

## GRACE School Counselors Support Students In A Variety Of Ways

By Benjamin Wideman, Director of Marketing and Communications

**"L**et no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."

Those words, spoken by Mother Teresa, are written on a sign in the office of GRACE school counselor Ms. Caitlyn Cheslock. They are words she lives by every day.

"For me, I approach my job by striving to be a positive light to my students," she said. "I approach each student who comes into my office with empathy and kindness. I truly want to be a light and someone who offers hope to students and sees their strengths."

Ms. Cheslock is among the caring, talented and expanding team of GRACE school counselors who support our students in preschool through eighth grade by nurturing their academic, spiritual and social needs, as well as overall well-being.

This is her first year in the GRACE system after previously assisting students in Milwaukee Catholic schools as a counselor for six years. She assists students at both St. John the Baptist School and St. Thomas More Catholic School.



Ms. Caitlyn Cheslock



Mrs. Amy Cain

Mrs. Amy Cain is the longest-serving GRACE school counselor, having worked as the counselor at Holy Family Catholic School since January 2018; previously, she worked as the counselor at St. John the Baptist School from 2008 to 2016 until her family moved to Washington, D.C., for more than a year.



Mrs. Melissa Montanye

Meanwhile, Mrs. Melissa Montanye is in her third year as the counselor at St. Bernard Catholic School. Overall, this is her eighth year as a counselor.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, which currently contracts with Catholic Charities for counseling services, is in the process of

partnering with Notre Dame of De Pere to hire a counselor who will support students at both locations starting in Fall 2021.

GRACE has a plan to continue to add counselors to serve our schools each year until every school is served by this supporting role.

No matter the path they followed to reach their current schools, GRACE counselors share a common goal: help students.

After graduating from UW-Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Mrs. Cain taught first grade at a Milwaukee public school for one year before returning to UWM to earn a master's degree in Educational Psychology. She then worked at a crisis center and as a mental health counselor before joining the staff at St. John the Baptist School in 2008. At the time, she was the only school counselor in GRACE.

"While teaching first grade, I felt this pull to want to help them with those emotional and social needs," Mrs. Cain said. "I felt that's where I would better meet the needs of kids. I knew I wanted to work with students, so I felt that is where I would be more beneficial. I felt that was the route I needed to take."

Ms. Cheslock earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and her master's degree in Counseling from Mount Mary University, a Catholic institution in Milwaukee. She then pursued opportunities specifically in Catholic school settings.

"Ever since I was young I had a heart for helping others, especially those who were struggling," she said. "I'm very passionate about mental health awareness, so I chose this career path because I'm able to be in the position to work with students from diverse backgrounds who have unique needs and gifts. I truly believe that one positive adult connection can make all the difference in a child's success. So I feel called to help."

Counselors interact with students

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# GRACE School Counselors Support Students In A Variety Of Ways (Continued)

in both group settings and one-on-one situations, depending on the circumstances.

“It could be mental health or academics or behavior, really the gamut of things that may happen at school,” Mrs. Cain said. “Every day you never know what a student may be needing some help with.”

Ms. Cheslock echoed similar sentiments: “My job is different each day. A mixture of different things — maybe mental health concerns, maybe difficulty getting along in a friendship group, maybe struggling academically. It can all depend on the day. And during the pandemic, anxiety would be a big one too.”

“This year, the pandemic has changed everything,” Mrs. Cain said. “I’ve seen more issues with academics. Some students need motivation to do their homework and bump up their grades. Along with that I think there has been increased anxiety with the pandemic, compared to previous years where it might have been more social issues or conflict resolution at school.”

Counselors learn about students in need of assistance via various means. A principal or teacher may confidentially share concerns. Parents might request a counselor’s input. Students themselves may express a desire to speak with a counselor. Schools have close-knit teams that gather and discuss strategies to best support specific students.

“We have a good relationship here among the teachers and staff members, so the communication is great,” Mrs. Cain said of the Student Intervention Team at Holy Family. “We really work well together to help the students succeed.”

Misconceptions sometimes exist that counselors are only available to help students who are experiencing difficulties.

