



# Grace Episcopal Day School

Fall 2020 Plan Update  
Town Hall Presentation, 22 July 2020

“This is a call to enhance public love -- justice. This is a call to intentionally support the creation of structures informed by and informing our sense of social justice. This is a call to become responsible for the institutional structures we inhabit and that inhabit us. This is a call for self- and world-making and for the bridge between them.... It is a call to create and live the predicate for a beloved community.”

--john a. powell  
Professor of Law, Berkeley



# Guiding Principles

The health and safety of the Grace community

Designing for flexibility and adaptability

Preserving a caring community, and maintaining connections

Our commitment to equity and inclusion

Ensuring robust learning and academics, and keeping the teacher/student relationship at the center



# Planning Methodology



At Grace, we believe that **our people are our biggest asset** and what make our school exceptional.

We are passionately committed to **equity and diversity**.

As your children can tell you, we are also committed to the process of **Design Thinking** (solving a problem by seeking to understand the needs of those we are designing for).

# What We Value



**Deep care** for one another and children

The **social and emotional needs** of our students

**Offering one another grace** when times are tense and difficult -- like now

# Planning Methodology

## We educate ourselves

We follow the science. In a time of crisis without clear national guidance, we turn to vetted experts to decide what are best practices for risk mitigation.

## We listen and empathize

Design Thinking means that listening to our “users” -- students, families, and teachers -- is front and center. Our summer is designed to make sure that stakeholder voices are heard. Parents, teachers, and even students must be allowed to express their concerns. Surveys, empathy mapping, and frequent conversations are part of our collection tools.

## We collaborate

Each member of staff is collaborating with other professionals in their field in this time of Zoom. We know what we don’t know, and are working with those members of our community with expertise in certain areas. Our professional organizations -- AISGW, NAIS, NAES, AIMS, and more -- all provide guidance and resources.

# #gracegoesback Task Forces

## Health and Safety:

**Grace Staff:** Noelle McHugh, Amy Scribner, *Advising School Nurse*, Shalonda Newman, Pam Yarrington, Jen Danish

**Parent and Community Advisors:** Dr. Katherine Hahn, Dr. Eli Boritz

## Campus Space and Planning:

**Grace staff:** Sue Whitaker, Jen Danish, Pam Yarrington, Karen O'Connor-Floman

**Parent and Community Advisors:** Dr. Stefania Dell Orso, Andrew McKenna, *Trustee*, Sewall Lee, *Grace alum and Trustee*

## Academic Team / Continuous Learning:

Jen Danish, Pam Yarrington, Melissa Lafionatis, Sue Whitaker, Christine Comas, Luigi LaPietra, Karen O'Connor-Floman

## Wellness and Support:

**Grace Staff:** Renee Stewart, Susan Thon, Melissa Lafionatis, Jen Danish

**Parent and Community Advisors:** Jimeka Setzer, Michelle Artz, Nina Laing



# Scenarios for the Fall



## Scenario 1:

Simultaneously on-site  
and at-home (family  
choice) = BI-MODAL

## Scenario 2:

Full-time  
Distance Learning

# The Chosen Scenario



## Scenario 3: Hybrid

Remote most days with one on-campus.

Outdoor learning session scheduled once per week for all grades.

# Decision Factors

- Statistics
- Testing
- Montgomery County Schools Decision
- Grace Culture
- Dynamic Learning Platform

# Is it safe to be in person?

The Grace team and task forces have been following recommendations from various bodies and believe *at this time* and while we are in Phase 2 of reopening in Montgomery County that we can accomplish a healthy, in-person **outdoor** experience this fall. Choosing this as a family is optional.

Why?

1. In-person school is especially critical for the early childhood and elementary ages we serve.
2. We are small in population and our campus -- inside and outside -- is vast. This works to our advantage in complying with best practices for healthy schools.

# Distance Learning Growth



- \* Changes for the fall will include Seesaw as our platform and a school-wide schedule of Zoom meeting anchor points (such as daily Morning Meeting).
- \* Consistency across classrooms and within the Seesaw platform will be key to providing a quality program for our families.
- \* To promote community connection and offer deeper activity and outdoor time, we hope to offer each class one day a week on campus to enjoy our outdoor space.

# Next Steps and Important Dates

- \* The next Head of School call is set for Wednesday, August 12. We will offer two sessions at 12 pm and 7 pm.
- \* We will have more to share about which days will be designated for each grade to be on campus and all of the health and safety protocols associated with those days. We will also say more about our plans for Preschool and PreK which may differ from the rest of the school program.
- \* We will publish a frequently asked question document based on questions we gathered before the town hall and during.

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The path is surrounded by tall, dry grass and a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

**I cannot do all the good that the  
world needs. But the world  
needs all the good that I can do.**

Jana Stanfield