VIKINGS BASKETBALL 2026-2027

What does the LORD require?



Micah 6:8

TEAM HANDBOOK

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Basketball Team Membership Criteria

Prospective Basketball Team members must be academically eligible and abide by the team rules, as well as Grace Lutheran School, Conference, and Lutheran Sports Association guidelines. All ability and experience levels are welcome for students 5th through 8th grade. We require the following documents to be turned in to coaches by the first day of practice or turned in to the school office before the first practice. These forms will be counted as current if they are turned in for any sport at Grace for a previous season in the current school year. (If you turned in forms for a fall sport season, you will not need to turn them in again for a winter or spring sport.)

1. Current physical (Physicals are considered current for 13 months)
2. Parent Permission Form (This form requires parent/guardian and student signatures.)
3. Concussion Form (This form requires parent/guardian and student signatures.)
4. Viking Code of Honor signature section (This form requires parent/guardian and student signatures.)

The **$100** Athletic/Activities fee must be paid by the conclusion of our first week of practice.

Coaching Philosophy

The Grace Basketball Program seeks to provide a positive environment to introduce the sport of basketball and to promote all the important values team participation offers. We strive to create an environment that promotes sportsmanship, discipline, kindness, and respect- both on and off the court. Most importantly, all of us are God's beloved children! Always remember: even as we strive to be our competitive best, our worth is never determined by how many baskets we make or how many games we win. It is in this confidence that we learn and grow.

Expectations for Athletes

*Strive to be your best.
We expect our athletes to come to practices and games ready to give their best effort.

*Contribute in a positive way to the program.
Listening to coaches give directions and insights is an important way to show you are sincere in being a positive part of this team and eager to improve your own performance.

*Show respect to coaches, teammates, parents, officials, spectators, and the environment/equipment. It is fun to bond with teammates and experience the joy of being a part of something bigger than just yourself. Wear the Grace uniform with respect understanding that each athlete represents the whole team, the whole school, and the Grace community.

*Take care of your uniform.
Athletes are responsible for the uniform they are issued at the beginning of the season. The game jersey and shorts need to be washed with cold water on a delicate setting. Hang to dry. The uniforms will last much longer if treated this way. Washed uniforms will be turned in to Coach McCabe in a ziplock bag marked with the athlete's name and uniform number at the conclusion of the season.

Contact Information

Boys' Varsity-	Coach Arthur Brown	abrown52116@gmail.com
Boys' JV-	Coach Mac Mahurin	mac.mahurin@gmail.com
Girls' Varsity-	Coach Brian Schultz	bschultz@graceriverforest.org
	Asst. Augie Garcia	itdedt4@gmail.com
Girls' JV-	Coach Jane Wilcox	janeywilcox@gmail.com
	Asst. Erik Lindberg	erik12lindberg@gmail.com
Athletic Director-	Sarah McCabe	smccabe@graceriverforest.org

Expectations for Coaches
*Grace School Administrators and the Athletic Director discuss expectations with coaches prior to the start of each season.

Expectations for Parents
*Remember that this is supposed to be a fun, positive learning experience for your child. We are playing in the grade school level of the Lutheran league. No college scholarships are earned this season.

*Be a Spectator, not a sideline coach
Parents are encouraged to cheer positively for all layers, but should not coach from the stands. Please allow the coaching staff to instruct and guide the athletes during games.

*Respect the Officials
No matter how bad a call may seem, do not yell at or argue with referees. Officials are human and part of the learning environment for our athletes. There are appropriate channels to address concerns for the Athletic Director to pursue.

*Support the Team- Win or Lose
Whether it is a close game or a tough loss, please model good sportsmanship. Encourage effort, teamwork, and a positive attitude.

*Communication
If you have concerns or questions, please email the coach and copy the Athletic Director, or arrange for an appropriate time to speak privately with the coach.

*Transportation -Try your best to be at the host site 35 minutes ahead of game time for warm ups.
Parents are responsible for transporting their athlete to and from all games. Plan ahead and consider carpooling when needed.

