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DULUTH, MINNESOTA

# CSS Library gets new, accessible look

*Renovations prompt conversation about accessibility on campus*

**Ashley Etter**  
aetter@css.edu

St. Scholastica Library patrons have likely noticed that the circulation desk and the North Reading Room look new and improved.

After 33 years of use, the circulation desk “started to show its wear,” said McGrew. “The laminate on top of the counter was bubbling and peeling off. It just wasn’t attractive anymore.” The old desk was also

able to work at that desk. Not only was it not accessible; it even impeded certain students from being able to work here, which is really not our values.” “We specifically had a high area and a low area,” Johnson said. “Some people



Student workers Ellie Rohe and Katie Landrus sit at the new circulation desk. Script photo/Ashley Etter

That’s because the Library received a facelift last year, including a new fireplace, an art TV and a new, accessible circulation desk and shelving.

These updates addressed aesthetic as well as accessibility concerns, according to Kevin McGrew, director of the Library, and First Year/Information Literacy Librarian and volunteer archivist Heidi Johnson.

The circulation desk, located on the first floor, hadn’t been updated since the first one was installed in 1986, when the Library and Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel switched locations.

inaccessible, especially to those who require mobility devices. McGrew said, “Over the years, we’ve found that [the circulation desk] wasn’t ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] compliant. Accessibility was an issue with that one.”

A committee convened to consider design options. “One of the things that the committee looked at was being intentional about accessibility,” said McGrew, “both from the patron’s perspective and the employee’s perspective.”

“There was this one student who wanted to work here, and he literally was not able to hop on top of the stools needed to be

need to stand and work, [and we wanted to make] sure that there’s a recess [at the bottom of the desk] so that if someone comes in with a mobility device, like a wheelchair or a walker, that they’ll have space below that where the wheels can go and be closer to the desk.”

The new, linoleum-less countertop serves a practical purpose as well. “This was all done during the onslaught of the pandemic. The new countertop is also something that we can sterilize easily,” said Johnson.

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# Saints football falls to Carleton in first MIAC Homecoming game



Submitted photo/Rose Carpenter

**Jack Hagberg**  
jhagberg1@css.edu

On Saturday, Oct. 16 the Saints faced off against Carleton in their first Homecoming game as a part of the MIAC conference. The game took place at Public Schools Stadium at Denfeld High School.

While the Knights were able to obtain a 30-yard field goal on their opening pos-

session, the Saints followed swiftly to gain an early lead. A set of timely draws from quarterback Byron Bishop and a 22-yard reception to Mitchell Adrian helped the Saints gain some footing. The drive ended with Nick Schlender performing a one-yard touchdown plunge, followed by Kyle Oswald earning the saints an extra point, giving them a 7-3 lead over the Knights.

Unfortunately, the lead was short lived. Carleton respond-

ed with a 70 yard drive, which culminated in a five yard touchdown, changing the score to 10-7, where it remained for most of the first half.

The Saints were able to force the Knights into a fourth-and-one at midfield, but a fake punt allowed them to once again gain a first down. From there Carleton went on to score another touchdown with two seconds left in the half, making it 17-7.

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# Looking into CSS’s choice to mandate COVID-19 vaccination

**Jessica Schatz**  
jschatz2@css.edu

for the next semester.”

Oct. 22 was chosen for a specific reason, noted Lyons, “For students, the Oct. 22 deadline was based on when spring registration occurs. For faculty and staff, the process involves working with the Faculty Assembly and Staff Council leadership in a shared governance relationship to set requirements and dates.”

However, there are exceptions to this mandate, as stated on the “SaintsRiseUp Safe Return” webpage, which states, “By Nov. 22, 2021, all College of St. Scholastica employees are also required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or to be tested weekly. Employees working from home/remotely who have no contact in the course of their job duties with co-workers, students, visitors, or the public are exempt from this policy. Employees who choose not to be vaccinated against COVID-19 must present a negative COVID-19 test result weekly to Human Resources.”

Lyons further explained the situation here in the Northland. “Local hospital ICUs are stretched thin, and many people with other serious illnesses are being relocated to other facilities where possible. The CDC, MDH and data show that everyone continues to be at risk, including those already vaccinated, those who have had covid before and at very high rates, those who are unvaccinated. Being vaccinated, testing when needed, following a masking mandate indoors, staying home when feeling ill, these must continue if we are to make progress on lowering the rates of cases.”

Lyons was asked what the procedure for unvaccinated students is. He said that students will be allowed to remain involved in on-campus events “as long as they are providing results of a PCR test once a week and follow the masking requirements.” Lyons also described the implications of not adhering to these requirements as “[a]nyone who has not provided proof of vaccination, and/or is not PCR testing weekly will have a hold put on their registration

for the next semester.”

“The spread of the Delta variant really drove much of the reasoning to require proof of vaccination. Even this week the Minnesota Department of Health data shows that COVID-19 is still on the rise in Minnesota, and very much so in St. Louis County,” Lyons said.

Lyons spoke about the beginnings of CSS and how we must continue to help the community we live in. “The Sisters came here to provide health care and education, we continue that mission today, and that definitely includes how we do our part to help the Duluth community and this region during the pandemic.”

Lyons provided some additional statistics regarding the total percentages of vaccinated persons on campus. “Over 80 percent of our Duluth-based students are vaccinated. Over 90 percent of faculty and over 80 percent of staff are also vaccinated. These numbers continue to increase. I think this reflects that COVID is not just seen as an individual health issue to this community, but as both public health and a community responsibility to help each other. That is a point of pride for CSS!”

## Contact us

Email.....script@css.edu  
Website.....www.thescriptnews.com

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