



Dear Marywood Parents and Guardians,

Our beautiful campus looks quite different today than it normally would at this time of year. Instead of students returning from spring break, excitedly planning end-of-semester events, the campus is quiet. Our campus is not meant to be quiet, especially now. As the weather gets warmer, the flowering trees blossom and tulips pop up all over the place. Most of all the feeling of community is palpable and exciting.

Sadly, during the past two weeks, the usual springtime excitement has given way to silence and wondering. The only certainty has become uncertainty. All of us are tempted to be overcome by anxiety, fear, and frustration. There are so many unanswered questions.

I know that you have many questions for us as well, the most important of all, when will things be back to normal? The honest answer is, I don't have all the answers right now. This ever-changing landscape poses new issues every day. However, our leaders on campus are working to do what's right for you and for our university community. I hope you will trust us to make the right decisions for everyone, and I assure you that we will communicate those decisions to you as soon as we possibly can.

In good times, our Marywood community is strong. And as in the past, when the times were not so good, we managed to weather the storms and emerge all the stronger. Marywood lived through WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and all the tragedies in every generation since 1915. In hindsight, nothing deterred us from our mission. Looking back helps us to look ahead with faith and hope.

Our sense of community goes far beyond physical presence. This has been demonstrated every day by the outpouring of support from our students, faculty, staff, trustees, benefactors, vendors, friends and alumni. They give me confidence that together, we will meet any challenge that comes our way.

As we continue to move through these unsettling days, I am filled with gratitude for every segment of the Marywood community. In this communication, in particular, I wish to thank you, the parents, guardians, and families of our students. You have been patient with us when we were losing patience with ourselves. You lifted us up when we needed it most. It is no wonder that our students have been able to face this situation with grace, maturity, and

compassion. I know that right now our students wish they could be back on campus happily working on group projects, doing research, organizing fundraising events, rehearsing for performances, participating in athletics and many other activities. I know they are disappointed that this is not the case, and so am I. I am proud of your/our students, I miss them, and pray for them every day.

It is with great hope that we have rescheduled commencement for August 15, 2020, when we will recognize and celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our graduates. For undergraduates, we are moving forward with summer classes and registration for the fall semester. We can't wait to see our students again!

Even since we first became aware of the novel Coronavirus COVID-19, I have witnessed Marywood's mission and values come alive in the words, actions and selfless deeds of so many members of what feels like family, our Marywood family.

We know that our faith sustains us in times like this. You have my promise of prayer throughout these days. May God's unwavering and loving presence sustain you and bring you peace.

With sincere best wishes to all,

Sister Mary
President of Marywood University