“In reality, school counselors work with all students,” said Ms. Cheslock, adding that she and other counselors address entire classrooms about important topics like bullying. “If a student comes into my office, it doesn’t necessarily mean they’re struggling with something. A lot of times students just come in to say hi or check in and say how their day is going or just want to talk. It might not be a deep-seeded concern. It can be a lot of topics. ... And sometimes that does include intervention services like one-on-one counseling or crisis support.”

The Catholic faith is naturally woven into counseling sessions.

“It could be incorporating prayer with students, speaking with God or using faith-based literature,” Ms. Cheslock said. “Integrating the faith when talking with students, especially about struggles, it comes naturally because faith can be such a huge source of strength and comfort to a student.”

Added Mrs. Cain: “I am teaching to those Catholic values. A lot of those are the Gospel values of being responsible and accepting other people and showing empathy, just working things out peacefully. I try to incorporate those qualities and values into my lessons.”

Counselors are proud to be a positive influence in the lives of our students, especially when that interaction inspires a change.

“When I see the kids using what I’ve taught them, either in an individual session or classroom lesson, or when I see them using those lessons on the playground or they’re in the hallway using phrases that I’ve used, then that says to me, ‘OK, they’ve learned and they’re listening,’ and that’s nice to see,” Mrs. Cain said.

Counselors make it a point to interact with students throughout

school, be it in classrooms, cafeterias or hallways. That presence reminds students they’re available and helps them feel comfortable.

Ms. Cheslock said progress can be gradual, so she sometimes measures success with students based on feedback from parents or teachers, or by being aware if students come back into her office to visit.

“That can be a huge step in a student’s growth,” she said. “Or having conversations with students like, ‘What positive steps have you made in the last week since I last saw you?’”

During her years as a counselor in Milwaukee, Ms. Cheslock primarily worked with students spanning grades 6-12. She feels equally comfortable working with younger students now.



“I think a lot of the approach at this age is helping students build upon their strengths, like different coping strategies,” she said. “A lot of my work is skill based — using positive coping strategies. With the older grades, students might come in and they know what they want to talk about. With the younger grades, it often focuses on working on social skills or emotions.”

She embraces the responsibility of serving as a counselor and being empathetic “because we’re on the front lines to identify any concerns with mental health or other issues that are going on.”

Mrs. Cain agreed, saying, “We’re here to help the kids socially and emotionally, for the most part. We’re here to talk things through, to work things out, and I think kids need that. They need to be taught social skills, conflict resolution. They need to be taught empathy, how to think a different way. We’re such an integral part of the social and emotional learning of students.”

In the end, she said, “It’s nice to know that I’ve helped somebody.”



# President Welcome



Dear GRACE Community:

**W**arm greetings to you! The month of May brings continued renewal of spring and anticipation of the rejuvenating feelings of summer, which is just around the corner. It has been an extraordinary school year that we are bringing to a healthy and strong close.

Recently, I was contacted by my former elementary Catholic school, my alma mater. This is a K-8 Catholic school where I grew up in Illinois. The school leadership is embarking upon a campaign to connect with former alumni and share news and updates regarding school progress. They are asking alumni to follow social media accounts and join a formal alumni network, and they also shared a letter of encouragement from a former classmate.

This experience with my own former Catholic grade school made me think about how we connect with our GRACE alumni. So many of our current families (and staff members) attended our GRACE schools or another Catholic school and feel a certain connection and passion because of their legacy of Catholic education. For so many of us, sending our children to Catholic school and investing in Catholic education is a way to invest in our faith through our own children.

I guess I would ask you all ... Have you considered reaching out to your former elementary school, especially if it was a Catholic school? Have you encouraged them to keep up the good work and to preserve the rich traditions of the school for the present, the past and the future? Consider requesting a tour (as schools reopen to visitors post-pandemic), comment on their social media posts to show support and also share a memory or photo of your time in the school with school leadership. Rally your classmates! Your support and your involvement in your own alma mater helps to ensure a bright future involving long-term success of Catholic education for generations to come.

You are a living example of not only your legacy school, but also of your GRACE school. A large part of our formation happened during our Catholic elementary years. Catholic schools continue to teach truth, inspire faith, build community and maintain quality programs through stakeholder involvement. Also, if you ask business leaders in our region, so many of them attended Catholic education, which provides the foundation of their own leadership and success.

