

Parent Electronic News  
West Virginia University  
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Hello from Morgantown – population rising! As you and/or your students prepare to load up the family truckster and head back to Morgantown, there are some helpful tips and last minute reminders below for incoming students and upperclassmen alike. One is regarding a major road closure/construction project in town, so be sure to check that out below under Move In Details. For those moving into the residence halls, specific directions and maps for each hall are now online (link below) to guide you towards your hall and avoid competing traffic patterns. Another key reminder is that incoming students should log on ASAP to choose and sign-up for their Welcome Week Adventure/Service activities if they have not yet done so as they are filling quickly: <http://bit.ly/2aOOuUm>. Welcome Week kicks off August 12-16 and offers something for both incoming and returning students so be sure they check out the specific schedules for each online: <http://bit.ly/1uDAKLn>.

Parents, as you complete move-in, we welcome you to drop by the Parents Club “I Survived Move-In Day” Receptions on Friday or Saturday. More on these receptions, the new 2017-18 Parent Perks, a timely Back-To-School Checklist (lots of updated dates and info here!) and much more follow, so read on!

Finally, as you and/or your students head out on your trek to campus, we'd love to hear from you! Just reply to me here or post to the WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page to let us know: 1) Where you are traveling from (city, state or country), and 2) How many miles you will be traveling roundtrip. Feel free to attach a picture as you and your student get packed up and on your way! A few years ago we logged nearly 140,000 miles from those who responded and heard of some great adventures and memories being made by parents and students. It is almost time to head down our Country Roads. We can't wait to see you and your students! In this edition:

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS – Has your student signed up yet?

WELCOME WEEK 2017

PARENTS CLUB UPDATES AND INFO

- Mountaineer Parents Club Member Discounts
- Move-In Parent Receptions
- Fall Family Weekend

MOVE IN DETAILS

- Upperclassmen Returning to Town
- Residence Hall Move-In Details
- Road Closure: Construction may create challenges on move-in weekend at WVU
- Incoming Students can volunteer to be HOTSHOTS by August 8

NEWS AND UPDATES

- NEW FOR STUDENTS this fall – UNEWS e-mails
- WVU Named #34 safest campus in the nation
- Flight changes out of Morgantown – now to PIT and BWI
- Additional 2:30 p.m. trial route for Grey Line to PIT International

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

### **PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS – Has your student signed up yet?**

Welcome Week will take place August 12-16. One component is the *Choose Your Adventure – Community Service, Adventure WV or Career Discovery* experience. Your student gets to choose which one they want to attend. Sign-ups are first-come, first-served and are filling up quickly so have your student sign up today: <http://bit.ly/2aOOuUm>. Questions should be directed to [serveandlearn@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:serveandlearn@mail.wvu.edu).

### **WELCOME WEEK 2017**

Week, our annual celebration of students returning to campus, begins August 12 and continues through August 16, the first day of class. Welcome Week offers a nonstop schedule of events and experiences: <http://bit.ly/1f8jGNn>. Why do we do this? To fully engage our students with their University and their community – the goal of the campus wide initiative Project 168. True learning occurs when we blur the boundaries between the classroom, serving others and having great experiences.

Sunday through Tuesday, all freshmen will participate in three events.

- **Academic Day:** On Monday, August 14, all students will attend an academic session for their college or school. Specifics are found at <http://bit.ly/2aB3JAD>.
- **Adventure/Service Activities:** Students get to choose from three options – Adventure community service, Adventure WV or Career Discovery experience. Sign-ups are first-come, first-served, at <http://bit.ly/2aOOuUm>. Questions should be directed to [serveandlearn@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:serveandlearn@mail.wvu.edu). These activities will take place either Sunday or Tuesday.
- **Campus Traverse:** Scheduled either Sunday or Tuesday, depending on whether your student lives on the Evansdale or Downtown areas of campus, your student's Resident Assistant (RA) can provide more details about this event. Commuter students will participate with their Commuter Assistants (CA) on the downtown scheduled day.

If you have upperclassmen already attending WVU, remind them that Welcome Week is not just for freshmen. The Mountaineer Midway, FoodFest and FallFest are free, fun events for all WVU students. Also there are some other activities just for upperclassmen such as Trivia Night and Zip lining! View events and information for returning mountaineers here: <http://bit.ly/2aB2VMf>.

