

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
August 5, 2016

Bedding - Check. Family picture – Check. Notebook and pencil (yes these are still relevant in 2016!) – Check. More clothes and shoes than will probably fit in their room – Check!

As we have been speaking with many of you at Summer Send Offs and here on the Helpline over the past few weeks, we know move-in planning is in full force! We are now a week out so as you and your students work feverishly in these last days assure their laundry skills are fine-tuned, and begin the move from staging area to vehicle, this E-News offers a look ahead to Move-in Weekend and an exciting Welcome Week to follow. The Welcome Week schedule is now up and incoming students should log on by Tuesday to sign-up for their Welcome Week Adventure/Service activities. The full schedule of events offers lots of exciting and fun activities for both returning and incoming students. Check out the schedule and the article below for more tips: <http://bit.ly/1uDAkLm>

Whether living on or off campus, you can find some helpful details below regarding move-in dates, times, directions and parking (Note: Parents Club Parking Passes are NOT being sent this year – details follow!) As you complete move-in, we welcome you to drop by the Parents Club Move-In Day Parent Receptions on Friday or Saturday (we'll have tissues, if needed!) More on these receptions, the new 2016-17 Parent Perks, a timely article of interest and a Start-of-the-Year Checklist and much more follow, so read on! The excitement is in the air. We can't wait to see you and your students! In this edition:

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WELCOME WEEK

Dear Mountaineer Parent,

It's a busy time of year for you as you help your student prepare to leave for their new home in Morgantown. At WVU, we aim to help make the transition easy. Here are a few tips to help in the coming days and weeks.

Our annual celebration of students returning to campus begins August 11 and continues through August 17, the first day of class. Welcome Week offers a nonstop schedule of events and experiences: <http://bit.ly/1f8jGNn>.

Why do we do this? To fully engage our students with their University and their community – the goal of the campus wide initiative Project 168. True learning occurs when we blur the boundaries between the classroom, serving others and having great experiences.

Sunday through Tuesday, all freshmen will participate in three events, one each day, depending on their major.

- **First-Year Academy:** Each academic program will offer a personal orientation, including small group activities, tours and opportunities to meet faculty and staff.
- **Adventure WV/Day of Service:** Opportunities to take part in a mini-version of Adventure WV will be offered (whitewater rafting, hiking, ropes courses), in addition to service projects (greenspace creation, projects to help nonprofits and local communities). Transportation and lunch will be included. Students can “pick their adventure” by visiting their class pages and following the instructions on the screen <http://bit.ly/2aB3JAD>.
- **“Find Your Classes” day:** Freshmen will have a day to connect with their Resident Assistants and review their class schedule to map out where each classroom building is and find the best way to get from class to class. Students can actually ride the PRT. They also can take a bus to local stores or visit the bookstore or the Mountaineer Hub to finalize any issues with bills, financial aid, etc.

So what are some ways that you can help with this transition (you know, aside from packing the car and carrying boxes!)? Thought you were done nudging your child about deadlines when they walked across the stage at graduation? Think again! Remind your student of these resources and deadlines:

1. Log on to find information for your student and yourself regarding deadlines, tips and events: <http://bit.ly/1uDAkLm>
2. Remind your freshmen student that he/she must register for an adventure or service project by Tuesday, August 9, or they will be placed into a session. Details on how to register are on the Welcome Week: <http://bit.ly/2aOOuUm>

3. If you have upperclassmen already attending WVU, remind them that Welcome Week is not just for freshmen but for all returning students. The Mountaineer Midway, FoodFest and FallFest are free, fun events for all WVU students. View information for returning mountaineers here: <http://bit.ly/2aB2VMf>

Finally, the best way to help with the transition is to remind yourself and your student that he or she is prepared and ready for what lies ahead. This is the beginning of their Mountaineer journey and the first step toward their bright future. We can't wait to see how they will #GoFirst at WVU!

And if you have any questions regarding the service/adventure component, call the Center for Services and Learning at (304) 293-8761 during normal business hours: <http://bit.ly/1CpGCii>.

Any other questions regarding Welcome Week should be directed to the Parent Helpline at 1-800-988-0096 or ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu. We're glad to help.

MOVE-IN INFORMATION

Upperclassmen Returning to Town

To coordinate efforts and make the move-in/move back process as seamless as possible for everyone involved, we'd like to pass along the following dates and suggestions:

- Friday, August 12 – Honors College Move-In Day
- Saturday, August 13 – WVU On-Campus Residence Hall Move-In Day
- Sunday, August 14 – Suggested Upperclassmen and University Apartment Move-In Day

For upperclassmen who are moving in to University Apartments (College Park, University Park, Vandalia, University Place Apartments) <http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f> or off campus housing, we suggest that you plan to avoid moving back to town on Friday and Saturday. If you are in town, we strongly urge you to avoid campus areas as the residence hall areas will be seeing a high volume of traffic. If you will be returning that weekend, we suggest that you plan your move for Sunday, August 14 to avoid residence hall move-in traffic delays. With classes scheduled to start Wednesday, August 17, we are excited to welcome all our students back to campus for the start of the fall semester!

Residence Hall Move-In Details

On Saturday, August 13, students who will be living in the residence halls will be moving into their new homes. Those who attended New Student Orientation on or before June 15 should plan to move in from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Students who attended New Student Orientation on or after June 16 should plan to move in from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The best place to review move-in details is on the move-in website located at: <http://bit.ly/2aZPQyF>. The website contains GPS directions, campus maps, list of items to bring (and what not to bring), and other important move-in information.

Students attending August Orientation will receive information about their residence hall move-in process from the Orientation Office. Honors College students can get final details here: <http://bit.ly/2aBcWvB>.

