for our Kindergarten program.

The classroom is arranged in learning centers where active preschoolers can work individually, in small groups, and with the whole group. The schedule will be balanced to include energetic and reflective activities.

Our preschool program is under the administration of the GPCS Association. The GPCSA elects from its membership the Board of Directors who shall administer the affairs of the school. The daily program is supervised by our qualified teacher. Each staff member has a committed relationship to Jesus Christ.

OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum will encourage children to be actively involved in the learning process, to experience a variety of age appropriate activities and materials, and to pursue their own interests in the context of the classroom, the GPCS community, and God' world.

Daily Schedule

- † Bible Stories
- † Learning Centers
- † Reading Readiness
- † Math Readiness
- † Art
- † Music
- † Active Play
- † Story Time
- † Science
- † Field Trips

Four Year Old Program

Drop-Off is from 8:15-8:30 and Pick-Up from 11:30-11:45.

- † Limited to 12 students.
- † Child must be 4 by October 15th.
- † Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
- † 8:30am-11:30am

Three Year Old Program

Drop Off is from 8:15-8:30 and Pick Up from 11:30-11:45.

- † Limited to 10 students.
- † Child must be potty trained.
- † Child must be 3 by August 31st.
- † Tuesdays & Thursdays
- † 8:30am-11:30am

Grades K-5

GPCS Elementary Program is designed to fulfill our Mission Statement. Our educational focus is reading, writing, arithmetic...all the subjects of a traditional education. We desire each student to be prepared and continue to our Secondary Program.

Secondary Education Grades 6-12

GPCS Secondary Program continues to build on the foundation laid in our Elementary Program. Our educational focus is preparation of students for college. Our program offers the courses colleges seek for its applicants. Course listings and graduation requirements are listed on the next page.

**Course Offerings
for Junior High School
Grades 6, 7 & 8**

Bible	Math 6, Math 7, Pre-Algebra, Algebra	Science- Grade 6
Literature	History- Grade 6, Maine History - Grade 7	Music- Grades 6-7
Grammar	U. S. History - Grade 8	Spanish- Grade 8
Spelling	Life Science - Grade 7	Physical Education
Vocabulary	Earth Science - Grade 8	Chorus

**Courses for High School
Grades 9-12**

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Bible	Bible	Bible	Bible
General Literature	American Literature	English Literature	World Literature
Algebra I (Geometry, Pre-Algebra)	Geometry (Algebra II)	Algebra II (Advanced Math)	Advanced Math (Accounting, Calculus, Economics)
Geography	U.S. History	World History	20th Century History
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Christian Service		Art Appreciation	Art Appreciation
		Fine Arts	Fine Arts
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Health

Graduation Requirements

We offer a full program of study for each academic year, including courses in the following disciplines: Bible, English and literature, mathematics, science (physical & life), social studies (history, geography, sociology & government), foreign languages, fine arts, computer literacy and physical education. This program fulfills all State requirements for graduation, as well as general college admissions requirements. All high school students enrolled in GPCS are expected to take a minimum of 5 courses each year, earning the following credits:

Bible	4
Foreign Language	2
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Physical Education*	1
Computer Literacy*	1
English*	4
Fine Arts*	1
Social Studies***	4
Health**	.5
TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED	25.5

*Required by the State of Maine

** State of Maine requires one half (1/2) credit in Health

***State of Maine requires one credit be in U.S. History

While in high school all students taking a foreign language must take two years of a foreign language, preferably the same foreign language. (Classes of 2007 & 2008 are exempt from this rule.)

Fine Arts credit may be earned by taking an art class (in or outside of GPCS) and by participating in drama, yearbook, and/or chorus.

Students may petition for exception to this policy to the Education Committee for their review and decision.



OUR PHILOSOPHIES ON MAJOR SUBJECT AREAS

Philosophy of Language Arts Curriculum

God created man in His image. One characteristic, which marks man as an image bearer of God and distinguishes man from the animals, is man's capacity for creative thought and thought expression. God communed with Adam and Eve and endowed them with the ability to commune with each other. When Adam fell, all of creation became subject to the bondage of sin. Man's ability to communicate was tainted and distorted. God is almighty and worthy of absolute praise and the use of language should be directed to the honoring of His name. If a person is regenerated, this is the goal towards which God enables him to work. Therefore, a person who is a Christian will try to use language perfectly and to God's glory.

For the Christian, the common purpose of the various areas of communication is, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to recognize and interpret God's truth both in His Word and in His world. The goal of language arts in a Christian school is to teach and to help the student gain a thorough understanding and command of the fundamental processes and skills used in communication. All areas of language arts - speaking, listening, writing, and reading - can be used by the Christian to grow in the knowledge of his Lord.

1. Speaking

- a. Basic medium of instruction and demonstration. *Luke 6:20-49*
- b. Speaking. *Acts 2:14, I Timothy 4:16*
- c. God is originator of speech. *Genesis 1:3,6, etc. (entire chapter)*

- d. Holy Spirit guides and empowers the speech of the believer who is in His will. *Matthew 10:19 & 20, I Corinthians. 2:1-8* (These references are taken from Ruth C. Haycock's *God's Truth in School Subjects*.)
- e. We are responsible to God for what we say. *Exodus. 20:7, Matthew. 12:36 & 37, James 3* (Haycock)
- f. Our ability to speak and write partially determines our effectiveness for God. *Nehemiah 8:7 & 8, Jeremiah 1:7,9 & 17, Romans 10:14 & 17* (Haycock)
- g. Our speech should be edifying. *Ephesians 4:29*

2. Listening

- a. We should listen to God's Word with respect. *Proverbs 30:5 & 6, Nehemiah 8:5 and 9:3* (Haycock)
- b. We are responsible for what we choose to listen to. *Proverbs 19:27, Philippians 4:8 & 9* (Haycock)
- c. Listening. *Isaiah 49:1, Proverbs 1:8, I Samuel 8:19, Proverbs 12:15*

3. Writing

- a. Basic tools of expression (spelling and handwriting). *Exodus 31:18, Job 19:23 & 24*
- b. God wrote. *Exodus 31:18*
- c. God commanded others to write. *Deuteronomy 6:9, Revelations 1:11 & 19*
- d. Writing should be clear. *Habakkuk 2:2* (Haycock)

4. Reading

- a. Grasping meanings and interpreting ideas. *Exodus 24:7, Isaiah 34:16, Luke 4:16*
- b. Reading is of great value. *Joshua 1:8, Acts 15:30 & 31, Colossians 4:16, I Timothy 4:13* (Haycock)
- c. Reading and listening are ways of growing in knowledge; therefore, we should do them well. *Psalms. 85:8, Proverbs 22:20 & 21, Isaiah 34:16, Acts 8:30 & 31, James 1:19* (Haycock)

Philosophy of Mathematics

All things are of God. He created the universe and His handiwork is an expression of divine thought. This revelation of God in nature involves ideas of number, form, symmetry, system and laws governing the existence and harmonious working of all things. Everywhere there is evidence of mathematical relationships.

God has also endowed man, created in His image, with the ability to read these divine ideas in order that he may glorify his Creator. A proper understanding and a genuine appreciation of the works of God require that man acquire knowledge of the underlying principles of mathematics. Toward that end God, in His gracious providence, has also led man to develop an efficient system of number, computation, and expression of natural laws. Such concepts, as well as the ability to discover and use them, are of God.

