Parents - Log on at 8 p.m. to check out the **Monday Night Lights Live Stream** as we officially welcome the Class of 2023 on Mountaineer Field tonight on Facebook or YouTube.

Today my parents are celebrating their 47th anniversary. They are pretty incredible people and I am so lucky to have such amazing role models in my life. I share this because this weekend, as I saw many tears and transitions during move in. From my role, these embraces made me smile as I realize this is not an ending but the beginning of a new chapter for you and your students as they transition into adulthood. Yes, your roles might be slightly changing from short order cook, schedule keeper or bedmaker to cheerleader-over-the-phone and skype-calmer-of-the-nerves, but no matter the age, you are still such an important part of your students’ lives, just as mine are to me these many (many) years after they dropped me off at college. In fact, I have thoroughly enjoyed the decades since and growing into the adult-to-adult role with my parents and hope you will experience the same. Now that the country roads have lead you back home, know that you are not alone in your feelings but, as the article below says, *You’ve Got This Mom and Dad (and all those who support our students from afar!)*

Over the weekend, **Welcome Week**, and the arrival of thousands of new WVU students, kicked off the fall semester! Welcome Week events run throughout this week, some beyond the first day of classes (Wednesday, August 21) and consist of activities for incoming and upperclassmen students alike! More on Welcome Week events (including the live stream links for Monday Night Lights tonight so you can tune in from home!), links to new Parent Perks, Fall Billing and **Other Campus Updates**, helpful answers to some of the **Top Questions** we have been hearing from you and, a timely **Back-To-School Checklist** (to help make sure you haven’t missed anything!) Those and much more follow, so read on and welcome! Here’s hoping every suitcase, pair of shoes, picture, and student finds his or her place here in Morgantown this fall, and that you settle successfully in back home! In this edition:

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- *FEATURE* WELCOME WEEK 2019 DETAILS

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

TIMELY TOPICS
You've Got This, Mom and Dad (and all those who support our students from afar!)
For many of you, this week marks a pivotal moment. For parents and families of the WVU class of 2023, your students are stepping off on their own. I have talked with many of you who are fighting the tug of tears and pride – that challenge of holding on and letting go. Parents of our upperclassmen have no doubt seen change and growth during the past year(s) away at college. Now your students advance yet another year – perhaps moving out on their own for the first time and setting up their first apartment. For senior, maybe it is their last Morgantown apartment as they prepare for graduation and the next new chapter. As with any period of change we have the opportunity to look at things through a new lens – to reimagine. To dream. To set new goals. Perhaps you will be seeing your student for the first time as an adult in the rearview mirror as you drive away.

Your students also will likely begin seeing themselves through a new adult lens. They will be making their own choices. Meeting new friends. Learning new things. Perhaps faltering and figuring out how to get back on course. Taking responsibility for their own bills and hitting deadlines. This article, though a few years old, shares a great perspective on some of those familiar feelings and emotions. As the author says, “Just as college is an experiment in independence for our children, so it is for us as well.” Know that we are here and happy to help as you and your students settle in. Do not hesitate to reach out by e-mail (just hit reply!) or call the Parent Helpline at 1-800-988-0096. You’ve got this, Mom and Dad!

*FEATURE* Welcome Week 2019 Details
Welcome Week, our annual celebration of students returning to campus, got underway August 17 and offers a nonstop schedule of events and experiences: http://bit.ly/WVUWelcomeWeek. Why do we do this? To fully engage our students with their University and their community. True learning occurs when we blur the boundaries between the classroom, serving others and having great experiences. Below are some highlights so you are aware of what is happening:

Freshmen/Incoming Students: Sunday through Tuesday, all freshmen will participate in at least these key Welcome Week events.

- **Monday Night Lights:** The Class of 2023 will come together on Mountaineer Field to get the official Class Picture, hear the Pride of WV: The Mountaineer Marching Band, learn some Mountaineer traditions and much more! *Parents* Check out the Live Stream at 8 p.m. on Facebook and YouTube.
- **Service or Adventure WV Activities:** These activities have been taking place either Sunday or Monday. Incoming freshmen and transfer students have been reaching out via community service or an Adventure WV experience. When not on their adventure of service activity, Navigate WVU is also scheduled either Sunday or Monday and provided
a chance to find their way around campus and find classrooms before classes start Wednesday.

