

## St. John Paul II Classical School Completes Relocation

*By Benjamin Wideman, GRACE Director of Marketing and Communications*

St. John Paul II Classical School is embracing a new home at St. Philip the Apostle campus.

For its first three years, SJPII was housed within the Holy Family Catholic School building at St. Agnes campus. The parish and adjoining school helped nourish SJPII's steady growth.

Increasing enrollment at both schools presented an opportunity for SJPII to relocate, thus allocating more space for Holy Family and returning Catholic education to St. Philip for the first time in more than a decade.

"I'm blessed to be part of a school community like St. John Paul II Classical School that continues to evolve and has so many exciting changes taking place," said new Headmaster Alex Wolf, who served as a Catholic school administrator/teacher for the previous nine years, six of which were in the Diocese of Green Bay.

"Everyone has been very supportive of the school — parishioners, teachers, parents, the diocese, the GRACE system. They have really helped our school excel in its mission."

When SJPII opened three years ago, 33 students were enrolled in kindergarten through fourth grade. The following year,



Headmaster Alex Wolf enters his first year at St. John Paul II Classical School, which moved to a new home over the summer at St. Philip the Apostle campus.

when fifth grade was added, enrollment increased to 53 students. And in the fall of 2018, upon adding sixth grade, 69 students attended SJPII.

The school expanded two more grade levels this year — seventh grade and a Montessori preschool program — and

preliminary figures indicate enrollment of about 100 students this fall. With nine schools encompassing more than 2,200 students, GRACE is one of the largest systems in the state.

"We are blessed to have the opportunity to strengthen and grow St. John Paul II Classical School," said Gerard Faller, GRACE Director of Strategic Operations and Finance, who was instrumental in helping relocate the school to the St. Philip the Apostle campus.

SJPII's new home features dedicated rooms for nature study, art and music, as well as a library and room for student support services. In addition, an atrium space provides a learning area dedicated to support the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religion program.

Fr. Bill Hoffman, pastor at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, announced earlier this year to his parish: "Symbols of our Catholic faith will once again be front and center in classrooms and halls."



St. John Paul II Classical School's new home at the St. Philip the Apostle campus features dedicated rooms for nature study, art and music, as well as a library, atrium and room for student support services.

# ● **STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021**

## ● **GRACE Implements Action Steps**

## ● **in Accordance With Strategic Plan**

*By Gerard R. Faller, GRACE Director of Strategic Operations and Finance*

**G**RACE began nearly 10 years ago as a system to help guide and support Catholic school education in the Green Bay area. To help position for the future, we created our Strategic Plan in the spring of 2018.

One of our primary missions with the Strategic Plan was to develop it in such a manner that it would be used to help in all of our decision making. We are pleased to share that we have started to implement many of the action items in each of the key focus areas.



### **ACADEMICS**

- Developing a Digital Learning Plan in concert with the newest curriculum and educational standards
- Constructing curriculum assessments and utilization of MAP assessment data

### **VITALITY**

- Establish the facility committee as a full standing committee, with the primary goal of fostering relationships between parishes and schools, and to explore short-term and long-term facility strength
- Instituted a new position, Director of Marketing and Communications
- Expanding revenue sources through GRACE: Gold Summer Camp; increasing focus on grants and fund development
- Better articulate how the GRACE budget is developed and the components and aspects that contribute to our healthy, balanced budget

### **FAITH**

- Instituted a new position, Religious Education Coordinator, who will help develop more consistent religious instruction at all campuses
- Participation in leadership development programs with the CatholicLink Center
- Involvement in Diocese Parish Mission Planning with all of our parishes, and helping develop the faith of all of our teachers and staff by participation in the Alpha program

### **EXPERIENCE**

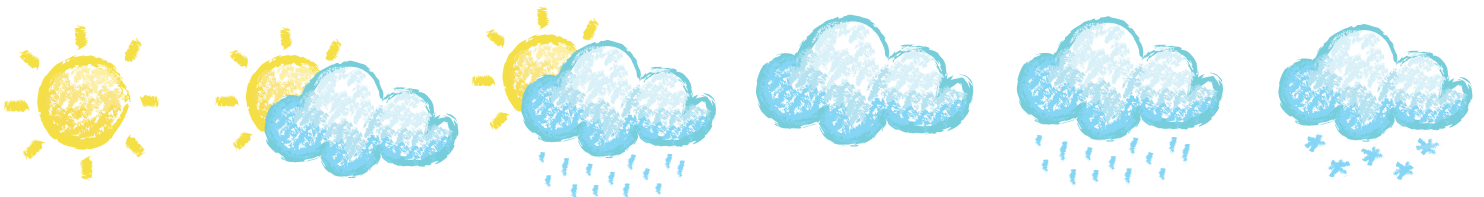
- Established GRACE-wide St. Cecilia Choir, and participating at partner parish Masses
- Established GRACE-wide, all-school, all-partner parish Community 5K Wellness Fun Run/Walk
- Conducting a feasibility study for Catholic-based child care (ages birth to 3)
- Completed satisfaction study of staff and families

Through these and additional efforts, GRACE is continuing to focus on our Strategic Plan, build on our successes and position ourselves for a strong future.

