Happy last day of classes! This morning, I texted this same greeting to my niece who is a freshman and she responded to say how this year has really flown by. I have heard the same from many of you who note how it seems like just yesterday you were moving your students into their freshman dorm rooms – whether parents of soon-to-be-sophomores or graduates-to be! Time certainly does fly when you’re having fun!

With just Finals Week ahead, see the End of the Year Wrap-Up section for important reminders on residence hall move out details, textbook returns and a great article on what to expect as you navigate “student re-entry” at home. More updates and new info for Commencement Weekend are included in the Parents of Graduates section, including graduation speaker announcements, graduation photo sign ups, and regalia pick-up details.

Final grades will be posted by Thursday, May 9 in the Parent/Guest Portal if your student has granted you that access: http://bit.ly/2BA3Cji. Also, I included a list of key summer and fall dates in the section, A Look Ahead. These include when the annual student insurance waiver opens (June 3 – more on this under Health Care Reminders), fall bills come out (July 6) and are due (August 1) and the first day of fall classes (August 21). Parents of Incoming Students, please check out the topics in your section below and also be sure to review details on the Parent/Guest Portal sign up reminder as this also applies to you directly! And with that, best of luck to all our students on their finals! In this edition:

PARENT/GUEST PORTAL SIGN UP REMINDER

END OF THE YEAR WRAP UP

- Free Coffee during Finals week – April 28-May 3
- Blue and Gold Mine Sale Collections Begin April 29, Sale May 11
- Reduced-Cost Parking During Finals Week via ParkMobile App – April 29-May 3
- WVU Bookstore Rental Returns and Book Buyback – Now - May 3
- FEATURE ARTICLE: Residence Halls Closing Procedures – Close May 5
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- AETNA Student Health Insurance – ANNUAL Waiver to Open June 3

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- Woodburn Photo Opportunity – Sign-ups Remain
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PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS: Helpful Resources for Common Questions

A LOOK AHEAD: Important Dates

PARENT/GUEST PORTAL – Sign up Today

The Parent/Guest Portal allows students to grant parents or guests direct online access to student record information including final/midterm grades, financial aid and student account/billing information. Establishing this access is important. In addition to final grades that will post mid-May, financial aid awards are already posted to most students’ accounts who have filed the 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Fall bills will be posted in early July and due by August 1. Depending on what access your students grant you, all of these items can be viewed in the Parent/Guest Portal.

What do students need to do?

Log on to the WVU Portal and click on STAR. Click on Parent/Guest Proxy and complete the remaining steps:

1. **Account:** Create a new proxy account by clicking Add Proxy. You can add more than one if you wish.

2. **Authorization:** Click Expand Proxy and choose the Authorization tab to view and grant specific access.

3. **Passphrase:** Set a word or phrase the proxy (parent or guest) will use to verify his/her identity when calling or emailing WVU on your behalf.

What do parents/guests need to do?

1. Encourage your student to log on today and set up your access through the process above (completing ALL steps).

2. Once access has been granted by your student, you will receive an e-mail to finalize your account set-up (check your SPAM filters). The link included is only good for 30 days, so log on in a timely fashion to complete this process.

3. They can also set a passphrase that will be e-mailed to you separately. You should remember this because you will use it to verify your identity when calling or emailing WVU on your student’s behalf. Please save it so you have it when needed.

For step-by-step instructions, FAQs and tutorials, go here
END OF THE YEAR WRAP UP

Free Coffee during Finals week!

From Sunday, April 28, through Friday, May 3, students can get free 12-ounce drip coffee, or $1 off any made-to-order or bottled beverage at JACS, Eliza’s, da Vinci’s, Park Place, Bits & Bytes, Brew ‘n Gold Café, Cavanaugh’s, The Greenhouse, Lyon’s Den, Summit Grab ‘n Go and Waterfront Café, compliments of WVU Student Life. Students able to enjoy this deal on one beverage per visit. Questions: dining@mail.wvu.edu.

Blue and Gold Mine Sale Collections Begin April 29, Sale May 11

While students begin packing up their living space, they may donate any unwanted items to the Blue and Gold Mine Sale. Acceptable items include but are not limited to furniture, clothing, appliances, décor, sporting equipment and electronics. From April 29-May 8, students may drop off donations to a designated collection station, which include all WVU residence halls, Chateau Royale, at the top of Falling Run Road, Grant Avenue and from April 29-May 3 at Copper Beech. The sale will be held at Milan Puskar Stadium on May 11, from 7 a.m. to noon. This event keeps about 30 tons of goods out of landfills annually, and all proceeds benefit WVU’s campaign for the United Way of Monongalia and Preston counties. If something cannot be donated but students need to dispose of items, the City of Morgantown offers a move out dumpster program for additional trash collections.

