

Announcing the Opening of GRACE Employee Childcare Program, Little Saints



Happy children cared for by loving caregivers have settled into the GRACE Little Saints Childcare Program hosted at Holy Family Catholic School. Our new Little Saints program opened in August of 2021 and welcomes children of GRACE teachers and staff from ages 6 weeks to 3 years old. The program consists of two classrooms featuring faith-based early childhood curriculum full of music, books, playtime, snacks, and devoted, attentive teachers.

Little Saints Director, Tami VanGruensven, is a former GRACE teacher and ran her own in-home childcare program for several years. She loves that we are able to provide this opportunity for GRACE families, giving their children access to Catholic faith-based early childhood education. Her favorite part of leading

Little Saints is being able to spend time with the children and seeing them meet developmental milestones. “I love working with the Little Saints children and families. Getting the children to laugh, smile, giggle, and feel comfortable is so rewarding,” Mrs. VanGruensven said.

Holy Family Principal Jere Kubuske stated that Little Saints was developed under GRACE President Kim Desotell’s vision to recruit and maintain top

talent within GRACE by providing an affordable, loving, and trustworthy childcare option for the families of GRACE staff. Mr. Kubuske says “the value of Little Saints is that we are able to attract and retain highly qualified teachers through providing one of the only Catholic childcare options in our area. Eventually, we hope to open it even further to GRACE families, our parishes, and the community.”

GRACE teacher and Little Saints parent, Courtney Wedan, raved about her family’s experience. “I love the Little Saints Program,” Mrs. Wedan said. “I love that it is faith-based childcare that has a smaller community of children. There, each child can get the love and attention they deserve. My husband and I were so grateful to see this program begin in time for our daughter to need childcare, especially since it is in the same building as I am. We are grateful that GRACE made the decision to open this program for its employees. Having my child right down the hall is a blessing for a first-time parent. I am able to pop in during my lunch time to see how the day is going and to touch base with Tami about it. I know my child is safe and cared for at Little Saints, and that is what matters.”



For more information or to learn more about how to enroll your child at Little Saints, please visit the GRACE website or contact Tami at tvanguensven@gracesystem.org.

Little Saints is looking to add qualified, caring teachers and volunteers! Interested parties are asked to please contact humanresources@gracesystem.org. Background check, references, and VIRTUS training are required.



President Welcome

Dear GRACE Families:

The wind is rising, the air is getting cooler, leaves are turning, and the geese are taking wing. Autumn is here, and we welcome its changes. Autumn is the time when we fall into the rhythm of our school day lessons in literature, math, science, religion and of course, history. While our nation has a history, so too does our Catholic schools.

Catholic schools were established as the first schools in our country open to immigrant children. The first parochial schools and educators were led by nuns, religious life and priests so tuition for families was free or even nominal. These early schools were supported by religious communities and fully funded through religious orders such as Sisters of Charity as a critical part of their mission and vocation unlike our current Catholic schools that are funded through tuition payments and fundraising.

I share with you a brief video highlighting the significance of the history of Catholic education. It outlines the story of generosity and sacrifice to build strong Catholic schools. Please click to watch the [Video: History of Catholic Education](#).

As Matthew Kelly indicates in this video, our GRACE mission goes well beyond academics, but academics provide a point of comparison between Catholic schools and public schools. We excel in academics, culture and sense of community. Our schools pour value into student lives in so many tangible and intangible ways.

So many have given generously and abundantly to make the reality of Catholic schools possible. This is true today as witnessed by the support of our families, our parishes, our benefactors and our dedicated employees.

Our Catholic school history certainly reflects the past—what was the past—but more importantly, it also represents the present. We are a living history. And because of this, we are better prepared for our future and the promising future of Catholic schools.

In His Service,



Kimberly A. Desotell
President, GRACE



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr. Patrick McKeown
920-617-9542

sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org/
chestertonacademy/chesterton-1/

FATHER ALLOUEZ CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Kay Franz
920-432-5223 (Elementary)
920-336-3230 (Middle)

www.fatherallouezschool.org

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Kari Peterson
920-468-0625

www.holycrossfamily.org

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Jere Kubuske
920-494-1931

www.holyfamilygreenbay.com

NOTRE DAME OF DE PERE

Principal: Mrs. Molly Mares
920-337-1115

www.notredameofdeperere.com

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Jeff Young
920-336-3091

www.lourdesschooldeperere.org

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Crystal Blahnik
920-468-5026

www.saintbernardgb.com

ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr. Alex Wolf
920-617-9542

www.sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Andrew Mulloy
920-434-3822

www.sjbhschool.org

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell
920-432-8242

www.stmoregb.com



St. Francis Xavier in De Pere
From the Diocese of Green Bay Archives



CatholicLink Leadership Academy *Mission*

Growing strong teams that are changing minds, hearts and lives



CatholicLink Leadership Academy Launches Cohort 2!