*Uniforms are for Game Days Only
Remind your athlete to prepare the night before games so that the uniform is ready. Please note the uniform care directions: in cold water, gentle cycle, hang to dry.

*Team Communication
Any updates will be posted on TeamSnap, WhatsApp, or the communication method that fits the coach and parents of each team.

Special Ad for Team Parent Help!
Team Parents are needed to help with needs such as:
taking a turn with selling concessions at a home game, working
the scoreboard, and keeping records in the scorebook,
assisting with the team end-of-season party, and organizing a gift for coaches.

Volunteering is a great way to enjoy comradery with other parents and support the athletic programs at Grace. We can't do it without you!

Basketball: Competitors/Locations/Uniforms

Levels:

Grace has four levels of basketball teams competing this 2026-2027 season. Girls Junior Varsity (5+6 grade), Boys Junior Varsity (5+6) grade, and Girls Varsity (7+8), and Boys Varsity (7+8 grade).

Our Conference: NWSLC- North West Suburban Lutheran Conference

St. Andrews- 260 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, 60068
St. Paul- 18 S. School Street, Mount Prospect, 60056
St. Peter- 111 West Olive Street, Arlington Heights, 60004
Grace Lutheran School- 7300 W. Division St., River Forest, 60305

Other Schools we have on our schedule to play:

Ascension Catholic School- 601 Van Buren St., Oak Park, IL 60304
Christian Liberty- 502 W Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Cross Lutheran School- 8535 State Route 47, Yorkville, IL 60560
Holy Family Lutheran School- 3415 W Arthington St, Chicago, IL 60624
Immanuel Lutheran Church- 1850 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, IL 60025
St. James Lutheran School- 2101 N Fremont St, Chicago, IL 60614
St. Lukes Catholic School- 519 Ashland Ave, River Forest, IL 60305 (home game this year)
The Field School- 535 N Parkside Ave, Chicago, IL 60644
(-not to be confused with Field School in Northbrook)

Team Uniforms:

Our team uniforms are for game day only, and should be washed in cold water, gentle cycle, and hung to dry. It is best to avoid the dryer if at all possible. Students are responsible for the care of their uniform and they must turn in the same uniform they were issued in November at the end of the season in February. Teammates may not switch jerseys or shorts with each other. Under garments should be the same color. Your level coach will give specific instruction about what you may wear under your jersey and shorts.

A few Basic Basketball Rules in our State to Note:

All games shall consist of six-minute periods. Overtime periods shall be three minutes.
No jewelry may be worn.
No watches may be worn.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

SCORETABLE GUIDELINES FOR ALL CONFERENCE BASKETBALL GAMES

FOR COACHES, REFEREES, AND SCORETABLE WORKERS

Last Updated 10-23-25

CONFERENCE RULES

5th & 6th Grade Level

- The Three Point Shot DOES COUNT
- Free Throws - player starts behind 15 foot line, but may jump over it
- **NO PRESS ALLOWED - Except for the last 2 minutes of half and game, if that team is not already winning by 10.** ****(coaches may opt for a "NO PRESS AT ANY TIME" rule before an individual game – but both coaches must agree on the rule and must let refs know before that game begins)**** **UPDATED DEFINITION OF "PRESS" BELOW!**

7th & 8th Grade Level

- **PRESS IS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME**
- All other IHSA rules are followed

SCOREBOOK

Timeouts

3 – 60 second timeouts (per game)
2 – 30 second timeouts (per game)

Fouls

5 fouls for one player in a game - that player "fouls out"

Team Bonus (free throws)

On the 5th Foul OF EACH QUARTER - 2 free throws

TIMING

Four 6 minute quarters
1 minute between quarters
5 minutes for halftime
8 minutes between games (at least)

DEFINITION OF PRESS- 5th & 6th Grade Level ONLY

- "NO PRESS" means that defense cannot be played in the backcourt.
- Also, the dribbler MUST BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FRONTCOURT, therefore "NO PRESS" means that defense CANNOT WAIT AT THE HALFCOURT LINE to begin defending. *The defense must give the dribbler an opportunity to enter the frontcourt.*

PRESS RULE ALLOWANCE- 5th & 6th Grade Level ONLY

- Offensive Players ARE ALLOWED to attempt to secure offensive rebounds & loose balls before they retreat into their half court defensive positions.
- Once the defense has CLEAR POSSESSION of a rebound, steal, or loose ball, the offensive team must retreat into their half court defensive positions.
- CLEAR POSSESSION is subjective for each referee. However, once a player makes their first dribble or first pass, CLEAR POSSESSION has been definitively established.

