



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

January 6, 2021

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

I hope that you are all enjoying some quiet time after what I know was a challenging semester.

Given the rising COVID-19 infection rates in the area, and our desire to keep our College community healthy, when classes begin on January 25, instruction will be online and synchronous through Canvas for the first two weeks of the semester. Recognizing that having students in-seat for academic instruction best suits our mission and our students' needs, the decision to begin online is being made to proactively attempt to de-densify spaces on campus and limit potential exposure for the typical incubation period that would follow the holidays. The College will continue to monitor the situation as residential students move on campus (in a strategically-phased process) while classes are being offered online, and with the assumption indicators are favorable, we plan to begin classes in-seat on Monday, February 8.

Please note that the only exception will be for Nursing students who have clinical placements in facilities off-campus; these students will go to their assignments in person as scheduled beginning on January 25. Governor Cuomo has not offered guidance to date for spring reopening, and whereas we are proactively planning, we must advise that further guidance from the City and State may cause for revision of our plans.

In an effort to provide as much support as possible to faculty, we will continue to offer a Faculty Mentorship Program that offers one-on-one individualized support for faculty members who want assistance in online instruction from an experienced peer. If you would like the support of a Faculty Peer Mentor this semester, please fill out the [Request for Faculty Peer Mentorship Form](#) as soon as possible. In addition, the College will again offer weekly meetings of a Professional Learning Community designed to promote strategies for high-quality remote learning. More details will follow.

The College has replenished the supply of PPE (gloves, face masks, face shields), so please let me know if you require any additional supplies.

This semester, Computer Services will be able to offer students remote access to computer labs that offer specific specialized software. For more information, or to discuss what software your students need remote access to, please contact Maria Mora at maria.mora@mountsaintvincent.edu.

Many thanks as always for your continued cooperation and commitment to our mission and success of our students. As I get any additional or revised information, I will update you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. A. Bongiovanni', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynne A. Bongiovanni
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dean of the College
Associate Professor of English