

Welcome!

2026-2027



Dear Good Shepherd Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! We are so excited to welcome our students and families to Good Shepherd for another year of faith, learning, and community. Father Ben and I are excited to share this year's school theme: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." – Colossians 3:15. Our prayer is that this verse guides our students, staff, and families to seek Christ's peace in our words and actions while living each day with grateful hearts.

We have planned an exciting year ahead filled with strong academics, faith formation, enriching experiences and projects, extracurricular opportunities, and special events. This welcome packet is designed to answer many of your back-to-school questions, but please don't hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions or need clarification—we're here to help!

Throughout the year, you'll receive our online Wednesday Bulletin, along with a month-at-a-glance calendar and school newsletter to keep you informed. We are so joyful to welcome new students, families, and staff to our Good Shepherd community. We look forward to seeing everyone at **Meet the Teacher Night** on Wednesday, August 26, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. If you cannot attend, no worries—we will help all students during their first days of school, or you may reach out to your child's teacher to arrange a time to meet beforehand. Teachers return on August 17 and are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to meet their students!

Thank you for choosing Good Shepherd School and for partnering with us in your child's education. We love our Golden Saints and cannot wait to work with them this year. I am excited for a wonderful year of growing together in faith, peace, gratitude, and learning. God has great things in store for our school community!

With gratitude,

Mrs. Stevi Evans
Principal

stevieevans@gsgvschool.org
(763) 545-4285



Park & Join for a First Day Blessing

8:15-8:30 AM

Monday August 31st Kinder through 6th grade parents are invited to park and meet outside the main school entrance (only on the first day) for a group blessing & send off!

(Preschool first day is 9/1/2026 and carline begins).

Back to School Night

5:30 - 8:00 PM

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Parents only!

Come and learn about school from your child's teacher(s), and sign-up for clubs, activities, & more! If you want to advertise a club here, please reach out!

MARATHON

Saturday, October 10

9:00 AM - Walk, bike, ride & enjoy donuts, cocoa & a community celebration! This is our one main student fundraiser of the year.

Save-the-date!

Calendar Update

See the printed Academic Calendar in this packet.

Note the 1-hour late start dates for staff development & Ash Wed. on: 9/22/26, 10/27/26, 12/8/26, 2/10/27 and 5/11/27.

Please Complete

GOOD SHEPHERD
SCHOOL



Fall Forms

Grades K-6 online forms and preschool paper+ online forms due by 8/26! Use your Blackbaud account to pay tuition/fees and complete the required forms. We need the completed forms before the first day of school. Reach out with any questions on completing the forms. Scan the QR code to access all the forms. Or use this website:

<https://www.gsgvschoolbulletinboard.com/pk-6-fall-packet>



Take Note



School begins at 8:30 AM

School ends at 3:10 PM

Before care is 7:15-8:10 AM

After care is 3:10-5:30 PM

All Day Care (when school is closed) is open 7:30 AM-5:30 PM.



We welcome lunch visitors, but please refrain from this the first three weeks to let students learn the routines & socialize with new peers. (Only exception is a birthday in the early days). We are a NO NUT campus. All visitors must check-in at the office.



No student cell phones or smartwatches allowed. Even if the smart watch is in a "watch only" mode, it is not allowed. Must be digital or analog watches only (no games). Students can call from the office or from the classroom phone with permission. See handbook for more details.

Reporting Absences & Transportation Changes

You can email and/or call us for absences and transportation changes. If you include your child(ren)'s teacher on the email, that is 100% okay, but make sure to **also include** schoolinfo@gsgvschool.org. The attendance phone line is (763) 545-4285 ext 820. Report absences no later than 8:45 AM. Reporting by email is the quickest receipt of absence. Preschool parents report absences in Brightwheel. Transportation changes should be reported by phone or email to the office by 2:40 PM. Students arriving **after** morning announcements (approximately 8:37 AM will be marked as tardy). If the carline is long, we will not issue those tardies.

School Care (Before, After, All Day) & Athletics

Ms. Emma Sandvig is our School Care Director and Athletic Director for Kindergarten through 6th grade. Please contact her with any questions and watch for an email for school care registration (coming soon!). If you are a new student, in grades 4-6, and did not register for fall sports, inquire with her now. Ms. Emma's contact: schoolcare@gsgvschool.org and/or emmasandvig@gsgvschool.org.

Preschool Communications

If you have questions about preschool, Mrs. Colleen King is the Director and you can reach her at: colleenking@gsgvschool.org. Preschool families will get the all school emails, too and specific Prek updates.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Morning Drop-Off (Grades K-6)

Car Line is Released: ~8:12 AM

Car Line Ends: ~8:29 AM

Car Line Starts: Tuesday, September 1, 2026

*Bikers please use soccer field and side-walks or go to traffic monitor and walk bike to designated area.

