

To Our Returning Valiants:

On behalf of everyone at Manhattanville, let me say that we are looking forward to being with you all again on our beloved campus this fall! Rest assured that we are working tirelessly to finalize plans that place your safety first and also ensure a fulfilling continuation of your Manhattanville College experience.

Over the last few months, I have been incredibly proud and humbled by the resilience, compassion, and strength of character you've shown through different forms of adversity and loss. I want you to know that as we move forward, we will continue to marshal all resources and services available to help support you as you continue to work toward reaching your academic goals. No doubt, the aftershocks of the global pandemic will continue, but none of you need to face them alone. Manhattanville is here for you.

Our faculty, administrators, and staff are committed to safely reopening our beautiful campus in the fall. Our reopening plans are being developed based on guidance from the CDC and contingent upon approval for all colleges and universities to open by the Governor of New York State. We expect to begin regular instruction for the fall semester as scheduled on August 31. This means we are gearing all preparations toward students being on campus, in person, to the extent allowed by the state. The last day of in-person instruction will be November 24. Students will complete their finals remotely after Thanksgiving and return to campus for the spring semester on January 21. We know that time on campus with faculty, staff, and fellow students is invaluable so there will be additional opportunities for face-to-face meeting and instruction during September, October, and November, whether they are one-on-one or in small groups, that can be scheduled outside of regular classroom hours.

We are reimagining class schedules, spaces, and instructional delivery methods. Classes will be available in a hybrid format, allowing for simultaneous in-person and remote instruction as an added option so that students can receive the same quality education even if attending class is not possible due to illness or other restrictions. Our class sizes have always been small by design – to provide a supportive environment in which personal attention fosters deep engagement and dialogue between students and professors. And small class sizes will now serve us well in the effort to safely distance in the classroom.

Dining services and residence halls will be reconfigured for safety, with students residing in single rooms in suites with bathrooms at the reduced rate of a double room.

Our reopening plans are being developed based on guidance from the CDC and contingent upon approval by the Governor of New York State for in-person classes for the fall semester. A complete outline of our plans to reopen will be available (and continually updated) at mville.edu. We are evaluating safety measures, including social distancing, face coverings, testing, contact tracing, symptom monitoring and reporting, and for the residence halls – isolation and quarantine practices if that should become necessary. Plans include increased cleaning and disinfecting of common areas, providing cleaning supplies for shared rest rooms, and plexiglass screens in offices where social distancing is not possible. Daily self-assessments of health may be required. Our Student Health and Counseling Center is exploring potential partnerships with health care providers with the goal of offering on-campus testing of students and employees.

Our Student Affairs team is reinventing student engagement and activities to create a vibrant campus life, whether or not we are able to gather for large events this fall. We are fully committed to bringing

back athletic competition for all three seasons this coming academic year, to the extent permitted by the Governor's Office, while taking measures to ensure the health and safety of our student-athletes. Athletics will be following the guidelines set forth by the State of New York, the Skyline Conference, and the NCAA.

Our Center for Career Development is continuously pursuing experiential learning opportunities for students, on campus and off, beginning this summer with virtual internships that may become in-person positions when campus and businesses reopen.

Enhanced safety measures may alter certain aspects of campus life, but one thing remains the same: Manhattanville is true to its mission to educate students to be ethical and socially responsible leaders in a global community. We will always strive to offer a diverse, inclusive, and nurturing environment that allows students the freedom to develop as independent and creative thinkers and to foster a sense of service as well as leadership.

As always, we stand behind our mission. And we will deliver on it this fall.

Until then, stay safe and healthy. And remember: "To a valiant heart, nothing is impossible!"

Michael E. Geisler, President
Manhattanville College