

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
December 7, 2018

Billing Notice: Spring charges posted mid-November and are due Jan. 4. E-bills went out Dec. 5 to your student's MIX e-mail if they still owed a balance at that point. Last day for a payment plan is Dec. 31. See SPRING 2019 PAYMENT DUE below for fall details.

Today throughout campus there is much rejoicing from your students – it's the last day of classes for the fall semester – they are almost there. Now just *Finals Week* (which kicks off Monday) stands between them and a long winter break! Please be sure to ask your student when their last final ends (see the schedule at <http://bit.ly/WVUFinals2018> as residence hall students are expected to head home within 24 hours of their last exam to keep halls quiet for those still studying. (NOTE: If a student is signed up to take the Parents Club Winter Break buses home, they can request permission via their Residence Hall Coordinator to stay until Saturday.) Also, before they head out for Winter Break check out *Housing Wrap-Up and Safety Notices* for reminders. Need help getting them home for the holidays? *Winter Break Buses* are filling quickly but some space remains – see below.

For our soon-to-be graduates they are celebrating their last set of finals! Updates and deadlines are included below about *December Commencement* including the link to register to walk in Commencement – today is the last day to do so! Among other *Important Reminders*, there are also details on the recent *Bowl Game* announcement and a new *Parents Club Basketball Ticket Discount* for upcoming men's basketball games. And with that, happy Finals Week to all, and to all a good night (of studying!) In this edition:

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SPRING 2019 PAYMENT DUE JAN. 4, payment plan available until Dec. 31

Spring charges are posted for any student who is registered for spring classes and can be viewed and paid online. E-bills were also sent Wednesday, Dec. 5 to student MIX e-mail accounts if they still owed a balance at that point. Ask if your student to check for an e-mail and take action if they received one. If you have not already, log on today following the directions below to pay the spring bill or to enroll in a monthly payment plan. *Please keep in mind that WVU offices will be closed for the winter holiday December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1.* Don't wait until the last minute in case there are questions regarding your student's account!

1. Log in to the Parent/Guest Portal if granted access by your student: <http://bit.ly/PGPortal>. Students can pay online through STAR: <http://bit.ly/STARCAS>.
2. In the Parent/Guest Portal, click the tab for your student's name.
3. Click the link for "Electronic Bill/Make Payment."
4. Select "Spring 2019" (scroll to bottom of page to find this) and click "Submit."
5. Scroll to bottom of page and select "Pay Now."
6. If necessary, you can also do a "print screen" from this page if a printed copy of the bill is needed for Smart 529 plans or other reasons.

To enroll in a monthly payment plan: <http://bit.ly/WVUCashNet>. Last day to enroll on a payment plan is Dec. 31. This will allow you to spread payments over four-months.

Questions? Call or stop by the Mountaineer Hub to speak with a representative: 304-293-1988, <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>. Please be aware that phone lines will be busier the closer to the due date that we get.

END OF THE YEAR WRAP-UP

Finals Week Tips – Dec. 10-14

Finals get under way Monday, Dec. 10. Students should check finals times and dates as noted on their syllabus or as adjusted by their instructor. The overall schedule can be found here: <http://bit.ly/WVUFinals2018>. Final grades will be posted online Dec. 19 and can be viewed in STAR by the student or on the Parent/Guest Portal with appropriate access granted by your

student: <http://bit.ly/PGPortal>. Here are a few other reminders and tips to share with your students:

- *Fun Before Finals:* These de-stress events are underway and will continue through the weekend: <http://bit.ly/WVUFinalsFun>
- *Libraries:* The WVU Libraries are offering extended study hours, with Evansdale and Downtown Libraries open 24 hours most days: <http://bit.ly/WVULibraries>
- *Mountainlair:* While keeping regular building hours, the Lair is hosting open study rooms for finals.
- *Reduced Rate Parking for Finals Week:* WVU Parking offers reduced rates for finals week: <http://bit.ly/FinalsParking>
- *Residence Halls Quiet Hours:* 24-hour quiet hours are enforced for the week prior to and during finals. Students are expected to head home within 24 hours after completing their last final, and halls close on Saturday, Dec. 15 at noon.
<http://bit.ly/ResHallOpenClose> (NOTE: If a student is signed up to take the Parents Club Winter Break buses home, they can request permission via their Residence Hall Coordinator to stay until Saturday.)