### **PARENTS CLUB UPDATES AND INFO**

#### **Mountaineer Parents Club Member Discounts**

We value our Mountaineer parents and as a member of the Mountaineer Parents Club, we have worked with the Greater Morgantown Convention & Visitors Bureau to offer select discounts at participating area businesses. To see a complete list of Mountaineer Deals visit <http://bit.ly/2ut5rLa>.

#### **Move-In Parent Receptions**

You survived! We welcome WVU parents to celebrate surviving Move-in Day. Relax, grab some snacks and meet other families while you recharge for your trip home. We have tissues in case you get emotional and there will be opportunities for fun move-in photos and other giveaways available. Join us on the fifth floor at Evansdale Crossing. FREE parking is available at the Student Recreation Center and surrounding WVU lots. Receptions will be held Friday, August 11 from 1:00 – 5:30 p.m. for parents of Honors Students moving in on Friday and Saturday, August 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## Fall Family Weekend

With fall almost here, make plans to join us September 22-24, 2017, for a great weekend of activities for your whole family. Events will begin Friday late afternoon/evening and conclude on Sunday morning. Mark your calendar now; more details will follow soon.

## MOVE IN DETAILS

### Upperclassmen Returning to Town

To coordinate efforts and make the move-in/move back process as seamless as possible for everyone involved, we'd like to pass along the following dates and suggestions:

- Friday, August 11 – Honors College Move-In Day
- Saturday, August 12 – WVU On-Campus Residence Hall Move-In Day
- Sunday, August 13 – Suggested Upperclassmen and University Apartment Move-In Day

For upperclassmen who are moving in to University Apartments (College Park, University Park, Vandalia, University Place Apartments) <http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f> or off campus housing, we suggest that you plan to avoid moving back to town on Friday and Saturday. If you are in town, we strongly urge you to avoid campus areas as the residence hall areas will be seeing a high volume of traffic. If you will be returning that weekend, we suggest that you plan your move for Sunday, August 13 to avoid residence hall move-in traffic delays. Also be sure to read the Road Closure statement below. With classes scheduled to start Wednesday, August 16, we are excited to welcome all our students back to campus for the start of the fall semester!

### Residence Hall Move-In Details

On Saturday, August 12, students who will be living in the residence halls will be moving into their new homes. The best place to review move-in details is on the move-in website located at <http://bit.ly/2szS8fX>. The website also contains lists of items to bring (and what not to bring) to help make your packing and move in experience more smooth. Residents are assigned move in periods based on their birth month.

<u>Student's Birth Month</u>	<u>Designated Move-In Time</u>
January, February, March	8:00AM - 10:00AM
April, May, June	10:00AM – Noon
July, August, September	Noon-2:00PM
October, November, December	2:00PM-4:00PM

Day Of: Due to some key road closures, routing and directions and specific maps for each hall can be found here <http://bit.ly/2hv1KDo>. We advise following these guidelines and clicking on the map for your student's specific hall to avoid getting caught in traffic for the many other halls that will be moving in concurrently.

When your family arrives near the residence hall, University police officers will direct you to an area close to the residence hall so that you may unload. Someone will be asked to remain with the car so that it can be moved (after it is unloaded) to a nearby parking lot. Volunteers (students, faculty, staff and community members), known as Hotshots, will assist with unloading the vehicle. Volunteers from our Information Technology Services will also be on hand in the residence halls to help students set-up and answer tech questions.

NOTE: Only students affiliated with an approved University Program are eligible to move in early (August Orientation, Marching Band, Honors, Athletics, Math Boot Camp, etc.) Students should receive information from the affiliated offices responsible for their program regarding their slated move in day.

### **Road Closure: Construction may create challenges on move-in weekend at WVU**

As they begin arriving to campus in the coming weeks, new and returning West Virginia University students are advised to consider alternative routes into Morgantown due to road construction that has temporarily closed the Easton Hill intersection of Mileground, Point Marion and Cheat roads. For travelers who would normally use Exit 7 on I-68, Pierpont Road, consider instead using Exit 4, Sabraton, and traveling on WV 7 into town or taking Hartman Run Road to Mileground Road to reach that side of town. Neither Exit 1 on I-68, or any of the I-79 exits will be affected, although traffic may be heavier as people take alternate routes. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2v5qG9p>.

