

Dear Grace Community,

Thank you to everyone who filled out our recent survey about the next school year and the transition back this spring. 81% of our families responded, and we are thrilled to know that families across the board feel deep confidence in our ability to provide a safe in-person program for our Gryphons.

We are grateful for the feedback and most importantly, for your trust in us to reopen Grace this winter and spring. We are continually amazed by our students' resilience and stamina as they endure screenings, testing, temp checks, and wearing masks all day. We have learned a great deal about how to be in person and to remain safe in this pandemic. Taking what we have learned and considering current guidance and protocols, we offer some decisions now in place for fall 2021. We wanted to offer you a glimpse into our [fall operational plan](#).

Finally, we are happy to announce the digital publication of [Grace Notes \(Spring 2021\)](#), our annual report and magazine. We hope you enjoy the look back at this extraordinary year.

- Grace will be fully in person this fall and will only offer virtual learning for a classroom quarantine, a student quarantine, a school outbreak, or an extended weather event.
- The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 7** and it will be in person and a full day of school for all students. Arrival begins at 8:30 am.
- Grace will open the school year for all students and their families that evening, September 7, with a Zoom opening ceremony **at 6 pm**. This will allow us to orient the children to their first week and make some opening remarks as we start another year together.
- Uniforms will be back for the 2021-2022 school year. Stay tuned for updated guidance and information about GraceWear (gently used uniforms) sales.
- Before and Aftercare contracts will be sent early this summer for parents to enroll their children for the fall. Limited variable tuition will be available for families who qualify.
- The current in-person schedule will be reviewed and enhanced this summer; we do not anticipate big changes to our schedule for this fall. There will be a virtual schedule that we will revert to when and if needed and that will be communicated in September.
- All of the [protocols](#) currently in place will remain the same. We would like to continue weekly testing and will update you later this summer about whether we will continue with our current lab or make a change.

- We do not know when vaccines will be available for use for students under 12 years of age. At this time, we do not anticipate requiring the vaccine for children during the 2021-2022 school year. We will strive to keep our community educated about this emerging situation and we will work to offer vaccinations on-site when they become available for young children. Stay tuned for information about sessions online that we will offer in the coming months to keep everyone informed.
- In the absence of a vaccine for children, we are urging all parents and extended family within a household to get vaccinated this spring and summer. Protecting all the adults around our students will keep them safe. Further, we anticipate offering limited in-person events for parents and families who can show proof of a vaccine.
- The Health and Safety Task Force will gather at least one more time before school begins to finalize any additional protocols for this fall.

I look forward to a wonderful last few weeks at school with the Gryphons and I am continually grateful that we are inching closer and closer to more normal operations and life each day.

My best to each of you,

Jen