

Dear Grand View students, faculty members and staff members -

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! It is great to see the campus repopulated after such a long and desolate time.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone about how we are conducting our learning, teaching, and work safely with appropriate social distancing (6 feet, please!), mask-wearing (whenever in a public indoor space!), and monitoring our symptoms. One of our challenges has been providing as much face-to-face instruction as possible while reducing the capacity of our classrooms to allow for distancing and accommodating the needs of students and faculty members who cannot be present in the classroom.

We have met that challenge by adopting the HyFlex model of course delivery. A HyFlex course includes a combination of face-to-face instruction (modified in some courses to accommodate classroom capacity), an online live stream of the face-to-face component of the course (online synchronous instruction), and a recording of the face-to-face component along with other course assignments and activities that students can complete on their own time (online asynchronous instruction). Students can choose how they participate in the course within the limits of classroom capacity, and their schedules are structured to take that into account. More information and explanation about HyFlex are <u>here</u>. On that webpage, you can find lots of other vital information about our preparations for this fall, including an important FAQ that everyone should review (the document will download as a pdf). Students with questions about HyFlex can reach out to the ALT Center via jhorning@grandview.edu for help.

Staying together safely is the responsibility of every member of our Grand View community. To reinforce our commitment to one another, we request that every community member – students, faculty members, and staff members – *review and sign* the <u>Viking Pledge</u>. The educational materials that support the commitments in the Pledge (*why* do we do the things we pledge to do?) are based on the best scientific information available, and you can access those <u>materials</u> online, too.

A lot of people worked exceptionally hard over the summer to make it possible for us to be as together as we can be this fall, and they have my very deep gratitude. Now let's all do what we need to do to *stay* together as much as we can be.

Thank you,

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Carl Moses Provost