



From the desk of KIMBERLY A. DESOTELL President, GRACE

June 26, 2020

Dear GRACE community,

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude for your partnership, patience and understanding these past few months as we have all navigated the ever-changing world in which we live because of the coronavirus pandemic. Please know we remain steadfast in our support and prayers for our community — as every family has been impacted in some way.

Our GRACE schools have always been filled with hope, and we wish to continue serving as a messenger of optimism as we share our intentions for fall. When the 2020-2021 academic year begins on Aug. 26 as planned on the GRACE calendar ([LINK](#)), ***we intend to hold in-person, face-to-face instruction each school day at all nine of our GRACE schools***, with robust health and safety guidelines in place. The GRACE Board of Trustees unanimously approved this decision based on a strong recommendation by a 15-member Education Committee. In addition, the Diocese of Green Bay Office of Catholic Schools has given approval for all Diocese schools to open in person starting in the fall.

In keeping with our actions since the pandemic began, GRACE remains committed to following the advice of experts throughout our decision-making processes. None of the guidelines we implement will be self-generated; we rely on the guidance and expertise of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Brown County Health and Human Services Department, as well as other health organizations. In addition, the Diocese of Green Bay Office of Catholic Schools is providing detailed guidance for reopening.

Specific details pertaining to health and safety guidelines are being finalized and will remain flexible as circumstances dictate. Starting in mid-July and continuing through the start of the school year, we will provide weekly updates to our GRACE community regarding the health and safety guidelines that will be implemented with our reopening plan. We also will create an FAQ section on our website to help provide answers for common questions.

Also, please know that a small number of parents expressed an interest in having their children attend classes via home-based continuous learning in the fall, similar to what we implemented in the last few months of the 2019-20 school year. We are exploring those options and will share information over the summer as decisions are made.

In the meantime, we remain incredibly grateful to our GRACE community for your commitment to our students' continuous learning over the past few months. Your efforts were truly extraordinary. You will remain in our thoughts and prayers, and we hope you find time to rest and rejuvenate this summer. We eagerly await the resumption of classes and seeing those smiling faces so we may continue our mission of “building academic excellence and life skills while growing in our Catholic faith.”

In Christ,

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