Parents: While the route is tentatively scheduled to reopen August 11 at 11:59 p.m., for those arriving early and for Honors Move In Day this will impact your travel. Please be aware that this closure is close to the West Run and Copper Beech apartment complexes so if your upperclassmen are living there, please advise them to allow extra time and plan an alternate route. Also, please note that if you are staying at a hotel at Exit 7 (Holiday Inn Express, Super 8), these and all businesses at the exit remain open but you will need to take another entrance into town and campus as noted above.

### **Incoming Students can volunteer to be HOTSHOTS by August 8**

Is your student interested in being a HOTSHOT and helping others students move in? Students were e-mailed about this opportunity that comes with some nice perks and limited spots remain. By volunteering, students get the chance to meet new people, gain community service hours, connect with departments around campus, and better know their new home. By volunteering they are also permitted to move in a day early with a handful of free benefits, including waived early arrival fees, dinner, a shirt, and contributing towards a successful year for your classmates! All volunteers must wear the provided HOTSHOTS shirt and should dress for the moving activity with comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes. Students interested in being a HOTSHOT should complete this online form <http://bit.ly/2v6Y5iv> by Tuesday, August 8th, 2017. Questions? Contact HOTSHOTs coordinators Chris McBride or Ryan McConnell through email at [hotshots@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:hotshots@mail.wvu.edu). A limited number of positions will be available for each hall, and applicants are accepted on a first come basis.

## **NEWS AND UPDATES**

### **UNEWS e-mails to start for students this fall**

Parents – similar to the Parent E-news you are reading now, WVU will be rolling out a condensed twice weekly e-mail called UNEWS each Monday and Thursday morning to all WVU students via their MIX address. This condensed e-mail will help serve as a single source of info and happenings across campus twice weekly. This will highlight upcoming events, leadership and service opportunities, and important dates and deadlines and link to <http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR>, the hub for student information. This initiative is being undertaken at the request of the Student Government Association and students who have long asked for a way to get information, without being overwhelmed by multiple emails. Later in the semester, a survey will be available to gauge the success and response.

### **WVU Named #34 safest campus in the nation**

This summer WVU was named among the top 40 safest campuses in the United States, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security. Ranked 34th among 2,000 colleges assessed on campus

safety, University Police protects more than 30,000 students and 6,000 employees. “This recognition is a reflection on our campus community and the city of Morgantown,” said Bob Roberts, chief of University Police. He added the department is committed to keeping WVU safe and secure through community policing and prevention. NCHSS indicated that top-ranked colleges boast low overall crime rates (off campus) and maintain safe campuses with little or no crime. Those that did not have crime information listed were excluded. For more:

<http://bit.ly/2v5lpyo>

### **Flight changes out of Morgantown – now to PIT and BWI**

In mid-June, Southern Airways, which in January began daily service connecting Morgantown, W.Va. to Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., announced it will move its D.C. area hub from IAD-Washington/Dulles to BWI Baltimore/Washington beginning July 31. The move is aimed to capitalize on lower fares of connecting flights at one of Southwest Airlines’ largest hubs. Baltimore is also the busiest airport in the Capital region and offers low cost rail connectivity from the airport to the heart of the nation’s capital. Tickets are on sale at the airline’s website, <http://bit.ly/2vAW40K>, as well as major online travel sites. Tickets may also be purchased through Southern Airways call center at 1-800-329-0485.

### **Additional 2:30 p.m. trial route for Grey Line to PIT International**

In mid-June, Mountain Line Transit added a 2:30 PM Grey Line trip from WVU’s Mountaineer Station to the Pittsburgh Greyhound Station (Amtrak) and Pittsburgh Airport: <http://bit.ly/2vqjICd>. This trip is on a trial basis until September 19, 2017 and feedback is welcome. This trip is currently in addition to the 8:15 AM and 5:40 PM departure times. For more on these options and to make reservations: <http://bit.ly/2v6YnG7>. Note: Grey Line also offers family rates for more than one rider. Inquire on their website above.

