As you walk through campus this week you notice a bit more confidence in our students’ steps as they settle in. We hope you are also adjusting to new routines back home. During Move In, President Gee had a chance to catch up with a few of you for his latest Gee Mail to talk about transitions. For those who have students who are still finding their way, be sure to check out the Featured Article: Settling In and Meeting Friends. Also be sure to check out the Fall Family Weekend schedule that is now live and make plans to come back to campus, September 27-29!

One of our faculty used to remind students that with each new semester comes a chance to begin with a clean slate. Most people who achieve great things have a plan. Check in with your students and remind them that good choices and healthy habits from the start will certainly have an impact. Remind them to set goals now. Some good advice to share includes: go to faculty office hours just to meet your professor; go to study at the Academic Resource and Tutoring Centers (opening next Tuesday!); set a goal to be on the Dean’s (3.5 GPA) or President’s (4.0) Lists this term and plan what it will take to achieve this; review the syllabus and map out when assignments and exams are (Tip: put reminders in your phone to study ahead of time!); get involved (Student Organization Fair is coming up – see below!) or check out a new event like the weekly Farmer’s Market. Here’s to strong starts and great finishes! Let’s Go! In this editions:

BILLING AND FINANCIAL UPDATES
- Ensure that your student’s bill is less than $1,000 by September 1 to avoid their removal from classes.
- Financial Tips: The Dollars and Cents of Adulting

PARENTS CLUB NEWS
- Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays – Reservations to Begin Mid-September
- Fall Family Weekend – Schedule is now live!
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BILLING AND FINANCIAL UPDATES
Ensure that your student’s bill is less than $1,000 by September 1 to avoid their removal from classes.

Has your student changed residence halls, meal plans or majors since you paid the bill? Are you still working to secure a loan to cover the full fall balance? Be sure that your student checks their student account for any outstanding bills (messages have been and will continue to be sent to students) and please note these important dates:

- **August 31** – Last day students can sign up for the monthly payment plan for the fall semester.
- **September 1** – Date by which students have to pay their balance down to less than $1,000 to avoid removal from classes and loss of use of the Rec Center and eCampus access.
- **September 3** – Date students will be removed from classes at close of business if they have not paid their balance down to less than $1,000 (unless they enrolled in a payment plan that covered their balance by the August 31 deadline).
- **September 6** – Last date students can be reinstated with payment that will take their balance owed to $1,000 or less. They will be assessed a reinstatement fee of $250 that must be paid prior to reinstatement. Students have until noon on September 6 to be reinstated.

Financial Tips: The Dollars and Cents of Adulting
Please send money! This is a common plea in the 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.

- **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. If you received more in student loans or parent loans than you actually “need,” student borrowers (and borrowers of parent loans) can contact the Mountaineer Hub regarding returning a portion of the loan to reduce the overall loan principal. A smaller principal means less interest accrues, meaning less is owed in the long run.
- **Nonresident Meal Plan** – For upperclassmen residing off campus, often the reality, hassle and cost of shopping and cooking end up being a money drain. Many off-campus students use the nonresidential (off-campus) dining plans to secure some hot meals throughout the week to supplement their often “new and emerging” cooking skills.
- **Meal plans can be changed until 3 p.m. on September 3** – Now that students are settling in, check in about their dining plan. Students can change their dining plans through 3 p.m. on September 3. They can call 304-293-3166 or e-mail dining@mail.wvu.edu from their MIX account. Remember, dining plan changes may cause another bill to be issued, so students should check and pay in their student account.
• **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 on and off campus** for many basic necessities, but not tobacco or alcohol. To add funds, [go here](#).

• **Avoid late fees** – Late fees of 2.25% are assessed monthly on outstanding balances not in a current payment plan that covers the full balance due. Students can see if they have a balance due on their WVU Portal dashboard at a quick glance or log onto their STAR account anytime to see the real-time balance and make payment if new charges are incurred.

• **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/MaintainAid](http://bit.ly/MaintainAid). 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 the site now.

**PARENTS CLUB NEWS**

**Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays – Reservations to Begin Mid-September**

The Parents Club offers holiday buses home during the breaks when WVU residence halls close: Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks. Currently buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA, and Highland, NY, to service the Connecticut and New York areas. Online reservations for Thanksgiving Break will begin mid-September on the Parents Club website.

The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Long Island and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Clubs also organize buses to their areas. New this year, the local Massachusetts Parents Club is also offering a bus to Massachusetts that will stop in West Springfield.

PLEASE NOTE: No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Details on all buses will be posted on the [Parents Club Bus website](#) by mid-September: so be sure check back!

