Greetings, North Park Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Cooler weather is just around the corner!

Our campus community is doing very well following all the safety protocols, and it's important that we stay extra vigilant as cooler weather approaches and we are spending more time indoors. This means continuing to wear masks, practicing physical distancing, and washing our hands frequently.

History and Biology professors collaborate on an innovative Pandemic course

Drs. Drew Rholl, Associate Professor of Biology, and Peter Olfelt, Lecturer in History, have teamed up to teach their students about pandemics in a holistic and engaging way.

Advanced Topics in Biology: Pandemics, is taught by Dr. Rholl, while Professor Olfelt teaches Pandemics in History. By sharing resources and information, students in each class can see the true scope of a pandemic as it relates to history and science.

Using data Dr. Rholl and his class generate, Dr. Olfelt can better explain to his students the factors in disease transmission and mitigation. Meanwhile, Dr. Olfelt’s students provide Dr. Rholl’s Biology class with historical context and the societal implications of a pandemic.
“Dr. Rholl and I came up with the idea of connecting our two courses during the summer,” Dr. Olfelt says. “He reached out to me, and together we worked out how our students could collaborate on a shared project.”

Dr. Rholl says the level of interest and engagement by students is higher than he anticipated:

“It’s really inspiring. Students are really interacting with the content and each other on a deeper level, and that is really rewarding for everyone involved.”

This is just another example of how North Park professors are getting creative in this challenging time. And it exemplifies why a peer review in U.S. News and World Report rankings named North Park as one of only 17 out of 87 universities in the Midwest for Best Undergraduate Teaching!

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**TIP OF THE WEEK**

A key component of staying healthy is working out! But before you head over to our state-of-the-art Helwig Recreation Center, remember to [make a reservation](#).

A desk attendant will take your temperature upon entering, and you must wear a mask the entire time you are inside. Treadmills and other exercise equipment have been spaced apart for your safety!
Outdoor classes are still going strong

Anne Marie Andreasson-Hogg enjoyed the September weather with her Advanced Swedish class on the Carlson Tower terrace on a recent Tuesday morning. The professor and her four students were careful to maintain social distancing while conversing in Swedish.

Keeping you in the loop

The University is reporting all cases that involve campus community members beginning August 1, 2020. As of today, four cases have physically been on campus in the last 14 days. Since August 1st, fourteen cases have physically been on campus.

Until next week: mask up, keep your distance, and stay healthy!