*Preschool siblings and preschoolers, walk with guardians to preschool drop zone, then K-6 siblings follow sidewalk over to the school entrance.

Reminders for Drop-Off:

Please do not allow students out of your car until a staff member indicates we are ready to begin.

Guardians stay in your car (within reason); staff will help assist students. Yes, Kinders learn to do carline just wonderfully! Handing items out the front door window can be helpful. Say goodbyes inside your car, **before** it's your turn in the line. Students should exit independently on the left side of the car. If exiting on the right, students **must walk in front of their car and over to the sidewalk/safe zone.**

Keep the line moving. **THERE IS NO PASSING.**

Afternoon Pick-Up (Grades K-6):

Park in the lot and wait for students to be released from Door 10. They will come out in lines.

Parents will be waved forward to meet their child(ren) **inside the orange coned area (fence/gate coming).** Parents must come into the safe zone to get their child(ren). Please keep your child with you in the parking lot for safety, especially once you are outside the safe zone. You can move to the soccer field or basketball courts if you want to visit with others, but do not mingle in the parking lot. **A staff person will wait with students until they are picked up and/or will bring them inside to call home.** Do not take other children with you unless you are bringing them home. Communicate with the teacher or monitor outside, if help is needed. Siblings of preschoolers will wait until guardians have picked up preschooler siblings first, then come get upper grade students.

Preschool Drop-off and Pick-up

Preschool guardians only will PARK in the lot (north side), enter into the parking lot from Jersey (south entrance). Walk with child(ren) to door 1 (Church doors) and enter into the gym for check-in. Older student siblings can go along the sidewalk from door 1 to door 12. At pick-up, park in the same area, walk inside to check-out preschooler from same area. If you have older students, go with your preschooler to pick-up older siblings and return to your car together. See notes from Mrs. King.

Before, After, and Full Day Care

All students (Preschool – 6th Grade) enter/exit through Door 12 (east side). Parents park, and bring in child(ren).

Before School Care: 7:15 – 8:10 AM

After School Care: 3:10 – 5:30 PM

Full Day Care (when school is closed): 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Safety Reminders!

- Do NOT pass in the carline, do NOT speed in the neighborhoods.
- Students walk in front of the car when exiting on the right side. Exit left side when possible.
- Do not leave your child(ren) to walk about in the parking lot alone.

Thank you for patience in carline... and for respecting one-another!

Good Shepherd Drop-Off and Pick-Up Map

Soccer Field
Bike or walk across field to avoid traffic.

**Playground &
Outdoor Basketball Court**



Key

Enter and exit K-6 car line ONLY. 8:15-8:30 AM.

Safe to unload K-6 car line.

Preschool entrance/exit ONLY. 8:15 - 8:30 AM.

Follow traffic and see bike rack near main entrance.

K-6 Pick-Up Spot,
3:10-3:20 PM. Parents park safely in lot and wait for students to be released and then can come meet them in the safe zone.

K-6: ENTER HERE for the car line. Enter on Western and use the back streets from Glenwood to funnel in. Alternate as you enter into the parking lot. Unload where the green cars are identified.

K-6: EXIT HERE after using car line.

Please be courteous and patient in the car line. NEVER PASS another car in the car line. Safety of the students and staff is priority. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are tardy or coming for another reason during the school day (outside of pick-up and drop-off time), you must use the main school entrance, door 12.

