Dear North Park students and families,

Congratulations on a successful completion of the academic year! Your resilience and perseverance shone through in countless ways as you met the many challenges associated with our abrupt pivot to online learning and departure from the campus you love. We have missed you deeply and we are looking forward with joy to the day we are together again!

I am writing to you today with an update on our planning for fall semester, 2020.

Throughout this global pandemic and its effects on the North Park University community, our planning and decision making have been guided by key priorities of health and safety for our community, and successful academic progress for our students.

As we plan to open in fall 2020, we will be guided in similar fashion:

1 – Protecting health, safety and wellness of our students, faculty and staff (guided by the CDC, state and local protocols, and other governing bodies for colleges and universities, such as the NCAA);

2 – Delivering the highest quality academic and residential experience possible.

What is our plan for the fall semester?

The North Park University undergraduate educational experience is best expressed for our students through live classroom learning and on campus interaction.

Consistent with this, it is our highest goal and expectation to begin the fall semester with live classes, on campus and in-person.

We are planning in detail for this preferred scenario to maintain the natural, uninterrupted progress of our students, moving forward in the best possible way. While on campus, in-person learning is our goal, we are also wisely modeling high-quality alternatives should they be necessary.
One of North Park’s most valued attributes is our small class size, which provides opportunities for high quality, direct instruction and discourse. This will aid us, as the majority of course sections at North Park currently do not exceed enrollments of 25 students, and most are populated in the range of 10-20. This means we can plan to meet social-distancing guidelines with successful classroom scheduling and other strategies.

North Park has adequate residence hall space and can work to meet residency guidelines, should single rooms or reduced occupancy be required.

In any scenario, our campus will open with new public health standards and protocols, and we will address and prepare for those protocols as necessary. These protocols may include testing for the virus and/or antibodies, instant read no-touch thermometers, masks, social distancing guidelines, disinfecting, hand sanitizers, posted protocols for shared restrooms, food service protocols, chapel, athletics and crowd attendance, and others.

Students and their families can be assured that we will develop a model that meets all these requirements, supporting students as safely possible, in residence and on campus, while providing the richest campus experience available anywhere.

**Who Will be Responsible for the Planning and Execution?**

Our established Emergency Management Team has done an outstanding job in facilitating our instant pivot to online learning and our successful completion of the spring semester.

This dedicated, cross-campus collaborative group represents every area of our university and is now populating the Campus Reopening Task Force, turning its attention to preparing for the range of scenarios that can assure an excellent educational experience in the fall.

Additional campus partners have joined this effort, serving on strategic subcommittees, (including academics, student and residence life, co-curricular activities and athletics, employees) and will help to plan and execute this essential effort.

This group meets daily and the president receives daily briefings on its work, its challenges and achievements. We will keep the campus community updated on progress as this work advances.

North Park will make a decision about live classes when we have as many facts in evidence as possible, but soon enough to give appropriate notice to students so they can make good plans. If you have questions, please email campusreopen@northpark.edu.
Together, we are dealing with tremendous uncertainty, and I know that can be hard for you. There are many questions to answer and details to address. And many things can change as the summer progresses. Even though uncertainty can be unsettling, we can count on what we DO know!

- The North Park community continues to pull together in a collaborative way, reflecting our increasing resilience and strength. We will depend on that.
- We will rely on sound guidelines, state and local protocols in medical health, and best practices in higher education.
- Our Campus Reopening Task Force demonstrates proven success in delivering a high-quality result. Our Task Force will fully vet the needs and requirements for successful delivery in any scenario we consider.
- We will draw strength and wisdom from God and encouragement and support from each other.
- We will adapt and solve problems, and we will keep YOU and your North Park education and experience first. We will be faithful, not flawless. And we will get the job done!

I cannot wait to welcome you back to campus — together, we will be stronger than ever before! Until then, please stay safe and healthy, Vikings!

With gratitude and respect,

Mary K. Surridge, President
Craig Johnson, Provost
David Kersten, Vice President for Church Relations and Dean of Seminary
Andrea Nevels, Vice President for Student Engagement
Anthony Scola, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing
Scott Stenmark, Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO
Ingrid Tenglin, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
Melissa Vélez-Luce, Executive Director of Operations and Interim Vice President for Advancement
Jon Heintzelman, Senior Advancement Advisor and Consultant to the President
Hunt Helm, Senior Consultant, Marketing and Communications

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