If man is to have dominion over his environment and make proper use of the forces of nature, he must discover and use their laws. In this task mathematics is an indispensable tool. To the Christian, mathematics becomes helpful in his leading a God-centered life.

Philosophy of Science

All things have been created by God (*Genesis 1:1*) and by Him all things continue and are controlled by Him. *Nahum. 9:6, II Peter 3:7, Hebrews 1:3*

All things were created in order that they might honor and glorify God. Creation is a revelation of God and can teach us many things concerning the character of God. Nature reveals to us God's beauty, majesty, order, justice, design, wisdom and power. *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 6:29*

There is no disagreement between God's special revelation of His word and creation. God's Word gives principles, which are basic and fundamental to a true understanding of science. Apparent

contradictions between science and God's Word result from incorrect interpretation of data or a system of fundamental assumptions void of an omniscient, omnipotent Creator.

The teleological view allows the student the opportunity to recognize nature as something "fearfully and wonderfully made" (*Psalms 139:14*). Natural laws are the expression of God's moment-by-moment control. Understanding these laws is necessary for man's appreciation of God's handiwork and creative purpose. This understanding is essential to his dominion over the earth (*Genesis 1:26-30*).

Philosophy of Social Studies

In the beginning God created from one all nations of the earth and appointed times and seasons for them. His purpose for man was that he should obey God and have fellowship with Him. However, man chose to go his own way, and history is the story of human society, a society of fallen beings, under the just judgment of God. Under the condition of sin, man is non-perfectible, but certain improvements of relationships are possible. Social Studies looks at the universe God created fallen man and God's love for him, and God's sovereignty over man. God instituted laws for man to follow, and sent a Savior to redeem fallen mankind.

The story of this is the theme of all social studies. History is fallen man in need of a Savior, and God reaching down to man through revelations, through His laws and His creation and through His son, Jesus Christ.

Philosophy of Fine Art

Art is an expression of the realization that man is created in the image of God. Our program also desires students to understand that art of the past provides a means of understanding and interpreting art of the present. Students are encouraged to develop observation skills and to become more sensitive to the visual world. We hope to create an

environment that stimulates imagination and fosters the creative and aesthetic expression of each student. We desire to encourage a sense of enjoyment in the arts and to develop visual organization and communication skills.

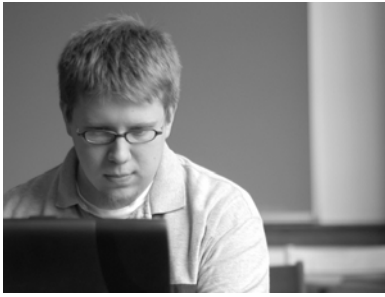
Philosophy of Bible

The Bible is taught within the framework and structure of the regular course material as the integral, unifying principle. It is also a separate course of study, with classes taught at each grade levels. The focus of the course is to teach students to be familiar with the Bible, the sequence of events, some of the major themes, etc. In Grades 11 and 12, the course shifts to Church History, Cults & World Religion.

Our Resources & Texts

The school meets all State of Maine requirements concerning subject areas and course content and uses proven techniques of instruction in a classroom setting. The Education Committee and the Faculty strives to provide books at each grade level and for each subject that reflects the philosophy of GPCS and are a reliable resource for the subject being taught. This does not mean that all our textbooks are published by Christian publishers. GPCS does not rely solely on the textbook for our philosophy to be reflected. We consider our faculty to be the primary demonstration of our educational philosophy. GPCS faculty also uses other sources to supplement such as videos, magazines, etc.. Curriculum can be viewed at our Open House, Orientation, and by appointment. Below is a list of some of the publishers GPCS uses.

Bob Jones	Modern Curriculum Press
CSI	Sadlier/ Oxford
HBJ	Scribner Reading Series
Houghton Mifflin	Silver Burdett Ginn
Macmillan	Zanier Bloser



HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

The Community

The Greater Portland Christian School community consists of the students, parents, faculty and staff, many supporting churches, and members of the parent-led governing association. Associated families reside throughout the greater Portland region, the state's largest metropolitan area of 250,000 residents along the southern Maine coast. School parents include a broad cross-section of socio-economic levels and denominational backgrounds. They share a common commitment to quality education that stresses academic excellence and character development.

The School

Greater Portland Christian School was founded in 1973, offers traditional classroom instruction for Grades preK through 12, and is fully approved by the State of Maine. Current enrollment in Grades 9-12 is approximately 35 students. The student/faculty ratio is 6 to 1, providing many opportunities for individualized instruction. There are 11 full-time and part-time state endorsed faculty at the secondary level, three of whom hold advanced degrees. In addition, the elementary teachers provide their expertise and assistance upon occasion. The school has an active chapter of the National Honor Society. Graduates include two National Merit Scholars, one semifinalist, and several receiving National Merit Letters of Commendation.

Curriculum

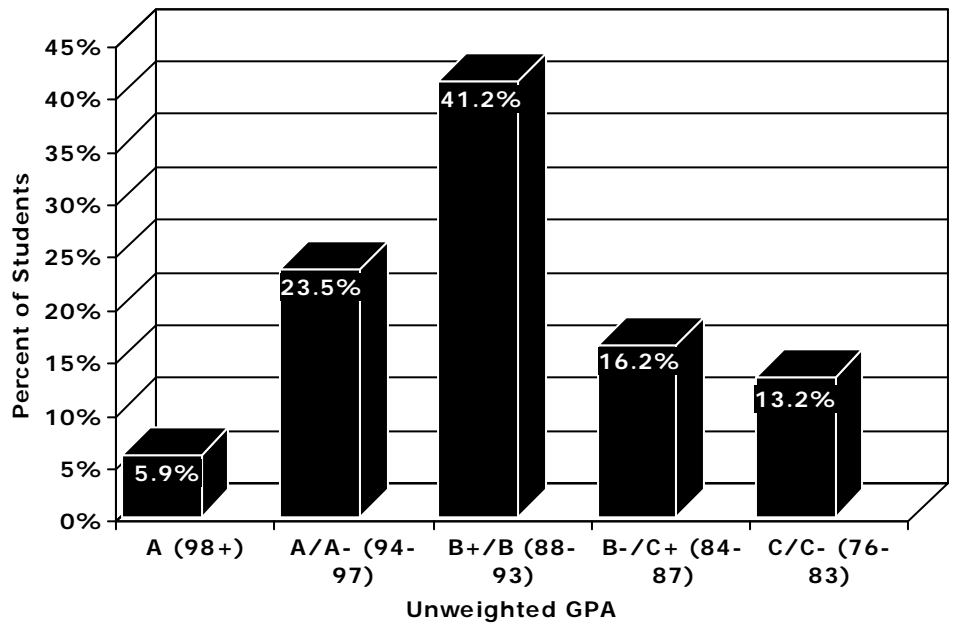
Greater Portland Christian School offers a full program of study focusing on the classics and core courses whose mastery is expected of an educated person. Both college preparatory and general courses are offered with accelerated classes offered in language and mathematics. College calculus is taught with credit offered by the University of

Southern Maine. Two foreign languages – Spanish and Russian are offered.

