



WE ARE:
GRACE.

October 14, 2020

Dear GRACE Community,

We would like to express our gratitude for your patience, flexibility and collaboration these past two weeks during our temporary transition to virtual learning. After careful consideration and discussions with families and teachers alike, the GRACE leadership team and GRACE Board of Trustees have determined it is time for students who are enrolled in our in-person learning option to begin preparing for a return to their classrooms.

GRACE administrators are currently developing re-entry plans for each school that will address staffing arrangements, schedule modifications and other safety considerations. We believe in the numerous benefits of in-person education and its mental and emotional health benefits during this pandemic.

We are currently establishing a team of medical personnel from the ranks of GRACE parents to review school to school re-entry plans, which are being collectively prepared in an organized effort. The goal is to re-open our nine schools on a site-by-site basis once their specific re-entry plans are completed and reviewed by the GRACE medical team. We plan to reopen schools by late October or early November.

While our decision to move to virtual learning was based on external factors, we are confident that the practices we are using in our schools will continue to successfully keep our students safe. Our decision to reopen GRACE schools is based on our desire to live out our mission to balance education and spirituality. This is a unique opportunity for Catholic education to positively impact our youth. Medical data indicate the coronavirus is not being spread in schools, so we are confident in our ability to re-engage in face-to-face learning in a safe, responsible manner. Before our temporary transition to virtual learning, our stringent safety protocols resulted in six of our nine schools being 100 percent free of positive COVID-19 cases. We will continue to follow those same safety protocols as well as several heightened practices. As we reopen schools for in-person learning, we are working to ensure you are confident in the practices and protocols in place.

As we move forward, schools and individual classrooms will remain open to the degree that we can remain healthy, safe and responsible. This will take a collective effort from every family, every student and every staff member -- and the encouragement of others in our community to do the same.

We will work with families on an individual basis who are enrolled in in-person learning but not yet prepared to return to our school buildings. Students enrolled in the Our Lady of Grace Virtual Academy will continue learning in that unique learning program as they have been doing since the start of school.

Our school principals will communicate more details by this Friday regarding updates on site-specific re-entry plans, timelines and details.

Blessings to our GRACE community as we move forward together. We Are GRACE.

In Christ,



William R. Micksch
Chair, GRACE Board of Trustees



Kimberly A. Desotell
President, GRACE