Housing Wrap-Up and Safety Notices

On-Campus Residence Halls

Students are expected to vacate their residence hall rooms within 24 hours of their last final to ensure a quiet environment for those still studying. Exams are held at different times than their actual fall class schedule (<http://bit.ly/WVUFinals2018>), so students will wrap up the fall semester at various times throughout finals week – please check with your student. University residence halls will officially close at noon on Saturday, Dec. 15, and reopen at noon on Saturday, Jan. 5: <http://bit.ly/ResHallOpenClose>. The only exception is those who have signed up for Holiday Break Housing (deadline to sign up is this Sunday, Dec. 9 <http://bit.ly/BreakHousingWVU>) in advance.

While students must vacate, they can leave belongings in their residence hall room. They should take any valuables or items they may need over break home with them. During Winter Break, students will not be permitted back into their residence hall rooms nor will they have access to their mailboxes. This does not apply to students living in University Apartments.

Prior to leaving, students should lock valuables in their closet or take the valuables home, close and lock their windows, close the curtains, empty their trash, and unplug appliances such as hair dryers and curling irons. If they have rented a MicroFridge or have one of their own, please leave it plugged in to prevent food from spoiling. Finally, students should make sure their room door is closed and locked when leaving.

Off-Campus

If your student lives off-campus, remind them to prepare their apartments for being away. Unfortunately, crime tends to increase around the holidays. Tips to pass along include:

- Put lights on a timer.
- Have mail temporarily held by the USPS to give their place the someone's-home" look.
- Take out their trash and clean up before leaving.
- Take valuable items with them when they leave town.
- Keep their heat on during break to avoid pipes freezing/bursting during a cold snap. Set the thermostat to a lower-than-normal setting while out of town, but do not turn the heating system off. Landlords generally require a minimum thermostat setting in winter months.
- Have a friend who is local check on the place or they can contact the Morgantown Police Department (if inside city limits) and sign up for the Vacation Home Check Program (304-284-7522, option 0) or file online: <http://bit.ly/MPDHomeCheck>
- Close and lock all windows and doors, since many crimes are simply crimes of opportunity.
- Upon returning to Morgantown, students should immediately report any theft or incident that is suspicious to authorities.

Here's to a safe and restful break!

Winter Break Parents Club Buses – Let us do the driving

Winter Break is almost here so make your plans now! Seats on the Parents Club holiday buses can still be reserved. Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and one to Highland, NY, for those in the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The Central Maryland, Northern VA (now waitlisting), Southern NJ and Long Island Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas. For online reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to <http://bit.ly/WVUMPCBuses>. No phone reservations will be taken. The last day to cancel and still receive a refund was Nov. 29, 2018.

GRADUATION UPDATES

December Commencement Reminders

There will be two ceremonies this year on Saturday, Dec. 15 – one at 10 a.m. for graduates in all colleges EXCEPT Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and John Chambers College of Business and Economics. Graduates from Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and John Chambers College of Business and Economics will attend the 2 p.m. ceremony.

- The last day to register to walk in the December Commencement exercises is today, **Friday, Dec. 7:** <http://bit.ly/WVUGradWalk>
- If family members are unable to attend, the event will be webcast live at <http://bit.ly/WVUWebcast>, and a link will show and go live about 10 minutes before the start of the event. Ceremonies will also be recorded, and a video of each will be uploaded to the December Commencement website the week after the event.
- Before Commencement, students should ensure their account balances are at zero, that they have no holds that would prevent a diploma or transcript release and also that they have the appropriate mailing address on file by updating it in STAR, since this is where diplomas will be mailed after the ceremonies: <http://bit.ly/WVUDecemberGrad>.
- Cap and gowns are now available for purchase at the WVU Bookstores through Dec. 15. Caps and gowns that have already been purchased online are available for pick up through the morning of Commencement Dec. 15 at the WVU Bookstore location the student chose.
- Looking for a great gift for your soon-to-be Alum? Shop the exclusive WVU Alumni logo product not sold in other stores. Visit <http://bit.ly/WVUAlumniShop> operated by the WVU Bookstore.

