



## From the desk of **KIMBERLY A. DESOTELL** President, GRACE

July 17, 2020

Dear GRACE Families:

There is no doubt this is a challenging time. However, we must also count our blessings and know that we, together, are unified through our Catholic schools and can persevere as a community together. Our prayers have been for the health and well-being of our community, and we have specifically prayed for our Catholic school families. We are grateful for your partnership, continued support and your deep commitment to Catholic education. To that end, we have been working tirelessly to develop a plan to reopen our schools and reignite learning this fall. We miss everyone so much!

### **Our Commitments**

We are committed to:

- Providing an exceptional educational experience that reflects our faith-based mission and our call to develop each student fully in mind, body and spirit.
- Ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and families. This safety focus has always been foremost and it will continue throughout our reopening planning efforts and beyond.
- Continuing to provide timely updates to our families and staff regarding our reopening plans.
- Ongoing strong partnerships with our GRACE parishes as we together navigate this extraordinary time.

While we continue to develop plans for reopening, here are some updates from the planning teams and details to help you and your family prepare for the beginning of the school year.

### **Important Dates**

- July 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 14 and 21: Updates will be posted by 12 noon to our Reopening webpage
- August 18: Teachers return to school
- August 26: First day of classes for all students

### **Reopening Webpage**

We have created a webpage — [Reopening GRACE Schools 2020-21](#) — dedicated to providing our GRACE community with the latest updates and detailed information on the plan for reopening for 2020-21. The webpage will be updated weekly by 12 noon each Friday during the remaining weeks of July and through August until the first day of school. Please use this webpage to be informed regarding details on academics, faith, safety and athletics, among other topics. Please know the plans are fluid and based on the most current information we have at the time. The webpage also offers an opportunity for GRACE parents to submit a question they may have regarding reopening and fall planning.

### **Local School Planning**

Our GRACE Principals are working to develop the local plan for reopening each individual site since we have a total of nine schools. As one system, we will develop system-wide protocols; however, there are always unique instances of autonomy site to site to allow each school to retain a sense of culture. This has always been important in our GRACE school system family.

### Modes of Learning

When we surveyed GRACE families in June at the close of the year, 70% of our families indicated a desire to return to face-to-face in-school learning for fall. Another 8% of our families expressed a desire to continue remote learning for a variety of reasons. The remaining families wished for some type of blended model or were uncertain. Understanding the varied desires and the need for options, GRACE families will be given a choice of two great learning options for fall. Families will select either 1) in-person or 2) distance learning from home. Both options offer the same excellent instruction from amazing GRACE educators. Each registered family will receive an electronic survey on August 3, 2020 requesting you to select one of these two learning modes for your student(s). More detailed information will be available at that time regarding these options. We wish to give you choices because you know what is best for your family.

We continue to seek expertise from medical professionals, the health department and the Diocese of Green Bay as we finalize plans for operations and academics when we reopen in the fall. We look forward to sharing more information with you as it becomes available week by week.

We hope you are enjoying the summer and will be ready to welcome the new academic year in the fall. We truly feel with another academic year ahead of us, it presents the opportunity to transform our world through faith and knowledge, together!

In His service,



Kimberly A. Desotell  
President, GRACE