



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

August 7, 2020

Dear GRACE Community:

This comes to you as our usual Friday update with news and details regarding our Fall Reopening plans. Lots to share today!

- Selection Survey: Thank you for completing the family survey selecting the learning mode for your student(s). The preliminary results are as follows:
  - 82% selected face to face
  - 10% selected the Virtual Academy
  - 8% wish for a principal call to discuss

At this time, we are reviewing all data as some families completed the survey in duplicate and others did not yet submit. We will follow up with you if we need additional information from your family specifically.

- Our Lady of Grace Virtual Academy: To date, we have six GRACE teachers who have elected to teach virtually. We will meet with this group of educators next week and continue conversations with others who are considering becoming a GVA teacher. We will be in touch with GVA families after next week.
- Health Partner: We have had several important conversations with our Prevea health partner this week. We are grateful for their guidance and the manner in which they are equipping us to open safely. Each GRACE school underwent a Prevea walk-through to focus on mitigation and safety. Also, an excellent guide has been shared regarding mitigation and prevention as well as contract tracing. This Prevea COVID prevention guide can be found on our Reopening [Illness and Absenteeism Protocols](#) webpage.
- Questions: The leading question this week is “Will our schools shut down again?” While we are unable to predict that with certainty, the guidance from our health partners and the Centers for Disease Control indicates our schools will close for a 14-day period if we would reach a 5% positivity rate of our population (staff and students combined). The principal leadership team continues to meet and discuss aspects of mitigation/safety/protocols several times each week.
- Site-Specific Safety Plan: Each GRACE school is now publishing its safety plan specific to its building. If you have questions regarding your school’s site plan, please contact your principal.

In closing this week, I remind us all to lean into our Catholic faith as a source of solace and hope as we navigate this incredible time together. I share with you a prayer called: [We are Profits of a Future Not our Own](#). I believe you will find it full of meaning and peace during this extraordinary time.

Thank you all for your confidence, support, belief and investment in Catholic education. We are blessed to call each one of you family.

In Christ,

Kimberly A. Desotell  
President, GRACE