From a high of 91 yesterday to 63 today, perhaps it is safe to say it is finally fall and perfect weather for WVU Homecoming festivities. It was great to see so many of you over Fall Family Weekend! We hope you enjoyed the gorgeous (though unseasonably warm) weather and spending time on campus with your students. For our international parents who may not have had the chance to visit, perhaps you can catch a glimpse of your students in our most recent “Gee Mail: An International Edition,” filmed during our Diversity Week 2019 International Street Festival. Did you know that WVU is home to students from 118 countries, 50 states and all 55 West Virginia counties? Learning opportunities such as the International Street Festival and many others are always happening both in and outside the classrooms – check out the Upcoming Events at the end of this Parent E-News for more including our graduate school fair, campus read events, or a chance for students to join the Student Wellness Ambassador Team!

October is a busy time on campus! From course advising and registration (for spring, summer and winter terms), midterm grades (posting soon – resources follow!), graduation application deadlines (today October 4 is the last day to register for December Graduation), flu shot clinics, and the 2020-21 FAFSA is now live – there is a lot of information and action items packed in this edition! Please scan the headings below and share with your students as relevant. Also, as we start to look ahead to Thanksgiving, details are included on Parents Club Buses and details from University Housing for Holiday Break and Football Housing options for the game over Thanksgiving. And parents, remember that if you ever have questions, please don’t hesitate to call the Parent Helpline 1-800-988-0096 or hit reply and I am happy to help. Enjoy the fall weather! In this edition:

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ACADEMICS

Midsemester Grades will be available soon
Midterm grades will be available on October 11. Students may view their grades in STAR through their WVU Portal. Parents who have access through the Parent Guest Portal may also see them. We hope you and your student are pleased with their grades. If your student is struggling in a class, please encourage them to speak to the instructor during office hours. Not sure what office hours are? Remind your students that these required of all faculty and are on the syllabus given out day one in class. This video takes a humorous (but helpful!) look at office hours.

In addition to office hours, students can also seek assistance from the Office of Student Success resources including: free tutoring, student success coaches, among other help. In the residence halls, student have a wealth of resources including residence hall coordinators and resident assistants (RAs). WellWVU has several resources to help students with stress, time management and better sleep habits. Career Services helps students build a four-year plan or explore other majors to launch a successful career. The Carruth Center offers individual and group counseling. And Accessibility Services enhances the educational opportunities for students with disabilities or other learning abilities. Advisors are another great resource. Your student’s advisor is listed in DegreeWorks.

Students who feel they cannot pass a course may consider dropping the class and adding a mid-semester course. Mid-semester courses begin Monday, October 14th. Before adding or dropping courses, students should speak to their advisor. Mid-semester courses are also an option for students who would like to take an additional courses or get ahead. The last day to drop an individual class or withdraw from the entire University is November 19.

The Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success (CLASS) is also hosting a drop-in Mid-Semester Help Center on Monday, October 14th from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Student Services Building. Students can get information on adding/dropping a course as well as resources on campus such as tutoring.

Spring Course Registration: Dates, times, advising and avoid holds
With course registration priority dates approaching (Honors College students start registration October 22), students should be scheduled/scheduling soon to meet with their academic advisors to review progress and get their term pin lifted and advice for winter, spring and summer classes so they are ready before priority course registration dates. DegreeWorks will show a student’s advisor and their registration date and priority registration time ticketing slot. Time slot info was also e-mailed to all students this week. Students should be sure to review DegreeWorks before their advising appointment and prepare any questions in advance. Considering Winter term or looking ahead to summer school? This is a good topic to mention to their advisor now since students can plan ahead and register for all at the same time. If a student is considering changing their major, they need to meet with their current advisor to initiate this process.

Students should also pay outstanding balances now to avoid registration holds. WVU sends monthly e-billing statements to students who owe a balance. The statement identifies any new charges on their account (also available in the Parent/Guest Portal) and informs them of any past-
due balance. Statements are sent around the beginning of the month, with a due date of the first of the following month. In addition to late payment fees, students who have a past-due amount of $200 or more can also have a hold placed on their record, which will prevent them from registering for classes or obtaining an academic transcript. You should encourage your student to check the WVU Portal to see if they have a hold so they can take care of this before winter, spring and summer pre-registration, which begins October 22.

**Earn up to 3 Credits in 3 Weeks with WVU’s Winter Intersession**

WVU’s online Winter Intersession is great for undergraduates looking to fit an extra course into their schedule, students who want to boost their GPA, or students who want to make the most of their Winter Break. Winter Intersession is also a great way for seniors to fit in a course they need to graduate on time in the spring. Winter Intersession 2019 runs from Dec. 23 - Jan. 10, and registration opens October 21st. All undergraduate courses are charged the standard WVU tuition rate of $369 per hour, regardless of residency. For more information on how students can earn up to 3 credits in 3 weeks, visit the [Winter Intersession website](#).