- **Academic Day:** On Tuesday, August 20, all incoming freshmen and transfer students will attend [Academic Sessions](#) for their college or school. Students should have an e-mail to their MIX account from their college or school with detailed instructions, as well.

**ALL Students**

- **Upperclassmen:** If you have upperclassmen, remind them that Welcome Week is not just for incoming students! FoodFest and FallFest on Tuesday are open to all students and be sure they have receive their wristband so they can participate (see below).

- **Get your Welcome Week wristbands and download the App:** Starting Friday through Tuesday, those who want to enjoy the various Welcome Week events, including MovieFest, Monday Night Lights, FoodFest and FallFest, will need to download an app and pick up a [Welcome Week Wristband](#) in advance at one of the locations across campus. **ALL WVU students will need to do this prior to gaining entrance to FallFest on Tuesday, August 20.**

- **WVUp All Night:** [WVUp All Night](#) offers a host of fun, alcohol-free events that change weekly. This happens every weekend on campus and is FREE for all WVU students! This kicked off Saturday, August 17 and will continue every weekend throughout the fall so be sure to check back weekly!

- **NEW: MountaineerTopia:** As students settle into their new digs in Morgantown, we invite new and returning students alike out to the Student Rec Center, Saturday, August 24 from 11-3 for [MountaineerTopia](#)! This college lifestyles and seasonal employment expo is a chance to learn more about town! Find a new barber or hair salon in town, check out who is hiring, explore food offerings from local restaurants and much more. Encourage your students to come meet those businesses in their local community, get great giveaways, look for jobs and much more!

**TOP QUESTIONS**

**Enrollment Verifications/Good Student Discounts**

This is the time of the year when many of you need to provide enrollment verifications for your students for the purposes of loans, insurance, etc. WVU utilizes the National Student Clearinghouse to issue these “enrollment verifications.” After the first week of the term, once the fall add/drop period has been complete and fall registration is official, students can obtain the enrollment verification. Prior to that point, the Clearinghouse can only confirm what is called Advanced Fall registration or pre-registered verification. This will show a student’s current fall registration status such as fulltime/halftime for the fall dates of August 21 through December 12. Students can also request a “good student discount” form via the Clearinghouse as a separate option that notes a student’s grades are in good standing, typically required for auto insurance policies. Students can request these online by [following these steps](#).
**Graduation News**
For the parents of those looking to graduate this December or next May, details will be forthcoming soon. We anticipate December schedule to come out in the next week or two at the latest. Note that the date is Saturday, December 21. Once finalized, details will be posted [here](#) and I will alert you via Parent E-News once this is finalized. May Graduation schedules should come out in early to mid-fall. I will also alert you via Parent E-News once those details (including May on campus housing options) are finalized so you can begin making reservations and arrangements.

**Dining Dollars vs Mountie Bounty**
With students back, there are many new looks for dining on our campuses! Check out this [video](#) for some highlights. There are also some questions regarding how best to use meal swipes, Dining Dollars and Mountie Bounty. Here are some helpful tips:

Meal Plans include two parts, 1. meal swipes and 2. Dining Dollars. Meal plans are the Go 10, Go 13, Go Anytime (meaning 10 or 13 or unlimited meal swipes into a University dining hall a week, respectfully.) The Dining Dollars are an extra flex part of these meal plans, beyond these swipes. Some typical uses are 1. if the meal swipes are all used in a week and a student wants to swipe in for another meal before they reset at the end of the week, 2. If a student just wants to grab a quick snack and not use a full meal swipe, 3. If a student wants to treat a friend of family to a meal, or 4. (and this tends to be the most popular) they can be used in the other eateries/restaurants in the Lair, Evansdale Crossing, libraries, etc. such as Chic Fil A, Tazikis, Huey Baby BBQ, etc. where meal swipes cannot be utilized. If presented the option, students should typically choose to use meal swipes firsts, then Dining Dollars, then Mountie Bounty (see below). More on meal plans, meal swipes and Dining Dollars can be found [here](#).