**TIP:** *We know you want to plan early, but please hold off until after Labor Day to make plane, train and bus reservations for Thanksgiving. In the next Parent E-Newsletter we will include a list of options available to get students home for the holidays as well as helpful tips, pitfalls to avoid and things to consider before making reservations. Stay tuned!*

**Fall Family Weekend – Schedule is now live!**

Be sure to check out the initial [schedule of events for Fall Family Weekend](#) that will go live today. We will be adding a few additional events as they are confirmed with various units across campus, so be sure to also check back in the coming weeks.
Last call for Letters From Home for Families of First-Year Students
Remember writing those letters from home to your freshmen at Orientation? Or perhaps you wrote it later and mailed it to the Mountaineer Parents Club Office? Or perhaps you haven't yet mailed it? Now is the time and this is the address: Mountaineer Parents Club, 111 Elizabeth Moore Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506. The Mountaineer Parents Club will be mailing all those letters out to your students the second week in September – make a note and remind them to check their mailboxes!

Residence Hall and University Apartment Move-In Surveys
Whether you assisted your upperclassmen student moving into one of our four University Apartments or a freshman in the residence halls, with Operation Move-In 2019 complete, we are looking ahead to next year and how to make the process even better! While the event is fresh in your mind, please take a few minutes and provide feedback about your experience. The survey should take no longer than 5 minutes, and will be active until midnight on September 11:
- Residence Hall Move In Survey
- University Apartment Move In Survey

FEATURED ARTICLE: Settling In and Meeting Friends
At the start of the school year, it can take a bit to find a new rhythm, settle into a routine and meet new friends. For those who are still having a tough time - whether a first time freshman or an upperclassmen in a new environment - remind them that transitions can be tough, but normal. This New York Times article, “Advice from a Lonely College Student” is a great resource to check out and then share with your students. It is from a sophomore (now junior) who had a tough college transition and her class assignment video on the topic went viral. Here are a few other tips and helpful resources to pass along:
- Carruth Center for Counseling Life: Our counseling center offers both individual and group counseling. The staff at Carruth are a great resource for students who are struggling with adjustment to college, academic success, self-care, etc.
- Residence Hall or Commuter Student support: If living in a residence hall, events are regularly scheduled and are a great way to meet others. Encourage your students to talk to their RA and follow their hall/floor on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. Or check about getting involved with the residence hall groups that plan the events, the Community Councils. If your student is commuting or living off campus, have them reach out to one of our Commuter Assistants or drop by the Commuter Lounge.
- Join a club or check out the Student Orgs Fair. Many clubs and organizations are beginning their fall meetings. Encourage students to keep their eyes on the WVU Students Website for posts from various clubs and orgs, such as the WVU Student Grotto (Caving) Club or WVU Debate Team. Students can also attend the Student Organization Fair on Wednesday, September 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Mountainlair Plaza.
- What else is there to do? There are daily free classes at the Rec Center and also classes offered through WellWVU. There is an intramural league that includes the chance for students to form their own team or participate as a free agent. Club Sports are also an
option and boast over 50 clubs. WVUp All Night events happen each weekend. And the Outdoor Rec Center hosts trips and events nearly every weekend.

TRANSPORTATION TIPS
Getting Around Campus and Town
At the beginning of a new semester, students will be planning their travel routes around the WVU campus and the Morgantown area. During the first few weeks, everyone is trying to get used to a new schedule and find the easiest way to and from classes and work, meaning commutes will take varying amounts of time. One of the best tips you can pass along is to allow for extra time to get between areas of campus and classes. WVU Transportation and Parking provides students with several ways to get where they need to go:

- **Mountain Line Transit Authority:** Students can ride the local Mountain Line buses for free with their WVU ID. A wide variety of routes are provided to get your student around campus as well as to off-campus locations. Follow @MountainLine on Twitter for information on bus services, and download the Mountain Line Transit Authority Bus Finder app to track buses. Specifically, there are two routes that loop campus on a 20-minute frequency – the Blue & Gold Express and the Beechurst Express.

- **PRT:** The WVU Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) resumed operations on August 15 after being closed this summer to continue working on modernization efforts. Part of this summer work included the integration of digital signage with the public address system on all PRT platforms. As always, the PRT is free to ride with a WVU ID and is open to the general public for $0.50 per ride. PRT passengers are also reminded to follow all rules when riding the PRT to keep them safe and to keep the system running effectively. Failure to follow these rules can lead to extended periods of PRT downtime for all passengers.

- **PRT shuttle:** If the PRT temporarily goes out of service, shuttles are provided to affected stations to transport students who were waiting for a PRT vehicle. Shuttle pick-up locations are at Life Sciences Building, Evansdale Crossing, Brooke Tower, and Mountaineer Station. To see the PRT’s latest status, follow @WVUPRTstatus on Twitter or visit the PRT website.

- **Driving:** Students may choose to drive to their classes and around town and find a full list of on-campus and local parking options, including permit lots and short-term lots.