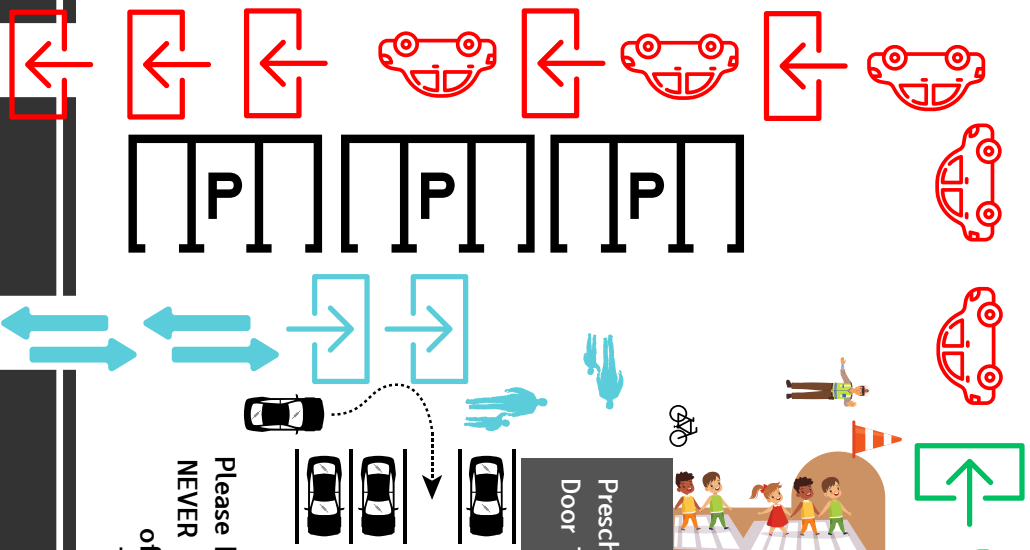
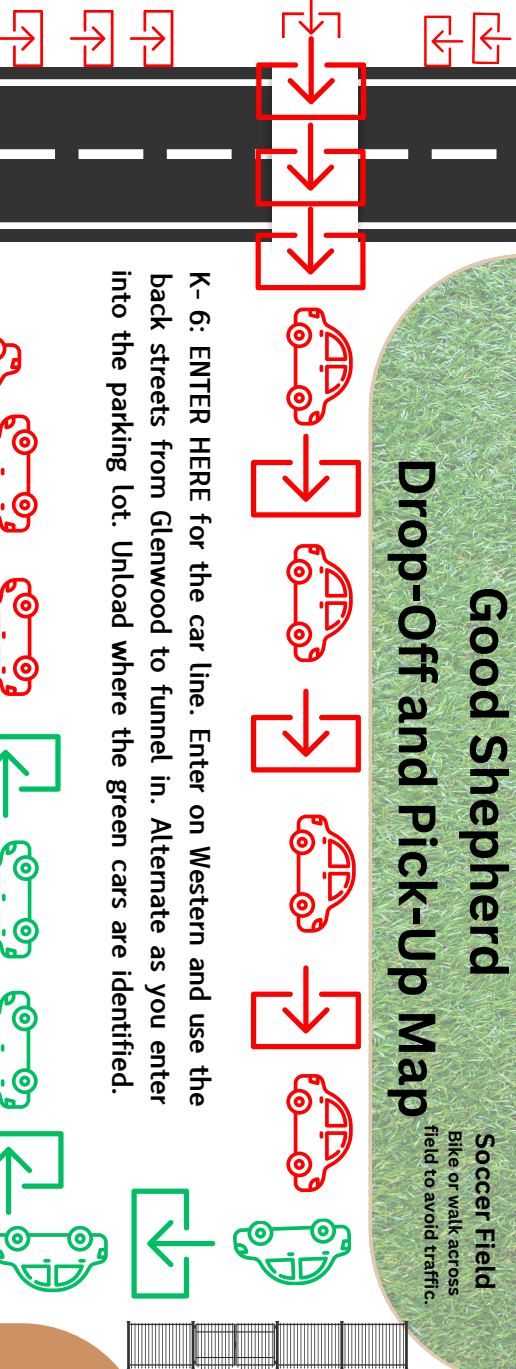
Preschool Entrance & Exit
Door 1, North Side

Preschool parents park and enter/exit in the same area. Park your car and keep your child(ren) with you when you walk in and/or depart. Siblings of prek students can follow sidewalk to the main school entrance/exit. If it is possible, you can exit out the exit with K-6 carline.

Main School Entrance & Exit (K-6)
Door 12, East Side
Park & use this door for all PreK-6 students in before and after care.
Before care: 7:15am-8:00am
After care: 3:30pm -5:30pm
*Use this door for any all day care days (non-school days) or during school hours.

Door 10,
(K-6) will exit from here at end of day.

If you bike, go with traffic and enter on Western or bike down soccer fields to avoid traffic. If you enter on Jersey get off bike and walk it safely through the preschool zone towards the sidewalk, and walk your bike along sidewalk to park it near the Main School Entrance, door 12. See bike parking above.



Western Avenue

Jersey Avenue

Parish & Sacraments

Visit the parish website at goodshepherdgv.org to access sign-ups for sacraments and other events for the coming year! Please consider volunteering for Sunday Hospitality, too! Oktoberfest is around the corner, and we'd love for you to register to attend or to volunteer to help! All are welcome to attend Masses or parish events, we'd love to see you there!

Save-the-Date for Oktoberfest, coming on Saturday, September 26. Mass at 4:00 PM followed by fellowship and community from 5:00-8:00 PM.

Register Today!



Contacts:

Fr. Ben Wittnebel (Pastor): frben@goodshepherdgv.org

Sarah Laman (Office & Safe Environment Coordinator): sarahlaman@goodshepherdgv.org

Volunteering & Visiting

All volunteers must be up-to-date on **Virtus and the Essential 3**. To complete or update this, please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Sarah Laman, in the Parish Office and she will guide you through the process: sarahlaman@goodshepherdgv.org. You can also visit the school website to **learn more!**

If you already have an account, you may need to update it. Don't wait until right before a field trip, check now to ensure you're current, as all volunteers must be submitted into the system in advance.