Grading System	
A (Excellent)	94-100
B (Good)	85-93
C (Average)	76-84
D (Poor)	70-75
F (Failure)	Below 70

Grading System & GPA Distribution

The student transcript reports letter grades according to the designations indicated at right. Numerical grades in each subject are used to calculate the GPA. All subjects receive an equal weighting, unless a given subject meets for less than a full year. For the 2004-2005 academic year, the mean GPA was 90.8 (B) and the 25th to 75th percentile ranged from 87.5 to 94.5 (B- to A-). This GPA distribution is reflected in the following graph.



Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) Scores

(2000-2005 Test Scores for Four-Year College-Bound Students)

Average:	576 Verbal	560 Math
Mid 50% of Students:	490 - 650 Verbal	480 - 630 Math



ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students participate in Maine Principals' Association Class D Soccer, Class D Basketball, Class D Baseball and Class C Track & Field at the varsity level. Students also compete in Jr High Basketball and Soccer. Approximately 75% of the students participate in one or more sports.

Approximately 80% of the students participate in one or more of the following extracurricular activities: Maine Drama Festival; High School Chorus – District and State Festivals, Performances, and Gilbert and Sullivan Musical Productions; Motivate ME Leadership Conference; Math Team – District and State competitions; School Yearbook; Woman's Literary Union Writing Program & Competition.

Students volunteer significant amounts of service time at nonprofit charitable organizations, in their home churches, on mission trips, and at the school itself.

STUDENT AWARDS

Students at Greater Portland Christian School have received numerous honors in recent years and have achieved recognition in regional and statewide competitions.

- † Citizenship Award – Daughters of the American Revolution
- † Daimler-Benz/Goethe Institute German Award (1 of 50 nationwide)
- † District II Choral & Instrument Festivals
- † HOBY 100 Hour Service Award
- † Maine State Essay Award – 1st place
- † Maine Drama Festival – 1st place
- † Maine All-State Choral & Instrument Festival
- † Portland Rossini Music Club Gould Awards
- † Presidential Academic Fitness Awards
- † Regional & State Math Meet – 1st Place Team & Individual
- † Eagle Scouts – Boy Scouts of America

- † U.S. Marine Corps Awards – Academics, Sports, & Music
- † Woman’s Literary Union – 3rd place, and 2 Honorable Mentions
- † State Basketball Tournament Good Sportsmanship Award

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Approximately 90% of our graduates enroll in post-secondary education. Acceptances: Bates, Baylor, Bethany, Bowdoin, Bryan, Bucknell, Calvin, Cazenovia, Cedarville, Colby, Cornell, Covenant, Dordt, Eastern, Eastern Mennonite, Eastern Nazarene, Elmira, Florida, Franklin Pierce, Geneva, Gordon, Grove City, Hillsdale, Hope, Houghton, Huntington, Indiana Wesleyan, Ithaca, Johnson & Wales, Lasell, Lee, Liberty, Maine Coll. of Art, Master's, Messiah, Moody, Muhlenberg, North Greenville, North Park, Nyack, Piedmont Baptist, Pomona, Purdue University, Rensselaer, Salve Regina University, Simmons, So. Maine Community, St. Joseph’s, Taylor, Trinity Christian, Union (TN), U. Me. Farmington, U. Me. Orono, U. So. Me., Wentworth Inst. of Tech., Wheelock.



FACULTY PROFILES



Mrs. Carol Bickford

Mrs. Carol Bickford has been a teacher for over 20 years. Mrs. Bickford teaches English to Grades 6 and 8, and she also teaches Bible to Grades 8-10. Mrs. Bickford has a Bachelors in Education for Grades K-8 from the University of Southern Maine. Mrs. Bickford and her family attend Cape Shore Assembly of God.

She writes, "Years ago when I was teaching the 6th grade in the Portland School System, I remember hearing of the opening of Greater Portland Christian School. I was a fairly new Christian at the time having become "born again" at the age of 27. I recall standing in my classroom one morning thinking about how wonderful it would be to have scripture verses on the walls and to be able to pray with students each day and to invite and incorporate God into classroom life. I quietly expressed a wistful prayer to God that one day I might be able to teach at that school. After I resigned from teaching and became a stay-at-home mom, little did I know that several years later I would be teaching full time at the very place about which I had expressed that wistful prayer! I feel so privileged to be the recipient of such Divine grace and Providence! Genesis 18:14 says, 'Is anything too hard for Me?' Surely not. He is truly awesome!"



Mrs. Lana Bradbury

Mrs. Lana Bradbury comes to us from the Westbrook School District. She is teaching Geometry, Pre Calculus, Calculus, and Physics. She also shares her love of the Russian language with any interested students. Mrs. Bradbury received her teaching degree from the University of Southern Maine in Math/Science Education. She also has a Certificate of Completion in Russian Language and Literature. She and her family attend Anchor Missionary Fellowship.



Mr. Keith Dawson

Mr. Dawson has over six years of teaching experience. Mr. Dawson teaches 6th grade math, Algebra I, Geography and Civics. He has a BA in History from USM and an Associate degree in Law Enforcement from SMCC. Mr. Dawson is also involved in coaching baseball and basketball at GPCS.

Mr. Dawson's favorite verse is, *"So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10.*

Keith Dawson and his family attend Hollis Center Baptist Church. His two daughters attend GPCS.



Mrs. Augusta (Jeannie) Fillmore

Mrs. Fillmore has taught been teaching over 15 years. She has been involved with GPCS since 1979. Mrs. Fillmore is our fifth grade teacher. She received her degree from Philadelphia Biblical University.

GPCS has been a blessing to our family. Our girls have had a great experience. One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 46:4; *"I will continue to carry you even when your hair is gray. I made you and I will carry you. I will take care of you and I will save you. I am the Lord."*

"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence." This is what I want for myself as well as my students.

Mrs. Fillmore and her family regularly attend First Evangelical Free Church.



Mrs. Caryn Hasbrouck

Mrs. Hasbrouck has taught Spanish at GPCS for over 5 years. She received a BA in International Ministries from Moody Bible Institute and a certificate from Rio Grande Bible Institute Spanish Language School. She continues to earn CEU's in Language Instruction.

Mrs. Hasbrouck has been a part of several school mission trip projects; in 2003 to intercity Boston, in 2004 to Mexico, in 2005 to Nicaragua and in 2007 to Guatemala. Mrs. Hasbrouck and her family attend First Baptist of South Portland.

She shares, "Education can be used to enable us to serve God better and to have the truth to teach others. God can use all of our abilities for His service if we yield our hearts and will to Him. Our family spent 11 years as missionaries in Ecuador, mainly teaching in a Bible College. It has been really fun to see students be able to teach Bible lessons in Spanish and share God's love with children who don't speak English. Knowing another language builds bridges that God can use."

Miss Bonnie Helms

Miss Helms has been teaching for over 40 years. Miss Helms received her Bachelors degree in English at Eastern College in Pennsylvania, her Masters in Education- Secondary at the University of Maine and her MA at Middlebury College at Oxford University.

Miss Helms secondary career is as a writer of adult Christian education materials and English Literature texts.

She writes, "The joy of using the gifts the Lord has given me to teach is my greatest blessing. Christians can confront any set of ideas with a firm faith that God's word is valid. Biblical truth and literary expression, as taught at GPCS, are a powerful combination."

Miss Helms attends First Baptist Church of Portland.

