



WE ARE:  
**GRACE.**

October 1, 2020

## GRACE SCHOOLS MOVING TO VIRTUAL LEARNING BEGINNING OCTOBER 6, 2020

Dear GRACE Community,

As we welcome the fall season, we wish to express our gratitude for the tremendous support given to our students, teachers and community during the first six weeks of this school year. It is comforting to know we are united in keeping our students' best interests at heart as we navigate this unprecedented time in world history.

With that in mind, and after ongoing consultation with our healthcare partners, the GRACE leadership team has decided to transition our GRACE schools to virtual learning beginning Tuesday, October 6, due to the sustained, significant increase in positive COVID-19 cases affecting the greater Green Bay region. Please click [HERE](#) for data provided by the Brown County Health and Human Services Department. The Green Bay area ranks among the top three COVID-19 hot spots in the United States. Area healthcare professionals are stressing their ability to care for patients is being pushed to the limit regardless of the reason they are hospitalized.

We will follow this schedule:

- Today and tomorrow, October 1-2, face-to-face learning in school will continue as usual. Students will bring home materials, books and needed technology by the end of the day tomorrow, Friday.
- Monday, October 5 will be a planning day to allow teachers to prepare and plan for a full virtual learning mode. There will be no instruction, and students are asked to remain safely at home Monday.
- Tuesday, October 6, virtual learning will begin for all students.
- Effective today, all GRACE athletics are suspended.
- The GRACE Food Service team is diligently working on a plan to provide meal service pick-up. We plan to provide more details regarding food service on Monday, October 5.

We wish to be part of the solution, so our schools will remain virtual until statistics indicate a sustained decrease in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our region. We also will consult our healthcare partners in making the decision to return to in person learning as soon as possible. To help keep our community informed, we will provide weekly email updates on Fridays starting next week. More details during this transition period will be communicated by school principals and teachers.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our students, teachers and staff members for their steadfast commitment to following safety protocols this school year. GRACE is a shining example of the positive impact of wearing masks, socially distancing and washing hands. Healthcare partners note the community spread of COVID-19 is not a result of schools being open — as evidenced by the fact that six of our nine GRACE schools currently have zero positive cases of COVID-19.

We want to be in school for face-to-face learning, and we realize this sentiment is shared by the majority of our families. This is truly a community effort, and we encourage everyone to work together to defeat the virus. Each of us is accountable to do our part and follow health protocols, which in turn will increase the likelihood that our schools are able to reopen for face-to-face learning in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your support of the GRACE school system and your diligence in helping take the necessary steps to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

In Christ,



William R. Micksch  
Chair, GRACE Board of Trustees



Kimberly A. Desotell  
President, GRACE