



Our 2022-23 school year theme:
Create, Learn and Grow!

a testament to the staff's work, the tenacity of our
students and their families and your ongoing support!

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**We Believe
Kids Can**

**Create,
Learn,
Grow!**



Dear Friend,

The 2022-23 School Year Theme of Create, Learn and Grow was new to our family and our son, Mike, who was enrolled at Pace in the beginning of the year. As the school year progressed, Mike's Dad and I reflected about where "learn" started for Mike and our family.

For us, it started with faith. . . faith that our only child could learn. However, we knew Mike had challenges because he was diagnosed with autism and is non-verbal. After benefiting from DART services in our home, we knew it was time to find a place where Mike would learn, where his needs would be addressed and where we hoped he would be able to make a friend. What comes natural to other children Mike's age such as making eye contact, communication, and being part of a group are things that takes extra work and effort for him to learn.

Upon touring Pace School, we knew immediately that the program and staff would help our son to learn.

When it was time for Mike to enter kindergarten, we were not sure what to do. It was through the advice of a friend that we learned our journey needed to start by collaborating with our school district's special education department. That is exactly what Mike Sr. and I did. When all in-district options were exhausted, we worked with the district hoping to find a placement that would benefit our son. Upon touring Pace School, we knew immediately that the program and staff would help our son to learn. Even though it has only been a year, Mike is participating in learning experiences such as music that were previously challenging for him. Mike's education is individualized and our family receives regular communication about his progress.

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Staff have given us hope as they work to provide different communication options for Mike and to support learning in the home. With Pace's program serving students in K-12 or up to age 21, we are pleased that Mike can continue school at the same place for years to come.

While there is still much more to learn, Mike has made progress. Words cannot express the difference that growth has made to our lives and to our son's. He is now able to interact with family members, is making more eye contact, follows direction, his social skills are improving, and he has a classroom best friend!

Create, Learn and Grow may have been last year's school theme but with your support it continues to happen each and every day at Pace. During this season of giving, I encourage you to consider a donation to Pace School. Your contribution enables the program and staff to continue to make real the faith and hope that families have for their child to learn. And, for parents who may have a child with challenges like Mike's, I encourage you to **"Be strong, you are not alone, have faith, hope and keep learning!"**

With sincere thanks,

Ashlynn & Mike



☐ I want to give:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$ _____

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