

August 26, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Tomorrow we will launch the 8th annual **Walk with Grace** walk-a-thon fundraiser! For those of you new to Grace School, this is an annual fundraiser in which our students raise pledges to support our school as well as give back to a charity!



This year's walk will be on Friday, October 4th!

Enclosed with this letter is a packet of materials about the event and details on how your child will participate. But here are some quick "need to know" items:

- All students will walk, regardless of pledges raised
- Our goal is to raise \$25,000
- Students will participate in a "hands-on" service project the week of the event benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Parents are encouraged to volunteer
- Half-day of school

Please refer to the following informational pages for the specifics of this special day. If you have any questions after reading this information or would like to volunteer, please contact Brian Schultz at bschultz@graceriverforest.org.

Money raised through **Walk with Grace** will directly support the educational programs at Grace Lutheran School. Fundraisers such as this, in combination with school family contributions and support from the congregation, make the strong Christian education provided at Grace possible. Thank you for supporting your child's participation in **Walk with Grace**.

Serving Grace,

Bill Koehne, Principal

Brian Schultz, Assistant Administrator

PLEDGE INFORMATION

We hope you will assist your child in contacting friends and family about supporting **Walk with Grace** through monetary pledges. Our goal as a school is to raise **\$25,000!** Each family is encouraged to set their own goal, but we hope for 100% schoolwide participation. **And, to help support and raise awareness for Ronald McDonald House Charities for every \$100 that a family raises, one entry will be placed into our special raffle.** Last year the kids got the opportunity to participate in games with faculty members and even got to "slime" Mr. Schultz! Your children will learn about this year's event in the next few weeks. Don't forget, the more money your family raises, the more chances your child will get to win the raffle and get in on the fun!

There are three different ways in which your child can collect pledges:

1. Sign up through **PledgeStar** (<http://pledgestar.com/grace>), a user-friendly web-based system, which allows you to collect pledges from family and friends through email and the web (*info sheet attached*) **OR**
2. Send a personalized pledge request letter to your friends and family (*one copy attached*) **OR**
3. Fill out the Pledge Form as you request and collect pledges directly from friends and family (*copy attached*)

All the above forms can also be found on the Grace School homepage as well as with Mrs. Maggio at the school office. (*Please Note: Grace pays fees on credit card payments, so cash and checks are preferable, even if a pledge is made on the PledgeStar website.*)

Any completed pledge forms and money collected should be turned into your child's classroom teacher by Wednesday, October 2nd. Prizes will be awarded to top participating classes. Stay tuned for details!

WALK INFORMATION:

Students will walk varying distances based on their grade level. These distances will range from one mile for preschoolers to six miles for junior high students. At the end of the walk, students will then get to participate in fun games and activities as a school.

PLEASE NOTE: EARLY DISMISSAL (11:30- early childhood, 11:45- grades 1-8).

There will be a snack in the morning, but no lunch served. Only the children staying for extended care will need a lunch that day.

Ronald McDonald House Charities AND SERVICE PROJECT INFORMATION:

This year's **Walk with Grace** chosen charity is Ronald McDonald House Charities. The charity was suggested by our 8th Graders. We are very proud that our students wanted to take the initiative and have a vital role in such an important matter. Our students will take part in a hands-on service project during the week of the walk that will benefit the patients and families of this organization. Students will learn more about Ronald McDonald House Charities at an upcoming chapel service. *To learn more about Ronald McDonald House Charities see www.rmhc.org*

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:

As you can imagine, we need lots of help from parents both before and the day of the event on October 4th. Please keep in mind, it is only a half-day which may help open your schedule up to volunteer on the day of. Volunteer opportunities include being a walk leader, a water station attendant, a service project supervisor, snack distributor, check-in helper, set-up or clean-up crew member and more. If you'd like to be a part of the team, please contact Brian Schultz by email at bschultz@graceriverforest.org. It is sure to be a fun day!

Grace Lutheran School

Walk with Grace

Fundraising System



Information on PledgeStar

- PledgeStar is a web-based system that makes it easy to request pledges
 - Family and friends can make secure credit card donations online
 - People who use it typically raise twice as much as those who don't
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- Go to <http://pledgestar.com/grace>
 - Enter your name and email address, then click Register
 - Follow the instructions on-screen
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- When you finish, the system emails pledge requests to your family and friends.
 - You get notified each time a pledge is made.
 - You can track your pledge progress online.

We're encouraging every family to send out **at least** 10 emails using PledgeStar. Research shows that 60% of people who receive an email will donate - so the more people you send to, the more pledges you will receive. The system takes pledges by credit card and check. Grace pays fees on credit card payments, so cash and checks are preferable. We will continue to use paper pledge forms in addition to the web platform to encourage pledges in the neighborhood or at an event as well as accommodate people who don't have e-mail.

Call 1-888-598-7510 if you need help with anything related to the PledgeStar process.

PARTICIPANT:

The students of Grace Lutheran School will be participating in a walk-a-thon on the morning of October 4th to raise funds for the school and to support Ronald McDonald House Charities (www.rmhc.org). Monetary donations will directly support the programs at Grace which help to accomplish the excellent, well-rounded education that is offered. Would you be willing to support me as I walk for the school?

100

[illegible]

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL PLEDGED: | TOTAL COLLECTED CASH: | TOTAL COLLECTED IN CHECKS: |
| | | |



Dear _____,

On Friday, October 4th, I will be walking in the Grace Lutheran School walk-a-thon, **Walk with Grace**. It's a fun way to raise money for my school.

Our Walk with Grace also includes a service component. We will also be participating in a service project to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities (www.rmhc.org).

I hope that you will support my walk by donating to Grace Lutheran School.

My personal fundraising goal is \$ _____.

Your donation directly supports Grace Lutheran School. Thank you for supporting my school!

Please send this sheet and your check to the school 7300 W. Division St. River Forest, IL 60305 by Wednesday, October 2nd. You can also donate online through our PledgeStar fundraising website. If you have not already been sent an email from me to donate through PledgeStar, please let me know if you would like one. Thank you!

Love, _____

I will donate: _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Student supported: _____

_____ My check is enclosed _____ I will donate online via PledgeStar (request email from student)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

