



From the desk of KIMBERLY A. DESOTELL President, GRACE

December 11, 2020

Dear GRACE Community,

May God's blessings be with you during this season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

Our return to school in person continues to exceed expectations. It is truly a joy to be together in community and faith! Our principals, teachers and staff continue to serve our students with courage and love to ensure they receive the highest level of academic instruction and faith-formation. You, as families, are demonstrating a steadfast commitment to safety and vigilance in the quest to remain healthy and maintain in person for learning. We were told this week in our region that pandemic hospitalizations are declining, and we all know of the vaccine arrival soon — both signs of encouragement.

To date, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools has been low. We welcome and practice a high level of transparency as another effort to protect and promote the common good of our community. COVID Dashboards are updated daily on each of our GRACE school websites. Our primary goal is to keep all faculty, staff and students healthy and whole in body, mind and spirit. Thank you for continuing to ensure that your children wear facial coverings in school and follow all requirements, keeping students home if they are sick, washing hands regularly and maintaining proper social distancing.

I am extremely grateful for our school principals who continue to lead with faith and courage in the face of adversity. May God bless each and every one of these individuals as they lead with purpose and faith to develop the holiness across our entire community.

At this time, I wish to share a few updates:

- **Spring Break:** Our GRACE Spring Break (March 8-12) will continue as calendared. We will shift to a virtual instructional week following break (March 15-19) as a means to ensure safety upon return. Please plan on this slight calendar adjustment for the week following break.
- **Winter Weather:** It has been decided if we do have inclement weather this season, we will plan the Snow Day as non-instructional days for the first three days. After the third day, if subsequent Snow Days are needed due to weather, we will pivot to virtual learning so that instructional days do not have to be made up in June. Each GRACE school site will communicate news or updates related to Winter Weather notices to their families and employees.
- **Learning Survey:** Next week, each GRACE family will be emailed a learning survey to submit feedback regarding teaching and learning in our schools for your child(ren). This survey is being initiated by our GRACE Board of Trustees Education Committee and supports initiatives within our GRACE Strategic Plan. We ask you to reply to the survey between Dec. 14-21, 2020.

Finally, as we navigate this extraordinary season, we give thanks for the moments of grace in our midst as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. May we all see the ever presence of the blessings that surround us as we recognize there are lessons to be learned in this moment — perhaps beginning with gratitude.

I wish each and every one of you a Merry and Blessed Christmas season. Thank you for your prayers and companionship on our journey together as we raise saints. God Bless.

In His name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly A. Desotell".

Kimberly A. Desotell
President, GRACE