

Good Afternoon Grace Academy Families,

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph. 6:10-13

The enemy seeks to steal our peace, kill our hopes, and destroy the testimony of Jesus in our lives. Therefore, we must be diligent to daily abide in the Lord, our source of Life, and draw from his strength.

Know that we pray for each of you daily. It's not a question of *whether* we will come through this situation, but *how* we will come through it! My prayer is that each of us will come through stronger than before, having used this opportunity to strengthen our faith in the Lord. These are life lessons that your children are learning right now, today. No amount of classroom instruction can prepare them for what only God's grace is sufficient for. May our children learn from our humility and our determination to seek the Lord and draw upon His strength unto victory, so that they may be equipped to do likewise in their lives!

I wanted to update you on a few details pertaining to how this mandatory school closure period will/could affect our school:

- **Continuity of Education:** Though PDE (The PA Department of Education) does not require schools to provide instruction during this time because it might be impossible for some schools, they stated that "schools are *strongly encouraged* to provide as many instructional opportunities to students as possible during the closure." PDE has left this decision up to the local schools. Many private and public schools, including Grace Academy, have chosen to provide opportunities for continued learning at home. Today, March 18, PDE stated that any days used by schools during this mandatory school closure to provide continuity of education WILL count as school days.

This is a very fluid situation with information changing regularly. Therefore, **communication between the school and the parents is of utmost importance.** For this reason, I send out periodic updates to keep you informed. I also ask that you keep open channels of communication with the school. Your child's teacher is the primary point of communication for things related to the instructional work sent home. I have directed my teachers to keep a pulse on the status of their families and how the modified instructional work is impacting them at home. Your feedback is a vital component to assessing if any adjustments need to be made.

Our primary goal is to ensure that our students receive the highest level of instruction we can offer during this time, for as many days as we can, without over-burdening parents at home. We recognize that it is still unknown exactly how long schools may have to remain closed. There is the possibility that we may need to make some adjustments to the school calendar. I am daily reassessing this situation and communicating with other schools to develop contingency plans for meeting the instructional needs of our students within the guidelines established by PDE. I appreciate your continual prayers for the Lord's wisdom and direction throughout this process.

- **Field Trips:** Every effort will be made to reschedule field trips for this spring. However, in the event we are unable to do so, families will be refunded the money they paid.

Amidst the overwhelming amount of information out there about COVID-19, I highlighted some important details about this virus on the "[CLOSURE](#)" page of our website.

Remember not only to keep your mind knowledgeable on this COVID-19 situation, but also to keep your spirit strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10) and your heart guarded from fear, which brings torment (1 John 4:18).

Grace and Peace to each of you!