

Our Lady of Guadalupe Outreach Program



For the third year, GRACE's Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLOG) Outreach Program was successfully presented to students and families from Father Allouez Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School, St. Bernard Catholic School, and St. Thomas More Catholic School. A total of 172 children and adults from 56 families were involved and engaged in a series of workshops this past January through April.

Generously funded by Milwaukee's Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the OLOG Outreach Program is meant to establish family activities and student programming to help both parents and students understand how to work together on issues of school engagement and academic success while fostering cultural integration.

Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell, principal of St. Thomas More Catholic School, describes the program this way: "From my perspective, the OLOG Outreach Program is designed with Hispanic families first. We want them to feel like an integral part of our Catholic school system."

Ninety eight percent of the students who attend St. Thomas More are Spanish speakers, so the program was very beneficial to the school.

"Our staff helped plan the workshops and were presenters," she said, "We had a large portion of our families attend."

The OLOG Outreach Program achieves all of their goals in the context of empowering families through faith. The topics of this year's workshops were

Faith at Home, Internet Safety and Mental Health, Importance of Early Childhood Literacy and Preparing for High School and Higher Education.

Presented primarily in Spanish, each two-hour session included a prayer, presenters speaking on workshop topics, interactive activities, take-home materials for families to use at home, and refreshments. The presence of vocations was evident as priests celebrated Mass and led prayer with Sisters affiliated with our parishes participating as well. Childcare was provided for younger siblings in order to allow students and their parents to attend. Organizations who contributed their time and talents included the Diocese of Green Bay's Hispanic Ministry, the Green Bay Police Department, the YMCA, and Casa Alba. In addition, teachers from participating schools provided their integral support at the workshops.

The 2022-23 OLOG Outreach Program Team members were Alejandra Beals, Crystal Blahnik, Gabrielle Calewatts, Kim Desotell, Kay Franz, Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell, Jere Kubuske, Karlet Negrete, Lisa Niemuth, and Edgar Zaragoza. This team's role is to plan the workshop topics and participate in the workshops as well as provide evaluation as to the program's objectives.

Mrs. Blahnik shared, "Over the course of this year's workshops, families and students have connected and become friends. This program has facilitated a very strong community of Spanish-speaking families

who are engaged with their children's education and equipped with tools to help them raise their children to their full potential."

Through participation in the GRACE OLOG Outreach Program, families:

- Engage with other families in deepening personal and family faith life.
- Enhance personal knowledge of community resources for the health, safety and well-being of the family unit.
- Learn strategies for maximizing at-home support of student learning.
- Acquire knowledge of technology utilized at their child's school and how to access key information pertaining to their child's learning.
- Receive guidance in deciphering standardized test scores and learn how educators use this information to design instruction.
- Connect with GRACE school families to deepen the spirit of community and family friendships.

GRACE will again offer the OLOG Outreach Program during the 2023-24 school year in January through April. Information will be available during the Fall 2023 semester.

Superintendent's Letter - Measuring Academic Success

Greetings GRACE Families and Friends,

Over the 12 years that GRACE has existed as a system, we have found ways to become stronger together while continuing to celebrate the uniqueness of each of our communities. As I finish my first year as Superintendent and my seventh year with GRACE, I am amazed at the beauty and uniqueness of each school. Each community comes together in a unique way to serve children, create a Christian community for families, and live our Catholic faith. The gift of serving all our schools allows me to see the beauty and diversity of our Green Bay Catholic community.

In addition to faith and families, GRACE values high-quality education. One way we ensure this is through learning assessment tools. These tools hold us accountable and allow us to respond individually to each student. Our school leaders use the results to plan professional development and make curricular choices. Most importantly, our teachers look at the results of tests and quizzes and use them to adjust how they teach. One standardized assessment that we use is the Fountas and Pinnell Assessment. K-5 teachers administer this assessment by sitting individually with each child and reading with them. This standardized process determines reading levels to help students read and learn with books that fit their skills.

Over the past several years, the Diocese of Green Bay required the use of the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Assessment (MAP tests). We will be ending the use of this assessment along with the rest of the Diocese of Green Bay and begin using the Star Assessment. The Star Assessment tests reading and math. This tool was selected in part because the tests are short, accurate, and the assessment data is efficiently accessible by our teachers to adjust instruction for each child. This test also better aligns with our Catholic faith in our schools.

This year, one of our biggest curriculum changes was using Project Lead the Way Launch, a hands-on science curriculum discussed elsewhere in this newsletter by our Director of Curriculum,

Laura Blicharz. In the program, students begin each unit by learning about an area of science and then using that knowledge to solve problems through hands-on experimentation and design work. In addition to this work, we spent time with our teachers learning about how faith and science are interconnected and how to share these natural connections in the classroom.

