

Parent Electronic News  
West Virginia University  
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Congratulations, families! Your students officially have a little over a week of college under their belts. With new schedules in hand, upperclassmen and freshmen alike are starting to find the best routes through campus, identifying shortcuts to classes and figuring out the lay of the land. While our freshmen are beginning to see themselves through a new adult lens, many of our upperclassmen have settled into their first apartment or are facing job hunts as graduation grows closer.

You probably also have started to settle into the “new normal” at home. I have shared this article in the past but it gives a great perspective on familiar feelings and emotions as we take this opportunity to look at things through these new lenses: <http://huff.to/1JU9iWA>. As the author says, “Just as college is an experiment in independence for our children, so it is for us as well.” Know that we are here and happy to help as you and your students settle in. Do not hesitate to reach out by e-mail [ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu) or calling the Parent Helpline at 1-800-988-0096.

Below you will find some helpful info based on questions I have been getting from parents over the past few weeks, so read on and share with your student. Note that information and reservation details for Parents Club Thanksgiving Holiday Buses will be coming out in early September. We will let you know in an upcoming Parent E-newsletter once bus reservations are live, so stay tuned! In this edition:

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Just prior to move-in day, President Gee headed out on his own back-to-school shopping trip for his latest edition of Gee-Mail. Since then our students have been off to an exciting start, with Welcome Week activities including some great service projects around town and the region. Check out the videos and see if you spot your student!

- The latest Gee-Mail: <http://go.wvu.edu/2b3vMZf>
- Welcome Week: <http://bit.ly/2bk4caD>
- Service Projects: <http://bit.ly/2bZQQSC>

## PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

### **Parent Perks and your Parents Club membership card**

As a member you are eligible for “Parent Perks” at participating businesses in the Morgantown area. These perks are a way for us to welcome you to our community. You can download your Parents Club membership card on our website and see a complete list of participating businesses (look for the buttons on the left side of the page). <http://bit.ly/1oDaO75>.

## **Fall Family Weekend**

Please join us for Fall Family Weekend. Events will start Friday evening, October 7, and conclude Sunday morning, October 9. While we are still finalizing the complete schedule, we have confirmed Legends in Concert — the world’s greatest live tribute show featuring the music of Prince, Cher, Elton John, Aretha Franklin, the Blues Brothers and Bruce Springsteen — will be playing Friday and Saturday nights at our Creative Arts Center. Discounted tickets will be available on Monday, August 29. Check the Parents Club website and Facebook page for details.

In addition, you will be able to enjoy our state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center all weekend, take in WVUp All Night and if you want, you can zip line or hike with our Adventure WV program. This is just a glimpse of what the Mountaineer Parents Club has planned for you and your student. We will send you the full schedule as soon as it is available. <http://bit.ly/1C3wE6T>

## **ATHLETIC UPDATES**

### **Meet and greet with President Gee at the first football game**

If you are going to be in town on September 3 and will be meeting up with your student at the football game, be sure to stop right inside the North East Gate at Milan Puskar Stadium for a quick “meet and greet” with President Gordon Gee! Just look for the Mountaineer Parents Club banner. Gates open at 10:30 a.m., and kickoff is at noon. Stop by for a snack and maybe even a selfie! Must have valid game ticket for entry. Check out the latest on the renovations to the stadium here: <http://bit.ly/2bDwFGo>. Let's Go!

### **Parents Club and Athletics partner to offer discounted tickets**

The Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make a special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for WVU’s Big 12 Conference matchups with Kansas on Saturday, November 5 and Baylor on Saturday, December 3. By following this link <http://bit.ly/2bR0O5I> and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS, members will receive a \$10 discount off of tickets and be able to purchase Kansas tickets for just \$45 each and Baylor tickets for \$55 each. While students can receive football tickets for free to each game (see below), their tickets are good for the student section only. For more on athletic tickets to all events, contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME or <http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i>.

### **Student football tickets**

We often get questions from parents of incoming students regarding how their students can obtain football tickets. Tickets are FREE to students but they must request them weekly, before each of the games. More on the process can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1nXkqTX>. Students should watch their MIX e-mail account for communications and consult their resident or commuter assistant if they have questions. This process begins today, Friday, August 26, at 4:01

p.m. for the September 3 game. If you will be coming in for a game and want your student to sit with you, you will need to purchase a ticket for them as well, as student tickets are good for the official student sections only.

### **Student pregame event – Student LOT**

As your students makes their way to the stadium for the home-opening football game against Missouri on Saturday (September 3), please encourage them stop by the Student LOT, located at the Oakland Hall Courtyard on the Evansdale campus. The LOT, which is the official student pregame tailgating event, offers great fun, free food, music, giveaways and guest appearances. This is a great opportunity for your student to hang out with friends and meet other students in a safe, alcohol-free environment. The LOT will open at 9 a.m., and festivities will wrap up an hour prior to kickoff.