I encourage you to celebrate Catholic education even through your own roots! In closing, may your Catholic faith sustain you!

*In Christ,*

**Kimberly A. Desotell**  
President, GRACE

## Enrollment Open For 2021-2022

**E**nrollment continues for the GRACE 2021-2022 school year. The non-refundable enrollment fee is currently \$125 per family.

Current GRACE families received an email in January from their GRACE school via TADS.com with a re-enrollment link specific to each student. The link connects the family directly to the TADS website to complete the online enrollment process. Families with students new to a GRACE school are required to first submit an online admission application.

Upon completion of the enrollment registration questions for each child and payment of the per-family enrollment fee, families are required to complete a tuition agreement and set up a payment plan. Completion of the process in its entirety must be done to reserve each child's seat at your GRACE school for Fall 2021.

For more information about enrollment, please visit [gracesystem.org/enrollment](https://gracesystem.org/enrollment).



### **FATHER ALLOUEZ CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Principal: Mrs. Kay Franz  
920-432-5223 (Elementary)  
920-336-3230 (Middle)  
[www.fatherallouezschool.org](http://www.fatherallouezschool.org)

### **HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Principal: Mrs. Kari Peterson  
920-468-0625  
[www.holycrossfamily.org](http://www.holycrossfamily.org)

### **HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Principal: Mr. Jere Kubuske  
920-494-1931  
[www.holyfamilygreenbay.com](http://www.holyfamilygreenbay.com)

### **NOTRE DAME OF DE PERE**

Principal: Mrs. Molly Mares  
920-337-1115  
[www.notredameofdepere.com](http://www.notredameofdepere.com)

### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Principal: Mr. Jeff Young  
920-336-3091  
[www.lourdesschooldepere.org](http://www.lourdesschooldepere.org)

### **ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Principal: Mrs. Crystal Blahnik  
920-468-5026  
[www.saintbernardgb.com](http://www.saintbernardgb.com)

### **ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL**

Headmaster: Mr. Alex Wolf  
920-617-9542  
[www.sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org](http://www.sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org)

### **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL**

Principal: Mr. Andrew Mulloy  
920-434-3822  
[www.sjbhschool.org](http://www.sjbhschool.org)

### **ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Principal:  
Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell  
920-432-8242  
[www.stmoregb.com](http://www.stmoregb.com)

## Greater Green Bay Chamber's Golden Apple Award

Mrs. April Neuville, a first-grade teacher at Father Allouez Catholic School, was among only nine honorees (individuals and teams) in the entire region to receive a Golden Apple Award as part of the Greater Green Bay Chamber's 28th annual Golden Apple Awards program.

As the program's top honor, the Golden Apple Award recognizes educators who demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, leadership and innovation in teaching.

"Mrs. Neuville is a consummate professional and truly is deserving of this prestigious award," said GRACE President Kimberly Desotell, who was in attendance for the surprise announcement at St. Matthew Catholic Community church. "She builds a strong sense of hope in her students that will carry with them always as she imparts wisdom, morals and faith into her teaching daily. We are fortunate to have her as a member of our GRACE family of teachers."

Principal Kay Franz of Father Allouez Catholic School described Mrs. Neuville as an "instructional maestro," noting: "The care and concern she has for students is extraordinary. She not only ensures each student in her class masters the curriculum, but she makes sure they grow in their faith and self worth. Father Allouez Catholic School is blessed by her willingness to share her teaching mission and ministry with our community."

Mrs. Neuville said the Golden Apple Award is a special honor any year, but especially this year as we navigate challenges posed by the pandemic. She expressed gratitude to everyone who helped initiate and support her through the nomination process.

"Even though I'm the one to accept this award, my success is a team effort," she said. "Behind

the scenes I'd like to thank my mom and dad for their encouragement, support and example of strong work ethic, my family for their patience and understanding for my dedication, my administrator and colleagues for their suggestions and help, as well as the families of my students who continue to enrich their child's learning from home. It truly takes a village."

Mrs. Neuville added that "Teaching is my passion. I love what I do, and I do what I love for my students."



Mrs. April Neuville



## Greater Green Bay Chamber's Teachers of Distinction

The GRACE school system is proud to have four educators earn Teacher of Distinction recognition from the Greater Green Bay Chamber as part of its 28th annual Golden Apple Awards program.