**THANKSGIVING PREP**

**Thanksgiving and WVU vs Oklahoma State Football Game: Break Housing**

WVU’s residence halls officially close three times in the fall and spring semesters (Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks). For Thanksgiving, residence Halls will close on Friday, November 22 at 7 p.m. and reopen on Sunday, December 1 at noon for students who have not registered for break housing. Break housing is available ONLY to students who pre-register.

Students who wish to stay for the WVU vs Oklahoma State football game may stay in their current housing assignment on Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23. There is an extra charge if students choose to stay. See below.

Thanksgiving Break housing will be available Friday, November 22 through November 30 in Oakland and Stalnaker Halls and the Evansdale Residential Complex (Bennett, Braxton, Brooke and Lyon Towers). Students who live in residence halls other than those designated for break housing may request a space in Brooke Tower; space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Not all residence halls can remain open due to staffing and security over breaks.

- The cost for break and/or football housing is $25 per day.
- To ensure everyone’s safety, no guests will be permitted.
- No meals will be served in University Dining facilities, and no meal plans will be active; instead, students may [use their Mountie Bounty at many participating locations](#).
- Only those who register online and agree to terms and conditions will be allowed to stay. The [link for registration for Thanksgiving and football break housing](#) will be active Monday, October 14 through Thursday, October 31.
- **Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 31, 2019.** Full and partial refunds will not be applied after the registration deadline or if a registered student does not utilize the space during all or part of their registration period.
Questions about Break Housing? Visit the Break Housing website, e-mail wvu-assign@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-2811.

Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses
Buses remain available for the WVU Parents Club Thanksgiving Break. These 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 Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Central Maryland, Long Island (now taking reservations) and New England Mountaineer Parents Clubs also organize and offer buses to their areas. For online reservations or to review the schedules and details, please visit the MPC Holiday Bus website. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Buses to Pittsburgh International Airport and Amtrak/Greyhound station are offered daily via the regional Mountaineer bus service on the Grey Line.

ATHLETICS
Mark Your Calendars! Mountaineer Nation Day is October 19
Parents – It's time to show the world your Mountaineer pride and encourage your student to do the same! Saturday, October 19 is Mountaineer Nation Day, as the Mountaineers travel to Norman to take on the Oklahoma Sooners. #WVUMND is a 24-hour period to celebrate all things gold and blue around the world. Register a watch party for the WVU-Oklahoma game to receive a 15% discount at ShopWVU.com and be entered to win a special MND prize pack for your party. Be sure to follow @WestVirginiaU on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for chances to win officially licensed WVU products! Use #WVUMND to enter game day contests.

Family Day Game discount available – WVU vs Texas Tech – November 9
WVU Athletics announced the WVU vs Texas Tech football game on Saturday, November 9 as a Family Day Game. Those who wish to attend can purchase four tickets and a $25 concession voucher for $200. For more on athletic tickets to all events, contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office or call 1-800-WVU-GAME.

As a reminder, students will have the opportunity to request and receive football tickets for free to each game the week prior to each game through the student football ticket selection process. Please keep in mind that student tickets are good for the student section only, so if your student wants to sit with you, you should purchase an extra ticket for them.

DECEMBER GRADUATION
Deadline to Apply for December Graduation – TODAY: October 4
The deadline to apply to graduate in December is TODAY, Friday, October 4 at 11:59 p.m. NOTE: Students who have applied to graduate can also now register to walk in December Commencement Ceremonies. This is a separate process and must be completed before Friday, December 13. As a reminder, Commencement will be held Saturday, December 21 at the WVU Coliseum. The morning ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. for graduates of the Chambers College of Business and Economic, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and the Reed College
of Media. All other schools and colleges will graduate at 2 p.m. All 2019 August and December graduates are invited to participate in December Graduation.

WVU’s Clear Bag Policy going into effect for Graduations
To provide a safer environment for guests and to ease entry into event venues, a Clear Bag Policy will be implemented for all commencement ceremonies, beginning in December 2019. WVU’s Clear Bag Policy limits the size and type of bags that guests may bring into an event venue. Starting in December, prohibited items include, but are not limited to, purses larger than a clutch bag, diaper bags, coolers, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, cinch bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags, camera bags, any bag larger than the permissible size and non-approved seat cushions or chair backs larger than 16” that have pockets, zippers, compartments or covers.

Guests are allowed to bring the following:
1. One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag, for example).
2. Small clutch bags, approximately the size of a hand (4.5” x 6.5”), with or without a handle or strap. A small clutch bag can be taken into the venue in addition to a clear bag.
3. Bag that is clear plastic, vinyl or pvc and does not exceed 12” x 6” x 12”.
4. Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at an assigned designated gate.

Guests with prohibited bags cannot enter. Please visit the Clear Bag Policy site for details or contact graduation@mail.wvu.edu with questions.