We are a locked campus, and all visitors, even for Mass, must check-in at the school office (door 12). If there is an accessibility challenge, please call the school office and we can meet a guest at the Church doors, when needed.

School Office & Website

Please visit gsgvschool.org. Under the **Current Parents** tab, you'll find most of the information you need. If you ever have questions or need help navigating, feel free to email us at schoolinfo@gsgvschool.org or call **763-545-4285**. Our school office is open from 8:00 AM–4:00 PM.

Front Office Team Contacts:

- General Office Contact: schoolinfo@gsgvschool.org
- Principal, Stevi Evans: stevieans@gsgvschool.org | ext. 811
- Assistant Principal, Rich Eddy: richeddy@gsgvschool.org | ext. 825
- Director of Advancement, Theresa Hogan: theresahogan@gsgvschool.org | ext. 847
- School Operations Coordinator, Kathy Johnson: kathyjohnson@gsgvschool.org | ext. 820
- Business Director, Renee Hamilton: reenehamilton@gsgvschool.org | ext. 815

Be Involved!



Room Parents

Each homeroom class needs one or two room parents! Please consider signing up for this role at Meet the Teacher. Room parents help coordinate with the teacher for class programs and events for their grade level.

School Board

We'd love to welcome a few more members to our School Board! Having a variety of parent voices helps us better support and advise school leadership. If you're interested in joining, please email stevieans@gsgvschool.org to receive an application. Thank you for considering this important role!

School Mass

We warmly invite you to attend our school Masses, led by different grade levels each week. Join us Wednesdays at 9:30 AM! Please check-in at the school office for a visitor badge when you arrive. We'd love to see you there!

Mens Club

Join the Men's Club to meet other dads and men in the community. The Men's Club has made a huge impact on the school and community. They support SO many efforts at GS! Please consider joining to have fun while serving a great cause!

<https://www.goodshepherdmensclub.com/>

St. Monicas

The women of GS love to socialize, read, pray, and do service together. Consider coming to an event to meet other moms and women interested in joining together in community!

<https://gsgvschool.org/st-monicas-club>

Back to School

Save the date for Back to School Night on Thursday, September 10, 2026. You will learn about your child's school year, as well as many volunteer opportunities that we will need help with! Thanks for making it a priority! We look forward to seeing you there... parents and guardians only, please.

Chaperones

From preschool through 6th grade our students are involved in many offsite activities! Please consider chaperoning at least one of their field trips this year. We can use extra hands and it is a great way to see experiential learning in action.

Lunch Room

Help serve food and see all the students! We love having extra hands in the kitchen.

If you're interested in helping, see the Food Program Updates!

Everyone Involved!

We have never had to require volunteer hours, and we hope for this to continue! **We will post Sign-Up Genius links to volunteer in the weekly online bulletin.** On Back-to-School night we will have many registrations available for the entire academic year, so you can be fully planned out for when you can help. Thank you for being part of the community and helping us thrive! The Marathon & Trunk-or-Treat come up quickly, and help will be needed! Thanks!



Follow us on Instagram [@gsgvschool](https://www.instagram.com/gsgvschool) and Facebook [facebook.com/gsgvschool/](https://www.facebook.com/gsgvschool/)



Visit the school website: www.gsgvschool.org to access information & contacts!

Food Program Updates



LUNCHROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



September Breakfast & Lunch Menus Coming Soon



Meal Prices

Pre-K – 6th Grade

- Breakfast & Lunch: FREE for the entire school year. Breakfast is grab-n-go style, lunch has three options: Main Entree, Sandwich, or Salad Bar (no salad option for preK). Students select an option each morning.
- Ala Carte (Extra Entrée for 1st–6th Grade): \$2.00 charge
- Extra Milk/Milk with Home Lunch: \$0.50 charge

Adults

- Lunch: \$6.00 - If you come and eat with your child(ren) you cannot charge their account. We accept cash or check.

Menus

The breakfast and lunch menus will be posted online each month, and on the wall in the Commons/Cafeteria. If you need a paper copy, reach out, we have copies in the office.

Volunteer!

We love having helping hands in the cafeteria! If you'd like to help this school year, please contact: Melissa Sack at melissasack@gsgvschool.org. It'll put a smile on your child's face to see you there! We so appreciate the extra help, thanks for considering.

PaySchools Account Info

Create or login to your PaySchools account at: gsgvschool.myschoolapp.com

With your account, you can:

- View your student's lunch balance
- Add money to their account
- Set up auto-replenishment so they're never without lunch money



You'll need your child's lunch number - we can provide that! Email Mrs. Sack to obtain it.



Free & Reduced Lunch Applications

Even though meals are no charge for Pre-K–6th grade, the state still requires free/reduced lunch applications to be completed if you think you qualify.

- Applications are available in the online forms, printed copies available upon request.