GRACE honorees include Mrs. Hannah Aschenbrenner, Mrs. Emily D'Angelo, Mrs. Jodi Sullivan and Mrs. April Neuville. These outstanding educators are representative of the talented and dedicated teachers and staff members throughout our school system who nurture the academic, spiritual and social development of our students.

Mrs. Aschenbrenner is in her third year as a kindergarten teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Overall, this is her fifth year with GRACE.

"As Catholics, we are taught that we are made in the image of God," she said. "To me, this means that we are all special in our own way, and that God made us the way we are for a reason. It's my job to teach my students to use their God-given talents and gifts to make the world a better place. ... It's up to us to use the gifts God gave us to help others."

Mrs. D'Angelo has been teaching at St. Bernard School for 14 years, and in Catholic education

overall for 19 years. She serves as a reading interventionist for students in grades 1-8.

The Teacher of Distinction honors means so much, she said, "because it validates the hard work that my students and I put into our lessons every day. The success they achieve after working through many obstacles is so inspiring, and I am truly honored to share this award with them."

Mrs. Sullivan, a first-grade teacher at Holy Cross Catholic School, is in her 22nd year teaching.

"It's an honor to be named a Teacher of Distinction," she said. "The teachers at Holy Cross are such an amazing team! I am so blessed to teach with such wonderful colleagues. I feel so fortunate to be recognized for all of our hard work and dedication to our students and community."

Mrs. Neuville, a first-grade teacher at Father Allouez Catholic School, received a Teacher of Distinction honor and a Golden Apple Award. Her story is included in this newsletter.

Overall, 57 GRACE educators, representing every GRACE school, were among the area teachers nominated for Golden Apple Awards this school year.



Mrs. Hannah Aschenbrenner



Mrs. Emily D'Angelo



Mrs. Jodi Sullivan



Mrs. April Neuville



## Staff Spotlight: Principal Jere Kubuske, Holy Family Catholic School

By Benjamin Wideman, Director of Marketing and Communications



Mr. Jere Kubuske

Despite adjusting to a new school system and navigating the challenges of a pandemic, Mr. Jere Kubuske continues to excel in relationship building as he nears completion of his first year as principal of Holy Family Catholic School.

"I feel like I have been able to help lead our school through changes and transitions this year," he said. "We have made tweaks and changes, like to our middle school schedule, when needed. We have been receptive to new ideas, best practices and finding what works best for Holy Family. We have been able to implement some new policies and procedures."

"But what I am most proud of is the relationships we are building with the parishes, the parents, and the community," he added. "Every one of our middle school students worked on creating a suggested service project for a parish that supports Holy Family. Our hope is that the students will then use those opportunities to create a service project that also meets the requirements of their International Baccalaureate project."

In addition to helping lead Holy Family's IB Program, Mr. Kubuske has been instrumental in helping develop our "Little Saints" Catholic child care program that is scheduled to open in fall 2021 for GRACE employees, with the goal of expanding to our GRACE community the following school year.

Mr. Kubuske entered the GRACE family with a wealth of experience in the field of education. He held several key positions at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis (Indiana) — including Vice Principal, Academic Data Coordinator, Science Teacher/ Department Chair, and Assistant Varsity Football Coach. He also taught at the Ben Davis Ninth Grade Center (Indiana) and Tuscarawas Valley High School (Ohio).

Mr. Kubuske completed the Educational Leadership Licensure Program (iLEAD) at the University of Indianapolis. Prior to that, he earned his bachelor's degree in Adolescent / Young Adult Education in Life Science from Walsh University (Ohio), and his master's degree

in Sports Studies from Bemidji State University (Minnesota).

His wife, Sara, serves as the head softball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Together, the couple and their family are enjoying being part of the Green Bay community and working to prepare students of all ages for success now and in the future.

"Since I was new to the school, to GRACE and to the area, I have spent my time learning and listening as much as possible to as much of the Holy Family community as possible," Mr. Kubuske said. "I have learned about how we can make our parish connections stronger, how to best support our teachers, what our parents are looking for in how we serve their students, and what the students like and want from their experience. With this knowledge, and the tremendous support of the community, we're going to keep striving to create the best educational experience possible for our students."