When your family arrives near the residence hall, University police officers will direct you to an area close to the residence hall so that you may unload. Someone will be asked to remain with the car so that it can be moved (after it is unloaded) to a nearby parking lot. Returning students, known as Hot Shots, will assist with unloading the vehicle. Volunteers from our Information Technology Services will also be on hand in the residence halls to help students set-up and answer tech questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

NO Parents Club Move-In Parking Passes this year

We have heard from some of you who have asked when you will get the Parents Club Move-In Parking Passes. Due to residence hall move-in day falling on a Saturday this year, there WILL NOT be sending out Parents Club Parking Passes this year. The Saturday move-in will eliminate the additional weekday traffic and parking so these are not needed and we hope will also help to make move-in run more efficiently. For those approved early move-in groups who will be moving in throughout the week, short term parking passes will be provided at the residence halls when your students check-in. See the housing move-in site for more on move-in, directions and parking details: <http://bit.ly/2aZPQyF>.

Parent Perks

We value our Mountaineer parents and as a member of the Mountaineer Parents Club, you receive discounts from a variety of restaurants, shops and hotels around Morgantown through our Parent Perks program. A list of participating businesses for the 2016-17 school year can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2aZYFap>. Thanks for all you do!

Move In Parent Receptions

You Survived! We welcome WVU parents to celebrate surviving Move-in Day. Relax, grab some snacks and meet other families while you recharge for your trip home. We have tissues in case you get emotional and there will be opportunities for fun move-in photos and other giveaways available. Join us at Octane located on the top floor of Evansdale Crossing. FREE parking is available at the Student Recreation Center. Receptions will be held Friday, August 11 from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fall Family Weekend

With fall upon us, make plans to join us October 7-9, 2016, for a great weekend of activities for your whole family. Events will begin Friday late afternoon/evening and conclude on Sunday morning. Mark your calendar now; more details will follow soon.

Start-of-the-Year Checklist

Below is a checklist that might be helpful for parents of new students and returning students. Items marked with an (A) are relevant to everyone.

- ✓ (A) Is your student considering a change to his or her **dining plan**? This can be done online until September 6: <http://bit.ly/1hzOJ6g>.
- ✓ (A) For late registrants, those preparing to attend New Student Orientation, or anyone with remaining **fall bills**, these are due by August 17 or you must be enrolled in a monthly payment plan: <http://bit.ly/22NHrQ3>
- ✓ (A) Fall **refunds** will begin to go out Monday, August 8 for students who receive aid or payments in excess of their charges. Register today for eRefunds: <http://bit.ly/1WzCXLv>.
- ✓ Make sure final high school/college **transcripts** and any placement test scores are sent to the Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506-6009 prior to the fall term: <http://bit.ly/2aEMxut>
- ✓ Incoming students should complete the **immunization** questionnaire online (forms are not needed): <http://bit.ly/1LUNDNW>.
- ✓ (A) Complete the annual Student **Health Insurance waiver** by August 23rd if your student is covered by an insurance plan that meets WVU requirements: <http://bit.ly/1poiOFA>.
- ✓ Incoming students enrolled in a first-year seminar course should be completing **AlcoholEdu (by August 12** <http://bit.ly/1nYf79l>) and **Transit Financial Wellness (by September 12:** <http://bit.ly/1EbgpXS>). Remember successful completion of Transit Financial Wellness is the first step toward the WVUGraditude \$750 bonus!
- ✓ (A) Read up! Buy and read the 2016-17 **Campus Read *Just Mercy*** so you can join in the Campus Read discussions: <http://bit.ly/2aZBuy2>
- ✓ (A) If you or your students are receiving **loans** for the first time, sign/have your student sign the Master Promissory Note and complete Loan Entrance counseling: <http://bit.ly/2b00zYw>.
- ✓ (A) Ask your student to sign you up for **WVU Alerts** – your student will be automatically enrolled: <http://bit.ly/1pojeeY>.
- ✓ (A) Have your student download the **LiveSafe app**: <http://bit.ly/1xutgge>.
- ✓ (A) 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: <http://bit.ly/1hal0zS>.
- ✓ (A) Rent/buy/order **textbooks** online today: <http://bit.ly/2aB7BBS> WVU Bookstore offers no hassle, FULL REFUND through August 23 and **price matching**: <http://bit.ly/2b1W6mj>

✓ (A) If your student will be using WVU **Accessibility Services**, make sure all paperwork is complete and turned in: <http://bit.ly/2aV1FEq>.

✓ (A) 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): <http://bit.ly/1l9XiAm>.

✓ Parents of incoming students should revisit the **Mountaineer Timeline** for final to-do's: <http://bit.ly/1VbFhWx>.

✓ (A) Remind your student to check their **MIX account** email on a regular basis for important announcements! This is WVU's main mode of communication with students: <http://bit.ly/1tWuksX>.

An Article of Interest

Whether soon-to-be empty nesters or sending your first student off to college, as the excitement builds, we know this can also be an emotional time for many of our incoming parents. I have heard from more than a few who have shared anxious, happy, nervous, ready, overwhelmed and proud feelings among others! I often try to share timely articles and this article speaks to some poignant lasts from senior year. Though senior year and graduation have now passed, there is still some relevance. Perhaps you've already encountered some of these or maybe there are some you can touch on in the coming days: <http://huff.to/2aENy5Y>. As emotions run high in this time of transition, as the article says, 'talk to them like the adult that they will soon be; it will fill them with the confidence to get there.' Though there will be lasts, these next few weeks will also be a time of growth and many firsts as your students embark on their exciting journey as Mountaineers and take their first full steps into adulthood. So take a moment to reflect - to soak it all in. But then prepare for the start of this new chapter, because they are off to make you proud! Mountaineers #GoFirst!

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University