MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



March 12, 2020

To all MCC students,

I hope you are enjoying your Spring Break! It is a good time to get away and have a break before the final push through the rest of the semester and the academic year. This year is unique because it came earlier than normal, and I am emailing to let you know there is another reason this year's Spring Break will be unique – it will last one week longer.

Due to the growing concerns of the impact of the coronavirus in our world and in our nation, and our concern for the safety and health of all in the MCC family, we will be extending Spring Break for one more week. Face to face classes will not be held on MCC's campus the week of March 16th – 20th. If you are taking an online course, those will move forward as scheduled, however all face to face classes have been suspended for next week.

We do not believe you should be alarmed by this decision. This action is begin taken for several reasons:

- This virus is spread through personal contact and we want to act with an abundance of caution to do our part to prevent the spread of this virus. MCC enjoys strong community on campus, yet the advice of health officials is to employ social distancing to help hinder the spread of the virus.
- This extension will provide more time for the college administrators, faculty and staff to develop further plans and action steps that may need to be taken long-term such as the potential of moving all classes online, etc. Let me be clear, we are not making that determination at this time but will be regularly monitoring the situation in our nation to determine what steps we do need to take if that is needed.

We encourage all students to remain off campus and stay home. Residence Halls will *only* be available for those students who have local jobs or commitments they need to come back for next week. There will be limited food service in the Campus Center for only those students, otherwise, please stay home to do your part in helping curtail the spread of this virus. However, any student that may have travelled to an affected area of America or is experiencing any related symptoms need to definitely stay home and take necessary steps to get healthy as well as avoid contributing to the spread of the virus. If you are experiencing symptoms tied to COVID-19 you are encouraged to reach out to medical professionals. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information about the virus.

Continue to check your email to ensure you have not missed any communication from the college. Our goal is to make any necessary decisions about the future by Wednesday, March 18th., so please keep checking.

Through all of this remember, God is in control and will watch over all of us. My verses for the year are in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, "Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be men of courage, be strong. Do everything in love." What a great reminder of our response in the midst of the issues we are facing.

Love you all!

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