Grace Lutheran School's Ineligibility Policy

It is important for students-athletes to understand that participating in athletics at Grace School is a privilege and that academics must always be our first priority. With this in mind, the following policy has been established.

In Grades 7 & 8, a student will be considered ineligible to participate in athletic practice and competition for one week under the following conditions.
- More than one class has a grade below 65
- Grades will be checked on Tuesday each week and students that do not meet the acceptable standard will be ineligible beginning Tuesday through the following Monday.
- If a student is deemed ineligible they will be allowed to call parents at lunch to inform them of their status and if necessary, make transportation arrangements.
- This process and determination will begin after a minimum of 10 school days have passed at the beginning of each trimester and continue each week until the trimester ends.
- Students that are ineligible based on final trimester grades will remain ineligible until the first check of the next trimester. (ex: if two grades are lower than 65 on the final grade report for the 1st trimester, the student may not practice or compete until the first official check for everyone a minimum of 10 school days into the 2nd trimester) Note: Consideration is made for students that have been absent.

In Grades 5 & 6, at the discretion of faculty members, a student may be held out of a practice or competition for an incomplete major project or if incomplete daily assignments become a reoccurring
problem.

Student-athletes may also be held out of practice or competition or removed from a team due to reoccurring inappropriate behavior at any time during a school day or after school
event.

Attendance at School and Eligibility to Practice/Attend Game

The spirit of this policy is that if a student is too sick to come to school, that student is too sick to participate or attend a practice or game.

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

Athletic Department Philosophy and Objectives

Extracurricular athletics and activities are an important part of the learning experience at Grace Lutheran School. We believe that God has blessed each of us with unique abilities and talents. Extracurricular athletics and activities provide an opportunity to develop emotionally, socially, mentally, physically, and spiritually. Participation is encouraged to assist in developing positive Christian attitudes. Through these experiences, we gain opportunities to practice our faith, and learn more about ourselves and who God wants us to be.

At Grace we believe that the experience of competition challenges us and helps bring out the best in ourselves. We trust that God is delighted to see all God's children try their best and work to develop skills and gifts God has gifted to us. As we strive to improve in our abilities, we also remember that our greatest value is not in our wins and losses record, but in the truth that we are God's beloved children.

Extracurricular athletics and activities do not serve as ends in themselves, but means by which to:

*Learn and grow in understanding about new sport techniques and skills that will encourage lifelong enjoyment.
*Develop positive mental attitudes.
*Benefit from experiences and growth around disappointment and resiliency.
*Provide experiences and guidance that will lead to self-discipline and growing emotional maturity.
*Practice handling anxious feelings and developing beneficial strategies.
*Provide the opportunity to cooperate with others and work together towards common goals.
*Promote the desire to excel and the appreciation of fitness, recreation, and a healthy lifestyle.

No-Cut Policy

Grace Lutheran School has a no-cut policy in our athletic activities.

Viking Code of Honor for Grace Athletic Teams

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

This Code of Honor serves as a promise between students, parents, and coaches to work together with a productive and positive spirit. It is an example of our desire to be at our best for one another and provide the ideal setting for our programs to be successful and our children to thrive.

Student-Athletes promise to:
-be positive contributors and behave with good sportsmanship.
-show respect for teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and our playing environment.

Ways to show these promises in your actions include listening to coaches' directions, using your words to encourage others, handling equipment responsibly, and serving as a good example to all those around.

Parents promise to:
-conduct themselves in a manner that displays positive support for Grace programs and a respectful attitude towards all players, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators.