- **Ridesharing:** Students can utilize ridesharing services around Morgantown, like Uber or Lyft. Download the app and enter your desired destination to be assigned to a nearby driver. When they arrive to your location, identify the correct car by matching the license plate provided on the app to the car’s license plate and ensuring the car is the correct make and model with the correct driver.

As thousands of people travel across campus every day, pedestrian safety remains one of our top priorities. If traveling through campus behind the wheel, drivers are reminded to stay alert for pedestrians at all times. If traveling through campus on foot, pedestrians should cross only at marked intersections or crosswalks and obey the signals. Making eye contact with oncoming drivers will also show a pedestrian’s intention to cross the road. Additional pedestrian and
driver safety information, as well as other resources for staying safe on campus, can be found at WVU’s new safety website or by following @WVUsafety on Twitter or Facebook.

We encourage you to stay connected with transportation and parking! For the most up-to-date news on transportation and parking around WVU, students should follow @WVUparking and @WVUPRTstatus on Twitter. For further information, visit the Transportation and Parking website.

UPCOMING EVENTS
With a long weekend ahead, there is still a lot happening on campus this weekend.

Athletics Updates including WVU vs JMU Football home opener - August 31
If you will be watching from home this weekend, here are some details on how to catch the game at 2 p.m. Saturday. If you are headed to town, check out the following Gameday Details.

Lot of other teams are also in season this fall! Encourage your students to get out and support all Mountaineers by checking out the WVU fall athletic schedules. Parents, also check schedules for WVU teams heading to your neighborhoods across the country to compete. Drop by and throw them a friendly “Let’s Go” in visitor territory!

Attention Juniors and Seniors: September 3-6 is the last chance to order for the Fall Ring Day Ceremony
If your student is interested in obtaining a WVU class ring, encourage them to stop by the ring table in the Mountainlair on September 3-6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They can look at options, speak with a representative or even purchase their WVU official ring in time for the September 29, 2019 Ring Day Ceremony. Orders can also be placed online.

Student Organization Fair – September 3
Students can come out to meet with reps from over 100 student organizations and clubs Sept. 3. The Student Organization Fair will be held at the Mountainlair from 11am-2pm.

Community Service Expo – September 4
At least 25 local non-profit community organizations will be at the Mountainlair from 11-1 on Wednesday, September 4 to share information on volunteering in the community. This is a great event if you need to complete volunteer service for a class, your major, or student organization; OR just want to contribute time making a difference. Participate and you may win a prize! This event is presented by the WVU Center for Service and Learning.

Prepare for the Job Search – Career fairs start September 5
If your student is in the market for a summer internship or full-time job after graduation, now is a great time to start preparing. Career Services hosts or co-hosts a variety of career fairs to connect students with over 300 different employers before the end of September, who are committed to hiring from West Virginia University. 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. Here are some suggestions to help:

1. Encourage your student to attend career fairs and workshops. Free professional headshots are available at several career fairs.
2. Send them to Career Services to have their resume reviewed (sessions start September 4!)
3. Tell them to review job postings and search opportunities in Handshake.

Make sure they have at least one business-appropriate outfit at school. If not, don’t miss the JCPenney Suit-Up Event on September 22.

How to become a competitive candidate for health Professional School – September 12
Have a student considering Medical or Dental school or other health professions? Students can attend this upcoming seminar.

Major Match Fair – September 24 and 30
Students who are still undecided about their major or minor have two chances to explore what all WVU offers at our upcoming Major Match Fairs. One will be held on each campus and will showcase over 130 majors. These are open to all students and
- Tuesday, September 24 from 12-4:30 p.m. in the Mounatinlair Vandalia Lounge and Commons Area.
- Monday, September 30 from 12-4:30 p.m. in the Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold Room in Lyon Tower.

HELPFUL TIPS AND REMINDERS
Residence hall mail: We have recently updated the following link with some additional information to address questions we have had from parents and student regarding residence hall mail, package notifications and pick up times. Additionally, you can find your student’s address here with some additional clarification for parents/family of Tower’s residents to follow to help ensure delivery: http://bit.ly/ResHallMail

Address updates: Please remind your students to update their mailing/local address in their STAR Account whenever it changes. For freshmen living in residence halls, these addresses were automatically updated. Upperclassmen who have recently moved to a new apartment off campus should update their address online through the WVU Portal. They can also update their emergency contacts there. http://bit.ly/WVUAddressUpdate

Safety first: 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 on this app lets students have someone virtually walk them home. http://bit.ly/WVULiveSafe.
CARE team: Did you know we have a WVU CARE team? If your student is worried about another student, they can let us know: http://bit.ly/WVUCareTeam. 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.

2019-20 academic calendar: Key dates for the 2019-20 Academic Year can be found here: http://bit.ly/WVUAcademicCalendar.