



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

July 24, 2020

Dear GRACE Families:

As you are aware, we are planning for a return to school this fall with the first day of school on August 26, 2020. We belong together, as a family and as a Church. Our Bishop, David L. Ricken, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine also are encouraging schools to reopen with in-person instruction.

We are deeply engaged in planning on a daily basis. Our efforts are focused on:

1. Planning for a safe return in-school for our face-to-face model of learning
2. Planning a virtual learning option for families that feel more comfortable with students learning from home
3. Planning a Continuous Learning model in the event another “Safer at Home” order is issued.

Here are some details related to next steps and the planning timeline:

**Today:** Additional details have been updated on several pages of our Reopening GRACE Schools webpage

**Friday, July 31, 2020:** Details regarding the virtual learning option will be posted on our reopening webpage

**Week of August 3, 2020:** Families will be sent a survey asking their preference for in-school or virtual instruction

**Ongoing:** Planning, consultation and guidance for our planning teams and medical experts related to reopening

Additional highlights include:

- GRACE has initiated a formal relationship with Prevea Health, and we now have a health nurse on call for all GRACE schools
- All GRACE schools will conduct a nurse walk-through in August to assess safety, review sick room, discuss protocols and build relationships with the Prevea Team
- The Brown County Health Department released a draft of the “Decision Tree” for COVID-19 symptoms on July 22. Our leadership team, along with our schools’ front office staff, our Prevea health nurse and the Brown County Health Department, will be addressing this draft together and will learn how to best utilize this resource. To see a draft of the “Decision Tree,” please click [HERE](#).

In order to ensure safety, our schools are required to adopt new routines and protocols that will mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of our students and staff are of utmost importance. All schools are unified in our commitment and practices, but protocols may look a bit different at each school due to the size, space and resources at each campus.

Having our students back on campus is important not only for their academic progress, but also for their spiritual well-being as they grow in the areas of social and emotional learning.

I am incredibly grateful for our principals and our site teams that are working hard to create local plans. Their herculean efforts will be the key to our success, and we are grateful to them for their tireless commitment to ensuring the best opportunities for all students.

Thank you for your continued trust in our Catholic schools. Please remain healthy and peace-filled.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly A. Desotell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kimberly A. Desotell  
President, GRACE