

PARENT & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HILL

Happy New Year from the Hill! We hope your holidays were filled with joy and meaningful moments with loved ones. Campus is buzzing again as Jan Term is well underway, and we're thrilled to see students diving back into learning and community life.

Your students continue to impress us with their achievements, both in and out of the classroom. Their resilience and dedication inspire us every day, and we know your support plays a huge role in their success. If your student needs help with schedule adjustments or registration, remind them that Academic Life (academiclife@mcdaniel.edu) is here to assist.

This newsletter is designed to keep you connected and provide [resources](#) that help your student make the most of their college experience. We hope this semester is one of growth, discovery, and unforgettable memories for your student.

Cheers to 2026!



Christine Moran
AVP of Student Success



Heidi Reigel '97
AVP of Constituent Engagement

ACADEMIC DATES

Friday, Jan. 23

UG Jan term ends

Monday, Jan. 26

UG spring semester classes begin

Friday, Jan. 30

Last day to add UG class

Friday, Feb. 6 (4:30 p.m.)	Deadline to drop UG class with no grade or change to audit
Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20	UG Spring Break
Friday, May 15	Spring semester ends

Mark your calendar and plan to join us here on the Hill!

Check out McDaniel College's McLive! events calendar, which is packed with concerts, art exhibitions, lectures, performances, and more. All of the events are open to the public, as well as our campus community, and most are free. [Download a copy of the spring 2026 McLive!](#)

RESIDENCE LIFE

Residence halls open for the spring semester on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, at noon. Students who plan to participate in the 2026-27 room selection process must complete a housing application and submit a \$200 deposit no later than Saturday, March 7, 2026.

[Residence Life: Opening & Closing Calendar | McDaniel College](#)

Please email us at reslife@mcdaniel.edu if you have any questions. You can also follow us on Instagram [@mcdanielreslife](#).

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (OSE)



Students walking across a snowy McDaniel campus.

Welcome Back Week: Cozy Week

As students settle back into the semester, OSE is hosting a week of cozy, community-building activities designed to help them reconnect and unwind. Full event details are available on What's Up McDaniel!

- Monday, Jan. 26: Hot Chocolate Bare & Mug Decorating
- Tuesday, Jan. 27: Go-Bag Essentials
- Wednesday, Jan. 28: Plushie Bingo
- Thursday, Jan. 29: Relaxation & Animation Night
- Friday, Jan. 30: Silent Headphone Disco

Weekend Blitz - Save the Dates

Students can also look forward to upcoming off-campus experiences. More details will be shared on Instagram and What's Up McDaniel.

- Feb. 21: Great Wolf Lodge
- March 28: National Aquarium in Baltimore
- April 25: A Day in Philly

Fan Favorites

- Jan. 30: Silent Headphone Disco
- March 28: Valentine's Day Market
- March (surprise date): Duck Hunt

These programs are a wonderful way for students to relax, meet new friends, and feel connected as they begin the semester.

CAMPUS SAFETY

As students prepare to return to campus for the spring semester, please know that while the primary registration has closed, students in need of transportation from BWI Airport or BWI Amtrak may still sign up for the shuttle. **Students must contact Ms. Nora Hood** nhood@mcdaniel.edu **no later than Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.**

Students will be returning to winter weather! The Department of Campus Safety has portable battery jump packs available for students to use, if needed, to assist with starting their car battery.

The college follows the [Inclement Weather Policy](#) for decisions related to snow or icy conditions. Announcements for delays or closures will be posted to the McDaniel College website and emailed to all McDaniel email accounts.

FINANCIAL AID

Welcome back from the Financial Aid Office! We hope you and your family enjoyed a relaxing holiday break. As students return for the spring semester, we wanted to share a few quick financial aid reminders to help keep planning on track.

FAFSA Still Open

If you haven't yet completed the 2026-27 FAFSA, there is still time. Submitting the FAFSA ensures full consideration for federal, state, and institutional aid. Visit studentaid.gov to get started or to reset your FSA ID if needed.

Review Spring Aid and Billing

Students should take a moment to review their financial aid and student account to ensure that any outstanding balance is resolved. If anything looks incorrect, please contact us at finaid@mcdaniel.edu or 410-857-2233.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

To remain eligible for financial aid, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and successfully complete most attempted coursework. Students considering scheduling changes should consult with their success coach or the Financial Aid Office first, as changes may impact aid.

