

Mencio, Santos

From: Mireles, Matthew
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Mencio, Santos
Subject: FW: Preparing to Welcome Students Back to Campus for the Fall Semester

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Dr. Matthew Mireles
Chair, Department of Music
Director of Bands

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



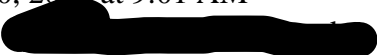
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Pronouns: He/Him/His

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From: "Office of the President, St. Mary's University" 
Reply-To: Office of the President 
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 9:01 AM
To: "Mireles, Matthew" 
Subject: Preparing to Welcome Students Back to Campus for the Fall Semester

Administrative Offices to Gradually Begin Reopening the Week of May 18

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April 30, 2020

To: St. Mary's University Community

From: Thomas Mengler, J.D., President

Subject: Preparing to Welcome Students Back to Campus for the Fall Semester

Preparing to Welcome Students Back to Campus for the Fall Semester

Let me briefly address the question on your minds: Will our students be able this coming fall to take classes in St. Mary's classrooms on our beautiful campus and will our residence halls be open too?

We share the hopes and optimism of other colleges and universities in Texas. We, like many other universities in Texas, are planning to safely resume in-person teaching, learning and residential life for the fall semester.

Our planning team has begun its work. We do so with the understanding that resuming on-campus activities in the fall will depend on the continued decline of COVID-19 cases in Texas and in San Antonio. We are and will continue to be guided by government and public health officials.

It's too early, therefore, to make decisions on how exactly we will safely manage teaching, living and other activities on our campus. But I want you to know that our timeline for making these decisions is the end of June – and we will communicate with you as soon as we know.

Let me assure you that our top priority will be the safety and wellness of our St. Mary's community – students, faculty and staff.

Administrative Offices to Gradually Begin Reopening – The Week of May 18

Beginning Friday, May 1, Governor Abbott has ordered a gradual reopening of the State of Texas. St. Mary's will comply by gradually returning to providing in-person services and operations.

However, immediately, the University will continue the work-from-home program and remote services through Friday, May 15, 2020. Beginning the week of May 18, administrative offices should be prepared to implement schedules to open offices with minimal staffing to accommodate walk-in traffic. Members of the Executive Council are working to identify the applicable offices, as well as with supervisors to ensure delivery of services in a safe and socially responsible manner.

The University will continue to enforce mitigation measures to safeguard against the virus, such as social distancing, wearing cloth face masks, providing hand sanitizer stations and limiting group gatherings. All events will remain canceled for May, June and July.

Additional measures still being addressed include the installation of plexiglass shields in some offices, the creation of protocols and policies for office, classroom and residence hall environments and schedules, isolation and sick leave protocols, food services, etc. Some of these measures will be shared as we begin our gradual reopening of offices.

Student Enrollment Incentives

Our efforts to recruit and enroll new students and retain current students continue. Overall, our fall enrollment numbers are trending favorably, but we know that can change quickly.

Many of our current and prospective students have been hit hard by the financial challenges brought by the pandemic. They may not have the resources to continue classes this summer and join us in the fall.

So many families are dealing with the economic realities of COVID-19, and we are grateful to the St. Mary's University Alumni Association, which has stepped up with a gift of \$620,000. This gift, as well as CARE Act funds from the federal government, will be used to recruit new students and retain current students who otherwise might not be able to attend St. Mary's in the fall.

Other incentives for students include:

- New St. Mary's Graduates Enrolling in St. Mary's Graduate Programs The graduate student discount for alumni who received a St. Mary's bachelor's degree in Fall 2019, Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 will cover 50% of tuition charges for a total of 15 credit hours completed in Summer 2020, Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. (This does not include a tuition discount for the St. Mary's University School of Law programs, the Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision, or those pursuing an undergraduate, second or additional graduate degree.)

Not just for our graduates, but for others applying to St. Mary's, the University has temporarily made the GRE and GMAT graduate school entry exams optional tests for most graduate programs.

- New Undergraduate Students – Freshmen and Transfers
St. Mary's has also extended a special summer discount to new undergraduate students joining the University community this fall who have submitted their enrollment deposit by May 4. Those incoming undergraduate students can take advantage of expanded summer courses online at a 50% tuition discount.

Also, the University is offering an alternate, ACT and SAT test-optional pathway to complete applications to St. Mary's for the Fall 2020 semester.

I am grateful for the countless ways in which faculty and staff have come together to support each other and provide a St. Mary's experience to our current students. God bless you and your families.

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