**Mrs. Lois Libby**

Mrs. Lois Libby has been teaching for over 40 years with over 30 being at Greater Portland Christian School. Mrs. Libby is our Secondary Music teacher, leading several choruses each week.

Mrs. Lois Libby received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from the University of Southern Maine. She also took 4 years of German to meet the requirements for full certification to teach German. She writes, "I have always been encouraged to learn, because all truth is God's truth. And I feel that language and music are important studies for Christians. We are commanded to sing praise to God! And when He gives gifts we should develop them to the best of our ability and use them to praise Him. I have been much blessed and am very grateful for the privilege of working in a Christian school."

Mrs. Lois Libby and her family attend Second Parish Orthodox Presbyterian Church.



Mrs. Lori Libby

Mrs. Libby has taught at GPCS for over 20 years, and is our Head Teacher for grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. She teaches Kindergarten, Elementary Music, and does some of the remedial tutoring for elementary students. Mrs. Libby also coordinates the Chapel services for our Elementary Program. One of her favorite parts of the school year is the Annual Elementary Musical where students glorify God with their talents.

Lori received her BS in Elementary Education with an early childhood endorsement and a minor in Biblical studies at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. "My mission is to partner with parents to help their child grow spiritually, emotionally, academically, and socially. I teach in a style that is a cross between a drill sergeant and a grandmother. It is my desire that every child like school and says 'I'm good at it'."

Two scriptures greatly affect Lori's teaching. One is Proverbs 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Also, Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans too give you hope and a future." Believing that every child has a God given purpose and helping them find it is one of her largest goals.

Mrs. Lori Libby attends Royal Ridge Church of God where she teaches Sunday school, directs the Kid's Klub program, and is on the Missions Committee. Having traveled to Brazil, Honduras and the Caribbean, she has a passion for missions. "When you hug a child in a third world country, you've touched the face of God."

On a personal note, Lori has two grown children who attended GPCS from Kindergarten on. She likes to bass fish, read and scrapbook.



Mr. Frank Marston

Mr. Marston comes to us from the Scarborough High School Adult Education. Mr. Marston did his student teaching at Brunswick High School. He serves as GPCS Development Director.



Mrs. Margaret Swartz

Miss Pearson is our fourth grade teacher, and has over 25 years of teaching experience. Miss Pearson received her BA in Elementary Education at Covenant College and her MA in Education (Environmental Studies) at City College in New York. She's enjoyed teaching ages 6 to 40 in Georgia, Kenya, Queens and Maine.

She writes, "I grew up in a family of 8 that loved to share Christ's love in western Maine. It is a privilege to work with Christian families at GPCS and share in their children's education." Miss Pearson loves to take her students outside and to hike and climb mountains.

Miss Pearson attends Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Kim Rudolph

Mrs. Kim Rudolph has been teaching at Greater Portland Christian School for over 10 years. Mrs. Rudolph teaches Physical Education at GPCS for all grade levels. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education at Liberty University.

Mrs. Rudolph's favorite verse is Romans 8:38-39: *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Mrs. Rudolph and her family attend Second Parish Orthodox Presbyterian Church.



Mrs. Lynn Sarver

Mrs. Sarver has been teaching at GPCS for over five years. She is an Ed Tech helping in the Math and Science Departments. She teaches Algebra II, Accounting, Chemistry, Girls Health, and Art. Mrs. Sarver has an AAS in chemical engineering technology with lots of extras in accounting along the way.

She shares, "My high school years are a testament to God's grace. Before I had turned my heart to Christ, He surrounded me with a network of deeply committed Christian friends who poured truth and prayer into my life. Although my acceptance of Christ's gift did not come until ten years later, I look back on the Lord's provision during my secondary schooling and am reminded again that I have a gracious Savior. I believe that is part of the reason that ministering at GPCS is so important to me."

Mrs. Sarver and her family attend Galilee Baptist Church.



Mrs. Charlene Simpson

Mrs. Simpson has been teaching for over 40 years and has taught at GPCS for over 20 years. Mrs. Simpson teaches Physical Science, Biology, 20th Century History, World History, and US History. Mrs. Simpson holds a BS and Ms in education and continues to take postgraduate courses.

Mrs. Simpson's life verse is, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20-21.*

Mrs. Simpson and her family attend Hope Christian Fellowship.



Mrs. Nancy Strout

Mrs. Strout has been teaching at Greater Portland Christian School for over 8 years, and she is our first & second grade teacher. Mrs. Strout received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at the University of Maine at Orono.

She writes, "Over the years God has continually blessed me and my family. He has taught me to depend on Him and to trust in His will for my life."

Her favorite verse is *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5.*

Mrs. Strout and her family attend First Baptist Church of South Portland.



Mrs. Deborah Waugh

Mrs. Waugh has been teaching over five years at GPCS. At Greater Portland Christian School, Mrs. Waugh teaches Grade 3. She received her Bachelors in Elementary Education with a major in Science and a minor in Psychology from the University of New Brunswick.

Mrs. Waugh writes, "Mrs. Waugh is from Canada, eh! She loves to read, sing and play. She has three kids at GPCS. She expects good work and nothing less! Her husband is an engineer- on the Turnpike, don't fear. They live on Swan Pond, of swimming and boating they are fond. Reading and praying to God is important to Mrs. Waugh. She is growing and learning, to keep teaching at GPCS- she is yearning!"

Mrs. Waugh's favorite verse is Col.3:23. She and her family attend Village Baptist Church.



Miss Jenn Will

Miss Will has taught at GPCS since 1995 and she is presently teaching 6th grade History, Maine History, American History, Pre-Algebra, 6th & 7th grade Bible and Life Science. Miss Will received her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Messiah College in PA.

She writes, "God greatly blessed me by allowing me to attend GPCS for 10 years as a student. That experience combined with the 3 years I spent in a public school, has shown me the importance of strong Christian teachers in the lives of students. It is my prayer that God will use me in the growth of my students, just as my teachers were used by God."

Miss Will attends First Evangelical Free Church of Portland.



Mrs. Mary Willink

Mrs. Willink has been teaching for over 30 years. Mrs. Willink teaches American Literature, Church History, and Cults/World Religions. Mrs. Willink received her BA in English at Calvin College and her Masters in Education at USM.

She writes, "When my husband and I moved to Maine, we planned to live here for 2-3 years. That was over 36 years ago!"

Her favorite verse is Micah 6:8. She and her family attend Second Parish Orthodox Presbyterian Church.



Extra Curricular Activities Offered to GPCS Families

FOR PARENTS

Service Fee and Volunteer Program

Why a Service Fee and Volunteer Program? GPCS, like many organizations, needs volunteers to keep the school operating. We have a simple equation at work in this school; the more jobs volunteers do, the fewer services we buy, the less it costs to educate our children equals affordable tuition. The school chooses to hire professional teachers and administrative staff to ensure a consistent, high quality educational experience. Beyond that, every other function relies heavily on volunteers to make sure it moves forward. We simply have too few volunteers to support the increasing needs of our growing school. To maintain a quality educational program and keep tuition affordable, GPCS has established the service fee and volunteer program.

Why a Service Fee? A number of Private Schools use similar programs to motivate people to get involved. The fee gives people a choice, get involved or provide funds to help the school pay for needed services.