GRACE also made great strides in technology this year. We are updating our long-term plans and strategy to remain low-cost and highly effective. This summer, projects are underway to increase the safety and security of our online environment. Our Technology Services Team continues to provide consistent and high-quality service to our teachers and students.

First and foremost, what makes Catholic education different is sharing the very person and love of Jesus with our teachers and students. It is also the way teachers seek to instill traditional Catholic values in our curriculum, handle problems on the playground with Catholic morals, and the way all staff helps each child learn to love one another. Our faith informs the decisions we make with our purchases of books, our Internet security, and every other decision. Most importantly, we point to our faith as the reason we treat students and families with love and respect.

In Christ,



Drew Mulloy
GRACE Superintendent

Key Dates

Aug 29, 2023

First Day for Students

December 22, 2023 - January 2, 2024

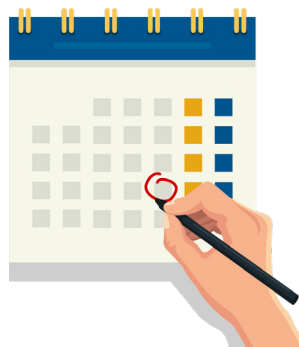
Christmas Break

March 4 - 8, 2024

Spring Break

June 7, 2024

Last Day of School



Enrollment for 2023-2024 continues!

gracesystem.org/admissions/how-to-apply

Quotes from GRACE's St. Norbert College Master's Path Cohort One

"I'm really enjoying it. We're learning a lot of new and different things, from art to philosophy and everything in between. All the professors have been great, the classes have been interesting and engaging. What's fun about it is being able to take the content we're learning, and bringing it to our students."

"The impact that this program has had on my teaching and on my students is really, truly remarkable - not only have the specific classes I've been taking been content-specific to what I've been teaching my students, but also the whole experience of going through my classroom experience and showing my students I'm not only a teacher but a learner - I'm teaching my students that they can be lifelong learners and that has been such a gift."

"We're so excited working with one another - the professors have been so accommodating. It has been a wonderful supportive experience and we are so excited for the next cohort to join us."

"If I could use some words to describe this program it would be: exciting, challenging, and rewarding. Say yes to the mess and join us!"

"Working with the people at St. Norbert and GRACE has been a wonderful thing. It's us working together and you know they're there to see you succeed."

Project Lead The Way

By Laura Blicharz, Director of Curriculum

This has been a big year for GRACE science curriculum for both students and teachers! The 2022-23 school year marked the introduction of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) science program for K-5 and the iScience program for grades 6-8. GRACE teachers participated in numerous trainings to prepare for the new programs, especially the cutting edge PLTW program.



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

Interim Principal: Mrs. Sarah Sharkey
920-494-1931
www.holyfamilygreenbay.com

NOTRE DAME OF DE PERE

Principal: Mrs. Molly Mares
920-337-1115
www.notredameofdepere.com

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Jeff Young
920-336-3091
www.lourdesschooldepere.org

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Interim Principal: Mr. David Gusloff
920-468-5026
www.saintbernardgb.com

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

Principal: Ms. Dana Vance
920-434-3822
www.sjbhschool.org

ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL/ CHESTERTON ACADEMY

Headmaster: Patrick McKeown
920-617-9542
[www.sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org/
chesterton-academy](http://www.sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org/chesterton-academy)

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell
920-432-8242
www.stmoregb.com

What's new about these programs?

PLTW is a STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program that promotes critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork and resiliency- all skills that students will need to be successful in life and future careers. In the past, science classes were teacher-led but in PLTW, students take charge of their own learning, participate in engaging experiments, and experience the science process in real time.

In middle school, students started to use the iScience program purchased for the 2022-23 school year. The iScience program uses "Project-Based Learning activities and hands-on investigations that focus on real-world situations." Sixth grade students will focus on Physical Science, seventh grade will focus on Life Science, and eighth grade will focus on Earth and Space Science. This type of format supports the type of teaching our GRACE middle school teachers have found to be the most successful in setting students up academically for high school and beyond.

What can be expected at home with these new programs?

With PLTW in K-5, science material that comes home will look a lot different! Traditional worksheets are not used in PLTW but rather focus is on critical thinking skills using lab reports. Homework will also not involve simple yes/no or true/false questions. PLTW promotes high-level thinking skills and therefore will include questions that are more open-ended and ask students to provide evidence to support their answers. For example, in a first grade classroom at Holy Family Catholic School, students worked to design their own "ears" after learning about the different ears animals had and how they helped the animal survive. For each part, the students added to their own ear model and were required to provide a reason why that element was added.



iScience includes both a physical textbook copy as well as an online learning portal that students can access at all times. More assignments, classwork, and assigned readings may be done online through this portal compared to past years for science class. The order of science themes (Physical, Life, Earth & Space) remains consistent though and has not changed with the new program.

