



From the desk of KIMBERLY A. DESOTELL President, GRACE

November 6, 2020

Dear GRACE Families,

Today's message revolves around the topic of student learning and our ongoing commitment to academic excellence and scholarship for each and every student. As we all know, the pandemic has impacted our lives in so many ways, and for our children it has significantly affected many aspects related to learning and academic achievement.

Our GRACE learning objectives have remained steadfast. We aim to keep students on track in core subject areas including math, reading, writing and religion. These content areas were identified as priorities in March early on in the pandemic. As a result of the pandemic-induced disruption and learning challenges, we continue to monitor progress, review gaps, analyze assessment data and determine both short- and long-term responses focused on growth for each and every student.

I wish to thank each parent for participating in our recent round of parent-teacher conferences. Entering in dialogue with teachers (even virtually) is vital to our partnership. These important conference opportunities enable teachers to learn more about your family and, ultimately, your child.

We ask all parents to continue in this partnership, and I offer several tips and tasks to assist with learning from home as we ramp back up into face-to-face learning. These tips will help to provide continued structure beyond the school day to support your child's learning growth as well as contribute to quality learning.

- **Read Nightly. Every Student.** Reading even for just 15 minutes a night can make a significant difference in a child's reading development and comprehension.
- **Online Resources.** Utilize the online resources from the classroom curriculum including Think Central (Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions), Glencoe Online (Algebra 1 and Algebra 2) and Big Ideas Math Online (Middle School Math). Your child's teachers can assist you in accessing these resources.
- **Online Resources.** Use resources suggested by teachers. Many teachers have specific websites, programs and/or books they use in their classroom that can help students stay on track.
- **Promote Writing.** Increase writing opportunities and encourage technical writing for your child. Examples include writing a letter to grandma or writing the directions on how to operate the remote for your family TV. In addition, modeling good writing yourself as a parent helps to encourage your child to do the same.

- **Explore and Enjoy Together.** Involve your children in the selection of books to add to their motivation and also satisfaction with reading. Check out books online at the public library or search the Barnes and Noble website to select books to support reading interest. Add books to your child's reading list, read together, share book talks with family and friends, and add favorite books to your family library at home.

We thank you for your partnership, commitment and investment in our GRACE schools. While we know private education is a choice, we feel working together to support learning at a high level is paramount in our schools - a place where prayer is accepted, abundant and encouraged. Thank you for choosing GRACE and for your unwavering partnership in raising smart saints!

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