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## FAQ

*The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions to provide pertinent information for parents about Garden City Academy. This FAQ will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.*

- **When does GCA open?**
  - September, 2024, will start our inaugural year.
  
- **What grades will be offered at GCA?**
  - GCA will offer grades K-12 in year 1.
  
- **What Kindergarten options will be available?**
  - We plan to offer both half day and full day kindergarten.
  
- **What is tuition?**
  - We are thrilled to announce that tuition will be among the lowest priced tuition for Christian Schools in the state. For a detailed explanation of this generosity-based community-driven disruptive financial model, visit our website at [www.gardencityfarmers.com](http://www.gardencityfarmers.com).
  
- **Can a student apply if their family does not attend Grace City Church?**
  - Yes. GCA is a regional school for anyone who desires a distinctly Christian education for their children and agrees to the lifestyle agreement and cultural code of the school.
  
- **Can a student apply if their family does not attend any church at all?**
  - Yes. While GCA is a thoroughly and distinctly Christian school, we are open to meeting with any family to explore if GCA would be a good fit for their student.



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- **What does high school look like at GCA?**

- We intend to build a first-class secondary experience that serves as a preparatory finishing school for launching students into a meaningful life. Some highlights include:
  - *Robust academics* rooted in a liberal arts classical framework.
  - *World-class faculty* who live like life mentors. The faculty of GCA have a contagious love for Jesus and students and a passion to teach every subject through a Christian worldview while stoking a love for learning in every learner.
  - *College credits* through Dual Credit and/or AP courses. Students will be able to complete close to two years of college credits while enrolled in high school at GCA.
  - *Vector Institute* offered as the one-of-a-kind senior year leadership capstone experience emphasizing theology, citizenship, life-preparation, and leadership.
  - *Internship Opportunities* through strategic partnerships with local businesses. All students will participate as a part of their capstone experience.

- **How will the college credits work for high school students?**

- Classes will be offered as college credits in one of two ways:
  1. *Dual Credit Classes* - Students will take the college-level class in the GCA classroom and receive college credits for the class. The grade the student receives in the class will be the grade on their college transcript.
  2. *AP Credit Classes* - Students will take an AP class taught by an accredited teacher in a GCA classroom. To receive college credit, the student takes the AP exam at the end of the class with a passing grade. *\*Both Dual Credit and AP class options provide students with college credits, and most colleges recognize and accept both types of credit.*

- **Can co-op students participate in Farmer Fridays and/or any extracurricular activities?**

- Farmer Fridays is part of the curriculum for the 5-day per week academy students and will not be available to co-op students. Extracurricular activities like athletics will be available to co-op students for a fee to be determined and as availability allows.



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- **What school options will be available?**

- Our goal is to provide families with as many educational options as possible to fit their specific needs. Garden City Academy will offer:
  - 5-day per week, K-12 school with full time faculty and staff, *beginning fall '24*
  - 2-day per week, K-6 homeschool co-op with volunteer parent-tutors, *beginning fall '24*
  - Online program (*hoping to offer sometime in future, currently in development*)

- **Will there be PE at Garden City Academy?**

- Yes. Physical fitness is a core value and GCA will implement a high-level physical fitness program...fit body, fit mind, fit soul. All students will participate in fun and rigorous fitness regiments as part of their education so as to learn how to take care of the body. The focus of the program will be developing habits of fitness and health, cultivating general athleticism, and instilling a life-long value of living an active lifestyle.

- **Will there be sports?**

- Yes. GCA has plans to build a strong and competitive athletic program (Go Farmers!), giving students the opportunity to enjoy all of the benefits of hard work, competition, discipline, team work, winning, losing, integrity, perseverance, and all of the character-shaping and leader-forming virtues that come from sports *put in their proper place* with a coach who is *intentional about life coaching* and using that sport as a lab for leadership and life.
- Year one we hope to field competitive teams in cross country, track, golf, and volleyball. This is all preliminary and we will have exact WIAA sport offerings available soon. In the future, as fields and courts come available, we hope to offer boys and girls basketball, baseball, boys and girls soccer, swimming, lacrosse, football, and more. *We have coaches standing by. Our singular hurdle is facilities. If you would be able to help us in this area in any way, please contact [rmckelvie@gardencityfarmers.com](mailto:rmckelvie@gardencityfarmers.com)*
- For middle and high school students, we are in the process of applying to the WIAA and plan to offer WIAA sanctioned sports. For the first year, we plan to focus on boys and girls cross country, girls volleyball, boys and girls track, and boys and girls golf. This is all preliminary and we will have exact WIAA sport offerings available soon.
- For students in grades 1-6 will be able to participate in the Farmer Sports League. This is a youth sports league we will launch in conjunction with the school. Farmer students will have the first opportunity to participate in the league. We hope to open it up to the valley later. The FSL will provide high-quality competitive opportunities, operating on 4 foundational



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principles...character formation, leadership development, fundamentals mastery, and reasonable schedules that protect family schedules and does not require high fees of travel teams.