Maryland State Aid Reminder

Maryland residents must submit the FAFSA by **March 1** (ASAP is best) and maintain an active MDCAPS account to remain eligible for state aid programs.

We're always happy to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your personal financial aid specialist with any questions as the semester gets underway.

Last names A-F: Emma Sorrell | emma.sorrell@mcdaniel.edu | 410-386-4807

Last names G-M: Lerlene McAllister | lerlene.mcallister@mcdaniel.edu | 410-871-3311

Last names N-Z: Kenzie Elliott | melliott@mcdaniel.edu | 410-857-2255

STUDENT ACCOUNTS/BURSAR

Tax season is approaching

The IRS requires us to send the 1098-T form to students who have supplied the college with their student tax identification number (SSN), were enrolled, and had payments and/or financial aid credited to their tuition account during the calendar year. This form assists the IRS and students in determining whether students are qualified for education-related tax benefits. The form can be found through the MyMcDaniel Portal under Financial Information and will be available Jan. 30, 2026.

Tuition for Spring 2026

Tuition was due Jan. 5. Need a payment plan for tuition? Enrollment for a spring payment plan is open. The first installment is due at the time of enrollment. Installment amounts are based on your enrollment date. Installment due dates are Feb. 1, March 1, and April 1. There is a \$75 enrollment fee, and payment plan installments must always be kept current. To move back to campus and start the semester, spring balances must be paid in full or in a current payment plan.

Refunds processed through direct deposit

McDaniel College is making it easier and more secure for students and families to receive refunds. All refunds will now be issued via direct deposit.

- Students have received instructions on how to set up direct deposit through PayMyTuition.
- Parents receiving refunds from Parent PLUS loans will also need to set up direct deposit. To do this, students must add their parents, "the Borrower", as authorized users in MyPayTuition.

Looking ahead to important dates for summer and fall 2026

Monday, June 1 Summer tuition due.

Monday, June 15 Fall payment plan enrollment opens. The first installment is due at the time of enrollment. Installment amounts are based on your enrollment date. Installments are due July 1, Aug. 1, Sept. 1, Oct. 1, and Nov. 1. There is a \$75 enrollment fee.

Wednesday, July 15 Fall tuition due.

Wednesday, July 15 Health insurance waiver deadline.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions at 410-857-2209 or bursaroffice@mcdaniel.edu.

CENTER FOR EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY (CEO)

Set Your Student Up for a Successful 2026 with the [CEO](#)!

Is your student considering an unforgettable experience abroad? Applications for summer and fall 2026 are open!

Our [Budapest campus](#) and other exciting international locations offer incredible opportunities for academic growth, cultural immersion, and personal development. Studying abroad is more than travel; it's a chance to gain global perspectives and lifelong skills.



Three students chatting on a sidewalk in Budapest.

What families can do:

Start the conversation now! Ask your student about their interest in studying abroad and explore how this experience can fit into their academic and career goals. Your encouragement can make a big difference in their decision-making process. Check out all the [options available to McDaniel students](#).

Important next steps for students:

- Schedule an appointment with the Study Abroad Team through Navigate to discuss options and requirements.
- Apply by March 1, 2026, to secure a spot for Fall 2026 programs.

Don't let this opportunity pass — help your student take the first step toward an extraordinary adventure!

Start your summer internship search now! Summer 2026 may feel far away, but the best opportunities go fast. Encourage your student to begin exploring internships today on Handshake. Early planning means more choices and less stress later.

Why start now?

- Many employers post summer positions in December and January.
- Applying early increases the chances of landing a great role.

Next steps for students:

- Log in to Handshake and update their profile.
- Browse internships and set alerts for new postings.
- Schedule a career advising appointment through Navigate for resume and application tips.

Help your student take the first step toward building valuable experience this summer!

WELLNESS CENTER



Parent hugging their student.

Let's talk about self-compassion. We all have experienced a voice in our head when we feel we've "messed up" or done something "wrong." For some of us — and our students even more so — that voice can be so prevalent and loud that it alters our mood, ability to function, relationships with others, and, most importantly, the relationship we have with ourselves. With the compounding stressors of college, it's imperative our students are compassionate with themselves.

