



“Our Finest Hour” July 27th, 2020

And Yet another Good Monday Morning to All Good and Faithful COE Folk,

After much complaining to those in charge of the weather, a couple of “pop-up” rain showers came just in the “nick of time” to save the vegetables. Salsa abounds, and the abundant cucumbers invite cool summer salad recipes of various sorts. Thank goodness for zucchini bread. Have to pick those rascals morning, noon, and night or they grow to Louisville Slugger size in a matter of hours. In addition to the rain, the major improvement has been the implementation of a warning sign installed late last week which reads: “Warning: No weeks allowed; no raccoons, no rabbits, no squirrels, no deer, and no bugs or worms.” Apparently, signs work.

Speaking of signs, have been reading a lot of those “Stay Six Feet Away” and “Must Wear a Mask to Enter” signs. “Signs, signs, everywhere a sign. . .” (Tesla, 1970). Wish those worked as well as my vegetable garden warning. Evidently, they do not. The coronavirus appears to be absolutely everywhere in our community right now, and even if it isn’t we need to behave as if it is. And, we need to encourage others to do likewise.

As I have stated repeatedly since March, the health, safety, and welfare of our faculty, staff, students, and community is of utmost importance. While it “goes without saying” I will say it anyhow: we need to keep this in mind as we prepare (and soon) begin fall 2020 classes. This is going to be the focus of conversation today at our Administrative Council and Academic Leadership Council. After these discussions, I will send you a “Finest Hour” update whenever I can catch a few minutes to write one. It will focus on class, department, and college policies and protocols to address safety in the academic settings.

A good mask policy by which EVERYONE abides could nip the pandemic in the bud. Actually, it’s too late for bud nipping, so suffice it to say we need to take comprehensive measures NOW, so we don’t have to implement contingency plans later. Personally, I believe our students will determine how long it takes us to get back to some sense of normalcy. More on this another time. . . .

Keep Calm, Wear Your Mask, and Insist Others Do As Well,

David