Mr. Kubuske added that he considers himself "so lucky" to work alongside a caring, knowledgeable and dedicated team of teachers and staff members at Holy Family.

"The people we had here were fantastic to begin with," he said. "From our teachers and cafeteria workers to my administrative assistant and our support staff, we have amazing people at Holy Family. In addition, we have been able to land some amazing new people when we were really in a pinch, including two Sisters (from the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity). As tough as the job can be sometimes, it is made a lot easier by having a fantastic staff that I get to serve."

Holy Family Catholic School is affiliated with Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Quad Parishes (Annunciation, St. Jude, St. Joseph and St. Patrick), St. Agnes Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.



Educational Foundation, Inc.

## Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Honorees

Three GRACE educators received prestigious honors from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in February. They include Principal Andrew Mulloy of St. John the Baptist School, and teachers Mrs. Jodi Sullivan and Mrs. Michelle Anderson, both of Holy Cross Catholic School.

Mr. Mulloy is among only 16 principals statewide to receive a Principal Leadership Award for, as the foundation states, "setting high standards for instruction, achievement and character, and creating a climate to best serve students, families, staff and community."

Mrs. Sullivan, who teaches first grade, and Mrs. Anderson, who teaches kindergarten, are among only 101 teachers statewide to receive Teacher Fellowship Awards for, as the foundation states, "their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and their leadership and service within and outside



Mr. Andrew Mulloy



Mrs. Emily D'Angelo



Mrs. Michelle Anderson

the classroom."

Honorees are selected by a statewide committee comprised of civic leaders and representatives of education-related associations and the program's co-sponsors: The Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Council of Religious and

Independent Schools, regional Cooperative Educational Service Agencies, the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators, and the Wisconsin Homeschool Parents Association.

The Kohl Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship program was established by Herb Kohl, philanthropist and businessman, in 1990.

"Education is the key to the future of Wisconsin and our nation," Mr. Kohl said. "I am very proud of the accomplishments of these students, teachers and principals and look forward to the great contributions they will make in the future."

## Development Updates

### 2021 Calendar Raffle

Our school system conducted a GRACE-wide 2021 Calendar Raffle fundraiser that features \$10,100 in total prize money and is aligned with our school system's 10th anniversary celebration. The ongoing event raised \$86,300.

Profits support third-source funding, with each school getting credit for calendars sold. Drawings are scheduled every Wednesday and select other days throughout the 2021 calendar year. Drawings are held at the GRACE office, 1822 Riverside Drive, Green Bay.

The names and ticket numbers of raffle winners are being posted on the day of the drawings on the GRACE Facebook page and GRACE website.

*Thank you for supporting GRACE!*



### Day of GRACE

The inaugural Day of GRACE, a day of giving, was held Feb. 3 as part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration.

GRACE supporters who visited our special Day of GRACE website, [givingday.gracesystem.org](http://givingday.gracesystem.org), donated a total of about \$18,000. Those funds will support tuition assistance scholarships as well as upgrades to instructional technology, which became heightened areas of need this past year during the pandemic.

Our work is not possible without the commitment of our teachers, staff, families and wonderful friends who understand the vital role our GRACE Catholic schools play in preparing children for a bright future, even during challenging times.

We are already beginning preparations for our second annual Day of GRACE next school year. Stay tuned!

### GRACE Annual Appeal

Thank you to our generous and faithful supporters of the GRACE Annual Appeal, which helps provide resources for programs, technology and initiatives that impact the exceptional Catholic education provided to the nearly 2,200 students in our nine GRACE schools.

With these gifts, GRACE can continue to experience growth, foster our faith in serving others and impact outstanding educational outcomes through our work. Please prayerfully share in our mission with your gifts to GRACE. Donations may be made online at [gracesystem.org/donate](http://gracesystem.org/donate), or they may be mailed to: GRACE, 1822 Riverside Drive, Green Bay, WI 54301.

## Teacher Leadership and Service Award

GRACE is honored to recognize Mrs. Patty Nennig and Mrs. Sarah Patterson as recipients of the 2021 Rt. Rev. Dane Radecki, O. Praem., GRACE Leadership and Service Award. The award is presented annually to outstanding GRACE educators who demonstrate strong leadership and commitment in education. Here is a look at each of our honorees:



Mrs. Patty Nennig

#### MRS. PATTY NENNIG

Mrs. Nennig teaches middle school math and religion at Holy Cross Catholic School, where she has served for the past 15 years. Overall, she has been a dedicated teacher in the field of Catholic education for 31 years.