Reduced-Cost Parking During Finals Week via ParkMobile App – April 29-May 3

During Finals Week, WVU Transportation and Parking will offer a 50 cent per hour parking discount in a number of short term parking lots across campus when utilizing the ParkMobile app to pay. Download and pay via the app April 29-May 3 to take advantage of this promotion. ParkMobile is a free, pay-by-phone app that can be downloaded from the app store and used on mobile devices. This promo is not valid at University Place or Mountaineer Station garages.

WVU Bookstore Rental Returns and Book Buyback – Now - May 3

Spring Textbooks RENTAL Return for the spring 2019 semester is underway and books are due back to the stores by Friday, May 3. Reminder emails with specific title information are sent to students or parents if you ordered the textbooks. Please advise your students to check their e-mails and their "Junk/Spam" folders to ensure they find this info. Parents, if you ordered these books, please double-check your e-mails as well. Please text/email a reminder to your student to keep an eye out!

Students who purchased textbooks can also return any titles for possible textbook buyback getting cash for their books. The best dates to come in for spring book buyback are April 22 through May 3 (WVU ID required.)
FEATURE ARTICLE: Residence Halls Closing Procedures – Close May 4

Residence halls officially close Saturday, May 4 at noon, although students are to vacate their room 24 hours after their last final to ensure a quiet environment for those still studying. The Spring Move Out website can answer all your questions about move out

Student Re-Entry: Helpful tips as your student heads home

We often share relevant national articles and this one seems quite timely as students prepare to head home and parents prepare for that new normal: Student Re-Entry to Home.

Let’s bust some myths about WVU Summer classes

Thinking the Summer Term is just for students who failed a class or don’t have anything better to do in the summer? Nothing could be further from the truth! Here are some facts you may not know about summer classes:

- You can complete a minor in just one summer
- Many students use summer classes to get ahead or to graduate early
- Summer is the perfect time to focus on a difficult course
- You can travel to some of the most beautiful and interesting places in the world by enrolling in a WVU Education Abroad program
- Financial aid and housing may be available for eligible students who meet Federal Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements

Learn more about your WVU Summer options and how to register for summer classes by visiting the WVU Summer website.

HEALTH CARE REMINDERS

Student Health and Health Insurance available over Summer

Students who purchased the 2018-19 Aetna health insurance policy – even soon-to-be graduates – should note that their policy runs throughout the summer months until August 10. Also, WVU Medicine Student Health Service and the Mountaineer Pharmacy will remain open throughout the summer and welcome students to stop in for their healthcare needs.

Starting May 18th - August 3rd, Student Health will NOT have Saturday clinic hours for the summer. For care during weekends in summer, WVU Urgent Care Suncrest is open from 7:45 am - 8 pm and student insurance is accepted. Check the Mountainline bus schedule for route and times. All non-enrolled students, family and friends can also use Student Health and WVU Urgent Care locations as well.
AETNA Student Health Insurance – ANNUAL Waiver to Open June 3

Mark your calendars: Students with insurance can complete the annual student insurance waiver starting June 3; it is due by August 1. NOTE: Incoming students can also submit proof of immunizations as part of this waiver process.

Staying healthy is an important part of your student’s time at WVU, and having adequate insurance coverage is part of maintaining their good health. WVU requires all domestic students taking six or more credits and all international students to have health insurance – either on an existing plan or through the WVU Aetna Student Insurance Plan. If covered by your own plan, you can submit this waiver annually to opt out.

As the costs of medical services have increased with the introduction of new technologies and prescription drugs, the WVU Aetna premium has also experienced a premium increase for the upcoming plan year, while keeping a high level of coverage. Please review the plan changes shown below. They will take effect on August 11, 2019, so keep this info in mind when considering your options. More updates and changes will be listed in the 2019-20 Aetna Benefits Summary beginning in July. If you’re not familiar with terms such as “copay,” “deductible,” “coinsurance,” and “premium,” you can look them up here.

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<th>Current WVU Aetna Plan</th>
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This information is only an overview of upcoming changes. Please see the 2019-20 plan year summary beginning in July for additional details. Please contact us at sio@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-6815 with questions or concerns.

Again, students covered under another comparable health insurance policy can complete the annual waiver coming available June 3. This must be completed by August 1.

PARENTS OF GRADUATES

Graduation speakers announced, Webcast Options

We are just two weeks away and Commencement speakers were recently announced. As you finalize plans, if friends or family members can’t travel to see the ceremonies on campus, please know that they can watch our Graduation Webcasts (link will be live for commencements the days of the events). Again, the full schedule for Commencement Weekend, along with other helpful details (such as length of commencement exercises – not longer than 2 hours!), can be found here.