By Mary Schaupp, CatholicLink Executive Director

Twenty educators from six CatholicLink partners and Diocesan schools began an intensive, exciting, and faith-filled leadership journey in early August. This team of committed and inspired leaders dedicated two summer days to come together to learn and reflect, identify opportunities for growth, and work together as school teams to grow the faith and vibrancy of their school communities.

August 3rd and 4th were the first of 11 days that this team of teachers, administrative assistants, and principals gathered at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality for the CatholicLink Leadership Academy (CLA). Over the course of the coming ten months, they will learn about leadership styles and the importance of modeling strong mission-driven leadership. They will develop and practice skills, utilize tools to help them every day in the classroom and school, and support each other in their faith and leadership journey.

In addition to the support of the members of their cohort, each educator has been paired with a mentor who will walk through this leadership journey with them. Our mentors are educational, community, business, and faith leaders who have offered to share the wisdom and experience they have gained through their careers with our educators.

Following this ten-month program, our CLA school teams will invite all of the educators in their schools to walk through the leadership journey together, as a school community. Also, watch for updates on the expansion of the CatholicLink Student Leadership Academy. The CatholicLink Leadership Academy mission and framework guide the development of leaders in our GRACE and CatholicLink partner schools. Faith-filled, mission-driven leaders are being nurtured across our schools every day, and with the CatholicLink Leadership Academies, we are intentionally nurturing even more student and educator leaders.

We are deeply grateful to our CLA educators and mentors for their willingness to invest significant time and passion into the future of our Catholic schools. If you see any of our educators or mentors, please thank them for their commitment and ask them how it is going!

COHORT 2 TEAMS

Holy Family Catholic School

Notre Dame Academy

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Roncalli Catholic Schools

St. Bernard Catholic School

Questions or suggestions? Reach out to Mary Schaupp, CatholicLink Executive Director, mary.schaupp@snc.edu



● STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

● GRACE Strategic

● Planning Update

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

GRACE began as a system to help guide and support Catholic school education in the Green Bay area nearly 11 years ago. To help position for the future, we created our Strategic Plan in the Spring of 2018.

As a testament to the strength of our organization, even as we navigate the pandemic, we have been able to successfully achieve positive strategic results.

Some of the results include:



FAITH

- Board of Trustees instituted Catholic Identity Committee designed to help schools and parishes promote mutual engagement
- Pursuing methods to promote school children and family participation in parishes
- Religion teachers now meet regularly throughout our system to share best practices in religion instruction
- A plan has been created to use the scores from the Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education (ACRE) to enhance faith formation in the GRACE schools
- Participation in evangelization leadership programs with the CatholicLink whereby students in our schools interact and learn with students at Notre Dame Academy and St. Norbert College

VITALITY

- Established the Facilities Committee as a full standing committee with the primary goals of fostering relationships between parish and schools, and exploring short-term and long term facility strength
- Instituted a new position – Director of Marketing and Communications
- Expanding revenue sources through GRACE Gold Summer Camp and increased focus on grants, fund development other revenue
- Implemented a concerted effort to increase teacher compensation
- Increased enrollment through a donation to a Parish, the system
- Continued focus on the health and safety of our students, families and staff

ACADEMICS

- Developed a Digital Learning Plan that meets and or exceeds Diocesan and State standards for technology use in the classroom
- Constructing curriculum assessments and utilization of MAP testing
- A learning response team was formed to identify and address student needs
- Developed programs to enhance academic experiences – GRACE Gold Summer Camp; Our Lady of Grace Virtual Academy; summer bridge program
- Students in all GRACE schools consistently score above local, state and national norms in math and reading
- Implemented the Build Your Own Curriculum program for all subjects and all grade levels enhancing collaboration between teachers
- Adopted an annual curriculum review cycle for system-wide textbook updates

EXPERIENCE

- Established GRACE-wide St. Cecilia Choir to participate at partner Parish Masses
- Established GRACE-wide all school, all partner Parish community 5-K fun walk/run
- Opened a Catholic-based childcare program and facility
- Implemented monthly technology talks to help our teachers and staff with technology needs
- Expanded Food Service to include more meals served, healthy snacks, and breakfast at two of our schools

Through these and additional efforts, GRACE is continuing to focus on our strategic plan, building on success, and positioning for a strong future.

As we go forward, we will continue to reach out to listen and learn from our families, staff, Parishes – all our stakeholders.

We will be using this feedback to help design and implement ways to continue to strengthen and grow GRACE – and pursue our shared mission – “Building academic excellence and life skills while growing in our Catholic Faith.”