"I love working with kids and watching them grow both in knowledge and in their faith," she said.

Mrs. Nennig firmly believes in the importance of providing students with a solid educational foundation.

"I have spent many years teaching math and algebra to several different grade levels and have seen a great deal of different methodologies and textbooks come and go," she said. "This has made me realize that the basic fundamental skills of math are what need to be stressed so as to give the students a strong background and in turn prepare them for the next level."

Mrs. Nennig received her degree in Elementary Education (and a minor in Reading) from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.



Mrs. Sarah Patterson

#### MRS. SARAH PATTERSON

Mrs. Patterson is in her sixth year as the Supportive Consultant at Notre Dame of De Pere. Overall, this is her 17th year serving area Catholic schools, including time spent teaching at St. John the Baptist School.

"I love being part of a Catholic school environment," Mrs. Patterson said. "I work with so many dedicated and selfless teachers and staff members who support

and encourage each other personally and professionally. I love the fact that we have the opportunity to pray together and reach out to serve members of our community."

Mrs. Patterson's role as a Supportive Consultant is ever-changing, which keeps her on her toes while supporting students primarily in grades 1-8. She started her position in 2015 as a Reading Interventionist, and that role quickly evolved into other areas of support for both students and teachers.

Mrs. Patterson earned her degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She also received her reading license from Viterbo University, and earned her certification as a Wilson Reading Dyslexia Practitioner.

# WE ARE: GRACE:



# Maintaining Academic and Spiritual Excellence





# GRACE: Gold Summer Camp

By Laura Blicharz, GRACE Curriculum Coordinator and GRACE: Gold Summer Camp Coordinator

Summer is right around the corner, and you know what that means? GRACE: Gold Summer Camp!

We are gearing up for our fourth exciting year of summer faith and fun with our 2021 camp schedule and class lineup. Camp sessions will be held: July 5-9, July 12-16, July 19-23 and July 26-30. Morning classes are 8 to 11 a.m., and afternoon classes are 12 noon to 3 p.m.

GRACE: Gold Summer Camp will be based at Father Allouez Catholic School-Resurrection Campus, 333 Hilltop Drive.

Registration is now open. To view the class schedules, descriptions, costs and other registration details, please visit [gracesystem.org/about-grace/grace-gold-summer-camp](https://gracesystem.org/about-grace/grace-gold-summer-camp). The deadline to register is not yet finalized, but likely will be set for around the end of the regular academic year (early June). Our standard course cost this year is \$78 for an all-week/half-day course or \$104 for an all-week/all-day schedule.



Some courses may have additional costs depending on materials needed or transportation expenses.

We are excited to offer 36 different course options this year to students in preschool through eighth grade! With class topics ranging from sports to band lessons and from cooking to art, there is something for everyone.

In addition, Mass will be held each Wednesday from 11:25 a.m. to 12 noon right next door at Resurrection Catholic Parish. Gathering together to pray and give thanks is among our favorite parts of providing

a complete and fulfilling summer camp for our students.

GRACE: Gold is an inspiring place to be during the summer, as it combines quality instruction with strong faith integration. This is a unique and special aspect of GRACE:

Gold and is at the core of what we do in the GRACE school system.

We provide small class sizes, off-campus experiences, Discovery Time speakers from local businesses and organizations, and much more! This is why GRACE: Gold continues to grow in size and popularity. Last year we served 95 families at our summer camp, and we hope to increase that number with our amazing camp lineup in 2021.

GRACE: Gold has procedures and guidelines in place to keep our staff and children safe. This includes field trip permission slips, medical forms, emergency contact information sheets and COVID safety guidelines. GRACE: Gold follows the same COVID safety plans as the schools in our system. COVID safety guidelines can be viewed on the main GRACE website at [gracesystem.org](https://gracesystem.org) or by visiting the summer camp webpage.

