



notes from the nest

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 5

COVID-19 UPDATE
MARCH 2020

A MESSAGE FROM *the President*

Dear Parents,

Over the past two weeks, we have seen unprecedented challenges in the world as coronavirus spreads. We at Martin Methodist have your student's health and safety at the forefront, and we are taking all appropriate measures to protect them while also ensuring that their education is uninterrupted.

We are actively monitoring information and guidance from the CDC, WHO, and many higher education associations, and our Emergency Response Team is in constant communication. We have implemented a number of strategies to address the pandemic, and we have made plans to address future contingencies.

We know that this time is frightening for our students and our community. Social distancing is a challenge for many of our students, and beloved events like graduation have been postponed. Rest assured that the Martin Methodist family will continue to provide every level of personalized support to your student, including virtual worship opportunities, video counseling sessions, and remote advising and academic support. If you or your student has any question about a service, please never hesitate to reach out. As always, we are here for you.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in us to nurture and care for your student as they prepare for a life of service in the world.

For the College,

Dr. Mark La Branche
President, Martin Methodist College



ACADEMICS

In order to provide a high-quality Martin Methodist education while also minimizing group gatherings, we will complete spring semester courses by **moving to an online format for the remainder of the Spring 2020 Term**. March 16-20 will continue to act as an extended Spring Break.

If your student has any concerns about this, please help reassure them that our faculty is as committed to their personal education as ever! We will work with students in whatever way we can to ensure that each student receives the instruction and support they need.

Tutoring, academic advising, counseling services, career advising, and many other student services will be available remotely. Course Registration for Summer and Fall will proceed as planned, and your student will be receiving more details from our Registrar's Office soon regarding Registration! Commencement exercises (Graduation), originally scheduled for May 2, will be postponed. This is done to ensure social distancing as recommended by the CDC. As the situation evolves, students and families will be notified of our plans to reschedule this important milestone.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

The health and safety of our residential students is our top priority in Residential Life. While the College remains open, residential halls will remain open. The CDC has recommended social distancing, and as such, Residential Life encourages students who are able to return to their homes for the remainder of the Spring semester.

Food service will be available in the Dining Hall 11 AM-1 PM, and 5-7 PM daily.

Students wishing to remain on campus should complete an Extended Housing Application before March 20.

Students that will be moving home for the remainder of the semester should follow Check Out procedures outlined on our webpage at www.martinmethodist.edu/students/campus-life/residential-life before March 25 if they are healthy and able to do so. Students not able to check out before March 25 will have another opportunity later in the semester, and should prioritize health and safety over returning to campus.

Our administration is currently working out the specifics of what a prorated room or board refund/credit will be, and students that do not remain on campus will be contacted directly once these details are available!

ATHLETICS

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has canceled the Spring 2020 season. Our student athletes are incredibly important to us, and we will continue to work with them regarding scholarships, eligibility, etc.

CONTINUED UPDATES

These updates are current as of March 16, 2020, but as we have seen, the situation with COVID-19 evolves every single day. To stay current, please visit our webpage at www.martinmethodist.edu/about/covid/19/alerts/

HOW YOU CAN *pray* FOR MARTIN METHODIST COLLEGE

Pray for the **health and safety** of our entire community, and indeed, the world. May we take this opportunity to be thankful for the gifts and graces we often take for granted, and may our days be filled with signs of hope and optimism. May we be agents of peace as we care for our communities, and may we be comforted by the promises of resurrection. As our wonderful Chaplain Reverend Laura K. McMasters has reminded our students:

Inhale the presence of God, loosely cover nose and mouth with elbow, and Exhale the Chaos within.

(repeat x 1,000)

Inhale the presence of God, loosely cover nose and mouth with elbow, and Exhale God's Peace.