

Dear parents,

Your student will be participating in retreat on February 1st. The focus of the retreat will be on your child's faith and his/her anxieties as s/he prepares to leave Gross Catholic. This is, indeed, a time of anxiety for you and your child. There are so many changes that your family will experience as your child embarks on the adventures of adulthood. For this reason, I ask you to support your child while s/he is on this retreat by praying for your child and the others on retreat.

I also need your help with our closing activity. I ask that you write a letter to your son/daughter that is supportive, prayerful, and affirming. I realize that you are very busy, but the results of writing this letter will be worth the time and effort. Please write a letter to your child telling him/her that s/he is loved and affirming his/her gifts and talents. This letter is an opportunity to "talk" to your child - to give your child advice as s/he embarks on the adventures of adulthood, and to share your hopes and dreams for your child. These letters will be kept private and read only by your child.

This can be a very powerful experience for your student. Many former students considered this to be the highlight of the retreat. Perhaps an older sibling, a grandparent, or godparent would also like to write a letter. I encourage you to send as much "love" as you would like. It is, however, imperative that each student receive a letter from his/her parents. Although the letters are private, all students receive the letters in a public ceremony. **Please, please, please, do not disappoint your child by neglecting this opportunity to share your love with your child.**

**I ask that you send your letter to me at Gross Catholic
NO LATER than Friday, January 20th.**

Please put my name on the front so that the envelope may remain sealed. I will not open these letters. You also need to put your child's name on the back envelope flap so that I know to whom to give the letter.

Thank you for your help with this activity. I look forward to working with your student as we grow together in faith. If you have any questions, please email me at msweetmon@gcgmail.org.

Michele Sweetmon

Campus Minister

Address information:

Michele Sweetmon

c/o Gross Catholic

7700 S 43 St

Omaha, NE 68147



**Be sure to put my name on the envelope so your letter can remain private!

***Be sure to put your child's name on the back flap as well.