[Link to www.gracesystem.org](http://www.gracesystem.org) | [About GRACE](#) | [Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#)

## **Weather Alerts**

Each GRACE school follows the school closing or delay information from the public school district in which it is located. Stay tuned to media communications when weather conditions deteriorate.







**GREEN BAY AREA  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION**  
*Schools United for Excellence*



**FATHER ALLOUEZ  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Kay Franz*  
432-5223, Elementary School  
- St. Matthew Campus  
336-3230, Middle School  
- Resurrection Campus

**HOLY CROSS  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Sharon Gast*  
468-0625

**HOLY FAMILY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Steve Gromala*  
494-1931

**NOTRE DAME  
SCHOOL OF DE PERE**

*Principal | Molly Mares*  
337-1103, Elementary School  
337-1115, Middle School

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Jeff Young*  
336-3091

**ST. BERNARD  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Crystal Blahnik*  
468-5026

**ST. JOHN PAUL II  
CLASSICAL SCHOOL**

*Headmaster | Alex Wolf*  
617-9542

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Andrew Mulloy*  
434-3822

**ST. THOMAS MORE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*Principal | Olgamar Amor*  
432-8242



## President Welcome

### FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET INVOLVED IN UNIQUE, IMPACTFUL WAYS

Dear GRACE Community:

On behalf of the GRACE Board of Directors, Board of Trustees and all educators within our GRACE community, I would like to welcome you to another new school year for GRACE Schools. Since our mission began with students nine years ago, we continue to focus our efforts and resources on raising saints.

This year, I encourage families to get involved in our schools in unique and impactful ways. Outside of the usual parent committees and opportunities, there are a multitude of ways to grow with us in faith and support learning inside of our schools.

- Parents can join us at school for lunch with their child. Check with the school office on these procedures, but witnessing your child socially in the lunchroom can help you learn about them as a child as well as their social network within the school.
- Get involved in your parish, which is a partner in our faith work. Join an Alpha group, lector at Mass, provide service to others through parish service in our mission field and participate in prayer groups are just a few ways to involve yourself in our parishes and meet other school parents and parishioners.
- Send your child's teachers a handwritten note to thank them for teaching your child and for selecting Catholic education as their vocation. Thank the principal as the primary leader of the school. Compliment them on leading and supporting the teaching staff of your school.
- Attend school Masses and award ceremonies. This allows you to witness both faith and success in action and supports your own personal faith journey.
- Cultivate an atmosphere of faith at home. Pray more often than at meal time. Read scripture together and discuss the meaning from your perspective as a parent. When you are really connected to a parish and then a school, you reinforce what is being taught in our classrooms of faith.

We are proud of GRACE Schools, where every student is called by name, our teachers work to address individual learning styles and emotional and social needs are a daily component of our teaching and learning. Discipline issues are rare because students are engaged, active and involved. Daily faith formation in our schools helps to inspire, guide and nurture our students.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. Catholic education is a choice and also a sacrifice for your family - a sacrifice that is well worth the investment.

My door is open and the phone is on, so feel free to contact me should you have advice, wish to share or if I can be of service to your family in any way as we together raise saints.

Here's to a faith-filled and rewarding year ahead.

*Kimberly A. Desotell*

In His service,

**Kimberly A. Desotell**  
*President, GRACE*

**GRACE CELEBRATES  
FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR  
OF ENROLLMENT  
GROWTH!**

# LOL Partners With JOI Friendlyz for Social-Emotional Learning

*By Jeff Young, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School Principal*

You may have heard the term social-emotional learning recently. The premise is that teaching our students to form healthy relationships with their peers will help them perform better academically.

One of the goals this year at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is to help students form stronger, healthier relationships with each other so the overall school experience is even more positive.

This year we have partnered with JOI Friendlyz to help our teachers use best practices to put in place a social-emotional learning curriculum. JOI Friendlyz offers vital social and emotional learning lessons to proactively address emotional behaviors, reduce stress, teach healthy relationship skills and improve focus and academic success.

All of those actions will increase resilience for success in school and life. They are life skills students will use throughout their entire lives.

