

Good Afternoon Grace Academy Families!

*“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.” Ps. 91:14-16*

I would like to begin with a word of encouragement. This passage above is God’s response to those whose hearts abide in the presence of the Lord. God’s Word (truth) is the foundation of our faith. But it is God’s love that activates our faith. Galatians 5:6 says *“faith works by love.”* Apart from knowing and abiding in His love, our faith will be weak. But as we abide in His great love for us, our faith will be strong!

I encourage you to meditate on Psalm 91. Know with full assurance the covenant blessings and promises that belong to those who belong to Him – who are part of His family. Only He can bring peace, hope, and joy in the midst of uncertain circumstances. If you are not yet part of His family, you can be – and all these blessings, and so many more, can belong to you as well!

Throughout the weekend, I have continued to receive additional guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. I am writing to you this afternoon with some important updates and the plan moving forward at this point. Again, thank you for your on-going patience as we work through this very fluid process.

- **Tuesday Parents Pick Up** – On Tuesday, March 17, all parents are to stop by school between 9:30am-10:30am to pick up supplies (textbooks, worksheets, lesson plans, etc.).
- **Office Hours on Instructional Days** – All teachers will have “office hours” only on instructional days (normal school days) in case parents have questions about any work sent home. The teachers will communicate to you directly what their “office hours” are. During those hours, they will be available to receive calls and respond to emails. You may email the teachers at any time, but please do not call or text outside the office hours. Additionally, do not expect a reply to your emails except during office hours, however, the teachers may communicate with you outside “office hours” at their discretion. Office hours will be as follows:
  - o Preschool – 1 hour in the morning (during normal preschool hours)
  - o Kindergarten/Elementary – 1 hour in morning/ 1 hour in afternoon
- **Field Trips** – I will do my best to reschedule field trips if possible. In the event we cannot reschedule them, I will be sure to refund your payment.
- **Possible School Closure Extension** – I am currently in communication with the PA Department of Education, our local Office of Emergency Management, and other local schools in an effort to create contingency plans in case Governor Wolf extends the mandatory school closure policy beyond two weeks. Information seems to change frequently, but I will keep you as up-to-date as possible.
- **Report Cards** – Due to the school closures, we will likely distribute the report cards to you at the parent/teacher conferences.
- **Coronavirus update:**
  - o 63 total cases in Pennsylvania (in 14 different counties)

○ **There are NO cases in York county**

I would like to leave you with a point of action. 2 Chronicles 20 is the record of King Jehosaphat, a godly king, who was about to be attacked by mighty armies. He immediately sought the Lord for deliverance. After the word of the Lord came through a prophet of God to “*not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s,*” they went out to face the army while singing God’s praises. It says “*when they began to sing, and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against their enemies and they were defeated!*”

I have always personally found a greater degree of power and confidence rise in me while singing praises to God – declaring His goodness, His love, and His power! Praise is one way we express our faith. Take time at home, in the car, or wherever you are to sing God’s praises! Though God does not cause everything that happens, He can always use anything for His glory if we release our faith!

Here are links to some great worship song videos that I hope you will also find encouraging:

- [No Longer Slaves](#)
- [Waymaker](#)
- [Angel Armies](#)

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we move ahead together. Please continue to keep this situation in your prayers. See you all tomorrow between 9:30am-10:30am.