Hi, Grace Families!

We hope you are enjoying the summer and that your family is healthy in spirit, mind, and body.

It has been two weeks since my last (July 15) update, and Grace Episcopal School has made some necessary changes to our school calendar.  As you may know, GISD has altered its in-person learning schedule.  School for GISD students will begin virtually on August 20, 2020.  After three weeks, students have the option to attend in-person classes beginning on Thursday, September 10th.   These changes, of course, directly affect many of our Grace families and our staff members.  Therefore, GES is going to modify our start and end dates.

Staff members are scheduled to be trained in CPR/First Aid on August 26th.  We plan to hold in-service days virtually on September 3rd  and in-person on September 10th. We will have Meet-the-Teacher Sessions (30 minutes each) on Monday, September 14th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. according to class.  Each class will have the opportunity to visit with the classroom teacher, turn in school supplies, turn in forms, order school t-shirts, learn new drop-off and pick-up procedures, and visit the photo station for photographs for our software, Procare.  We are asking that only one parent attend the Meet the Teacher session with the enrolled child to limit the number of people in the school at any one time.  You will receive more information about the schedule for Meet-the-Teacher Sessions in a couple of weeks, and teachers will be reaching out to their students as well, so be watching the mail! 

Our first day of school with students is scheduled to be on Tuesday, September 15th.  We plan to hold Chapel on this day on our parking lot, and parents are welcome to attend with masks and physically distanced.  The delayed start of school also causes us to push back our last day of school to Thursday, June 3, 2021.  This will be one week after GISD’s scheduled last day of school, so please keep this in mind when scheduling summer trips and activities.

Enrollment packets should be ready to be mailed by the end of next week (August 7). This is one week later than usual.

I have attached to this email “Grace Episcopal School’s Guide for Managing COVID-19”.  It is a Word document, and if the formatting is off, you may need to read it in “Editing” mode.  We know that many of you have patiently waited for this handbook. Thank you for the grace you have given us to work through the many details. We encourage you to take the time to read through and understand these protocols. These protocols will be our new normal for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.  As a mission-driven, Christ-centered school, we are called to lean into challenging times and find the opportunity to celebrate Christ’s presence among us. Now more than ever, we embrace the responsibility of providing an enriching Christian environment that will enable each child to develop to his/her full potential. What we present here is our commitment to you...what we can reasonably do, we will do. At times, this will seem difficult. We understand. It is certainly going to be different. Undeniably, it is the right thing to do. We can do this together. It will help us reduce the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19. In partnership with you, we can minimize risk. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have. We look forward to a rewarding year of laughing and learning at Grace!

Take care,

Ginny Herbert

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