The implementation of both these programs into GRACE classrooms was a huge leap in terms of bringing science education and instructional practices into the 21st century. GRACE is excited to see the impact these new programs have on students and their academic achievement in the years to come.



Tech Totes Have Arrived

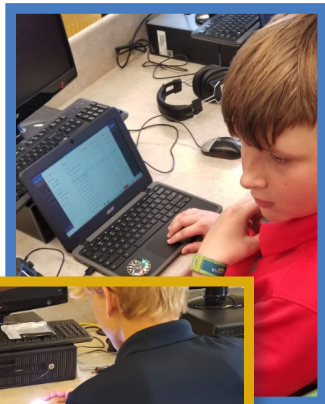


By Carrie Gossens, Director of Technology Services

GRACE's Technology Integration Team has successfully rolled out their first "Tech Tote" this year. Since the inception of our Integration Team in 2020, we have been working toward the goal of providing the tools and training to help our educators successfully teach their students through integration of technology within the classroom. Over the past few years our team researched the best tools to help master our technology standards, secured funding through the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay to purchase these tools through various grants, created lesson plans and assembled totes. This year our goal was to plan our strategy to introduce our first tote: Adafruit (coding circuit boards).

After sharing an introductory video about Adafruit to teachers, the team scheduled a two-day presentation with every fourth grade class in GRACE. Day one included a discussion about "what is coding", an introduction to the block coding software. Students created their first block code so the circuit board would light up and make a siren sound. Day two was a software review, creation of a "lucky wheel" block code and transfer of the code to the actual circuit board. Students were thrilled to see their code work. Teachers learned along with the students and began generating ideas on how to incorporate Adafruit into other subject areas for next year.

The team has also begun to pilot several other tech tools to create additional totes for the 2023-24 school year with other grade levels. These tools include 3D Pens/Printers (Middle School), Spheros (Grades 3 & 5) and Beebots (K-Grade 2).



Service Days Around GRACE

Father Allouez Catholic School

The fourth grade at Father Allouez Catholic School was involved in doing service projects for the McCormick Assisted Living this year. There are 55 residents that currently reside at the facility. Students have done one project a month, starting in September and ending in May. The fourth graders learned how important doing service projects are and how even small things can really brighten someone's day.

In September, they brought the residents SunnyD drinks. The students made some beautiful tags which were lovingly attached to each bottle.

In October, they bagged Halloween treats for residents who each received a bag of candy along with a special student note.

In November, they bagged candy corn for each of the residents. They designed a "Candy Corn Prayer" and wrote a little personal note on the back of the prayer to personalize the gift.

In December, they initiated a blanket drive and collected enough blankets to give one to each resident. The fourth graders were even able to donate some extra blankets to give to future residents! Each of the blankets were wrapped with care and given as a surprise to the residents for Christmas.

In January, the students decided to share Pop-Tarts with the residents. They had heard that they had not had Pop-Tarts since before the pandemic. They knew we had to remedy that for them! They purchased different flavors, labeled the boxes and added notes. It was all Poppin fun!

In February, they made the residents Valentines and attached them to a Valentine bag of pretzels.

In March, all of the residents received Skittles as a treat! The students made little cards to go with the Skittles or "Rainbow Seeds" as they called them. The cards were then attached to the bags

of Skittles.

For April, they held a drive at school to collect items for their Easter basket project. The students were able to collect enough items to make a big Easter basket for each of the residents! They were able to take a walking field trip to visit the residents and hand deliver the baskets to everyone's door! They loved the smiles and conversations that we had with the residents that day!

In May, they sent the residents homemade flower arrangements in coffee cups. They made tags to go on each arrangement.

The fourth graders of Father Allouez Catholic School have learned much about the importance of conducting service for their local community this year, and have made a huge impact on the lives of those residing at McCormick Assisted Living.



Holy Cross Going Green Program Enhanced with Outdoor Classroom

In 2018, Holy Cross Catholic School began their green and healthy initiative. Now officially titled the Holy Cross Going Green Program, it is led by a team of innovative and resourceful staff from the school, including Michelle Anderson, Jodi Sullivan, Tara Wildenberg, and principal Kari Peterson.

The plan aims to promote a child's healthy development and connect learners to the natural and human communities they live in. This will be achieved through a new outdoor classroom which will be utilized each day by the new Abundant Blessings preschool program, led by preschool teacher Jessica DeGroot, in the 2023-24 school year.

