

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
August 18, 2017

The 2017-18 school year is officially under way! Three days in, and students (freshmen and upperclassmen alike), are settling in and finding their new routes to classes, establishing routines and schedules. It is such an exciting time to be on a college campus. I have included some "Transportation Tips" below for you to share with your students as they learn their way and routines get established. These two new videos also provide helpful advice and tips: Advice for the Class of 2021: <http://bit.ly/2fSIAHi> Advice from the Class of 2017 to freshmen: <http://bit.ly/2wi5iPU>

Now that students are moved in, please take a moment below to give us your feedback on residence hall and University Apartment move-in processes. For those who are missing that first-week-of-school picture, the Parents Club will be hosting a first-week-of-school photo session Monday, August 21. Details on residence hall mail delivery are also included in the "Helpful Tips and Reminders," along with financial tips and some practical action items to help you and your student save money. Please skim through the contents and share items of interest with your students. As always, call the Parent Helpline 1-800-988-0096 or simply reply here with any questions. Here's to a great year ahead! In this edition:

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HELPFUL TIPS AND REMINDERS

Here are some quick bits of helpful info:

LiveSafe: Parents we want our students to be safe. If your students ever need to report an incident to our University Police, remind them that the LiveSafe App allows them to send anonymous reports as well as attach video and photographs to help law enforcement. The SafeWalk feature lets students have someone virtually walk them home. <http://bit.ly/2hwwFPK>

Alerts: Students are automatically enrolled in WVU Alerts, but you can also be added to the system to receive text alerts in the case of an emergency or inclement weather. See the parent sign-up form under “how do I subscribe”: <http://bit.ly/2vMaYjT>. Alerts are issued by University Police when necessary. Remind your students to heed them.

Enrollment verification available online: It is the time of year when many families need to obtain proof of enrollment for a myriad of reasons, including insurance or loans. Because WVU is a participant in the National Student Clearinghouse, this process can be handled online by your student. If your student's verification is for Direct Loans, they subscribe to the National Student Clearinghouse and will receive this information electronically. Any student who needs to verify that they are enrolled can log in to their MIX account and print a verification of enrollment by following the steps outlined here: <http://bit.ly/2vQbDzi>.

Address updates: Students should update their mailing/local address in their STAR Account whenever it changes. They can log on through the WVU Portal. They can also update their emergency contacts via this link. <http://bit.ly/2vQbDzi>

Mail from home: Residence hall students have mailboxes in their halls. Package slips are put in the mailboxes or sent electronically to a student when a package is received. They must show ID to collect this at the front desk of their hall. Find your student's address here: <http://bit.ly/2uZdsZq>

Meal plans can be changed until 3 p.m. on September 5: Students can adjust their dining plans through 3 p.m. on September 5. Remember, dining plan changes may cause another bill to be issued, so students should check and pay in their student account. <http://bit.ly/1hzOJ6g>

Add/drop week: The first week of each semester, students can adjust their schedules with no penalty. After the first week, dropping a class will result in a “W” being recorded on their transcript. Students should always check with their advisors before adding and dropping classes. They should also be logging in to DegreeWorks to monitor their degree progress. <http://bit.ly/2v99OLx>

2017-18 Academic calendar: Key dates for the 2017-18 Academic Year can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2e69da7>.

Residence hall opening/closing calendar: Residence Hall opening and closing dates and times for the 2017-18 can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2p4S2tx>

CARE Team: Did you know we have a WVU CARE team? If your student is worried about another student, they can let us know here: <http://bit.ly/2uYN6H3>. As always, please contact the Parent Helpline if you have concerns you need to pass along – 1-800-988-0096 or ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu.

Financial Tips: The Dollars and Cents of Adulting

Please send money! This is a common plea in college years. Expenses can grow for both you and your students, and without good planning this can be overwhelming. We offer a variety of tools and practical tips to help students and parents plan ahead and become more financially knowledgeable.

- *Financial Avenue* - New this year, we have partnered with an online program called Financial Avenue: <http://bit.ly/2xbYeRp>. This easy online program is not required, but some First-Year Seminar classes will use it. It provides some helpful tools whether dealing with loans, budgeting or a myriad of

other money-related items. On the WVU Financial Wellness website you will find podcasts and other tips specific to higher education: <http://bit.ly/2wt4cgg>.