Ways to show these promises in your actions include withholding comment on coaches' or officials' judgements, making arrangements to ensure a punctual arrival and pick up of student-athletes to and from games and practices, cheering with positive comments to our players if so moved, and communicating in a constructive manner to coaches.

Coaches promise to:
-do their best to provide their student-athletes with a positive learning experience and instill in their players the principals of good sportsmanship.
-comply with decisions of officials and observe all rules set by the Lutheran School Association and our Conference.
-show respect for players, opponents, parents, officials, spectators, and other coaches.

Ways to show these promises in action include giving clear, thoughtful instruction to the team, demonstrating good sportsmanship in wins and losses, and holding student-athletes accountable for their actions in a constructive manner.

Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God. Micah 6:8

Grace Lutheran School has this page on file, signed by each athlete, and his/her parent(s), and our coaches.

Grace Basketball Schedule 2026-2027

Updated Oct. 29, 2026

Girls Varsity
Boys Varsity
Girls JV
Boys JV

November

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/8	11/9 Make sure paperwork is turned in to Coach McCabe and your physical is current.	11/10 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var 4:30 Parent Athlete Team Meeting	11/11 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-3:45 pm Boys Var 3:45 Parent Athlete Team Meeting	11/12 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	11/13 3-4:15 pm Boys JV 3-4:45pm Boys Var	11/14
11/15	11/16 3-4:15 pm Girls Var 4:15-5:30 Boys Var	11/17 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	11/18 (Teacher Meeting) 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-3:45 pm Boys Var	11/19 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var Get Uniforms	11/20 3-4:15 pm Boys JV 3-4:45pm Boys Var Get Uniforms	11/21
11/22	11/23 3-4:15 pm Girls Var 4:15-5:30 Boys Var	11/24 11:30 am Dismissal	11/25 No School Thanksgiving Break	11/26 No School Thanksgiving Break	11/27 No School Thanksgiving Break	11/28

December

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/29	11/30 GAME DAY @ Grace w/ St. Lukes, 4:30 pm Girls Var w/Walther 5:30 pm Boys Var	12/1 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	12/2 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	12/3 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var TBD- tournament bracket GAME DAY @Immanuel Palatine Girls Varsity Tournamnt	12/4 GAME DAY @ Cross, Yorkville Boys Varsity, Tournmt GAME DAY @Immanuel Palatine Girls Varsity Tournamnt GPO Event	12/5 GAME DAY @Cross Yorkville Boys Varsity Tournament GAME DAY @Immanuel Palatine Girls Varsity Tournamnt
12/6 GAME DAY Palatine Tourn. Girls Var Champ. Game	12/7 GAME DAY @ Grace w/ St. Andrew 4:30 pm Boys JV 5:30 pm Boys Var @ St. Andrew, PR 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Girls Var	12/8 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Varsity Girls	12/9 GAME DAY @ Holy Family 4:15 pm Girls JV 5:15 pm Boys JV Practice- 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	12/10 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Varsity Girls	12/11 Practice 3-4:15 pm Boys JV GAME DAY @ Immanuel Glenview Boys Varsity Tournament	12/12 GAME DAY @ Immanuel Glenview Boys Varsity Tournament
12/13	12/14 GAME DAY @ The Field School 4:30 pm Boys JV 5:30 pm Boys Var Practice 3-4:15 pm Girls Var	12/15 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	12/16 (Teacher Meeting) 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	12/17 GAME DAY Var@St. Paul, Mt. Pros 4:30 pm Girls Var 5:30 pm Boys Var JV @ Grace v Mt. Prspct 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Boys JV	12/18 3-4:15 pm Boys JV 3-4:45pm Boys Var (Possible cancellation)	12/19
12/20	12/21 Full school day 3-4:15 pm Girls Var 4:15-5:30 Boys Var	12/22 Full school day	12/23 11:30 Dismissal	12/24 No School Christmas Eve 4:15 & 6:00 services	12/25 No School Christmas Day!	12/26
12/27	12/28 No School	12/29 No School	12/30 No School	12/31 No School	1/1 No School	1/2

