

Understanding Tuition and Value of Grace Lutheran Education

Dear Grace Lutheran Community,

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education. We understand that decisions about tuition are significant, and we believe it is important to be transparent about both the cost and the value of a Grace education.

Why Grace Is Different

Grace Lutheran School offers a Christ-centered education marked by small class sizes, personalized academic instruction, a strong emphasis on student safety and well-being, and a wide range of opportunities that prepare students for success in high school and beyond. Our graduates leave Grace academically prepared, emotionally supported, and grounded in faith, character, and purpose.

The true cost to educate a student at Grace Lutheran School is approximately **\$14,000 per year**. This figure reflects the full investment required to provide high-quality instruction, dedicated Christian educators, curriculum and instructional resources, facilities, student support services, and a safe, nurturing learning environment. Tuition does not fully cover this cost; the difference is supported through church contributions, fundraising, and careful financial stewardship.

At Grace, education goes beyond academics alone. We intentionally focus on the development of the whole child—mind, heart, and spirit—while responding to the individual needs of each student. Teachers use MAP testing dynamically throughout the year to guide instruction, identify areas for growth, and provide appropriate challenge and support so every student can reach their potential.

Just as important as academic growth is the environment in which students learn. Grace places a strong emphasis on the emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of our students. Our close-knit community, clear behavioral expectations, and proactive approach to student care create a respectful and supportive atmosphere where students feel secure, valued, and able to focus on learning—an increasingly important distinction as many schools, particularly at the middle school level, face growing challenges.

Small class sizes remain a defining feature of a Grace education. This allows teachers to truly know each student, build strong relationships, and provide individualized attention that supports both academic progress and personal growth. Families benefit from consistent communication and a shared partnership in their child's development.

Grace students also benefit from a variety of athletic teams, extracurricular activities, and enrichment opportunities that extend learning beyond the classroom. These programs encourage students to explore interests, develop leadership skills, build teamwork, and grow in confidence.

As students prepare to transition beyond Grace, they do so with a strong foundation for high school and life. Feedback we receive from area high schools, including Oak Park and River Forest (OPRF) High School, consistently reflects that Grace graduates are academically well-prepared, demonstrate strong study habits, and adjust confidently to the expectations of high school coursework. Equally important, they carry with them the character, responsibility, and faith-based values nurtured during their years at Grace.

As costs rise across education, we remain committed to thoughtful, prayerful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. Tuition adjustments are made carefully to sustain the quality, stability, and Christ-centered mission that define Grace Lutheran School.

We are grateful for your partnership and your continued support. Together, we remain committed to preparing students to live with faith, confidence, and compassion in a changing world.

Thank you for trusting us to serve your family,

Dr. Taylor-Imani Gates, Ph.D., Principal and the Elementary Education Committee (EEC)

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION AND FEES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

ANNUAL TUITION

KINDERGARTEN – 8TH GRADE	\$9,625*
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN (JK – 4-YEAR-OLDS)	\$5,660 (Morning program, 5 days per week)
PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PK – 3-YEAR-OLDS)	\$5,660 (Morning program, 5 days per week)
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN ARE MORNING PROGRAMS THAT GO FROM 8 AM TO 11:30 AM, ONLY	*The true cost to educate a student is approximately \$14,000 per year.

Tuition Assistance: Families who feel they may not be able to afford the full tuition may apply for assistance through FACTS. Below are the minimum annual amounts that you will have to pay, depending on how many students you have enrolled. **The application deadline is April 30.**

1 STUDENT	\$3,270	Minimum
2 STUDENTS	\$5,889	Minimum
3+ STUDENTS	\$7,849	Minimum

3-YEAR-OLD & 4-YEAR-OLD AFTERNOON PROGRAM (11:30 AM – SCHOOL DISMISSAL)

1 DAY PER WEEK	\$1,010
2 DAYS PER WEEK	\$2,018
3 DAYS PER WEEK	\$3,028
4 DAYS PER WEEK	\$4,036
5 DAYS PER WEEK	\$5,046
TUITION ASSISTANCE IS NOT OFFERED FOR THE AFTERNOON PROGRAM. YOU MUST PAY FULL PRICE.	TO ENROLL IN THE 3 AND 4-YEAR-OLD AFTERNOON PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED HERE, YOUR CHILD MUST ALREADY BE ENROLLED IN THE MORNING PROGRAM.

ONE-TIME NON-REFUNDABLE FEES

APPLICATION FEE	\$50/student	New Students Only. Due upon Application Submission.
ENROLLMENT FEE	\$100/student \$150/student	Returning students re-enrolling after 2/16

CURRICULUM MATERIALS FEE	\$465	Kindergarten – 8 th Grade
	\$310	Pre-Kindergarten & Junior Kindergarten
	\$155	In addition to the \$310 if the student stays for the afternoon program (11:30 am to school dismissal).
CLASSROOM SUPPLY KIT	\$60	PK-6 th
TECHNOLOGY FEE	\$100	Junior Kindergarten – 8 th
FIELD TRIP FEE (FOR TRANSPORTATION ONLY)	\$50	PK – 8 th
CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FEE (GPO)	\$30	PK – 8 th
8TH GRADE GRADUATION FEE	\$155	
8TH GRADE CLASS TRIP FEE (BILLED IN SPRING OF GRADUATION YEAR)	\$100	

GLS+ (BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING)

REGISTRATION FEE	\$50
BEFORE SCHOOL (7 AM – 7:45 AM)	5 days/week - \$125/month
	4 days/week - \$113/month
	3 days/week - \$99/month
	2 days/week - \$74/month
	1 day/week - \$46/month
AFTER SCHOOL (DISMISSAL – 6 PM)	5 days/week - \$316/month
	4 days/week - \$287/month
	3 days/week - \$251/month
	2 days/week - \$187/month
	1 day/week - \$114/month
COMBO (BEFORE & AFTER CARE)	5 days/week - \$389/month
	4 days/week - \$354/month
	3 days/week - \$308/month
	2 days/week - \$231/month
	1 day/week - \$141/month
DISCOUNTS	Sibling 10%
	Military 10%
	District Employee 50%

50% of the fees outlined for the upcoming year are due on **March 15**. The remaining balance is due on **July 15**, unless otherwise noted. Enrollment is not guaranteed if these fees are not paid on time.