- *Nonresident Meal Plan* – For upperclassmen residing off campus, often the reality, hassle and cost of shopping and cooking ends up being a cost sink. Many off-campus students use the nonresident (off-campus) dining plans to secure some hot meals throughout the week to supplement their often “new and emerging” cooking skills. <http://bit.ly/2cc6Fqs>
- *Mountie Bounty* – If students make requests for money, Mountie Bounty provides parents and family members a way to send money. Some safety features are built in; these funds can be used in a variety of locations both on and off campus <http://bit.ly/2xbLMkj> by students for many basic necessities, but not for tobacco or alcohol. To add funds to Mountie Bounty, go here: <http://bit.ly/2xc45pV>.
- *Return loans* – Did you know that you can reapply money to bring down the principal of student loans? Simply returning \$100 can save \$125 or more in future payments. The Mountaineer Hub will soon tell students who had federal loan disbursements to indicate that if they got back more than they actually “need,” they can simply stop by the Hub with a check and reapply that amount to the principal of the loan. A smaller principal means less interest accrues, meaning less is owed in the long run.
- *Avoid late fees* – With adjustments being made to schedules, meal plans and room assignments over the past few weeks/days, your student may have accrued new or additional charges since you paid their balance. August invoices were sent out August 12 to students who are not in payment plans (though they can log onto their STAR account anytime to see the real-time balance and make payment). Late fees will begin to assess on September 2 on any outstanding balances not in current payment plans, so call your students today to ensure that all balances are at zero. <http://bit.ly/2rvBLiy>
- *How to maintain scholarships and aid* – Now is the time for students to review what they need to maintain scholarships or financial aid for next year: <http://bit.ly/2xc8qJN>. Whether a certain number of credit hours and a minimum GPA or something different, once they have lost it, it is too late. So encourage your students to explore this site now.

HOUSING

Residence Hall Move-In Survey

Thanks to all who helped make our 150th move-in a great success! After Saturday, the weather cooperated, we had more than 5,000 new Mountaineers on campus and the energy was great. Throughout move-in, students and families were grateful for the volunteers and were positive with the experience, but we’d like to hear more. We are hoping for some feedback on the experience from both students and their families to continue to make it the best experience possible. Please complete this quick survey: <http://bit.ly/2xbXiMP>. Thank you for your time and feedback.

University Apartment Move-In Survey

Does your Mountaineer call a space in University Apartments home? We hope that their year is off to a great start. Moving them here took a bit of planning on your part ... and ours. We want to make sure that the process is as smooth as possible, so please take a few minutes and provide us feedback on your experience. Please complete the brief survey and tell us how we can make it even more efficient. <http://bit.ly/2uZlVvs>

PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

First-Week-of-School Photos

Did you miss having a "First-Week-of-School" photo this year for your WVU student? The Mountaineer Parents Club be taking them for you on Monday, August 21. Encourage your student to stop by our table between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Mountainlair, near Hatfield's, to have their photo taken and receive some cool giveaways. All students are welcome. We will post the pictures on our Facebook page, WVU Mountaineer Parents Club.

Parents Club and Athletics Discounted Tickets Remain

Starting Thursday, July 6, parents could take advantage of a special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for WVU's Big 12 Conference football matchup with Iowa State on Saturday, November 4. Tickets still remain. By following this link <http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx> and entering the promo code WVUParents, members can purchase tickets for only \$45 each. Students will have the opportunity to request and receive football tickets for free to each game the week prior to each game through the football ticket selection process <http://bit.ly/2sFsQrH>. 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. Additional Parents Club athletic discounts for other games *may* be announced at a later date. For more on athletic tickets to all events, contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME or <http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i>.

TRANSPORTATION TIPS

Getting Around Campus and Town

One of the biggest tips you can pass along is to allow for extra time to get between campuses and classes. During the first few weeks of classes, everyone is trying to get used to a new schedule and find the easiest way to and from classes and work. As schedules settle in and people get used to things, it will take varying amounts of time.

