During class discussions, don’t shut down different perspectives, ideas

by AUDREY PARK

ASSISTANT EDITOR

In a recent Harkness discussion, a student proposed the idea that “cancel culture” can be productive, an idea which was instantly rejected by the student’s peers and the teacher. The discussion was so close to, you know, Jan. 3. “I was glad that the school had come up with something of their own issues about COVID-19,” Ms. Canright said, “For me, the reasoning is that, you know, the first request will be referred to our Faculty Association and with the new testing process and to University of Chicago employees.”

“I think there’s a lot of chaos at all, and I was very pleasantly surprised by that,” she said about her test on Jan. 3. “I didn’t have to wait, they knew exactly what to have me do. I was in and out really fast. I was pleased with all of that.”

Sophomore Yolo Martinez was relieved to receive the news, as it provided her time “to get [her] life a lot more together.”

“However, one concern for Yolo was how the rest of the semester would play out academically and how teachers would plan their curriculums to fit the revised semester schedule, which will now end Feb. 4. Many teachers have already met and decided plans for the next few weeks, with some teachers making small revisions in curriculum while others opted to not assign homework work the week of Jan. 3. “After the PE Department met with the administration to discuss classes moving forward, they decided to rearrange some units to plan less strenuous exercises for the next few weeks. These included activities such as pilates, yoga, CPR, volleyball, and health and fitness units.”

“The activities we have coming up are what we have been asked to do keep things a little less strenuous, a little less heavy breathing, a little less max-effort types of activities,” PE department chair Scott Budeschel said. “So that’s really what we’re going to do moving forward.”

While not an official decision, most math teachers decided to hold off giving homework the week of Jan. 3. Ms. Canright said, “For me, the reasoning is that, you know, the first request will be referred to our Faculty Association and with the new testing process and to University of Chicago employees.”

“I think there would be no point if band continued the way it was since having that many people in the same room without their masks is a lot. It’s very risky. So it’s unfortunate,” she said.

Overall, the beginning of 2022 has warranted large changes in COVID-19 mitigation measures, but Ms. Canright is grateful for the new testing process and to University of Chicago resources.

“We’re very lucky, I say, with our Faculty Association and with the university and the access to this testing,” she said, “because I’m sure there’s a lot of schools struggling to figure out how to do anything.”

Music classes will continue in the new year, with choral music classes now being held in the tent on Scammon Garden north of Gordon Parks Arts Hall. However, one major change is that “all wind instrumentals in band class will not be able to play for six weeks.”

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Safety measures address new COVID-19 variant

Recommended safety measures to prevent transmission are evolving to include a reduced quarantine period, tighter-fitting masks and greater booster shot eligibility.

Threats that are behaving differently than previous variants, some of which we used to do is helpful, but some of it probably needs tweaking,” Emi Landon, chief epidemiologist at the University of Chicago, said in an interview with the Midwest. Dr. Landon researches at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s shortened the recommended quarantine and isolation periods in order to make them more positiv e to five days.

The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration also expanded booster shot eligibility to 12- to 15-year-old attendees in a Dec. 1st booster shot clinic Jan. 14, 3:30 p.m. in Upper U-High Gymnasium. Call 773-702-1111 to schedule an appointment. Booster shots are now required for UChicago employees.

Health officials and school administrators advise the use of tighter-fitting masks, such as N95, KN95 and KF94. KN95 masks have been distributed to Lab community members by Dr. Landon, when wearing flat surgical or cloth masks, she says. Tighter-fitting masks are most effective in sealing the respiratory droplets and aerosols.

Faculty members will be consistently enforcing mask-wearing. Students who don’t comply after warnings will be referred to Dr. Landon, when wearing flat surgical or cloth masks, she says. Tighter-fitting masks are most effective in sealing the respiratory droplets and aerosols.

Dr. Landon said, “We’re all really sick of Covid, and we need to think about what’s the minimum we can do to reasonably protect our community around us.”

