

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
January 4, 2019

Happy New Year, everyone! As we wrapped up 2018, President Gee took a chance to reflect on all that we accomplished: <http://bit.ly/2018NYMessage>. With the new year, we'd also like to welcome all new Mountaineer families who have joined us! Whether your student is starting classes Monday, January 7 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. We hope you enjoyed your winter break with your student – though as one parent told me yesterday, she is looking forward to her grocery bill going back down once her son returns to campus!

With 2019 calendars filling up, be sure to see the *Spring 2019 Calendar* below and also, if you have not already, save the date for Fall Family Weekend, September 27-29, 2019 – more details will be forthcoming much closer to the fall semester via these Parent E-Newsletters. Spring classes start Monday and though currently pleasant and mild, please revisit the *Winter Weather Procedures*, timely *Ten Important Reminders* and *Upcoming Events* 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 2019 Calendar
- Upcoming Events

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

1. **Scholarships:** Now is the time to look ahead! With fall grades in the books, certain scholarships (especially many departmental or college scholarships!) are now available for current students to apply for the 2019-20 school year <http://bit.ly/WVUScholarships>. 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/SchRenewal>.
2. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** 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/WVUSAP>.
3. **Probation, Suspension and Mid-Year Academy:** Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0 and have a semester to address the deficiency. At the end of spring term, all students not achieving a 2.0 cumulative GPA will be placed on academic suspension for the period of at least one semester: <http://bit.ly/WVUProbSusp>. All students on probation were notified by e-mail from the Office of the University Registrar after fall 2018 grades posted. First-time freshmen on academic probation were also notified that they are required to attend the Mid-Year Academy on Sunday, Jan. 6 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. **Spring Bills Due today, Jan. 4:** Students' spring charges are due by the end of day today, Jan. 4 and new incoming student charges, or those who newly registered or have new charges since that point, will get an e-bill this weekend and be due by Feb.
 1. Students should pay their full University bill (or be enrolled in a payment plan to cover the balance) minus financial aid by Feb. 1 to avoid late fees and/or removal from classes for nonpayment: <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>. If there are questions about charges, or additional assistance is needed, please contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988 during regular business hours. To view aid or pay online bills:
 - Students log in to WVU Portal: <http://bit.ly/WVUPortal>.
 - Parents log in to the Parent/Guest Portal, if granted access by your student: <http://bit.ly/PGPortal>.
5. **Spring 3-month Payment Plan:** If not already on a monthly payment plan, students can enroll through the CashNet Payment Plan for a three-month payment plan **through January 31** at <http://bit.ly/WVUCashNet> to spread payments over several months. This is the final chance to sign up for a payment plan for spring term!
6. **Student Health Insurance Waiver:** 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, Jan. 11**.
7. **Refunds:** If expecting a spring refund, these started processing this week. These should start hitting bank accounts next week if signed up for an electronic refund or a paper check will be mailed to the mailing/local address on the student's account. Mailing could take an extra few days to accommodate the mail service: <http://bit.ly/WVURefunds>.
8. **Add/Drop Week:** Students have until **Friday, Jan. 11** to finalize their spring schedules as part of Add/Drop Week without any penalty of "W" placed on their transcript for courses dropped. If students have changed their mind and don't plan to return, they should be sure to drop all classes no later than Friday, Jan. 11 to avoid "W's" and owing tuition charges for the spring term: <http://bit.ly/WVUWithdrawal>. Also, if living in a University residence hall, students need to officially check out to have charges cease: <http://bit.ly/HousingCheckOut>.
9. **Spring Textbooks:** If your student has not already, now is the time to order spring textbooks: <http://bit.ly/OSABookstore>. The WVU Bookstores offer a **full refund for customers through Monday, Jan. 14** (*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 pay and designate your student to pick them up. Questions about your book order: sm583@bncollege.com.
10. **Spring Dining Plans:** Dining plans for the spring semester can be adjusted and off campus dining plans purchased **until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15:** <http://bit.ly/WVUDining19>. 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

Though fairly mild so far, winter is officially here! Just a reminder and for those new parents who are just joining us, as we start out the spring term, students, faculty and staff have been notified of the procedures concerning possible inclement weather: <http://bit.ly/WVUWinter19>. 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!

If a closing or delays do occur at WVU, a "WVU Alert" will be sent: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlert>. Notifications will also be posted on the WVU main page: <http://bit.ly/WVUHome> and the Student Website: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudents>, e-mailed through MIX and broadcast through local media venues. Note: your student can add you on to also receive WVU Alerts if you wish to be added.

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.

Important Spring Dates

Friday, January 4 – Spring charges/bills due <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>

Saturday, January 5 at noon – Residence halls reopen

Sunday, January 6 – Mid-Year Academy for any first-year student on probation (if pertinent, students were notified over break via email and letter)

Monday, January 7 – First day of classes

Friday, January 11 – Last day to add/drop classes

Tuesday, January 15 – Last day to adjust spring dining plans <http://bit.ly/WVUDining19>

Monday, January 21 – University Holiday – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. – Residence halls close for Spring Break

Sunday, March 17 at noon – Residence halls reopen from Spring Break

Friday, April 19 – University Holiday – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

Monday, April 29 – Friday, May 3 – Finals Week

Saturday, May 4 at noon – Residence halls officially close for the spring term (students must vacate rooms 24 hours after their last final)

Friday, May 10-Sunday, May 12 – Commencement Weekend <http://bit.ly/May18Grad>

And...looking ahead – Fall Family Weekend 2019 – September 27-29

Calendar Links: <http://bit.ly/OURCalendar>

Upcoming Events

Student Ticketing for January Men’s Basketball games – starts January 7

For students interested in attending WVU Men’s basketball games, January games go live for request, Monday, Jan. 7: <http://bit.ly/WVUJanBasketball>

Class Ring Events – January 7-11

Is your junior or senior interested in getting a class ring? Have them drop by the Herff Jones information table to inquire and check out samples! Ring Events will be held - January 7-11 and February 11-15 from 10am to 4pm in the Mountainlair Commons Area.

WVU Tutoring Centers Open – January 14

Encourage students to get off on the right foot and seek out help early and often! The academic resources centers and various learning centers across campus can help and will open officially the second week of the semester. In addition to hosts of free tutoring, Student Success Coaches are also available to help with tasks such as time management, study skills, test taking and note taking skills and other items to help students be successful. More on these and other resources can be found here: <http://bit.ly/WVUSuccessServices>

WVU Bookstore Sale – January 14-18

Looking for some great WVU gift ideas or winter gear? The WVU Bookstore will be having a sale on fleece items! Students and families can get 25% off all fleece items January 14-18 in store and online. Go to <http://bit.ly/WVUBookstore> to shop online.

Law School Info Session – January 16

For students considering Law School, the WVU College of Law welcome students to attending and info session, review the process of applying to law school and take a tour of the College of Law's state-of-the-art facilities, January 16. Two later sessions will be held in March and April: <http://bit.ly/2RpfdO3>

Student Organizations Fair – January 23

As the new semester kicks off, maybe your student is looking for a way to get involved, meet new people or enhance his or her resume. Students should consider dropping by the Student Organization Fair on Wednesday, January 23 from 3-6 p.m. at the Student Rec Center. Here they can visit with members of over 75 organizations to learn more and how they might get involved. We offer over 475 clubs ranging from service to cultural and everything in between. To view a complete list: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudentOrgs> . There truly is something for everyone!

Apply to become *the* Mountaineer – due January 25

Is your student a diehard Mountaineer? Applications for the Mountaineer Mascot will be available on January 7 and applications are due January 25. <http://bit.ly/MountaineerApp>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University