Definitions & Rates

- † The Service Fee - is \$200 or 20 service units volunteered per family per year. A family or single parent can opt to volunteer for half of the required hours and pay half the fee (\$100).
- † A Service Unit - is approximately one hour of time spent in a designated Service Activity.
- † A Service Activity - is an activity specified to be part of the program. Examples of these activities could include: work days, fund raising projects, coaching, volunteering in the classroom, etc.

- † Can volunteer 10 hours and pay \$100.00
- † First 10 (5 if single) hours or \$100 (\$50 if single) is due by Dec. 31. The remaining 10 (5) hours or \$100 (\$50) will be due May 1st. A pledge of expected hours is acceptable (the auction takes place after May 1st).
- † Families who are unable to meet this requirement can have others donate the time in their place.
- † Staff and Board members are exempt.
- † Of course, you may and are encouraged to volunteer more than the allotted requirement!

FOR STUDENTS

Elementary Extracurricular (Grades 1-5)

*There is an extra fee for these activities.

The Arts	Academics	Athletics
Children's Choir	Spelling Bee Team (Grades 4-8)	Soccer (Grades 4-7)
	Math Team (Grades 5-12)	Basketball (Grades 3-5)
	Yearbook (Grades 5-12)	

Secondary Extracurricular (Grades 6-12)

Students may sign-up for extracurricular activities during the school day. *There is an extra fee for these activities and there is a fee associated with each sport.

The Arts	Academic	Athletics
	Model UN	Soccer* (Grades 8-12)
High School Chorus	Student Council	Basketball* (Grades 9-12)
One-Act Play Competition	Yearbook (Grades 5-12)	Track* (Grades 6-12)
Drama Club	Chapel Committee	Baseball* (Grades 9-12)
District Festivals and All-State Festival	World Quest	



ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS

Why Athletics?

At GPCS we see athletics as an excellent way to extend our mission beyond the classroom. We desire to teach athletes to honor and glorify God by using the gifts, talents, and opportunities that they have been given.

All students in Grades 3-5 who would like to play and are medically cleared are given the opportunity to participate. We want all students to have the chance to try their hand at athletics.

Physicals

All athletes are required to have a physical before participation may begin, and there must be a record of it in the school office. After this, athletes must have a physical every two years.

Soccer

Soccer is offered in the fall. Generally, practices begin the first or second week of school. To sign up for soccer, athletes simply come to practice. After the second week of practice, no one new may join.

We have a co-ed team. There are 2 practices/week, and each team generally plays 6-8 games against other small Christian schools in our area. The season usually ends mid to late October.

In our elementary program, athletes are given an opportunity to try different positions and each player is given the opportunity to play at least half of every game.

Equipment Needed

Soccer players need shinguards, cleats, and mouthguards. Basketball players need a mouthguard.

Basketball

Basketball is usually offered in March and April for Grades 3-5. It is an intramural 3-4 week program with athletes divided into 3 or 4 teams. Like soccer, the teams are co-ed and divided to be equally competitive and every player plays at least half of every game.

The program is supervised by 3 adults while teams are coached by high school varsity basketball players. There are 2-3 practices per week. At the end of the program we hold a Game Day where the teams compete against each other.

Sportsmanship

While part of competition is winning and losing, we believe that should not be the focus at the elementary level. Instead the focus should be on other aspects of athletics and competition.

- † Giving your best to God in both games and practices.
- † Showing respect to coaches, other athletes, and referees.
- † Encouraging your teammates.
- † Learning the skills of the game to the best of your abilities.

Learning to give glory and honor to God no matter what the score at the end of a game.



SECONDARY ATHLETICS

GPCS competes in the MPA system for sports. We are listed as Class D West. We compete with other area Class D schools in which other Christian schools are participating as well. If the MPA does not offer Class D, we compete with Class C.

- † Varsity Girls & Boys Soccer
- † Varsity Girls & Boys Basketball
- † Varsity Boys Baseball
- † Outdoor Track- Class C

At the Secondary Level

GPCS offers Jr High and JV sports in soccer, basketball and track depending on number of students interested in participating.



ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Spelling Bee

GPCS participates in ASCI Christian School Spelling Bee. This is offered to students in Grades 4-8. Occasionally, students in Grades 7-8 compete in the Maine State Spelling Bee.

Writing Opportunities

We participate in various writing opportunities at different grade levels. GPSC students have participated in the State of Maine Essay Contest, Children's Theater of Maine Young Play Writers Contest, and Creative Communication Spring Poet List. Several of our students have been state finalists in the State of Maine Essay Contest, and, in 1998, the state champion was from GPCS. The South Portland Library Poetry Workshop invites our students to participate. High school students regularly participate in the Woman's Literary Union writing program. Several of our students have placed or received Honorable Mention.



THE ARTS OFFERINGS

Music

One day each week, Mrs. Lori Libby teaches music to Grades K-5, and students then receive a music grade on their report card. The whole elementary, under Mrs. Libby's direction, performs a year-end musical. This the students really enjoy and parents do as well. School year 2004-2005 the elementary performed "Go, Go Jonah."

Mrs. Lois Libby is also the music director for Grades 6-12.

Throughout the school year, students may participate in Girls Chorus, Boys Chorus and Mixed Chorus. Some of these students audition to participate in the All State Festival. GPCS traditionally places more students at All State than most of Maine's large high schools. During the 1998-1999 school year, two students were selected to perform at the Eastern (U.S.) Festival and sang at Carnegie Hall.

We also offer an after school chorus, directed by Mrs. Lois Libby. It is held on Thursdays from 2:30-3:20pm. Children in Grades 1-8 may participate in this chorus. From this group, students in Grades 4-6 may have opportunities to participate in three festivals: ACDA, District II, and Atterbury Festival. These are all-day events with a performance to end the festival. Periodically, this chorus will perform a musical, such as "Stone Soup," "Tom Sawyer" or "Pied Piper."

It is an annual holiday tradition for all choirs to perform at the First Baptist Church in South Portland. The students sing traditional Christmas hymns. This is a beautiful event!

At the end of the school year, Mrs. Lois Libby directs a Gilbert and Sullivan musical with the secondary choruses. The students put on four performances. This is the highlight of the year. Perhaps you recognize these titles, "H.M.S. Pinafore," "Gondoliers," and "The Mikado," to name a few.

Drama Club

GPCS offers a Drama Club for students in Grades 9-12. There are many ways to participate in this club. Students can be a part of the tech crew, scenery, make-up and of course the acting. The Drama Club performs a play for the public in the fall. In the spring, the Drama Club participates in the State's One-Act Play Festival.

Fine Art

Once a week, we offer art to the elementary students. This is another area in which we rely on our parents. Each classroom has a parent or parents to lead an art project with the students. This can be shared among more than one parent for each classroom. Students enjoy seeing their parents participate!

At the secondary level, students are able to take Art Appreciation or Fine Arts. The Art Appreciation course looks at famous artists and their works, plus students get an overview of different art periods. The Fine Arts course introduces students to various mediums of art from drawing, watercolor, clay, glass blowing, and etc.

Yearbook

GPCS offers students participation on the Yearbook Staff. Meetings and sign up will occur at the beginning of school. Students participate by taking pictures of students at school events, lay out of pages, soliciting, advertising, etc.



