

COVID 2021 What's the Same/What's Different

January 22, 2021 10:30 am

Session led by Gary Mortenson

Approximately 20 participants shared information on their respective experiences during the Fall/2020 semester and how things are similar and different as we begin the 2021 semester.

Topics discussed included the following:

- COVID safety protocols including social distancing, room capacities, air exchange rate calculations, use of air purifiers, audience/no audience issues, faculty/staff health awareness concerns, mask protocols/usage, inconsistent sometimes confusing direction from higher administration, and what recruiting/auditions look like for everyone as we build our fall/2021 incoming classes.
- The group shared information on where summer camps stand at present. There was general consensus that the summer of 2021 will not yet look anything close to normal. There is some hope that we may have a good idea of what the summer/fall will look like by April depending on how successful vaccinations ramp up in the next six weeks.
- During the last 25 minutes of our session the group shared ideas on self-care during the pandemic. Session members discussed ways to stay healthy in mind and body as the light at the end of the pandemic begins to loom brighter. There was a general sense of optimism that we can and will come out of this but a simultaneous feeling of caution that sometimes the greatest risk not of adhering to protocols is greatest at the end of a pandemic. Some of the self-care suggestions shared included walking/running, enjoying nature, reading for pleasure, listening to podcasts, doing projects around the house, reconnecting with friends and family, enjoying the company of our pets, and sleeping and eating well.

Respectfully submitted January 23, 2021

Gary Mortenson