May 2019 Commencement On-campus Accommodations available

For those looking ahead to May Commencement, convenient, affordable lodging for May 2019 graduates and their families is available from Thursday, May 9, through Monday, May 13 at [LINCOLN HALL](#).

Located in the Evansdale area of campus, Lincoln Hall provides suite-style rooms with semi-private baths. Each room houses two individuals and shares a bathroom with another room. Beds are extra-long twin (36"X 80" mattress).

- Linen service
- Elevator
- Air-conditioning
- Continental breakfast and afternoon refreshments
- Front desk staffed 24 hours a day
- Free parking
- Convenient access to Commencement venues, as well as Morgantown restaurants, shops and recreation

Rooms are \$80.00 per night, including tax. Each room sleeps two people. For reservations, please call 304-293-2790 or email Conferences@mail.wvu.edu.

For other details on May Commencement: <http://bit.ly/WVUMayGrad>

ATHLETIC NEWS

Parents Club Basketball Ticket Discount

The Mountaineer Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make a special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for a home Big 12 Conference men's basketball game this season. (NOTE: Check these out this weekend before Big 12 game tickets go on sale to the public Monday for the best choice of seats!)

The Parents Club discount is available for the men's basketball game against Oklahoma on Saturday, February 2 at Noon. Upper-level tickets for the matchup with the Sooners are available for \$17 each. This is a savings of \$10 off the regular price ticket. Parents Club members can take advantage of this offer by visiting <http://bit.ly/WVUPARENTS> and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS.

A Family Day package is also available for the Mountaineers' matchup with Oklahoma State on Saturday, January 12. Parents interested in this package, which consists of four tickets and a voucher good for \$25 at the Coliseum concession stands (for \$90 per package), should visit <http://bit.ly/WVUGame> and click the Men's Basketball graphic in the middle of the webpage. Tipoff with the Cowboys is scheduled for Noon.

Bowl Game Details: WVU Headed to Camping World Bowl

The Mountaineers and Syracuse Orange have officially accepted invitations to play in the 2018 Camping World Bowl to be played Friday, Dec. 28, in beautiful Orlando, Florida. Kickoff is set for 5:15 p.m. ET, at Camping World Stadium and the contest will be televised by ESPN. For those interested in attending and purchasing tickets or travel packages, more details can be found here: <http://bit.ly/WVU18Bowl>. Let's Go Mountaineers!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

WVU opens Veteran and Military Support Headquarters – Dec. 7

Coinciding with the 77th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7), the WVU Veteran and Military Family Support Center, will host a grand opening of its new Headquarters, also known as "The Mountaineer Bunker." The 2,500 square-foot facility, located in the Mountainlair, will serve as a welcoming space and support center for student veterans, armed forces personnel and dependents of current and former military service members. President Gee recently had the chance to check out the space and meet with several of our Veteran students in his most recent Gee-Mail: <http://bit.ly/GeeMailVets>

Enrollment Verification

This time of year, many folks have to provide proof of enrollment for insurance purposes. Your students can obtain this online by following the directions here: <http://bit.ly/EnrollVerif>.

Winter Weather Procedures

Parents – so you are also aware of University procedures, please review the statement that has been shared with students, faculty and staff have been notified of the procedures concerning possible inclement weather: <http://bit.ly/WVUWinter18>. It is quite a rare occasion when the University will close entirely due to weather or low temperatures. So students should be sure to leave early for classes and dress warmly with appropriate winter gear!