STUDENT GROUPS

Student Council

Students in Grades 9-12 are eligible to campaign to represent their respective grade. The Student Council is busy coordinating Spirit Week, managing a food drive, directing the high school Christmas celebration, and raising money for much needed equipment for the high school teachers. GPCS looks forward to the student council growing in its role.

Chapel Committee

Students in Grades 9-12 meet regularly to prepare for our Chapel Services held each week on Wednesday. The committee is responsible for the music, introduction of speakers, writing thank you notes to the speakers, and more.

Christian Service

GPCS requires Christian Service for all 9th Graders. Each student is to complete 10 hours of service per quarter. They are given some class time to help them in their hours. Some students have volunteered to help with correcting, reading to elementary classes, sweeping the gym, etc. Last year's class participated in the Channel Six, "Coats for Kids" program involving the whole school in the project. In the spring of 2003, the high school students also had the opportunity to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in building a home in Portland.



OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Library

GPCS classrooms have a “library corner” with many books for the students to enjoy. The school also has a Library Cart. One day each week, Grades K-5 have a library period. A parent volunteer usually leads this activity. The parent comes in and can read a story and help kids check out books from the classroom or cart. In addition, the City of South Portland offers library cards to GPCS students without charge. Several of the upper elementary classes visit the South Portland Library for their library time throughout the school year.

Field Trips

The activity money you pay goes towards field trips. Our students have gone to several exciting places. Again, parent help is greatly needed to drive to these places and to help chaperone. Some of the favorite places are:

- † Museum of Science in Boston
- † Victoria Mansion
- † Smiling Hill Farm
- † Plymouth Plantation
- † Augusta: State Capital and Maine State Museum
- † Hannaford Supermarkets
- † Oakhurst Dairy

In the past, the high school students have traveled further. In this event, the student is required to pay his or her own way. During the year 2003-2004, students and parent chaperones traveled to Italy and Greece. In the past, there have been trips to England, France and Germany.

Our students have opportunities for mission trips as well. During the year 2003-2004, the students taking Spanish went to Mexico to work

with Wycliffe Missions. In 2005 our seniors went to Nicaragua and New York for a week. Guatemala was the designation in 2007.

At the end of the school year, elementary students participate in Field Day. This is a fun event for everyone. For the past two years, all of elementary has been invited to House Island.

Chapel

GPCS sets aside one day out of the school week for chapel. On this day, students are to wear their “Sunday” best. Please check the Parent/Student Handbook for complete dress code expectations. Mrs. Lori Libby, the Head Elementary Teacher, directs elementary Chapel. Secondary Chapel is directed by area pastors, board members, teacher, etc. volunteering their time to bring God’s word to the students. Below is just a sample of past speakers.

- † Pastor Mark Pearson- Christchurch Evangelical
- † Pastor Ira Hall- Bean’s Corner Baptist Church
- † Mr. Will Wolfe- Payson Park
- † Pastor Dave Christensen- Galilee Baptist Church
- † Pastor Doug Warren- Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church



SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AT GPCS

GPCS Summer Camp Program

Summer Camp is for children entering Kindergarten through 6th Grade who look for something exciting to do in the summer. Your child can engage in learning centers, art projects, and games. There's also music and movement with Dr. Jean. Children will learn while having fun. The maximum number of participants is 12. Priority will be given to GPCS students.

Parents should consider this program if:

- † If you have a child entering K-6 Grades.
- † Your child is a new student, and wants to get to know some of the other students in their classes.
- † Your child enjoys fun games such as Bingo and Around the World.
- † Your child enjoys learning centers, art projects, and special activities.
- † Your child likes to be with other kids their own age and have fun.

This program usually runs for 4 consecutive weeks, and parents can sign up for 1 to all 4. Each year, brochures are sent home with current information.

GPCS Summer Basketball Camp

Basketball Camp is offered within the first week of summer vacation. Students going into 3rd Grade and up to 9th Grade can participate. Each year brochures are sent home with current information.



Admission

REQUIREMENTS

Greater Portland Christian School is a private Christian school. While the school would like to take in and educate any and all children, unfortunately we do not have the staff or the resources to educate children with special needs. Consequently, we cannot accept any children with current major learning difficulties (i.e., children who have been involved in special education programs). Similarly, the school cannot accept any student who has a history of major emotional problems or major disciplinary problems.

All students must undergo a screening process before they can be admitted to the school. The screening process will include an achievement test. For the reasons stated above, no student can be admitted to the school if his/her achievement test indicates he/she is below 4 stanine.

Students who pass the screening process will be given preliminary admission to the school. However, all new students enrolled in the school will be admitted only on a probationary basis for the first three (3) months, and can be refused admission at any time during those first three (3) months.

No decision concerning final admission to the school can be made until the school administrator has had an opportunity to review the student's previous school records.

GPCS seeks support from strong Christian students and parents, but does not require a profession of faith from them. We do require our teachers and Association members to subscribe to the Statement of Faith.

GPCS does not discriminate in any of its programs on the basis of gender, race, color or country of national origin.

Enrollment of New Families

New families considering enrollment must file a complete application packet with the secretary and pay a screening fee. After satisfactory screening tests and a family interview with the Academic Dean, written or verbal notice of acceptance will be made. All other appropriate fees are to be paid before the student may attend class.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

To enroll in GPCS, please follow the steps below

1. Attend Open House. Meet teachers, tour facility and view curriculum.
2. Make a screening appointment. All potential student(s) are tested in reading and math.
3. Fill out an application completely.
4. Complete our questionnaire.
5. Copies of birth certificate and immunization records required.
6. Most recent report card or standardize testing results may be required.
7. A physical exam is required.

The Academic Dean will then evaluate all information and contact the previous school if necessary. Once the decision is made the appropriate letter (acceptance/regret) will be mailed. If you have questions, please contact the school office, between 8am and 3pm, at 207-767-5123; or visit our website at gpcs.net for more information.

TUITION POLICY

Greater Portland Christian School Association votes annually on tuition and fees. Please see the Tuition Rates inserted at the back of the catalog.

- † Tuition may be paid in advance <or> in ten consecutive monthly installments, which are due on the 10th of each month, beginning August 10th and ending May 10th. A late fee of **\$15.00** will be charged to accounts not paid by the 10th.
- † Unpaid tuition at the end of a semester, student(s) will not be allowed to attend the following semester until overdue balance is paid in full.
- † Students will not be permitted to begin a new school year if a balance is showing for any previous school year.
- † Students who leave the school for any reason will be charged tuition on a pro-rata basis.

Family Tuition Plan

- † 1st child (highest grade) – Regular tuition of that grade
- † 2nd child (next highest grade) – 95% tuition of that grade
- † 3rd child (next highest grade) – 90% tuition of that grade
- † 4th or more – 75% tuition of that grade

Pastoral Discount

For a licensed pastor of a local established church, an additional 15% discount will apply to each child in his immediate family.

Tuition Assistance Program

The purpose of the GPCS Tuition Assistance Program is to assist parents of students attending GPCS with a part of their school tuition. This program will allow students whose families may not be able to afford full tuition an opportunity for a Christian school education.

Tuition assistance will be granted to selected families based on need and under no circumstances will tuition assistance exceed 50% of tuition costs. No student will be disqualified because of race, sex, color, or national or ethnic origin. All applications will be considered and the final decision for tuition assistance will rest with GPCS.

