



MAINE CENTRAL INSTITUTE

295 Main Street ♦ Pittsfield, Maine 04967 207-487-2282 ♦ FAX 207-487-3512 www.mci-school.org

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

July 10, 2020

Dear Members of the MCI Community,

On Monday, July 6th, 2020, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that international students who are taking only online classes will not be granted visas to enter or be permitted to remain in the United States in the coming Fall 2020 semester. Under this policy, international students may obtain visas for hybrid programs that combine in-person and online instruction. As the MCI administration and I announced earlier this summer, MCI is offering hybrid programs when classes begin on September 1st. Please rest assured that MCI is committed to do all we can to ensure our international students can and will continue their education at Maine Central Institute uninterrupted.

While the world has been presented with unprecedented circumstances to overcome, MCI's caring, dedicated and talented faculty and staff have been working arduously to provide our beloved students with the best possible education from the beginning of this pandemic. As the MCI Community stays resilient and strong in the face of adversity, we are proud to have had the best hybrid graduation in June and one of the best online and in-person programs in this past Spring to successfully close out the year. Hence, the successful transition continues in the Fall 2020 in our beautiful state of Maine and town of Pittsfield. Our town has one of lowest case counts in the state, and the state of Maine is ranked one of the safest states in the US. We are profoundly grateful to be located in Pittsfield, Maine—with zero active COVID-19 cases—and just as of last week, was placed in the final four for Best Town of the Year in Maine. On behalf of the MCI Community, I am excited to welcome back our returning students and welcome our incoming students this Fall with the following reassurance and commitment:

1. **MCI will issue a new I-20 to both incoming and returning students.** Please email admissions@mci-school.org with a current name, address, and phone number so that we can send your updated I-20. Students must enter the US with their updated I-20. MCI is required to update the 'remarks' section of the I-20 to indicate the following:
 - a) MCI is not operating 100% online.
 - b) the student is enrolled in a hybrid program for the Fall 2020 semester.
 - c) the student is taking the minimum number of mandatory online classes toward their degree program.

2. **MCI's dorms will be open in the Fall 2020, starting on August 23rd.** Our plan for welcoming international students back to campus includes COVID-19 testing upon arrival. In the coming weeks, you will receive more detailed information from our Dean of Student Life, Mr. Tom Bertrand.

3. MCI will continue our hybrid model for academics—online and in-person program— *having started in the Spring semester of 2019-2020.* This entails some classes in-person and some classes online. According to the new SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) guidelines, F-1 students are not permitted to take 100% of their classes online unless they are awaiting their visa. MCI Academics Office will send out detailed instructions regarding registration and classes scheduling for our international students in the coming weeks.

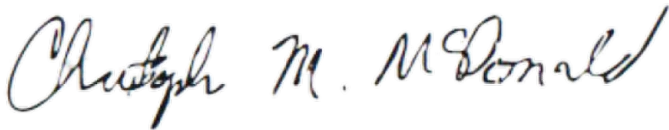
4. Students arrival to MCI in the Fall 2020:

- **Returning students** should plan to arrive on campus no later than August 23rd. Please notify us right away if there are any travel restrictions in place.
- **Incoming students** should plan to arrive on campus no later than August 23rd. If your F-1 is not obtained prior to August 23rd, please contact Ms. Donna Cray at dcray@mci-school.org so that MCI Academics Office can reach out to you and schedule your online classes immediately until you receive your student visa.

MCI international students are an integral part of the MCI Community, which is known for our core values: Community and Family, Comprehensiveness, Diversity, Focus on the Individual, Independence and Standards of Excellence. You can rest assured that your beloved MCI family will be here for you and do what it takes to ensure your uninterrupted and excellent education because at MCI: we are resilient, we are empathetic, and we care.

Welcome to MCI 2020-2021. Please stay safe and well.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher M. McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher McDonald

Head of School