Our families love GRACE: Gold, and we know you will too! Here is a sampling of what some had to say after last year's summer camp experience:

- "Lots of creative themes that kept (students) engaged, active and thinking."
- "My kids love going to Mass there :)"
- "Given how much (the students) made and came home with, I was very impressed and thought it was a great value."
- "My child is looking forward to trying new cases and going back next year."
- "I left the parking lot on the last day at pick-up and silently cried because I was so relieved/glad my kiddo got this experience."

***We can't wait to see you at GRACE: Gold Summer Camp!***



## Chesterton Academy of St. John Paul II Classical School



**CHESTERTON ACADEMY**  
OF ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL



Enrollment remains strong for the inaugural class of ninth-grade students who will be attending the new Chesterton Academy of St. John Paul II Classical School in Fall 2021.

The most recent tally includes 17 students, including all 15 current eighth-grade students at St. John Paul II Classical School and two additional GRACE students. St. John Paul II Classical School will celebrate its first class of graduating eighth-graders on Thursday, May 27 during a Mass and ceremony at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

The GRACE system currently includes nine schools that provide academic excellence and Catholic development to students in preschool through eighth grade. When Chesterton Academy opens in the fall it will be GRACE's first venture into high school grade levels.

Chesterton Academy will provide a classical liberal arts education with a deep regard for the development of Catholic virtues. The academy will debut with the addition of ninth grade and add one grade each year thereafter until graduating the first class of seniors in spring 2025.

The academy will be located at 320 Victoria St., Green Bay, in the St. Philip the Apostle campus building, which also houses St. John Paul II Classical School.

Mr. Patrick McKeown, a current teacher at St. John Paul II Classical School, will serve as Chesterton Academy headmaster and work in partnership with Mr. Alex Wolf, headmaster at St. John Paul II Classical School. In addition, Mr. McKeown will teach history, fine arts and rhetoric at Chesterton Academy.

Chesterton Academy faculty members also include Mr. Gary Guevara (music and science), Ms. Kristy Mongin (philosophy, literature and theology), Mrs. Shannon Greisen (math), and Mrs. Margaret Smith (Latin).

In February, Chesterton Academy hosted a virtual event featuring Mr. Andrew Youngblood, Curriculum Director for the Chesterton Schools Network. He discussed the dynamic and integrated curriculum that students will enjoy this coming fall.

For more information about Chesterton Academy, including a complete four-year curriculum overview, please visit [sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org](https://sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org). And to register for Chesterton Academy or any of our nine GRACE schools, please visit [gracesystem.org/enrollment](https://gracesystem.org/enrollment).





## Middle School Leadership Conference Draws Rave Reviews

*By Linnea Svennes, St. Norbert College student*

CatholicLink is excited to share the launch of student leadership programs that connect and enhance student growth across all three of its partners: GRACE, Notre Dame Academy and St. Norbert College.

The Middle School Leadership Conference took place virtually on Feb. 24 through a collaboration with students from Notre Dame Academy and Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. Twenty-four GRACE middle school students from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and Holy Family Catholic School participated in this innovative conference. The students and educators gave the leadership conference rave reviews. Students shared that they thought the conference was fun, educational and inspirational. They learned about servant leadership and the qualities of a good leader.

The Middle School Leadership Conference was a half-day event that enhanced the leadership qualities of the participants and provided opportunities for them to develop leadership initiatives to bring back to their school communities.

Educators selected seventh-grade students from their respective schools who portray integrity, creativity, purpose, teamwork, optimism, willfulness and humility. The students and educators had very positive feedback from the conference.

Mr. Jeff Young, principal at Our Lady of Lourdes, and Mr. Jere Kubuske, principal at Holy Family, were grateful their students were invited to pilot this unique program.

Through informative sessions, small group discussions, engaging activities and personal reflection, participants developed a deeper understanding of leadership. They identified their personal leadership style and learned about the importance of communication and relationships.

Some of the Notre Dame Academy students who hosted the conference were alumni of the two participating middle schools, which helped to create connections between the participants and the high school facilitators.

The conference was a wonderful opportunity for GRACE and Notre Dame students to virtually connect with student leaders from North Carolina. The value of connecting student leaders both within and outside their schools served as an important pillar of the National High School Leadership Conference recently hosted by CatholicLink, Notre Dame Academy and Cardinal Gibbons High School. Notre Dame and Cardinal Gibbons students joined sophomores and juniors from across the country for an engaging day focused on developing servant leaders. The conference is



unique in that it was developed and led by high school students. St. Norbert College students led a session on goal setting and will serve as ongoing mentors for the high school students.