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment will be conducting the financial need analysis for GPCS for the upcoming school year. Families applying for financial aid will need to complete an application and submit the necessary supporting documentation and \$20 application fee to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment **by the last Friday of May**. Paper applications will be available in the school office beginning in April. Applicants can also apply online at factstuitionaid.com.

Decisions will be announced as soon as possible after the deadline.

Tuition Payment Options

☐ Incentive for Early Payment: (choose option)

- † Receive a tuition discount of 5% for payment in full of tuition by August 15.
- † Receive a 3% tuition discount for payment of first half of tuition by August 15.
- † Receive a 2% discount for payment of second half of tuition by January 15.

[Note: these discounts for payment of 1/2 tuition only apply to the half tuition that is being paid up front]

☐ Offer 12 month payment plan:

- † A new 12-month option, in addition to current 10 month plan with the start date of July 1.
- † The 12-month payment plan rolls up tuition, curriculum and other fees into 12 equal lump sum payments designed to help our families budget the costs.

❑ **Traditional 10 month payment plan:**

- † Registration Fee is due June 1.
- † Curriculum Fees and Activities Fee are paid by July 1st.
- † Tuition payments are spread out over 10 months with first payment due August 10 and the final tuition payment due May 10

\$500 Referral Program for Existing Families!

Receive a \$500 referral reward for each new family brought into GPCS. The new family would have to list the referring family on their enrollment forms. The \$500 would appear as a credit on the existing family's statement after tuition has been paid by the new family, thus it would most likely be credited on their final tuition bills.

Here are a few rules that apply to this exciting program*

- † Referred families must be new families (first-time attending)
- † Both the referred and referring families must be enrolled for the entire school year
- † Both the referred and referring families must be current in tuition payments before receiving any reward
- † The \$500 tuition credit will be applied to the last of the tuition payment(s) that are due for the school year
- † Families who refer multiple families may be eligible for multiple rewards

Faculty and staff of GPCS are welcome to participate in this program. Program is for tuition only.



DRESS & CONDUCT POLICIES

Dress Code For School & Field Trips

The Policy Committee feels the parents of GPCS students should bear most of the responsibility to ensure that their children are neat, clean and modest in appearance. However, recognizing that opinions of appropriate attire vary, the committee has set up a few specific guidelines:

- † Sheer or see-through clothing is inappropriate. No underclothing should show at any time.
- † Torn clothing and ripped-out jeans are unacceptable.
- † Tank tops, halter tops, crop tops or anything excessively tight, short, or low cut is inappropriate for school. Modest sleeveless tops are acceptable. Straps of tops should be no less than 2 inches wide.
- † Necklines of shirts may not be lower than 4 fingers-breath (fingers, not palm) below the collarbone.
- † Shorts are acceptable for K–12 only during the months of August, September, October, and then beginning March 21st (1st day of spring), April, May and June. Shorts must be worn at the appropriate length. Grades K - 12 shorts should be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee when kneeling on the floor.
- † Girls' skirts should be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee when the girl is kneeling on the floor.
- † T-shirts with approved logos are acceptable.
- † Boys: no earrings. Hats are not allowed to be worn inside the building by boys or girls.
- † Boys pants must be worn above the hips.

Any controversial issues will be left to the discretion of teachers and staff.

Chapel Dress Code

No students are allowed to wear shorts or sweatshirts (hooded or pullover) . Girls are to wear skirts, dresses, or dress pants but are not allowed to wear capris or athletic type pants. Dressy knit shirts are allowed, but T-shirts with logos are not. Boys are to wear dress pants; no jeans or athletic pants are allowed. Belts are to be worn with pants having belt loops. Pants must be worn above the hips. Dress shirts for boys are to be full button shirts and must be tucked into dress pants. Neckties must be tied.

Field Trip Dress Code

On field trips students should follow the Chapel Dress Code unless a teacher specifically directs to follow the general Dress Code.

Physical Education Dress Code

Students are required to wear appropriate shorts or jeans, a T-shirt, and sneakers.

Shirt Policy

If an inappropriate top or shirt is worn, a teacher may ask the student to wear a shirt over the top or shirt considered inappropriate. Teacher will have such shirt available.

Any controversial issues will be left to the discretion of the director, staff and policy committee.



Why Choose GPCS to Help with Your Home School Instruction

- † **Academic Excellence** - We offer a quality education, rigorous standards and high expectations, with a college-preparatory focus for Grades 9-12.

- † **The Perfect Size** – Our class sizes are small, with a friendly atmosphere, supportive peer groups, and Christian fellowship for every student.

- † **Affordable** - We offer tuition rates and extra curricular activities which are less expensive than the cost of school year tutoring, training center support, and an annual membership at a gym.

- † **Spiritual Emphasis** - Students will prepare for a life of service to God in an atmosphere encouraging spiritual growth.

- † **Caring and Committed Staff** - Our staff recognizes student needs and embraces the cause of excellent Christian education.

- † **Parental Involvement** - We are a parent-sponsored, Christian school with as much opportunity for you, as we have for your children.

COURSES

Students may register for up to 3 academic courses per year. Attendance is required at all scheduled classes. For rate information, please contact us.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- † Payment of academic registration fee.
- † Payment of sports registration fee.
- † Adherence to policies contained in the Student-Parent Handbook.
- † Payment of pro-rated lab and activity fees, when applicable.
- † Parent must obtain approval and permission from teachers and/or coaches involved.
- † Student is to be on school property only when attending a class or activity.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Is there a Hot Lunch Program?

There are no kitchen facilities at GPCS. Students are expected to bring their lunches & snacks daily. There are microwave ovens in almost every classroom to heat up items.

2. Will there be Chapel?

Chapel is scheduled for the elementary & secondary each week, which all students are required to attend. Special dress is required (see Student Handbook).

3. Is your school strict?

We base our rules of conduct around Christian principles, using Matthew 18, Philippians 2:4 and Matthew 7:12 as discipline foundations. Swearing, fighting, pushing & pulling are NOT tolerated. Stealing, cheating, destruction of school property, smoking, drugs & alcohols are all grounds for immediate dismissal. The complete list of General Rules for Student Conduct is in the Student Handbook.

4. Is there a special dress code at GPCS?

Although we do not have uniforms, we do have some basic guidelines to follow. Sheer or see-through clothing is considered inappropriate, as are torn clothing or ripped-out jeans. Tank tops, halters or anything that is excessively tight should not be worn. If there are further questions, this policy is located in our Student Handbook.

5. How often will my child receive a report card?

Report cards will be mailed after the end of each quarter for 1-12 to student's homes. Progress reports will be mailed home for elementary students after the 4th week of the first quarter. Junior High and High School students, who are failing or not performing up to their abilities, will receive progress reports to help prevent placement on Academic Probation.

6. What if my child is failing academically?

Any secondary student not maintaining a 2.0 GPA will be placed on academic probation for two weeks the following quarter. Those on probation will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities for two weeks.

7. How often do you have Parent-Teacher conferences?

Conferences are scheduled for the end of the first and third quarters. In addition, teachers may schedule conferences at any time on an individual basis and will do so at the request of a parent.

8. What time do I drop off and pick up my child?

Children may not be dropped off earlier than 7:45 am, and then only if there is adult supervision. Classes start at 8:15 am, and school ends at 2:30 pm. All students are to be picked up by 3:00 pm.