### **CAREER CORNER**

#### **Major Match Fairs coming up**

With three campuses, 14 schools and colleges, and 130 + majors at WVU, it is important for students to get the info they need to choose, confirm and/or change their intended major. The Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success (CLASS) and WVU's schools and colleges are sponsoring three fairs in the coming weeks on September 1, September 8 and September 15. All events are open to all students, parents and the general public and will feature representatives from colleges/schools and departments providing undergraduate and graduate school information.

Students who are committed to a major by their sophomore year are more likely to stay in school, graduate sooner and perform better in their classes. Encourage your students, whether they are undecided, exploring majors or planning on furthering their education with a minor, or even graduate work, to attend a Major Match Fair this year. For locations, dates and details visit: <http://bit.ly/2bKw9IF>.

#### **Upcoming career and networking events**

Finding a job or internship can be challenging, but the WVU Career Services Center is here to make it more enjoyable. Students can ease their way into the job search process at the Fourth Annual Career Kickoff Tailgate Party on Friday, September 2 from noon to 3:00 p.m. <http://bit.ly/1sVrFkr> Corporate recruiters from Enterprise Rent-a-Car, PepsiCo, Mylan, Sherwin-Williams, Eaton, University Apartments and more will be on site to share tips and tricks for landing a great job. All students are encouraged to stop by for a free T-shirt, food, games and prizes. Four lucky students will win a flat-screen TV. Registration is not required.

The WVU Career and Internship Fair on September 14 and 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms will host over 120 organizations recruiting for internships and full-time job opportunities: <http://bit.ly/1wnxeL3>. Students are encouraged to participate in Career Fair PREP Week September 6-8 to learn what it takes to successfully work a career fair. Activities will include professional headshots, crafting elevator pitches, dressing for success, resume and mock interview workshops, "Ask the Expert" and more. <http://bit.ly/2bR209w>

### **New student org forms with careers in mind: Gold and Blue Crew**

The Gold and Blue Crew is a new student organization formed in conjunction with the WVU Alumni Association. It aims for students to make connections with alumni through their fields of interest, which will help set up students for more immediate success upon graduation through programming, mentorships and events. "Your Career Begins in College," is the motto for the group. By joining, students will have multiple opportunities to start many relationships with alumni that can ultimately land that next internship or job. The first meeting will be August 30 in the Rhododendron Room in the Mountainlair at 6:00 p.m. to announce events and important dates for the upcoming semester. Encourage your student to join today: <http://bit.ly/2bAQkJX>. Questions? [studentalumniassociation@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:studentalumniassociation@mail.wvu.edu).

## **DINING UPDATES**

### **Hugs from Home care packages**

WVU Dining is excited to announce that the Hugs from Home program is now online. Send your student a birthday cake, study snacks or even a famous Flying WV cookie. Stay tuned for seasonal specials, care package options and more unique ways to send long distance love to your Mountaineer. Visit <http://bit.ly/2bZSsMf> to place your order.

### **Dining 101: things your student should know about WVU Dining**

As students settle in on campus, we often get questions about the difference between Dining Plans, Dining Dollars and Mountie Bounty and where these can be used. Below is a quick overview. If students need to make changes to their dining plan, changes to fall meal plans can be made through September 6: <http://bit.ly/1hzOJ6g>. For more info on dining at WVU: <http://bit.ly/2bJQTS3>.

Dining Plan swipes: When students choose a meal plan, they choose either a traditional meal plan with a certain number of meals per week or a block meal plan with a certain number of meals for the entire semester. Students on traditional plans get up to three dining swipes any time during the day, while block plans are unlimited.

Students have access to eat at over 27 locations, including five traditional dining halls: <http://bit.ly/2bDxFu4>. While meal plan dining swipes are not accepted in the Mountainlair from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. due to capacity and volume, students can use Dining Dollars and/or

Mountie Bounty to eat there during these hours. Dining plans are required for students living on campus but are also available for off-campus and commuter students. These plans are a great way for your student to eat healthy and conveniently when on campus for classes: <http://bit.ly/2cc6Fqs>. Students who have unique allergy or dietary requirements can email our staff dietician Cami McMillan at [ccmcmillan@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ccmcmillan@mail.wvu.edu) to work out special requirements.