Mountie Bounty is money students, family or friends *can* add that works as a declining debit. This is not required and students/families can add as little or as much as they want and add more as needed, [online here](#). These funds can be used broadly for printing, laundry and also for food on campus in dining halls, in other restaurants/eateries at the Lair, Evansdale Crossing, libraries, etc. as well as in off campus locations. Mountie Bounty uses and locations can be found [here](#).

**PARENTS CLUB UPDATES**
**Mountaineer Parents Club Member Discounts**
We value our Mountaineer parents and we have worked with the Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau to offer discounts at participating area businesses. As we kick off the school year, check out these Mountaineer Deals. If needed, you can also download a copy of an [MPC Membership Card](#) online.
Fall Family Weekend
A schedule of events should be coming out within the next week or two and I will share as soon as we have it and it will also be posted here! To help for planning in the interim, events will begin Friday late afternoon/evening and conclude on Sunday morning so make plans to join us back on campus September 27-29, 2019, for a great weekend of activities for your whole family.

SAFETY UPDATES
New Central Safety Website Launched
Parents – WVU offers a host of safety and wellness resources and is one of the safest campuses in the country. As we work to make it even safer for all Mountaineers, we have launched a new site to provide you with all on-campus safety and wellness information. Everything you need to know can now be found at safety.wvu.edu. Learn about types of programming and trainings the University provides, information on things like active shooter preparedness, and reporting procedures for sexual assault, discrimination and more. This new website will serve as a helpful resource in times of need. We encourage you to explore the website regularly to stay informed about and updated on safety and wellness at WVU.

Please also note these other recent transportation and safety social media updates:
- The former WVU Department of Transportation and Parking Twitter account (formerly @WVUDOT) recently changed its handle to @WVUparking. If previously following @WVUDOT no action necessary.
- NEW: A new account has been created for PRT status updates: @WVUPRTstatus
- The former West Virginia University Police Department Twitter account (formerly @WVUPD) has changed its handle to @WVUalert and will only post during emergency situations. If previously following @WVUDOT no action necessary.
- WVU Police and Safety Facebook group (formerly the West Virginia University Police Department Facebook) will continue to provide emergency updates as well as other safety and wellness information.

WVU Alert – have your student add you
WVU Alert is a notification system for critical incidents that pose an imminent threat to the health or safety of the University campus community. The system is activated when there is an immediate threat on campus or when weather conditions require a change in University scheduling. These are issued by WVU Police and are meant to give quick, immediate details. Students are able to opt out (though this is not advised.) Students can also add a parent or a parent can request to be added to their student’s account. PLEASE NOTE: If phone numbers change for you or your student, these should be updated at the WVU Alert site so you continue receiving alerts.

If an alert is issued, information and updates will be posted on Twitter (http://bit.ly/WVUAlertTwitter) and Facebook (http://bit.ly/WVUPoliceSafetyFB) as available. Additionally, if outside agencies are in charge, follow-up details may be issued by those
agencies who operate in this area outside of WVU Police including but not limited to: Morgantown Police, Monongalia County Sheriff’s Department, West Virginia State Police, or others. The WVU Alerts and official agencies noted above, will be the best and most reliable sources for information in emergencies. Although often well-meaning, other individual outlets frequently are mistaken and often sensational.

OTHER CAMPUS UPDATES
Fall Bill Updates – Due September 1
The initial fall due date has now passed. If a balance remained, August eBills were sent to their MIX accounts on August 2, and another will be sent this week and a final one, August 28. These are due September 1. If your student owes $1,000 or more after September 3, they will be removed from classes at close of business on September 3. We want to work with you and your student to ensure that you understand the resources available for paying their bill. If you have any questions, please visit http://bit.ly/WVUBilling or call today to speak with the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988.

Tip: Even if you have already paid, if your student gets an e-bill, remind your student to review and also monitor their student account weekly for any new charges. New charges could occur if they make adjustments to schedules, change or add meal plans, change their major after summer classes, etc. It is good practice to check back to ensure the account is at a zero balance as any of these actions could cause a change in their student account and balances are due September 1.

