Happy New Year (and almost new semester), everyone! As we roll into 2018, we’d like to welcome all new Mountaineer families who have joined us. Whether your student is starting classes Monday, January 8 or looking to start college this coming fall, we are glad to have you as a member of the Mountaineer Parents Club. And to the parents and families of our returning students, welcome back!

With your 2018 calendars now filling up, be sure to see the Spring 2018 Calendar below and also, if you have not already, save the date for Fall Family Weekend, September 28-30, 2018 – more details will be forthcoming much closer to the fall semester via these Parent E-Newsletters. Spring classes start Monday and with cold, wintry weather here, please read the important Winter Weather Procedures and other timely Ten Important Reminders below to start the semester off strong. Here’s to a great start to the spring term! In this edition:

- Ten Important Reminders and Deadlines at the Beginning of the Spring Term
- Winter Weather Procedures
- Spring 2018 Calendar

**Ten Important Reminders and Deadlines at the Beginning of the Spring Term**

1. Now is the time to look ahead! With fall grades in the books, certain scholarships are now available for current students to apply for the 2018-19 school year [http://bit.ly/2EbegOQ](http://bit.ly/2EbegOQ). Also, students currently receiving renewable scholarships should know what they need to meet renewal guidelines for current scholarships. The standards for most scholarships are checked at the end of spring terms and often include a certain GPA and number of earned hours. For more information on WVU scholarships visit [http://bit.ly/2m4S5D1](http://bit.ly/2m4S5D1).

2. Students receiving financial aid (grants, loans, work-study, etc.) are required to satisfy specific academic progress standards to continue receiving such aid. Students should explore these standards now at the start of the term and make sure they are on track to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards for Financial Aid: [http://bit.ly/2Aw0Rip](http://bit.ly/2Aw0Rip).

3. Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0. It is important to know that starting at the end of Spring 2018 all students will need to achieve at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA to avoid academic suspension: [http://bit.ly/14XJ0kH](http://bit.ly/14XJ0kH). All students on probation were notified by e-mail from the Office of the University Registrar after Fall 2017 grades posted. First-time freshmen on academic probation were also notified that they are required to attend the Mid-Year Academy on Sunday, January 7 where they meet with advisers to make changes to their course schedules as well as learn more about the terms of academic probation and strategies for transitioning to good academic standing at WVU.
4. Students’ spring charges were due January 2 and new incoming student charges, or those who registered or have new charges since that point, will be due by February 2. Students should pay their full University bill (or be enrolled in a payment plan to cover the balance) minus financial aid by February 2 to avoid late fees and possible removal from classes for nonpayment: http://bit.ly/2CLBuyh. If there are questions about charges, or additional assistance is needed, please contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988 during regular business hours. Log in here:

5. If not already on a monthly payment plan for the year, students can enroll through the Higher One Tuition Payment Plan at http://bit.ly/2kQPrQh to spread payments over several months.

6. If students have not already completed a student health insurance waiver for the year (most did this in the fall), visit http://bit.ly/StudIns before Friday, January 12, 2018.

7. If expecting a spring refund, sign up to get it in as little as 48 hours. Students can enroll in direct deposit to their bank account at http://bit.ly/2EbgHRu if they haven’t already. If previously signed up, refunds should start hitting accounts next week.

8. Students have until Friday, January 12 to finalize their spring schedules as part of Add/Drop Week without any penalty of “W” placed on their transcript. If students have changed their mind and don’t plan to return, they should be sure to drop all classes no later than Friday, January 12 to avoid “W’s” and owing tuition charges for the spring term: http://bit.ly/2m0Mehw. Also, if living in a University residence hall, students need to officially check out to have charges cease: http://bit.ly/2F4ukmU.

9. If your student has not already, now is the time to order their spring textbooks: http://bit.ly/OSABookstore. The WVU Bookstores offer a full refund for customers through Monday, January 15, 2018 (original receipt required; many of our competitors do NOT offer refunds). Using the WVU Bookstore will ensure your son or daughter gets the CORRECT books for their courses using the convenient Textbook Registration Integration system. Parents have the option to use your credit card, while designating your son or daughter to pick them up (other payment/delivery options are also available). Questions about your book order: sm583@bncollege.com.

10. Dining plans for the spring semester can be adjusted and off campus dining plans purchased until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2018: http://bit.ly/2zs2Ibv. Please note that this may cause adjustments to your students’ account, so they should monitor this and make any new payment immediately to avoid late charges.
Winter Weather Procedures

From winter weather cyclones and artic air masses, winter weather is officially here! As we prepare to start the spring term, students, faculty and staff have been notified of the procedures concerning possible inclement weather: http://bit.ly/2qu4Agl. 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!


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.

The beginning of the semester is also a good time to remind students that there are typically some form of absences built in to nearly every syllabus as noted in the attendance policies for each class. However, they should remember that these absences are there as a courtesy and should be used sparingly. 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.

Spring 2018 Calendar

Saturday, January 6 at noon – Residence halls reopen

Sunday, January 7 – Mid-Year Academy for any first-year student on probation (students were notified over break via email and letter)

Monday, January 8 – First day of classes

Friday, January 12 – Last day to add/drop classes

Monday, January 15 – University Holiday – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

Tuesday, January 16 – Last day to adjust spring dining plans

Friday, March 2 – Deadline to apply for graduation Spring 2018
Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. – Residence halls close for Spring Break (Spring break housing available – must register in advance – $25/night)

Sunday, March 18 at noon – Residence halls reopen from Spring Break

March 26-April 9 – Online Fall Course Registration Dates according to class rank (Advising meetings for fall should be completed by these dates)

*Friday, March 30 – University Holiday – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

*Monday, April 30 – Friday, May 4 – Finals Week

*Saturday, May 5 at noon – Residence halls officially close for the spring term (students must vacate rooms 24 hours after their last final)

Tuesday, May 8 – University Holiday – offices closed


And…looking ahead – Fall Family Weekend 2018 – September 28-30, 2018!

*Note please be sure you have these dates noted as they are adjustments from the original academic and residence hall opening/closing calendars.

Calendar Links: http://bit.ly/2qvmf7r

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University