We often don't think that maybe that voice is trying to protect us. Self-compassion begins with meeting yourself exactly where you are with self-acceptance and grounded in our values. Self-compassion can be preparing your mind and body for gentler approaches vs. judgment, creating an awareness of your emotional experiences, recognizing you are worthy, or building resilience and compassion for all of you — NOT just what feels "good" and "successful." Lastly, self-compassion is simply being aware of what is happening at this exact moment.

There are various ways to educate, support, and practice self-compassion with your student. Let's begin by defining self-compassion: "The ability to mindfully turn our caring and supportive nature toward ourselves and our struggle to strengthen resilience and courage, even in the face of life's toughest challenges." The goal of self-compassion: Developing skills and awareness to build a fulfilling value-driven life from a position of strength, acceptance, and self-love. Encourage your student to wonder how often they feel "home" with themselves. What are some ways they can strengthen the relationship they have with themselves?

Below is an example of a mindfulness self-compassion exercise we encourage you to practice alone, together, or to share with your student:

- Let's begin! Take a few moments to get comfortable, maybe stretch, and take some long, deep breaths. Great ... Now two more ... Inhale ... And exhale ... Perfect.
- Now gently bring forth some of the negative self-talk phrases you tell yourself. What does that voice sound like? What is the tone of the voice? Is it even your voice? Perhaps this voice is saying "I'm not good enough," "They won't like me," or "I'm always messing up."
- Next, notice your feelings about yourself and try to offer yourself kindness and compassion instead, like how you would offer comfort to a child. Just noticing the feelings and not applying judgment, but curiosity to them. Keep breathing ...
- Now offer your inner child the care and love that they deserved but rarely got. With your soft and supportive voice, say to yourself, "I am here, and that matters," "I am enough."
- Allow any emotion you may be feeling to release. Simply allow yourself this moment to be home with yourself. Deep, cleansing breath ... You did it!

The Wellness Center is available Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with licensed clinicians to support your student in strengthening and learning more about who they are.

ATHLETICS



Four McDaniel Wrestlers smiling at a match.

Follow your favorite Green Terror teams all year long at mcdanielathletics.com. You can watch online or on any mobile device on the [Centennial Conference Digital Network](#).

Join our mailing list to receive breaking news, stories, and recaps on your favorite McDaniel Athletics teams. [Sign up now!](#)

We're pleased to welcome [Blaine Donnelly](#) as McDaniel's new head field hockey coach, announced on Jan. 6. Coach Donnelly brings six seasons of Division III coaching experience to

the Hill, including the past four years at Washington and Lee University, and we're excited to have her join the McDaniel community.

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Our future as an innovative liberal arts college focused on student achievement and professional success lies in us reaching new heights — together. Thank you to the following donors for their recent gifts to the college in support of the [strategic plan](#) and [Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College](#). We can't do what we do without you!

- \$55,000 from Peter W. Johnson '71 to support The Ralph and Annette Johnson Fund.
- \$50,000 from Lloyd Musselman '60 to support The Musselman Family Scholarship.
- \$30,000 from the family of Jean and Martha Saulnier to support The Jean M. and Martha K. Saulnier Experiential Learning Endowed Fund and The Jean M. and Martha K. Saulnier Experiential Learning Current Use Fund.
- \$27,526.97 from Beth Witzke Barnes '53 and L. John Barnes to support Reaching New Heights: The Campaign for McDaniel College.
- \$25,000 from Richard and Susan Palmer to support The Track Renovation Fund and The Richard W. and Susan Palmer Scholarship Fund.

[Make your gift online today](#) or contact Justin Forget, director of annual giving, at 410-386-4801 or jforget@mcdaniel.edu.

Conversation Starters: Prompts to connect with your student about the Hill



Students relaxing in Englar Dining Hall.

- What are you looking forward to most next semester?
- How are you going to get energized to start your semester successfully?
- Have you thought about studying abroad, internships, or other ways you can fulfill the EXP (experiential) tag?

Let's Get Social



Follow McDaniel College social media accounts to be in the know! Don't forget to join our McDaniel College Parent & Families Facebook Group. All accounts can be found on the [Parent & Family Resources](#) page.

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