

Greetings Northpoint Students,

The start of school is not that far off. Our plan is to **gather back on campus** for the Fall 2020 semester.

We are well underway in gearing up for your return. We do trust everyone is safe and well. We look forward to seeing each of our new and returning students. In this **notification**, we want to let you know about the **scheduling** and **registration** process for the Fall, some **changes in dates** to the Fall calendar, why those changes have been made, and some **protocols** that are under consideration or will be in place for the Fall semester.

First and Last Day of Classes

This is perhaps the biggest change: the **start date for classes is now August 12**, not August 19. Finals will begin on Wednesday, November 18, and will conclude on Tuesday, November 24. Since there will be no study day, **the last day of your class will be a review for the final. Students, you will not be returning to campus after Thanksgiving Break.** This is done in order to help prevent the potential for an outbreak of Covid-19 after students who have been home for one week return to campus. In order to accomplish this, there will **no Labor Day Break or Fall Break.** At this point, the Spring 2021 semester is scheduled to begin as usual on January 13, 2021. Your semester break will be almost seven (7) weeks!

No Work Weeks

However, given the fact that there will no breaks, to alleviate some of the normal stressors of college life there will be two **“no work weeks”**: September 2-8 and October 14-20. These are weeks four (4) and ten (10) of the semester, respectively. While you will still be attending class, no exams, papers, assignments, outside class discussions or reading are to be scheduled during these two weeks. In addition, there will not be any pressures on you to study for exams or submit major papers/projects the following week after the “no work week.” In other words, there will be no exams or major projects/papers due weeks five (5), September 9-15, or eleven (11), October 21-27. As well, there will not be a doubling up of work on the week after a “no work week.”

Mid-term week for Fall 2020 will be the seventh (7) week of classes, September 23-29.

Scheduling and Registration

Mrs. Maranville is in the process of scheduling you for your Fall required/core courses. She will **email you your schedule.** If you have a Bible/Theology or vocational elective, she will email you a schedule of these classes so you can **select your elective** courses and then email her your choices.

The goal is to complete the entire scheduling and registration process prior to your return to campus. Other departments will be contacting you throughout the summer about completing their portion of your registration process. This will require emails and phone calls, so please be patient with the process and please check your Northpoint email address!

Here are the beginning-of-year dates:

August 8: 9.00 a.m. to noon: Freshmen complete registration process and move into dorms

August 9: 10.30 a.m. Freshmen and Parent Chapel

12.00 p.m. Freshmen and Parent Luncheon

August 10: Freshmen Orientation: Beginning at 9.00 a.m.

August 11: 9.00 a.m. Upperclassmen complete registration process and move into dorms

9.00 a.m. Freshmen Orientation

1.00 p.m. Upperclassmen Orientation

August 12: First day of classes

Finances

The financial policy for students to return for a fall semester is that their bill cannot be greater than \$3,000. Due to the circumstances families find themselves facing at this time, this is being raised to \$5,000. If you are unsure of your current balance, please check in Sonis. You may want to check with Sister Patty to make sure you are receiving all the grants and loans possible.

Protocols

In consultation with the Department of Health, there is consideration for having faculty, staff, and students be **checked for Covid-19** prior to returning to campus. As well, there is consideration for testing throughout the semester. Your temperature may be checked daily prior to entering the classroom building, chapel or the cafeteria. If you have a temperature, you will be required to go back to your dorm room.

Each student will have the opportunity for a private room at the price of a double room. If you would prefer to have a roommate, that is possible. In a double room, extra precautions may be asked to be followed.

Social distancing in classrooms, chapel, the cafeteria and public spaces on campus will be required. In order to facilitate this, we will be creating pathways of entrance and exit to our buildings and classrooms.

In addition, ***masks*** will be worn in all public places. Students, you will be required to wear masks in classrooms, chapel, etc. You should plan to bring several cloth masks with you to school. While the dress code does not allow for clothing to display names, logos, sports teams, etc., an exception is being made for masks. Dean Munley has been seen with Yankees and Steelers face masks; and Dr. Howell has been seen in Jayhawks and Patriots masks! Rumor has it, Dean Jacob has an Eagles mask! As always, the writing/logo on any mask needs to be appropriate to Northpoint standards.

Chapel and Cafeteria Schedule

In order to meet the social distancing guidelines for public gatherings such as chapel and the cafeteria, a much ***different schedule for the Fall*** will be implemented. Students will be divided into two (2) groups. **Group A** will consist of Freshmen and Sophomores and **Group B** Juniors and Seniors. Students will attend chapel two (2) times a week and class prayers one (1) time a week. We anticipate having to use both the chapel and the area outside the Library to facilitate chapel. This will allow us to have two (2) distinct cafeteria times. In addition, this will free up the 11.00 a.m. Friday time for classes.

Time:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
11.00-12.15	Group A Chapel	Group B Chapel	Group A Chapel	Group B Chapel
11.00-11.35	B <u>Jr</u> Class Prayer	A <u>Fr</u> Class Prayer	B <u>Sr</u> Class Prayer	A <u>So</u> Class Prayer
11.45-12.30	Group B Lunch	Group A Lunch	Group B Lunch	Group A Lunch
12.45-1.30	Group A Lunch	Group B Lunch	Group A Lunch	Group B Lunch

Afternoon classes will start at 1.45 for the Fall Semester.

4.30-5.15 Group A will have dinner

5.30 – 6.15 Group B will have dinner

6.30 evening classes start (scheduled Monday and Tuesday)

Prayer and Fasting Days

For the Fall semester, we will be having one (1) Prayer and Fasting Day: ***Wednesday, October 14.***

College Events

In our desire to keep you, the students, as safe as possible, there probably will not be any outside group events for the Fall semester. Alumni Homecoming has been postponed, and we will not be having a Fall Campus Experience.

Commencement for 2020 Graduates

We had originally announced commencement for our 2020 graduates to be December 5. With the change of beginning and end dates for the semester, we are now looking at ***Saturday, November 21.*** We do not yet know specifics, but this is the date we have set aside.

A Bit of Rational

Please understand we have a moral and ethical obligation to protect you the student, the faculty and staff, our entire campus community. We have a responsibility to protect who we can, when we can, and where we can. We must follow the directives of the state of MA, the federal government, and CDC Guidelines. Right now, social distancing and masks are the norm. All the changes for the Fall 2020 semester are about doing what can be done to protect the entire campus community.

Final Thought

We are all keenly aware that the plans stated in this announcement are just that, plans. Covid-19, the state of MA, the Federal government, the Center for Disease Control – any or all of these could alter our plan. Nonetheless, we will act according to this plan and adjust as necessary.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Howell
Chief Academic Officer

Dean Jacob
Dean of Students