Preschool children will be encouraged to participate in play-based learning while engaging in the world around them both indoors and out. These children will be connected to nature as they develop literacy and awareness through the environment. The natural surroundings at Holy Cross will provide opportunities for discovery, creative problem solving, and growing in and appreciating God's creation. This program will follow the Early Learning Outcomes Framework and the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards while integrating the Catholic faith throughout the instruction.



Service Days Around GRACE (continued)

Holy Cross Catholic School

The students from Holy Cross Catholic School hosted a donation drive and helped make a meal for a local Green Bay shelter. This is a yearly event that the students always enjoy participating in. From decorating cookies to making soup, they assisted behind-the-scenes in the kitchen. A little food can make a big difference!



St. Bernard Catholic School

St. Bernard Catholic School had students participate in several activities this year on their service day which they deemed "kindness goals."

The first kindness goal was to make pretty rocks to share joy with someone they know. Students chose a rock to paint and brought it home to share with a neighbor or family member of their choice.

Another goal was to make potted flowers to share God's creation with the local neighborhood surrounding the school. Students got to decorate a cup and then plant the flower inside. The cups and flowers were delivered to nearby Green Bay homes.

Students also created decorations for the elderly to brighten their day and to let them know that someone is thinking of them. Several craft projects were available for students to choose from to create a colorful door decoration.

Kindness matters! Students were taught to show kindness to others and know why they were serving with a video read-aloud, kindness sing-a-long, devotion, and a journaling page.

Another kindness goal was to make a toy to show love to pets who need a home. Students created cloth toys for pets. They were brought to a Green Bay area cat and dog shelter for those in need.

The last kindness goal was to make bookmarks for the donated books. The students decorated their chosen bookmark and placed it with a book for a child who may not have many books in an effort to share the love of reading with all.

Kindness is very present in the St. Bernard Catholic School community, among the students and staff who will continue to spread it in many different ways.

Around GRACE Schools



Holy Family Catholic School
Beekeeper Visits and Teaches Students
About the Importance of Bees



Father Allouez Catholic School
Guest Visitors Green Bay Blizzard Players
Tyrell Thompson (#55) and AJ Wilson (#74)
Read to the Students



St. Bernard Catholic School
Fourth Grade Field Trip to Madison



Holy Cross Catholic School
Second Graders Become Published Authors



Notre Dame School of De Pere
Good End to the Track Season -
Championship Meet



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Spring Concert



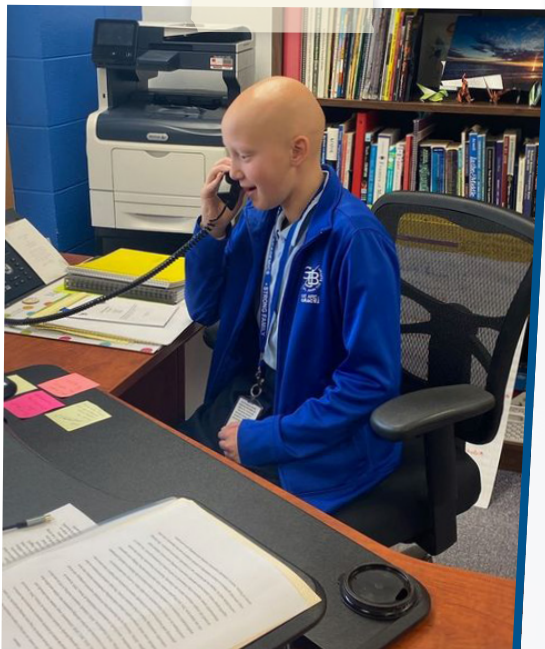
St. Thomas More Catholic School

"El Día del Niño" Children's Day Celebrated



St. John Paul II Classical School/Chesteron Academy

Headmaster Appreciation Day



St. John the Baptist School
Student is Principal for the Day



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GREEN BAY AREA CATHOLIC EDUCATION (GRACE)
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Congratulations to all GRACE 8th Grade Graduates!



GRACE
GREEN BAY AREA
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Schools United for Excellence



Good Shepherd Mentoring Program

By James Cullen, Director of Student Services

The GRACE Good Shepherd Mentoring Program was initiated by James Cullen, Director of Student Services, and piloted this school year at Our Lady of Lourde Catholic School. This fall, the program will expand to include Father Allouez, Notre Dame of De Pere and St. John the Baptist schools. It is an opportunity for selected students to partner up with an older mentor student to serve as a big brother/sister by meeting with them once or twice a week for 20-30 minutes at a time. The school principal and school counselor take the lead in choosing students to participate in the program. They share conversation, play games, and the younger student (mentee) can learn from the older student how to positively interact with others and make a connection with peers while also giving the older student (mentor) the opportunity to practice leadership skills and be a friend as well as a role model to the younger student.



LET US HELP YOU

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