Woodburn Photo Opportunity – Sign-ups Remain

Reservations are now open and spaces remain for graduates to sign up to get free keepsake pictures in their cap and gown, WVU gear or professional attire in front of Woodburn Hall, Wednesday, May 8. Spaces are limited, so graduates should sign up today for a space from noon to 4 p.m.

E-mail Remains Active for Graduates

Upon graduating students will lose access to their WVU Portal, but NOT access to their WVU email or data in STAR. Students should just use these direct links for [MIX%20e-mail]MIX e-mail and STAR. For help, students should call ITS: 304-293-4444.

Bookstore Updates: Caps and Gowns and Gift ideas

All caps and gowns previously ordered through our website are now available at the store students chose for pickup until Friday, May 10. Didn't pre-order? No problem! Simply visit one of the WVU Bookstores to purchase through May 10.

Looking for a great gift? Diploma frames can be purchased at the WVU Bookstore or online for home delivery or pickup. These will also be available for sale at the Ceremony venues. Graduating students or family members might be interested in browsing our alumni apparel at our WVU Alumni Shop.
PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS

What Else Do We Need to Be Doing?

Parents, the Next Steps to Enrollment site gives you a helpful guide of key steps in the process. We have highlighted are few of these specific steps (and other helpful tips!) below to assure your students are on track! Also be sure to review the Parent/Guest Portal Sign up reminder above and have your student complete this today!

Pay the Academic Deposit

Once admitted, the main item to ensure your student is moving forward in the process is to be certain they have paid their Academic Deposit, if they have not already done so, to secure their place in the class of 2023 prior to the May 1 national decision date. Once the Academic Deposit is paid, this step opens up additional “next steps,” including getting details about Housing options and New Student Orientation.

Register for New Student Orientation where your student will Register for classes

If your student has not yet signed up for New Student Orientation in June, have them do so today, and plan to come along. During New Student Orientation, among other things, student and families will meet with staff from our academic colleges and programs, and students will have their registration holds lifted and schedule for their classes that afternoon, leaving with their fall 2019 freshmen schedule in hand!

Space remains on Adventure WV trips – let’s get your Mountaineer set up for success!

We understand that as parents you want your student to be successful while attending WVU. We also know that success is more than just academic success - it’s finding one’s place in a community, having new experiences that grow and challenge a person, and also knowing when and where to ask for help when times get tough. Through the Adventure WV First-Year Trips, students are given the opportunity to begin building a solid foundation that will help them to be successful in all of these areas during their time at WVU. First-Year Trips are $95 (or free for students who are Pell eligible) and students can earn one academic credit. Have them sign up today!

Scholarship Deadline Extended

Do you know an incoming freshman who might still be deciding where to attend college this fall? The merit aid or scholarship deadline has been extended to June 1. Any first-time freshmen admitted by June 1 will still be eligible to receive University merit scholarship awards. Need-based awards also will continue to be offered to eligible students on a weekly basis, so encourage a high school senior you know to apply today; it’s not too late!
A LOOK AHEAD: Important Dates

Parents, as you plan ahead, please note that the fall term starts (and concludes) a bit later than usual, so mark your calendars today!

April 30 – last day to sign up for three-month payment plans for SUMMER term

April 29-May 3 – Final Exam Week

May 1 – SUMMER Term Tuition and Fees Due

May 4 – Residence Halls Close at 5:00 p.m.

May 9 – Final Spring 2018 Grades Post to STAR (and Parent/Guest Portal, if final grade access is granted by your student)

May 10-12 – Graduation Weekend

May 13 – First Summer Session Begins

May 27 – Memorial Day Recess (University Offices closed)

May 30-June 28 – New Student Orientation

May 31 – Last day to sign up for six-month payment plan for FALL term

June 3 – Annual Student Insurance Waiver Site Opens

June/July/August – Parents Club Summer Send-Offs in Your Communities (invitations to come)

July 4 – Independence Day Recess (University Offices closed)

July 5 – Last Day to Apply to Graduate in August 2019

July 6 – FALL Bills Available on STAR (and Parent/Guest Portal, if billing access is granted by your student)

August 1 – FALL Term tuition and Fees Due

August 1 – Annual Student Insurance Waivers Due

August 17 – On-Campus Move-in Day

August 21 – First Day of Classes – Fall Term
September 2 – Labor Day Recess (University Offices closed, no classes, residence halls remain open)

September 27-29 – Fall Family Weekend

November 23- December 1 – Thanksgiving Break (University Offices closed Nov. 27-29, no classes, residence halls remain open)

December 16-20 – Finals Week

December 21 – December Graduation

January 13 – First Day of Classes – Spring Term

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University