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GRACE announces move of St. Thomas More Catholic School to new school site

The relocation of the school to Ss. Peter & Paul Parish on the east side of Green Bay will take effect at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Area Catholic Education school system (GRACE) announces today that plans are underway to move St. Thomas More Catholic School back to a familiar school site on Green Bay's east side.

The relocation of St. Thomas More from the school building at St. Mary of the Angels Parish, 650 S. Irwin Ave., to the school building at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, 1420 Harvey St., will take effect at the start of the 2018-19 school year in August. St. Thomas More was located at the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish from the school's founding in 1987 to 1995.

St. Thomas More, which has students in early childhood through eighth grade, is supported by the parishes of St. Mary of the Angels, Ss. Peter & Paul, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, St. John the Evangelist, St. Philip the Apostle and St. Willebrord.

GRACE President Kimberly Desotell said the return of St. Thomas More to the Ss. Peter & Paul site will position the school in a more centrally located building in Green Bay. Greater focus at the new school site will be placed on blending and uniting cultures, generations and faith to support the journey of lifelong Catholics.

“By moving St. Thomas More Catholic School to the building at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, we will have a larger facility to accommodate enrollment growth while still being able to maintain our small class sizes and provide personalized attention to serve the needs of every child at the school,” Desotell explained.

St. Thomas More is regarded for its global approach to education, bringing a multicultural Catholic community together. The Spanish language is a key component of the school's curriculum, which includes lessons in the language and growing Spanish immersion classes for students.

“The new school site will help us enhance our parish partnerships for St. Thomas More by directly aligning them with their Hispanic ministries,” Desotell said. “We will have an opportunity to realign the academic programming at St. Thomas More to meet the needs of

the students and their families, and we will be able to offer additional programming for families.”

A 13-member planning team – comprised of representatives from GRACE, the school’s supporting parishes, the Diocese of Green Bay and the community – recommended the relocation of St. Thomas More after conducting a thorough analysis.

Desotell said all six of the school’s sponsoring parishes as well as the GRACE Board of Directors and Board of Trustees supported the move for St. Thomas More. She also said school staff and parents of the students at the school have been informed of the impending move, reacting with support and enthusiasm.

A transition plan includes working with the Green Bay Area Public School District on transportation needs for St. Thomas More students to and from their new school. Upgrades to the new school location also are planned, including information technology, furnishings and the playground.

“We look forward to what the future holds for our students, teachers, staff, volunteers and families as we move into our new school later this year,” said Olgamar Amor, principal at St. Thomas More. “Our school and our parishes will be able to better honor cultural diversity that is focused on excellence in faith-based Catholic education while we empower our students and families to learn, grow and succeed together.”

About GRACE

GRACE stands for Green Bay Area Catholic Education and is a nine-school system that provides excellence in early childhood through eighth-grade education and serves the 23 Catholic parishes within the Greater Green Bay community. GRACE schools range in offerings and locations, and each has its own distinct history, focus and parish connections. GRACE is among the largest Catholic school systems in the state of Wisconsin. To learn more, visit gracesystem.org.

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