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST**

Below is a checklist that might be helpful for parents of new students and returning students to complete, if they have not yet done so. Items marked with an (A) are relevant to everyone.

- ✓ Is your student considering a change to his or her **dining plan**? This can be done online until September 5: <http://bit.ly/1hzOJ6g>. Be sure to have your student check their account to see if a change creates a balance due.
- ✓ Is your student living off campus? Consider the non-resident dining plans available to upperclassmen: <http://bit.ly/2cc6Fqs>
- ✓ You can add **Mountie Bounty** to your student’s Mountaineer Card Student ID online. These funds can be used on and off campus for things such as food, printing and laundry: <http://bit.ly/1halOzS>. (Tip: the username requested to add funds is the username your student uses to log into the WVU Portal.)
- ✓ Rent/buy/order **textbooks** online today: <http://bit.ly/2p0CDsj>. WVU Bookstore offers no hassle, FULL REFUND through August 23 and **price matching**: <http://bit.ly/2b1W6mj>.
- ✓ An August billing statement will be sent to student e-mail addresses by the week of August 14 to those who still owe a balance. The due date is September 1 with a late payment fee assessed on outstanding balances on September 2. It is still possible to enroll in a monthly payment plan: <http://bit.ly/2nCj1JB>. Billing and Financial Aid Questions? Call the Mountaineer Hub 304-293-1988
- ✓ If you or your students are receiving **loans** for the first time, sign/have your student sign the Master Promissory Note and complete Loan Entrance Counseling.

Student: <http://bit.ly/2v5iA0i>. Parent: <http://bit.ly/2hwwP5y> Loans cannot pay out until this requirement is complete.

- ✓ Fall **refunds** will begin to arrive in accounts of students with direct deposit on Friday, August 11 for students who receive aid or payments in excess of their charges. Those due a refund who have not registered for direct deposits will receive their funds via paper check the week of August 14 at the local address listed in STAR. Register today for direct deposit eRefunds: <http://bit.ly/2fk5MCX>
- ✓ Make sure final high school/college **transcripts** and any placement test scores are sent to the Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506-6009 prior to the fall term: <http://bit.ly/2aEMxut>
- ✓ Complete the annual Student **Health Insurance waiver** by August 22 if your student is covered by an insurance plan that meets WVU requirements: <http://bit.ly/1poiOFA>. Completing this insurance waiver process also satisfied the immunization requirement – please do not send immunization forms. Upon completion, students will receive a confirmation e-mail noting approval of the insurance waiver. Please allow 5 business days for the charge to be reversed. Questions? Call the WVU Student Insurance Office: 304-293-6815
- ✓ Incoming students who will be enrolled in the Aetna Student Health Insurance program this year should complete the separate **immunization** questionnaire online (please do not send immunization forms): <http://bit.ly/1LUNDNW>
- ✓ Incoming students enrolled in a first-year seminar course should be completing the online **AlcoholEdu** <http://bit.ly/1nYf79l> and **Think About It** <http://bit.ly/2tj7fHz> modules by **August 14**. Fines can be incurred if not completed.
- ✓ Read up! Buy and read the 2017-18 **Campus Read Hidden Figures** so you and your student can join in the Campus Read discussions: <http://bit.ly/2aZBuy2>. This is a required text for First Year Seminar classes.
- ✓ Not required but suggested, students can review and complete the **Kognito** <http://bit.ly/2v5bBEF> and **Financial Avenue** <http://bit.ly/2wt4cgg> online training programs.
- ✓ Ask your student to sign you up for **WVU Alerts**. Students will be automatically enrolled: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlert>.
- ✓ Have your student download the **LiveSafe app**: <http://bit.ly/2hwwFPK>.
- ✓ If your student will be using WVU **Accessibility Services**, make sure all paperwork is complete and turned in: <http://bit.ly/2wtuSNT>.
- ✓ (A) If they have not already, before they leave for school, have your student sign you up for the **Parent/Guest Portal** and be sure to record the **FERPA passphrase** they set for you (you can use this to contact offices on their behalf): <http://bit.ly/1l9XiAm>. Offices cannot discuss information with you without this in place.
- ✓ Remind your student to check their **MIX account email** on a regular basis for important announcements! This is WVU's main mode of communication with students: <http://bit.ly/1tWuksX>.

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