January

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/3	1/4 No School	1/5 No School	1/6 No School	1/7 No School	1/8 No School	1/9
1/10	1/11 No School- Teacher Meetings	1/12 GAME DAY @ St. James 4:30 Girls Var 5:30 Boys Var Practice- 3-4 pm Girls JV	1/13 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	1/14 GAME DAY YES @ St. Paul, Mt. Prospect Boys JV SPIT Tourn. Boys Var SPIT Tourn. Practice- 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	1/15 GAME DAY YES Boys JV SPIT Tourn. Boys Var SPIT Tourn. @ St. Paul,Mt Prospect	1/16 GAME DAY YES Boys JV SPIT Tourn. Boys Var SPIT Tourn. @ St. Paul
1/17 GAME DAY SPIT Cont.	1/18 MLK Day No School	1/19 Game Day @ Grace w/St. Andrew 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Girls Var @ St. Andrew 4:30 pm JV Boys 5:30 pm Boys Var	1/20 Game Day @ Grace vs. St. James 4:30 pm Boys JV 5:30 pm Girls JV *(Note switch in game order. Not a typo.)* Practice: 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	1/21 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	1/22 GAME DAY YES Boys Varsity Tourn. And Girls Varsity Tourn. @ St. Peter, Arlngtn Hts	1/23 GAME DAY YES Boys Varsity Tourn. And Girls Varsity Tourn. @ St. Peter, ArlngtnH
1/24	1/25 3-4:15 pm Girls Var 4:15-5:30 Boys Var	1/26 Game Day @ St. Paul, Mt. Pros 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Boys JV @ Grace vs. St. Paul 4:30 pm Girls Var 5:30 pm Boys Var	1/27 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	1/28 Game Day @ Grace w/ Ascension 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Girls Var	1/29 Game Day @ Ascension 5:30 pm Boys JV 6:30 pm Boys Var	1/30

February and early March

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/31	2/1 3-4:15 pm Girls Var 4:15-5:30 Boys Var	2/2 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	2/3 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	2/4 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	2/5 GAME DAY Yes @St. John's Lombard Girls+Boys Varsity Trn. Championship	2/6 GAME DAY Yes @St. John's Lombrd Girls+Boys Varsity Trn. Championship GAME DAY- Girls JV Tourn. Yes @ Christian Lib, AH
2/7 GAME DAY St. John Cont.	2/8 GAME DAY yes @ Grace w/ Holy Fam 4:15 pm Girls Var 5:15 pm Boys Var	2/9 Game Day @ St. Peter, AH 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Boys JV 4:30 pm Girls Var 5:30 pm Boys Var	2/10 2:15-3:45 pm Boys JV 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	2/11 3-4:30 pm Girls JV 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	2/12 GAME DAY Girls Var. Tourn at Immanuel, Glenview new Practice- TBA 3-4:45pm Boys Var *May be cancelled.*	2/13 GAME DAY Girls Var. Tourn at Immanuel, Glenview new
2/14	2/15 No School Presidents' Day	2/16 Game Day @Grace v. St Peter AH 4:30 pm Girls JV 5:30 pm Boys JV Practice - 3-4 pm Girls Var	2/17 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	2/18 Game Day @Grace vs. St. Peter 4:30 pm Girls Var 5:30 pm Boys Var ***8th Grade Night	2/19 3-4pm Team Party Day Girls JV and Boys JV	2/20
2/21	2/22 TBA 3-4:30 pm Boys Var (Possible Play-In Game for State)	2/23 TBA 3-4:30 pm Girls Var (Possible Play-In Game for State)	2/24 TBA 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	2/25 No School Day P-T Conferences	2/26 No School Day	2/27
2/28	3/1 TBA 3-4:30 pm Boys Var	3/2 TBA 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	3/3 TBA 2:15-4:15 pm Boys Var	3/4 TBA 3-4:30 pm Girls Var	3/5 STATE TOURNAMENT	3/6 STATE TOURNAMENT Graceful Evening
3/7 STATE Cont.						

Girls Varsity Practice Times/Games

Boys Varsity Practice Times/Games

Girls JV Practice Times/Games

Boys JV Practice Times/Games

Varsity Team Parties TBA