HEALTH UPDATES
Flu shots and upcoming clinics
Tis the season and flu shots are now available on campus. Students can go to Student Health during normal business hours (8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays) to receive a flu shot – no appointment needed. Students need to bring their student ID and insurance card. Student Health will also be offering the following outreach Flu Shot Clinics across campus:

October 8 – Health Sciences Center G285 C, John Jones Conf – 7:45a-11:45a
October 9 – Law School Event Hall – 9:30a – 1:00p
October 10 – Waterfront Place Room 6117 – 8:30a – 1:00p
October 15 – Health Sciences Center G285 C, John Jones Conf – 7:45a-11:45a
October 17 – Engineering Sciences G114 – 8:30a-1:00p
October 22 – Mountainlair Vandalia Lounge – 7:30 a – 3:00p
October 23 – Colson Hall Room 130 – 8:00a-1:00p
October 24 – Waterfront Place Room 6117 – 8:30a – 1:00p
October 31 – Health Sciences Center G285 C, John Jones Conf – 7:45a-11:45a
November 7 – Mountainlair Vandalia Lounge – 7:30a – 3:00p

Parents – join in on the Flu Shot Challenge!
We encourage you and your student to join Student Health who will be participating in the Alana Yaksich National University Flu Vaccination Challenge – a competition for colleges/universities to see who can get the most people to receive the flu vaccine. No matter where you get your flu
shot, this is open to all in the Mountaineer family – parents included – so take a minute to register for WVU to help us in the competition!

UPCOMING EVENTS and CAMPUS REMINDERS
Reminder: AlcoholEdu Part 2 due October 22
DON’T FORGET: Parents please remind your first-year students (including transfers under 21) that they need to complete AlcoholEdu Part 2 by October 22nd. Your student has received an email reminder in their MIX account with instructions for completion. For more information on the program please visit the AlcoholEdu site.

2019 Graduate and Professional School Fair – October 22 and 23
If your student is considering attending graduate or professional school, encourage them to check out the WVU Graduate and Professional School Fair Tuesday, October 22 at the Campus Recreation Center from 3-7 p.m. or Wednesday, October 23 at the Mountainlair Ballrooms from Noon - 4 p.m. Interested students should pre-register online. Pre-registration AND attendance of at least one event enters a student into a drawing for a $60 WVU graduate application fee waiver among other exciting items! #WVUGraduateFair.

Campus Read Events ongoing, Author visit November 11
The campus read, “Educated: A Memoir” has sparked many conversations at WVU and the whole community can now join the conversation in a series of events celebrating this year’s Campus Read. Events are underway and will continue throughout the semester. Share with your student and also consider checking out some events or the WVU Reads podcast.

Healthy ways to get involved, meet others and volunteer
WellWVU has great opportunities for students to earn volunteer iServe hours and help their campus community! Students can join our Student Wellness Ambassador and/or our Tobacco Ambassador program. If your student is interested in being part of a broader culture of wellbeing here at WVU, please visit the following sites for more information and to sign up:
- Student Wellness Ambassador Team (S.W.A.T.)
- Tobacco Ambassador Program

Students: Use Mountie Bounty off campus and for more than food
Still wondering where Mountie Bounty is accepted? Follow @WVUITServices on Twitter to find out or check out this list. Twice a week until fall break, ITS social media accounts will feature specific Morgantown retailers, by location. You will also see these lists on campus info stations and at WVU Information Technology Services on Facebook. To learn more about Mountie Bounty and how you to deposit it onto your Mountaineer Card, check out our support article.

Air to Heat change over
A reminder to all that we are at one of two points in the year that you may hear complaints about the building being too hot or too cold. As you know, during the change of seasons, some days will be above 70 (or 90!) degrees and the nights may get into the 40’s or the high temperature will be 55 degrees one day and 80 degrees the next.
The systems in some of our facilities are designed to either cool the buildings or heat the buildings, both systems are not typically in operation at the same time in these facilities. There will be a short transition period between mechanical heating and cooling as the systems switch over. This change process is based on the outside air temperature, rule of thumb is below 50 degrees heating begins to come on and above 55 degrees the air conditioning begins to come on. Eventually the "problem" goes away once the outside air temperature rises or drops consistently below these set points. Other facilities are designed for simultaneous heating and cooling as needed in which case these seasonal transitions are less noticeable.

Facilities Management will be monitoring the weather forecasts and will attempt to regulate the systems and building temperatures as much as possible. As you might imagine this can be very difficult during the seasonal transition as parts of our facilities will need heating while other parts may need cooling. Your patience is greatly appreciated on those days when it might be a little cooler or warmer than normal inside our facilities as we go into the this fall season.

FERPA Parental Notification About Drug or Alcohol Violations
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) generally prevents WVU from disclosing information about student conduct charges to parents/guardians without authorization. However, FERPA permits, but does not require, disclosure to parents/guardians of “the student’s violation of any federal, state or local law, or of any rule or policy of the institution, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.” Accordingly, WVU may, but is not required to, notify parents/guardians of students under the age of 21 who are found responsible for violations of the University’s alcohol and/or drug policies. We wanted to alert you that if this type of notification is received, parents or guardians are encouraged to speak directly with their student to learn more about the student’s involvement or ask the student to sign a release of information form with the Office of Student Conduct.