- *Note: For any sport that we do not offer at the WIAA level, students can participate with the public school team in the school district the student resides. Enrollment, interest, field availability, and gym space will determine offerings.*

- **What are the unique markers of a Garden City Academy school experience that sets it apart?**

- *An Active Schedule.* Monday-Thursday the students will take part in a rigorous, fun, life-giving, God-centered liberal arts academic classroom environment. Physical activity will be emphasized in the elementary classrooms to keep young minds awake and engaged.
- *An Appreciation of Family Time.* We believe evenings and weekends are for family, friends, working, exploring, and learning in other ways. We have a profound appreciation for hard work and down time, learning in the classroom and learning in all of life, being in community and being with one's family. While homework will be a necessary part of an academic experience, it will be monitored closely and never be just pointless busy-work.
- *A Limited Academic Calendar.* While the state of Washington places mandatory minimums on classroom hours per year, because we are a private school, we are able to structure a highly-efficient schedule that meets all requirements *and* have the least amount of scheduled days in the classroom of any school in the area. We love this, as it gives families more flexibility and time with their children.
- *An Emphasis on Hands-On Real-Life.* Farmer Field-Craft Fridays will emphasize all sorts of fun (and important!) homesteading skills. The educational emphasis here is equipping the whole person by utilizing innovative teaching methods that engages every student in fun, unique, and memorable ways. Students will learn leadership and life skills, work in teams, build culture, solve problems and engage critical thinking skills, participate in gamed challenges and fun competitions, build things, and learn hands-on skills in all sorts of fun life categories that take critical academic subjects and puts them into real life situations. Parents are welcome to join the fun and learn along with their students.
- *GCA School Retreats.* For middle school and high school students led by our faculty and administration. These times will focus on spiritual formation, building school culture, having fun, setting expectations, and calling students up into the high country of leadership and learning for the coming school year.



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- **Will GCA have armed security on all campuses?**
    - Yes. We love our children and will take every measure necessary to ensure their safety by defending them against violence and evil.
  
  - **Does GCA teach sex-ed classes?**
    - GCA believes personal issues of sexuality are best learned in the home between a parent and child and not the educational institution between teachers and students. We believe the parents of students are the appropriate authority figures to discuss, teach, instruct, and educate their own children about God's gift of sexuality in whatever way they deem best for their child.
  
  - **What is the cell-phone policy?**
    - Very simple: there are no cell phones allowed on campus. Students can check them in at the front desk if they choose to bring them to the school. Zero-tolerance policy for violators.
  
  - **How will teachers monitor technology use during class, between class, and between students throughout the day to insure my child is not exposed to inappropriate material, taken a picture of in a locker room, or become addicted to devices while at school?**
    - Teachers won't have to. See cell phone policy above.
  
  - **What is GCA's intended use for technology in academics?**
    - Technology is used on a limited basis. We believe in real books and real conversations. We prefer looking at faces over staring at screens. We prioritize personal interaction above mastering digital devices. We are an in-person school for a reason. We are working hard to provide a learning environment that places a premium on human interaction, healthy relationships, and meaningful interchange with life-long mentors.
  
  - **Can I volunteer as a parent?**
    - Of course! This is a part of our core values. The better parent involvement the stronger the school. We have several specific ways parents can support the school and will articulate those in the days to come as we approach fall, '24.



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- **How does lunch work?**
    - Students will provide their own lunch. High schoolers can leave campus for lunch, but they will be required to sign out at the front desk and sign back in.
  
  - **What does the daily class schedule look like?**
    - School day is 8:00am-2:45pm. For secondary students in grades 7-12, there will be seven 50-minute class periods. For more information on the bell schedule, academic year calendar, and specific class schedules, see our Academic Calendar and Curriculum doc.
  
  - **Will there be academic support for kids with learning / physical disabilities?**
    - If you have a student who has a learning and/or physical disability, please contact the admissions office to set up an appointment to speak with our staff. We will review each child on an individual basis and work with the family to determine if we have the resources available to support those students.
  
  - **What is the dress code for the student body?**
    - Elementary grades (K-6) will have (cute!) uniforms, simplifying the process for parents.
    - Secondary grades (7-12) will follow a simple dress code, allowing freedom for students to exercise responsibility in self-care.
    - In this model, we provide clear guidance and parameters for younger children and then support the older children in learning to think biblically in all things, including what they choose to wear. We will not spend a lot of time dealing with drama to enforce the dress code. Standards will be clearly explained and simple to follow. Students will be expected to dress appropriately. If they do not, at the sole discretion of school leadership, they will be asked to change or leave. If this is repeated, they are free to pursue their education elsewhere. Focus for the dress code will be on modesty, eliminating classroom distractions, promoting school unity, and elevating the learning environment for everyone.



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- **How do I enroll my child?**

**1. Apply Online** - applications will be available on **December 4** at the school website [www.gardencityfarmers.com](http://www.gardencityfarmers.com).

**2. Schedule Family Interview & Student Assessment** - after completion of the online application, someone from the school will reach out to you to schedule a family interview.

**3. Enroll** - upon receiving a letter of acceptance to the school, your child's spot in the class will be reserved for one week. If you do not officially enroll, your child's spot will be given to the next student in line. To enroll, you will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit that will be for the amount of one month's tuition and will be credited to your first month tuition payment.

- **How can I contact the school? .**

- Phone: 509-888-3826
- General Information: [info@gardencityfarmers.com](mailto:info@gardencityfarmers.com)
- Admissions/Enrollment Information: [admissions@gardencityfarmers.com](mailto:admissions@gardencityfarmers.com)