JOI Friendlyz differs from its competitors in that it is based on the Bible. All of the K-8 lessons are connected to Scripture. This curriculum ties directly with our mission of creating Missionary Disciples. Students will see how building healthy relationships is tied directly to Scripture and the Word of God.

Our Lady of Lourdes also teamed up with Catholic Charities by providing a part-time counselor for the 2019-2020 school year. Brent Johnston will work with our classroom teachers to team-teach these lessons and lend expertise as a counselor.



One of the goals this year at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is to help students form stronger, healthier relationships with each other.



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Our hope, our intention with having Catholic schools would be, first of all, to pass on our Catholic faith. That is the reason they exist in the first place. So we should do that by teaching the faith in its fullness, with zeal and gratitude. And then try to live it as teachers, students, parents, families, parishioners and priests. I am always happy to have Mass with the students and tell them so ... that it's one of the best things I get to do.

In a society that often is so contrary to our faith, Catholic education is one that should make them know and think of their being children of God and baptized into life with Jesus Christ, our good Lord and Savior.

**- Fr. Patrick Beno, St. Agnes Catholic Church Pastor**

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# GRACE: Gold Summer Camp Provides Fun, Faith-Filled, Educational Experiences

WE ARE: **GRACE:GOLD**

By Laura Blicharz, GRACE Curriculum Coordinator

“Good variety,” “fun options” and “loved the experiences” were just some of the comments by families whose students attended the 2019 GRACE: Gold Summer Camp.

The month-long program, which started July 8, provided a fun, educational and faith-rich camp experience. We welcomed 179 students from an array of GRACE schools. Classes taught by 12 GRACE teachers ranged in content from art to vacation Bible school to science and more.

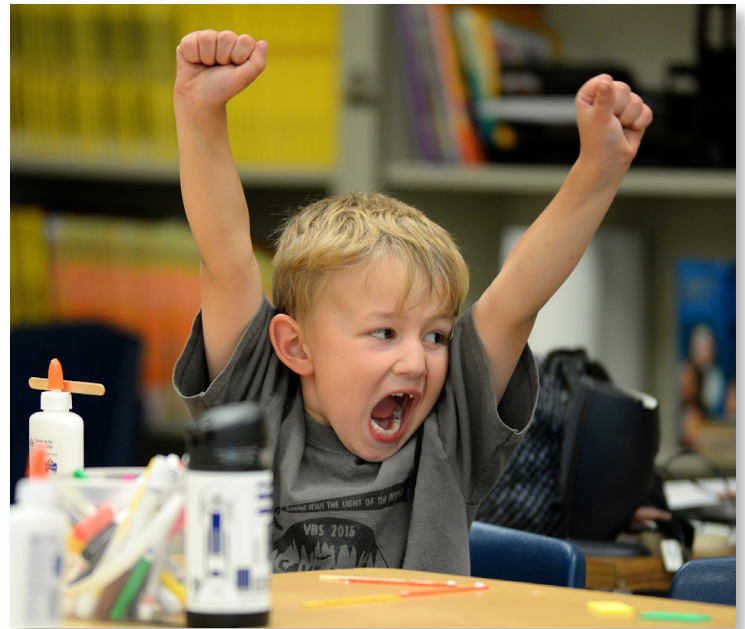
Students enjoyed reading fairy tales and engaging in STEM activities through our Fairy Tale STEM class. Third- through

fifth-graders created a variety of projects and sculptures in our Creating 3D Art class.

Middle school students participated in new off-site experience camps, including a Back in Time History Camp hosted at Heritage Hill and a Start a Bake Shop class that brought students to area bakeries.

Parents are encouraged to fill out the camp survey. We use that feedback to help make GRACE: Gold an even better experience for our students, families and teachers. Thank you to everyone who was a part of GRACE: Gold, and we hope to see you again next summer.

The GRACE: Gold Summer Camp provides a fun, educational and faith-rich experience for students and teachers alike.



[Link to www.gracesystem.org](http://www.gracesystem.org) | [About GRACE](#) | [GRACE: Gold Summer Camp](#) |

“

My teachers truly care about me as a person and as a student.

They give me opportunities every day to become a better leader. I value having religion at school, because it has helped me learn that God gives us ways to help others. Even though

I am a child, I can serve God using my time and talent or a treasure. My school gives me opportunities to explore my love of learning. Outside of the classroom I also enjoy playing soccer, participating in the Science Fair and Chess Club, and writing stories on my Chromebook laptop computer.