Please remind your students that in addition to the PRT, they can ride the Mountain Line local bus service free of charge with their WVU ID to get between campuses. Popular routes, such as the Blue Gold Express (Route 38) that connects the Evansdale and Downtown areas and the Beechurst Express (Route 39), are available to help campus traffic move efficiently. <http://bit.ly/1yaMoRz>

Need other ways to get around town? There's Uber, hourly rentable Zipcars and two cab companies that students can use to get around: Motown Taxi: 304-291-TAXI (8294) or Yellow Cab: 304-292-7441. For more on transportation options: <http://bit.ly/2xclgYo>

Students should also be following @WVUDOT and @MountainLine on Twitter for live bus and PRT updates. Students can also track Mountain Line buses with their free mobile app: Mountain Line Bus Finder. Have them download this today.

Thanksgiving Holiday Bus Information

I have received a number of calls and e-mails asking about making reservations for the Mountaineer Parents Club Holiday Buses and the additional GreyLine buses that run over the holidays. The full set of schedules, costs and pick up and drop off details will be posted on the Parents Club site (and sent out via this Parent E-Newsletter) in September. All reservations will be open at that time for Thanksgiving buses. Details about the Mountain Line GreyLine WVU send-off and return services should be available in early September.

CAREERS

Employers Are on Their Way

If your student is in the market for a summer internship or full-time job after graduation, they need to start looking now. Before the end of September, over 300 unique employers will visit campus to recruit for internships, co-ops and full-time opportunities. That's right—over 300—and that doesn't include companies who only recruit virtually. So, what does this mean for your student? If they start their search in September, they will have access to the maximum number of available opportunities.

Preparation is key. You should:

1. Encourage your student to attend career fairs and professional development events: <http://bit.ly/2hbJtr0>
2. Send them to Career Services to have their resume reviewed: <http://bit.ly/2nUp4LS>
3. Tell them to search opportunities in MountaineerTRAK: <http://bit.ly/2wYrJ9W>
4. Make sure they have at least one business-appropriate outfit at school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In addition to the events noted below, if your student is curious about what's happening on campus they should monitor their MIX e-mail accounts for the twice weekly UNEWS e-mails or check out <http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR> for the latest campus announcements, events and happenings.

WVUp All Night

Send your students to WVUp All Night. It's held every Friday and Saturday night. With free and fun events on both campuses, this weekend is a Go Big ... Go First Weekend complete with Big Baller and Bubble Soccer challenges and more! For more information check out <http://bit.ly/2vLG7DV>.

Farmers Market

Beginning August 24, a farmers market will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Thursday in front of the Mountainlair. Vendors will sell seasonal produce such as apples, peaches, corn, peppers and more. West Virginia University Dining Services is pleased to participate in this year's farmers market and provide samples of dishes featuring locally-sourced vegetables and fruits. Students will also be able to get recipes and nutritional information, so they are able to prepare such dishes at home. Some of the participants include Mountain People's Co-Op, Garcia's Latin Market, Mockingbird Hill and Quantum Bean Coffee .

Student Org Fair September 5, 2017

From Quiddich to Student Government or WVU PAWS, there truly is something at WVU for everyone. As students are settling in on campus for the fall semester, encourage them to stop by the Student Organization Fair on Tuesday, September 5. It will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Mountainlair. In addition to booths from many of our 460+ student organizations, there will be other activities and the chance to win a great prize! Check out <http://bit.ly/2vLFw5n> or contact Kim Harrison at 304-293-4397.

ARTICLE OF INTEREST: Seasons of Parenting

I think it can be said that home never really leaves you and the role of a parent never really stops – they just change with the seasons of life. In my job, I keep an eye out for varying perspectives on college parenting, the transition to adulthood, college student development and related subjects. I have linked to a newspaper article that poignantly encases the emotions and pride that many parents like you face as your students make these transitions.

Transitions can be hard, but as the author says, “The pain is exquisite, but only for an instant.” So whether this was the first, third or fifth time dropping your students off in Morgantown this past week, know that home is still very much a part of the fabric of your students’ lives. And as you head into this new season of parenting, I hope you also take a moment to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done and enjoy the transition and growth as well. <http://bit.ly/2xbNB0P>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University