If a closing or delays do occur at WVU, a "WVU Alert" will be sent: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlert>. Notifications will also be posted on the WVU main page: <http://bit.ly/WVUHome> and the Student Website: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudents>, e-mailed through MIX and broadcast through local media venues. Note: your student can add you on to also receive WVU Alerts if you wish to be added: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlert>.

It is important to remind your students that they should treat classes as they would a job. If they feel it is unsafe, they should be proactive and contact the instructor to let them know why they will be missing or running late. Also remind your students to plan ahead. If inclement weather is in the forecast, they should plan ahead for delays and allow extra time to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances or travel delays

Students should also note that there are typically some form of absences built in to nearly every syllabus as noted in the attendance policies for each class. These absences are there as a courtesy and should be used sparingly or in instances such as these. As in any other situation, safety is most important and they should use their best judgment for their particular circumstances and follow up as needed.

WVU Bookstore December Updates – textbook return, purchase and sales

With the end of the semester approaching and spring term just around the corner, here are some important reminders from the WVU Bookstore:

Return Fall Rental Books – Please remind your students to bring back their Fall semester rental titles by **Dec. 14th** (*last day of finals*). If students return home with rental books, please have them ship these back to the store. They should including a slip of paper with the books with the following info: NAME, PHONE #, EMAIL ADDRESS, and ORDER NUMBER (if available) and ship to the original store where they made their rental. If ordered online, please send to the Downtown/Mountainlair store.

WVU Bookstore
Mountainlair Bldg.
1550 University Ave.
Morgantown, WV 26506

WVU Bookstore - Evansdale
Evansdale Crossing Bldg.
62 Morrill Way
Morgantown, WV 26506

NOTE: Starting Dec. 18, all customers who did NOT return their fall rental books, will receive a charge to the credit card each customer chose to put on file at the time of the transaction (at the beginning of the semester). We cannot stop this charge from happening at the store level. However, we will gladly refund the FULL AMOUNT when we receive the books back into the store.

Questions? sm583@bncollege.com

Order Spring Semester Textbooks – Once students are registered for classes, they can order textbooks easily online - 1) Log into STAR, 2) Select "Student Service and Housing" tab, 3) Select "Registration" menu, 4) Select "WVU, PSC, and WVU Tech Bookstores", 5) Select "Spring 2019" term from drop down menu. The WVU Bookstores offer a full refund for Spring books through Jan. 14, 2019 (*original receipt required*). Other stores and online services may NOT offer you a refund period. Need Additional Help? View a brief video with screenshots: <http://bit.ly/TextbookVideo>

NOTE: For students receiving Financial Aid who wish to use any excess they may have to pay for textbooks, please follow the steps above by **Dec. 26th (at 11:59 p.m.)** To place the order using financial aid, students should choose "Financial Aid" option during the checkout process. <http://bit.ly/BooksFinAid>.

Holiday Sale! – Looking for a last minute gift? Get 25% off cold weather gear Dec. 5 - 17 (*in store and online*) <http://bit.ly/WVUBookstore>

UPCOMING DATES

- Spring E-Bills sent to WVU Mix addresses for those who still owed a balance: Dec. 5
- Finals Week: Monday, Dec. 10-Friday, Dec. 14 <http://bit.ly/WVUFinals2018>
- *University Housing Closes for Winter Break: Saturday, Dec. 15, noon*
- December Commencement: Saturday, Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. <http://bit.ly/WVUGraduation>
- LAST day to enroll any spring payment plan (four-month): Monday, Dec. 31

- Spring Bills Due: Friday, Jan. 4 <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>

- *University Housing Reopens: Saturday, Jan. 5, noon*

- First Day of Spring Classes: Monday, Jan. 7

Residence Hall Opening/Closing Dates: <http://bit.ly/ResHallOpenClose>

Academic Calendar: <http://bit.ly/WVUAcademicCal>

Mark your calendars for Sept. 27-29 for Fall Family Weekend 2019!

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations