



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

525 Sixty-Third Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516 | 630.852.5081 | gsla.office@gsdg.org | www.gsladg.org

November 20, 2020

Dear GSLA Families,

During Thankfulness Week here at GSLA, we reflected on the many blessings God has given us. Our students have expressed many of these blessings: family, food, clothing, etc., but the one blessing that students said they were thankful for that really stood out to me was in-person learning. Why does that stand out to me? Before this school year, I'm not sure I ever heard a student say they were thankful for IN-PERSON learning. I would hear that they were thankful for school, their teachers, and the things they were learning, but they never quite expressed it that way. Our students really do understand what a privilege and blessing it is to have in-person learning right now, especially because they see many friends and neighbors who are remote learning. What a blessing indeed!

There are many reasons why we are still able to offer in-person learning, but one of the most important reasons has been the fact that our parents and families are following our guidelines and procedures. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for monitoring your child(ren)'s symptoms, for taking them to the doctor / getting tested if needed, and for expecting mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand washing. All of this is so critical and goes a long way in supporting a safe and healthy school and community!

There is much uncertainty about what the next several weeks will bring. As of right now, Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are allowing schools to make their own decisions when it comes to offering in-person education. They are encouraging us to use our discretion and expertise to determine whether or not we should offer in-person or remote instruction. We are also taking into consideration case and outbreak activity, specific trends, distribution of cases, and absenteeism among students and staff within our school when we make these decisions.

As of right now, we have not had a positive case at GSLA this school year. Wow! We pray this continues. Based on this fact and taking into consideration all of the other factors listed above, GSLA will continue to offer in-person classes. We will continue to work with the DuPage County Health Department to make sure our students, families, and staff remain healthy and safe.

This Thanksgiving we thank our Almighty and Gracious God for the many blessings He bestows on us every day, but we especially thank Him for in-person learning! We pray that He continues to keep us safe and healthy so that we can continue to offer in-person classes for our students.

I pray you all have a Safe, Healthy, and Happy Thanksgiving.

In Christ,

Mr. Roekle