Dining Dollars: Each plan has Dining Dollars automatically built in to add some additional flexibility. These may be used to purchase snacks or drinks rather than a full meal, treat friends and family or to dine in the Mountainlair during lunch hours. Because they are part of the dining plan, Dining Dollars expire at the end of the semester. <http://bit.ly/2bm0fUL>

Mountie Bounty: These are optional funds you add to your student's Mountaineer ID Card. This works as a declining debit system, and more can be added at any time: <http://bit.ly/2bR19Wo>. In addition to dining options, funds can be used for items such as laundry in the residence halls, printing in the halls or libraries, purchases from the Mountaineer Pharmacy, concessions at Mountaineer Field, snacks, food and sundry items from a large list of on- and off-campus venues. Check out the full list here: <http://bit.ly/1r98kxI>.

## **HELPFUL TIPS AND REMINDERS**

Here are some quick bits of helpful info:

Alerts: Students are automatically enrolled in WVU Alerts but you can also be added to the system to receive text alerts in the case of an emergency or inclement weather. See the parent sign-up form under "how do I subscribe": <http://bit.ly/1pojeeY>. Alerts are issued by University Police when necessary. Remind your students to heed alerts.

Enrollment verification available online: It is the time of year when many families need to obtain proof of enrollment for a myriad of reasons, including insurance or loans. Because WVU is a participant in the National Student Clearinghouse, this process can be handled online by your student. If your student's verification is for Direct Loans, they subscribe to the National Student Clearinghouse and will receive this information electronically. Any student who needs to verify that they are enrolled can log in to their MIX account and print a verification of enrollment by following the steps outlined here: <http://bit.ly/XhtxIW>.

Technology: Student MIX e-mail accounts are Gmail-based accounts. For details on setting this up on their mobile devices, follow the directions found here: <http://bit.ly/1J4Gwlg>. The Information Technology Service Help Desk can assist: 304-293-4444. ITS also has walk-up support service in a number of locations across campus: <http://bit.ly/289Gc0f>.

Address updates: Students should update their mailing/local address in their STAR Account anytime it changes. They can reach this by logging on through the WVU Portal: <http://bit.ly/2bjOfUG>. They can also update their emergency contacts via this link.

Mail from home: Residence hall students have mailboxes in their halls. Package slips are put in the mailboxes or sent electronically to a student when a package is received. They must show ID to collect this at the front desk of their hall. Find your student's address here: <http://bit.ly/1q5PXax>.

Reduce loan debt now: If your student received a refund generated by loans, please encourage them to budget for educational expenses wisely. If they do not need the full refund, they can return all or a portion of it to the institution to reduce their future loan debt. Simply returning \$100 saves a student \$125 or more in future loan repayment. It's not too late to return funds! Students should read our financial planning page at <http://bit.ly/1EbgpXS> for tips on budgeting, saving and just being in the "know" on their student loans. This page also offers resources to search for scholarships. Questions? Contact Financial Aid at [finaid@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:finaid@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-1988. Follow Financial Aid on Facebook and Twitter (@WVUSFSS) for tips and reminders.

Get involved: Encourage students to get involved! Whether they are interested in club sports, the Game Developers Club or the Society of American Foresters, there are hundreds of clubs to choose from. Check out the calendar here <http://bit.ly/2bm1MKh> or encourage your student to drop by the Student Organization Fair from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday, August 29 in the Lair.

What's happening?: Is your student curious about what's happening on campus? Students should log on through the WVU Portal, monitor their MIX e-mail accounts and check out <http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR> for the latest campus announcements, events and happenings!

Free and fun: WVUp All Night happens every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. This weekend is a Tropical Retreat Weekend complete with paddleboard photo booths and a foam party! For more information check <http://bit.ly/VjtlHv>.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

As students find their way around town, one of the biggest tips you can pass along is to allow for extra time to get between campuses and classes the first few weeks of classes. Everyone is trying to get used to a new schedule and find the easiest way to and from classes and work. As schedules settle in and people get used to new systems, it will take varying amounts of time. This page gives an overview of transportation options: <http://bit.ly/2blUWAb>

Please remind your students that they can ride the Mountain Line local bus service free of charge with their WVU ID! In addition to popular routes such as the Blue & Gold Line (Route 38) that connects the Evansdale and Downtown campuses, this fall the Beechurst Express (Route 39) has been added to the Mountain Line Bus Service as another route to help campus traffic move efficiently. <http://bit.ly/2bmBHJv>

Also new this summer, Uber has launched in Morgantown: <http://ubr.to/2bUMJVV>. And in addition to the Zipcars <http://bit.ly/2boDdfQ> located on campus that students can rent hourly, Morgantown also has two cab companies that students can use to get around: Motown Taxi: <http://bit.ly/2cfdIyX> or 304-291-TAXI (8294) or Yellow Cab: 304-292-7441.

**/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman**

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University