- Jackson D., St. Bernard Catholic School Student





# GRACE Annual Appeal Helps Support Exceptional Catholic Education

By Lisa Niemuth, GRACE Director of Development

The 2019-2020 GRACE Annual Appeal commences this month with students and families speaking at our affiliated parishes the weekend of Sept. 21-22, as well as posters getting displayed at parishes and a direct mailing being sent to all parishioners.

The GRACE Annual Appeal raises financial support for a wide range of programs, technology and initiatives that continue to provide our students with an exceptional foundation of Catholic education committed to academic achievement and spiritual development.



Please share in our mission for Catholic education and prayerfully make a gift to the GRACE Annual Appeal by giving online at [www.gracesystem.org/donate](http://www.gracesystem.org/donate). Donations also may be mailed to: GRACE Development Office, 1087 Kellogg St., Green Bay, WI 54303.

Thank you to all who support GRACE with gifts and prayers.

## CREATING A LEGACY THROUGH GIFT PLANNING

Our strength as a system allows us to do so much — to protect the legacy of founders and teachers in Catholic education before us, to provide today's students with an exceptional education, and to plan confidently for a future as exciting and blessed as our present.

Through planned giving, your loyalty and generosity will continue beyond a lifetime and ensure the mission and tradition of Catholic education for future generations. Planned gifts include memorial donations, bequests, endowment and scholarship funds, charitable annuities, IRA distributions, insurance policies and securities gifts.

For more information about how you can include GRACE in your planned giving, please contact Lisa Niemuth, Director of Development, at 920-499-7330, ext. 313, or [lniemuth@gracesystem.org](mailto:lniemuth@gracesystem.org).

[Link to www.gracesystem.org](http://www.gracesystem.org) | [Donate](#) |

Abbot Gary Neville, O. Praem., leads a Mass service at Holy Cross Parish that was attended by Holy Cross Catholic School students, teachers and staff members.





# GRACE Community 5K Draws More Than 250 Runners, Walkers

*By Jamie Hurley, GRACE Director of Food Service*

Smiling faces and camaraderie could be seen throughout the entire course at the inaugural GRACE Community 5K Wellness Fun Run/Walk on Aug. 17.

More than 250 people from all nine GRACE schools and multiple parishes participated in the event, which started and finished under sunny skies at Father Allouez Catholic School. Much of the course traversed the East River Trail.

The event was designed to bring together the entire GRACE community on the heels of the new school year while also helping to promote a healthy and balanced mind, body and spirit. All participants received a T-shirt, and children 18 and younger were presented with a race medal. People could check out a fire truck before the race, and snacks and raffle prizes were handed out afterward.

Fr. Greg Parent of Quad Parishes led the pre-race prayer, while GRACE President Kim Desotell and GRACE Director of Food Service Jamie Hurley addressed participants near the starting area before the race began. Hurley and Gerard Faller, GRACE Director of Strategic Operations and Finance, served as lead organizers of the event.



All nine GRACE schools and multiple GRACE parishes were represented at the inaugural GRACE Community 5K Wellness Fun Run/Walk.

Also supporting the event were numerous volunteers, sponsors and personnel from the Allouez Police Department and Green Bay Metro Fire Department.

## GRACE News Format

WE ARE:  
GRACE:

GRACE News is published three times during the academic year: Fall, Winter and Spring. The Fall and Spring newsletters are available in print and online. The Winter newsletter is available online only.

## Looking Ahead... GRACE Academic Calendar

Check out the complete 2019-2020 academic calendar online for important dates. It's available at [www.gracesystem.org/academic-calendar](http://www.gracesystem.org/academic-calendar) in the About GRACE section.

And look for the online-only Winter edition of GRACE News in January 2020. All GRACE News archives are available at [www.gracesystem.org/grace-newsletter](http://www.gracesystem.org/grace-newsletter).



[Link to www.gracesystem.org/About GRACE | GRACE Academic Calendars](http://www.gracesystem.org/About%20GRACE/GRACE%20Academic%20Calendars)



## GRACE Schools Major Fundraising Events

**Nov. 1, 2019** | Notre Dame of De Pere

**Nov. 9, 2019** | Father Allouez Catholic School

**Nov. 16, 2019** | Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

**Feb. 21, 2020** | St. Bernard Catholic School

**April 4, 2020** | Holy Cross Catholic School

**April 4, 2020** | Holy Family Catholic School

**April 4, 2020** | St. John the Baptist Catholic School

**April 17, 2020** | St. John Paul II Classical School

For details about the events, please contact the respective GRACE school or check the GRACE events calendar on [www.gracesystem.org](http://www.gracesystem.org). Additional information will be posted on the GRACE and school websites as it becomes available.

## LET US HELP YOU

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