Announcing Launch of New GRACE Website



GRACE is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new website! After months of hard work and collaboration, we are delighted to officially announce this launch. The new site is available at the URL www.gracesystem.org

Our goal with the new website is to provide current and prospective GRACE families an easier way to learn about our mission, academics, schools, and staff. The new website is interactive and gives visitors better access to About Us, Academic Life, Faith Life, Student Life, Admissions, Giving, and Contact Us web pages. Our current and prospective families will find useful information about all our schools, curriculum, and admissions beginning on our

homepage. Among the new features, the site contains an integrated social media button linking to the GRACE Facebook page.

We invite you to view the new website with a fresh look and easy access to information. We wish to continually develop this portal as a source of information to those who visit our site. We would also like to thank our amazing staff and technology partners who gave their time and energy to make the updated website happen. Please visit our new page at www.gracesystem.org and contact mjanssen@gracesystem.org with questions, suggestions, feedback, or comments.

2nd Annual GRACE Community 5K Draws Together the GRACE Community!

*By Jamie Hurley, RD, CD, GRACE Director of Food Service, GRACE Run-Walk Co-Chair
and Gerard R. Faller, Director of Finance and Strategic Operations, GRACE Run-Walk Co-Chair*

Smiling faces and physical activity continued Saturday, August 28, 2021, as the GRACE community gathered to promote Wellness - A healthy mind, body, and spirit.

Roughly 200 individuals participated, bringing together our nine GRACE schools and 23 parishes, for a fun and enjoyable event!

The event was held at Father Allouez Catholic School - Resurrection Campus, in which Fr. Bob Kabat led in prayer, and participants took off along the race route - which encompassed much of the East River Trail.

Participants received a T-shirt, an end of race water bottle prize, and had the chance to enjoy each other's company with end of race snacks and a prize drawing. Prizes were all focused on family fun-activities, including the grand prize of Packer tickets! A fire truck and ambulance were also on site for fun, family viewing.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made this event possible, including numerous GRACE staff members, the Notre Dame Academy (NDA) Dance Team, the St. Norbert College (SNC) Women's Basketball Team, (both our CatholicLink Partners), the Village of Allouez Police Department, and the Green Bay Metro Fire Department.

We hope to see everyone at the third annual event - stay tuned for further details!





GRACE Annual Appeal

Throughout its 11 years, the GRACE Annual Appeal has been blessed with those who serve and lift up our mission with prayers and donations. Last year, the GRACE Annual Appeal raised more than \$243,000 to provide financial support to maintain affordable tuition, operations, programs, and technology resources.

Today, our mission has never been more important, and we are asking for your support for the bright future of GRACE Catholic education. Please share in our mission by making a donation to the 2021-22 GRACE Annual Appeal by completing the mailed donation card or by giving online at www.gracesystem.org/giving/donate-now. Annual Appeal donations can be mailed to the GRACE Development Office, 1822 Riverside Drive, Green Bay, WI 54301.

Thank you to all who support GRACE with prayers and donations throughout the Annual Appeal.

Double Your Donation

Did you know that many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees and retirees to contribute to charitable organizations, such as GRACE? Matching gifts are a type of giving program that is set up by companies and corporations as an employee benefit. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours too. By completing a matching gift form, you may be able to double or even triple the impact of your donation to GRACE.

Thank you to the following companies for matching gifts received ~ Aon, American Family, Ameriprise, Constellation, Thrivent, United Health Group, United Airlines, McKesson, Medtronic, Schreiber Foods, Tyson Foods, ThedaCare, and Wisconsin Public Service.

Check to see if your employer has a matching gift program.



GRACE Little Saints needs volunteers!

DO YOU LIKE TO...

- rock babies?
- play with toddlers?
- do light work such as laundry and light cleaning?

WE NEED YOU!

Little Saints is a Catholic childcare program (ages 6 weeks to 3 years old) for the employees of GRACE schools. The program is run at GRACE Holy Family Catholic School (1204 S Fisk St) Volunteer hours are flexible and can accommodate your schedule. It's a perfect opportunity for a retiree or someone interested in supporting our mission.

TO APPLY...

Interested candidates should send an email to humanresources@gracesystem.org

Background check, VIRTUS training and reference checks are required.

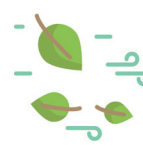


Fundraising: Key School Events

- **Ongoing, Fall 2021**
GRACE Annual Appeal
- **Ongoing, Fall 2021**
2022 Calendar Raffle ticket sales; Drawings begin January 1, 2022
- **October 23, 2021**
Holy Cross Catholic School's Auction, Badger State Brewing
- **November 5, 2021**
Notre Dame of De Pere's "Rise Up Raider Night"
- **November 13, 2021**
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School's Night of Keys, National Railroad Museum
- **February 2, 2022**
GRACE-wide Day of GRACE, Day of Giving

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.



LET US HELP YOU

Call 920-499-7330

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