Leadership development opportunities for young people help prepare them for lifelong success by building important skills such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, networking and goal setting, while growing self confidence. CatholicLink conferences provide an engaging, collaborative and innovative opportunity for students to connect with others both within and outside of their school to grow as faith-filled servant leaders.

We believe every student is called to become a servant leader who passionately grows and shares their gifts and talents with the world. The CatholicLink middle and high school conferences are the first of many future opportunities to help our students grow as passionate servant leaders. For more about CatholicLink, please visit [gracesystem.org/catholiclink](https://gracesystem.org/catholiclink).

## New Websites Under Construction

The GRACE school system has partnered with Packerland Websites to create brand new websites that are scheduled to be unveiled before the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The main GRACE website as well as all nine school websites are in the process of being upgraded. We look forward to sharing our new-look websites with you this summer! In the meantime, please visit our current websites for all details relating to our school system or specific schools.



## GRACE News Format

GRACE News is published three times during the academic year: Fall, Winter and Spring. All GRACE News archives are available at [gracesystem.org/grace-newsletter](http://gracesystem.org/grace-newsletter).

## Looking Ahead...

Check out the complete academic calendar online for important dates. It is available at [gracesystem.org/academic-calendar](http://gracesystem.org/academic-calendar). In addition, please visit our schools' websites for dates and information about fundraising events.

## Eighth-Grade Graduations

The GRACE school system is pleased to be able to hold graduation ceremonies this year for our eighth-grade students. Safety protocols will be established. For additional details, please contact the schools' main offices:

Here are the scheduled dates and locations:

- **Father Allouez Catholic School**  
Tuesday, June 1, 4 p.m.
- **Holy Cross Catholic School**  
Tuesday, June 1, 8 p.m.
- **Holy Family Catholic School**  
Thursday, June 3, 4 p.m.
- **Notre Dame School of De Pere**  
Tuesday, June 1, 6 p.m.
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School**  
Tuesday, June 1, 6:30 p.m.
- **St. Bernard Catholic School**  
Tuesday, June 1, 4:30 p.m.
- **St. John Paul II Classical School**  
Thursday, May 27, 5 p.m.
- **St. John the Baptist School**  
Tuesday, June 1, 6 p.m.
- **St. Thomas More Catholic School**  
Thursday, May 27, 5 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change, so please check with specific schools as the dates near.



## LET US HELP YOU

Call 920-499-7330

New Location 1822 Riverside Drive, Green Bay, WI 54301

General e-mail [graceoffice@gracesystem.org](mailto:graceoffice@gracesystem.org)

### Business Services

Gerard Faller, ext. 1000  
[gfaller@gracesystem.org](mailto:gfaller@gracesystem.org)

### Curriculum Coordinator

Laura Blicharz, ext. 1015  
[lblicharz@gracesystem.org](mailto:lblicharz@gracesystem.org)

### Development and Annual Appeal

Lisa Niemuth, ext. 1011  
[lniemuth@gracesystem.org](mailto:lniemuth@gracesystem.org)

### Enrollment and Financial Aid

Lori Ashmann, ext. 1013  
[lashmann@gracesystem.org](mailto:lashmann@gracesystem.org)

### Food Service

Jamie Hurley, ext. 1001  
[jhurley@gracesystem.org](mailto:jhurley@gracesystem.org)

### Marketing and Communications

Benjamin Wideman, ext. 1016  
[bwideman@gracesystem.org](mailto:bwideman@gracesystem.org)

### Outreach Administrator

Edgar Zaragoza, ext. 1017  
[ezaragoza@gracesystem.org](mailto:ezaragoza@gracesystem.org)

### President

Kimberly Desotell, ext. 1013  
[kdesotell@gracesystem.org](mailto:kdesotell@gracesystem.org)

### Student Services

James Cullen  
[jcullen@gracesystem.org](mailto:jcullen@gracesystem.org)

### Human Resources

Brenda Daming, ext. 1009  
[bdaming@gracesystem.org](mailto:bdaming@gracesystem.org)