

Hello, Class of 2024!

I hope this letter finds you well and safe. It has been a difficult time for all of us due to the pandemic and the social injustices occurring in this country. I can understand how stressful entering college is right now. My younger sister is starting her first year of college too. I encouraged her to create good memories but to stay cognizant of the seriousness of COVID-19. I now encourage you to please follow social distancing and mask requirements while creating memories with your new hoo family.

Even though this year will undoubtedly look different from previous ones, I want to remind you that there is still a lot to look forward to at UVA! I remember being a first year and discovering all the low-key outdoor study spaces on Grounds. I recommend going for a walk around Grounds (wear a mask) and take pictures with your roommate or hallmates. Also you should watch sporting events from the comfort of your dorm's common room! There are so many creative ways to enjoy your time at UVA while maintaining some sort of normalcy.

Remember, it's okay to take a mental break from the craziness around you. Meditate, color, sing, do something that will bring you joy. I really hope you have a good semester. Don't be afraid to sign up for that club or to try-out for that acapella group. My best advice is to surround yourself with people who empower and support you. Best of luck to your next four years here at UVA. As a fourth year, I can definitely say the years go by fast so enjoy your time as a wahoo (while social distancing!)

Sincerely,
Kayla Cabrera
Class of 2021