



September 28, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students:

I want to personally express my strongest appreciation to the vast majority of all students who have not wavered off our stated campus health and well-being protocols since starting the fall semester and especially during this quarantine. The recent stretch has been challenging, frustrating, disappointing, isolating, and not much fun for all of us.

Kudos to the Faculty and the students for managing through online learning again!

We are over halfway through this unfortunate 2-week-plus campus quarantine and now at the inflection point of our COVID-19 outbreak. After we had only 6 students test positive upon returning in late August (total 0.57% positivity rate), we have had 41 more students test positive over the past two weeks (total 4.13% positivity rate). The bad news is that we are now higher than the Ohio positivity rate. The great news is that 26 students have already recovered and the rate of new cases is declining. It looks like our campus spread is flattening. We need to be sure.

The next six days are critical for everyone's health and well-being. If all faculty and staff continue to do their necessary jobs, and if all students in Soft Quarantine, Strict Quarantine, or Isolation Recovery on campus or at home adhere to our expectations and requirements this week, then I believe we can reopen the Heidelberg campus on Sunday morning and return to residential learning and living next Monday.

We launched our COVID-19 campus outbreak disciplinary process at the end of last week based on the published rules, regulations, and expected community norms in the *Heidelberg University Student Handbook*. Dean of Student Affairs Chris Abrams is leading this process and looking at four possible areas of student conduct infractions: 1) Violation of any Federal, State, or Local Law; 2) Community Standards Violation; 3) Disruption; and/or 4) Behavior Unbecoming of a Heidelberg University Student. This inquiry, any recommendations, and possible sanctions will be completed by the end of this week.

In the midst of everything, I was overjoyed to see Mr. Darnell Cooley back at his cooking and serving station on the Parkhurst Dining Team in Hoernemann Refectory on Friday afternoon. Darnell was diagnosed with cancer last January, went through multiple treatments

at the Cleveland Clinic, and was cleared medically for return recently. We talked periodically over the past several months. He has been a student-loved favorite in the dining hall for a very long time because he serves, supports, and cares for students so much. The Heidelberg Student-Athlete Advisory Committee gave Darnell their Siggy Special Recognition of the Year Award in April.

Let us all celebrate Darnell's healthy return to our shared Heidelberg home and embody his authentic and selfless Student Prince spirit!

Respectfully.

Rob Huntington
President