GPCS Association & Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Steve Whiting	President
Dr. Russell Keenan	Vice President
Mrs. Mary MacDonald-Murray	Treasurer
Mr. Peter Bouchard	Facilities Representative
Dr. Stephen Babirak	Education Representative
Mr. Todd LaSalle	
Mr. Bill Bamford	
Mrs. Deborah Meek	Development
Mrs. Susan Smith	Secretary

GREATER PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

What is this group?

The Greater Portland Christian School Association is a group of faculty, parents, alumni, any person over the age of 18 years who annually subscribe in writing to the basis of this school, who regularly attend an evangelical church, and who pay annual dues (except parents and faculty) as set by the Board of Directors.

What is its basis?

The basis of the Greater Portland Christian School Association is the teaching of the Bible that man was made in the image of God to be a steward of His creation, and that parents are responsible to train their children to know and serve God. The basis rests further on the belief that such training can most effectively be carried on in a school where every area of knowledge is related to God: e.g., science is recognized as the investigation and use of God's eternal purpose; and the arts are viewed as reflections of God's creatures.

† We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

- † We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- † We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, and His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His personal return in power and glory.
- † We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- † We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- † We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- † We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is its purpose?

The Association is responsible for:

- † Approval of yearly school budget.
- † Nominating and electing school board members.
- † Implementing new school policies.

How do I become a member?

To become a member you need to certify that you ascribe to each of the seven beliefs listed above and fill out the membership form stating such. This is to be done yearly.

GPCS Constitution and By-Laws

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Greater Portland Christian School Association (the Association).

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the Greater Portland Christian School Association shall be to maintain a parent-controlled school for the daily instruction of pupils in accordance with the principles of Article III. GPCSA shall elect from its membership the Board of Directors who shall administer the affairs of the school.

Article III. Basis

The basis of the Greater Portland Christian School Association is the teaching of the Bible that man was made in the image of God to be a steward of His creation, and that parents are responsible to train their children to know and serve God. The basis rests further on the belief that such training can most effectively be carried on in a school where every area of knowledge is related to God: e.g., science is recognized as the investigation and use of God's eternal purpose; and the arts are viewed as reflections of God's creatures.

The Theological basis, which unites the members of this association and binds the teachers of this school, includes the following particular truths of Scripture:

- † We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- † We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- † We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, and in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- † We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- † We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- † We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

- † We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Article IV. Membership

Membership in The Association is open to all persons 18 years of age and older; who annually subscribe in writing to the basis of this school as in Article III, who regularly attend an evangelical church, and who pay annual dues as set by the Board of Directors. The Association shall have the power to dismiss or suspend a member by 4/5 or 80% vote of the membership present at a legal Association meeting (such action to be taken after careful consideration of the Lord's teaching as per Matthew 18), and that action taken at the Association meeting be reported to the church pastor of the individual concerned.

Article V. Meetings

The annual meeting of this Association shall be held on the first Monday in June unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

Special meetings of this Association may be called by the president of the Board of Directors when requested by a majority of the Board of Directors when requested by a majority of the Board of Directors or when requested by one-fourth of the voting membership. Written notice containing the agenda for the meeting, including nominations for the annual meeting shall be given all members at least two weeks in advance of all annual meetings of the Association. The business of the annual meeting shall include:

- † Election of members of the Board of Directors
- † Financial report of the past year
- † Administrative report of the past year
- † A quorum to conduct business shall be one-fourth of the Association membership.

Article VI. Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any legal meeting of the Association provided that the proposed amendment has been set before the Association at the previous meeting, and that, in accordance with Article V, Section 3, the proposal of the amendment has been included in the call of this particular meeting.

Articles II, III, and VI of the Constitution are not subject to amendment except by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors and a three-quarters vote of the Association's total membership.

Article I. By-Laws

Section I. Selection of the Board

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of nine elected members to serve rotating three-year terms, with members elected at each subsequent annual meeting.
2. The secretary of the Board of Directors must receive nominations at least three weeks prior to the annual meeting.
3. The Board of Directors shall elect its own officers and determine the times of its meetings.
4. The officers of the Board of Directors shall serve as officers of the Association.
5. The school administrators shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors.
6. Vacancies that occur on the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment by the Board, the term to run until the next meeting of the association.
7. Spouses of full-time teachers are not eligible to serve as elected members of the Board.

Section II. Term of Office

1. The term of an elected member shall be for three years.
2. Elected members may be re-nominated for additional terms.

Section III. Duties of Officers

President

1. Provide an agenda for all meetings
2. Appoint committees with Board approval
3. Act as/or appoint a temporary administrator in the event of the administrator's prolonged absence
4. Conduct meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors

Vice-President/Financial Secretary

1. Assume responsibility of the President in his absence
2. Sign any or all checks in the treasurer's absence
3. Assume responsibility for the collection and recording of all tuition receipts
4. Follow up on overdue accounts

Treasurer

1. Sign all checks
2. Provide an accounting of all School finances to both the Board and the Association semi-annually
3. Assume responsibility for the recording of all receipts and disbursements of the school

Recording Secretary

1. Take minutes of all Board and Association meetings
2. Handle all Board and Association correspondence
3. Notify members of all meetings of the Board and Association

Section IV. Committees

Education Committee

1. Recommend broad educational policies to the Board
2. Cooperate with the principal in screening prospective teachers
3. Encourage and support the director and his assistants in the administration of the School
4. Work with the administration in the development of the curriculum
5. Work with the administration in the development of the extra-curricular activities
6. Encourage and help the director and the teachers in earning and maintaining state-approval for the School
7. Cooperate with a long-range planning committee to define and to accomplish future goals.

Finance Committee

1. Make recommendations to the Board on the policies and procedures for the business activity of the School
2. Seek to promote efficient and effective business operations
3. Work with the director and the Board to establish the annual budget
4. Make recommendations to the Board on registration fees, tuition, and other fees
5. Arrange the annual audit of the financial records
6. Work out careful procedures for handling all income
7. Be certain that legal requirements have been fulfilled for tax exemption and for foundation appeals
8. Maintain a five-year projection of the School's finances to keep the Board alert to the financial trends which are coming

Promotion Committee

1. Work with the Director to promote the school to the Christian community and to the general public
2. See that the brochures and newsletters of the school are of top quality
3. Help to recruit new students
4. Develop contacts with foundations
5. Broaden the financial base of the school by securing new donors
6. Help with the annual fund drive and with campaigns for capital improvements
7. Seek opportunities to keep local pastors informed about the school
8. Cooperate with the Director in the Open House program and with other programs to get people on campus

Article II. Staff

The Board of Directors shall appoint the director and teachers after careful consideration of their spiritual, academic, and professional qualifications.

The director and teachers shall be appointed for such terms and with such salary and other conditions as the Board may determine.

All members of the administrative and teaching staff must declare annually in writing their unconditional agreement with Articles II and III of this Constitution.

Article III. Non-Discriminatory Policy

The Association does not discriminate with regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin.

Article IV. Amendments (By-Laws)

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any legal meeting of the Association provided that the proposed amendment has been set before the Association at the previous meeting, and that, in accordance with Article V, Section 3, the proposal of the amendment has been included in the call to this particular meeting.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Charter members of this organization elected an initial Board of nine directors: Three persons to three-year terms; three persons to two-year terms; three persons to one-year terms.