Student Football Ticket Distribution Schedule - now available
If your student is looking forward to going to the first home football game, August 31, the online ticket request period kicks off August 21. Click here for this and the full ticket request schedule and details. Incoming students can also ask their RA for additional assistance or questions. Parents if you are coming in for any athletic events, helpful info can be found here on athletic event parking options and gameday tips.

Students must reclaim their WVU Login account before creating a new password
The system behind login.wvu.edu changed July 1, so students who forgot their passwords or let them expire over the summer will go through a slightly different process. They must reclaim their account (choose Claim Account) and follow the instructions, then create a new password. They only have to do this once, and it will only take a few minutes. After that, their password will last for one year.

Campus Construction Updates
Hodges Hall abatement, demolition and construction kicked off at the beginning of August which required temporary closure of the Beechurst PRT bus loop. The bus loop has been relocated to the Life Science building from August 2019 to February 2021. Also, demolition of Stansbury Hall and construction of the new Chambers College of Business building is underway and starting today will close the pedestrian bridge over Beechurst Ave and also part of the
Beechurst sidewalk. Students should note these changes and plan extra time for traversing through these areas.

**Vote for WVU’s First Crowd-sourced National TV Spot before August 23**
We asked our community to help us tell WVU’s story — their way. Who rose to the challenge? Who revealed what it really means to be a Mountaineer? [View and cast your vote](#) for the winning 2019 national TV spot every day through August 23. The winning video will be announced on Saturday, August 24 on the [@WestVirginiaU Twitter](#) page and [WVU Facebook](#) page. Voting is allowed once per day, every day until 11:59 P.M. August 23.

**Now Hiring: Transfer Ambassadors**
The Office of Admissions is looking to [hire a Transfer Ambassador](#). This transfer student needs to have spent at least one semester on campus and cannot be graduating before May 2020. They will work about 12-15 hours a week performing office duties, but will also be required to work Open House events. They will be working with prospective students weekly, so people skills is a must! If you know a transfer student who is interested in this great resume-building and networking opportunity, please have them fill out our application at the link above. We only require a resume with the application!

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST**
What are you missing? Below is a checklist that might be helpful.

- ✓ Is your student considering a [change to his or her dining plan](#)? This can be done until September 3 by calling or e-mailing. Be sure to have your student check their account as changes could create a balance due.
- ✓ Is your student living off campus? Consider the [off campus dining plans](#) available to commuters and upperclassmen.
- ✓ 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. (Tip: the username requested to add funds is the username your student uses to log in to the WVU Portal, not their ID number.)
- ✓ [Rent/buy/order textbooks online or in store today](#). The WVU Bookstore offers a no-hassle, FULL REFUND through August 27.
- ✓ Remind students to [check their student accounts to ensure a zero balance](#). All bills must be paid or students enrolled in a payment plan by September 1 to avoid removal from classes on September 3. It is still possible to enroll in a three-month monthly payment plan through the end of August. Billing and financial aid questions? Call the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988.
- ✓ Complete the annual [Student Health Insurance waiver](#) by August 27 if your student is covered by an insurance plan that meets WVU requirements. Completing this insurance waiver process also satisfies 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. NOTE: If
your student already has an approved waiver on file for the academic year, you may be unable to log in to the waiver system.

- Incoming students should be completing the online AlcoholEdu and Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates modules by August 26. Fines can be incurred if they are not completed.
- Ask your student to sign you up for WVU Alerts. Students are automatically enrolled.
- Have your student download the LiveSafe app.
- If they have not already, 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). This allows you to 1. log on with your own logins and 2. offices cannot discuss information with you without the unique passphrase in place.
- Where should students look for updates and to stay informed? Remind your student to check their MIX account email on a regular basis for important announcements and respond in a timely fashion! This is WVU’s main mode of communication with students. They should also read the twice-weekly student “UNews” e-mail updates sent to MIX that will highlight important and timely topics. They can also go to the current students website for campus happenings!