



WE ARE:
GRACE.

October 9, 2020

Dear GRACE Families and Staff:

Thank you for all of your support and prayers as we shifted into a virtual learning mode this past week. We could not have predicted nor scripted these recent events even during this height of the pandemic.

As a means to assist with clarity and transparency concerning the move to virtual learning, today's communication aims to answer several questions that have been asked throughout the week. We hope these responses will assist to ensure all are informed regarding decisions and direction as we walk this path together.

Q: Why did GRACE move to Virtual Learning so quickly?

A: The decision was made due to rapidly rising positive cases in Brown County ([Dashboard](#)) and also due to area hospitalization pressures. Our community metrics changed so rapidly last week and a response was necessary out of concern for our families and our community.

Q: Who made the decision for GRACE?

A: GRACE leadership and subcommittee of our Board of Trustees.

Q: When will we return back into schools?

A: We are eager to get back into school as soon as possible as we know school is the best place for children. A downward trend in the spike of positive cases in our region and relief of some of the hospital pressures are the two direct metrics being monitored. We hope to be the first schools to return in our region due to our ability to be nimble, our teacher and staff willingness and desire to teach in schools, and our family desires to return to on-site instruction. This week, our principals met together and conducted the early stages of an exercise to discuss how a re-entry into our schools may happen. We are reviewing how we may need to address a re-entry plan that is more unique school to school due to size, facility and needs. Please know we will continue to keep you updated weekly as these discussions continue. We also know that last spring was daunting, challenging and lasted an extended period of time. Our hope this fall is to minimize the virtual learning mode and get children back into school quickly, safety and as soon as possible. We are aiming to make this virtual round of learning short-term.

Q: What if the virtual learning start up is not ideal for my child?

A: We ask you to communicate openly with the school starting with the classroom teacher and next the school principal. Your feedback and perceptions are an important aspect of working as a partner to educate your child.

We wish to thank everyone involved for making this transition so smooth this week. Thank you especially to parents for their flexibility and mercy as we ramped up new uses of technology and new tools for learning. Thank you to our dedicated teachers as well as our Technology Services team for preparing and working hard to make the shift to virtual. Thank you also goes out to our Food Service team for arranging opportunities for families to pick up free breakfast and lunches for the duration of virtual learning. And of course, a special debt of gratitude goes out to our phenomenal students that jumped into online learning this week and gave it their best from the very start.

This pandemic has affected all of our lives. We appreciate your support and commitment during this enormously trying time and know in our hearts that we do not walk alone. We are blessed by being people of faith.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your children in His name.

In Christ,



William R. Micksch
Chair, GRACE Board of Trustees



Kimberly A. Desotell
President, GRACE