--- JUST A THOUGHT ---

Dr. Landon also chose not to assign home work the week of Jan. 3. “I was glad that the school had come up with something of their own issues about COVID-19,” Ms. Canright said, “For me, the reasoning is that, you know, the first request will be referred to our Faculty Association and with the new testing process and to University of Chicago employees.”

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When a topic is introduced, the teacher often asks students to share their own opinions, especially ones that contrast with the discussion. In a recent Harkness discussion, a student proposed the idea that “cancel culture” can be productive. During class discussions, don’t shut down different perspectives, ideas.
Same rules, more adherence in sports

Only immediate family spectators will be allowed at home games

by PETER PU
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

With athletic team practices and practices now back on track heading into Jan. 10 and competitions resuming as of Jan. 15, students are responsible for meeting stricter mask-wearing and social distancing expectations. Competitions will resume, but no outside spectators besides athletes' parents are currently allowed until Feb. 14.

The new athletic expectations are part of the COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, following the rise of infection rates of the omicron variant and the overload of hospital beds.

"The main modification is simply a very严格 adherence to the mask wearing," David Ribbens, athletics director, said. "I think that was a little bit lax in November and December to the extent that it was not followed as strictly as we need it to be followed.

Physical education classes will involve lower intensity activities, with students being required to stay masked. The fitness center remains open for use, under the same mask-wearing rules. While SHIELD testing took place in Kovler Gymnasium during the Jan. 3 initiation week, testing will be moved to Gordon Parks Arts Hall to not interfere with classes.

However, as interscholastic team competitions resume Jan. 18, coaches expect that with higher intensity sports like basketball, players from other teams may not follow the same mask-wearing rules.

"It is difficult," Mr. Ribbens said. "I mean, basketball, particularly obviously, when you're exerting yourself like that and having to wear a mask. It's going to pose a challenge for the kids."

Athletes should check the Laboratory Schools athletics page, as games are being rescheduled and will continue to be rescheduled. At these new guidelines may remind students of distance learning in 2020, when in-person physical education and team practices were not possible.

Mr. Ribbens said that students should not take for granted the opportunity to participate in athletics at Lab.

"We're hopeful that the students realize that we really do a poor job of executing and not following the masking, it could be taken away again," Mr. Ribbens said, "and that would really be a shame."

NEW YEAR, NO NEW RULES.
After the extended break, where classes were delayed until Jan. 8, U-High athletes have returned to their sports with more attention to mask-wearing and social distancing expectations like at this game in December.

"It's a little bit of a challenge," said football head coach Steve Kells.

Marbles return: Marvel Studios’ "Spider-Man: No Way Home" surpasses original expectations

Fresh take on Spider-Man surpasses expectations

by ETHAN SWINGER
REPORTER

For the past few weeks, discussions raving about “Spider-Man: No Way Home” could be heard daily, followed by pleas not to spoil the movie. The web-slinging hero has been starring in movies for nearly two decades, and his iconic status makes him all the more significant to high schoolers.

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by CLARE O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR

"Saturday Night Live" hired Ben Marshall, Martin Herlihy and John Higgins, the three members of comedy group Please Don't Destroy, to write for the show and create a video short every week, hoping the group's brand of short, dense, absurd humor would attract younger viewers who have grown used to microformats like Vine and TikTok and have been desensitized by overexposure to the internet.

The group's mastery of "Gen Z humor" is evident through their weekly videos and their writing contributions, making the show approachable to a previously disengaged audience.

Their first "SNL" video demonstrates thoughtful writing and particular comedic style, including a new joke about every five seconds of the two-minute skit. The jokes in the video all stem from one simple observation: lots of different companies are making their own brands of hard seltzer. The skit exists in a world where even JCPenney makes its own hard seltzer, and this base joke gets stretched to absurdity as a belt buckle falls out of Martin's mouth and he reveals that their dentist, Dr. Riccardi, also has a hard seltzer brand.

Give this odd joke a new chance, and watch the Please Don't Destroy's video shorts and a few of the more popular skits from this season. "SNL" is making progress toward adapting traditional media to be more accessible to younger generations.