

PARENT & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HILL

Welcome to the fall semester at McDaniel College! Whether your student is starting their first year on the Hill or returning for another year of learning, leadership, and discovery, it's an exciting time full of new opportunities and important milestones.

Our newsletter is packed with information to help you support your student throughout the semester. Read on to learn about important academic dates, updates from key campus offices, upcoming fall events, career and study abroad opportunities, wellness resources, billing and financial aid reminders, and ways for students to get involved both on campus and in the local community.

As parents and family members, you are an important part of the McDaniel community. We encourage you to stay connected through our [Parents and Families Facebook Group](#), where families can ask questions, share experiences, and support one another throughout the year.

As the semester gets underway, be sure to save the date for **Parent & Family Weekend, Nov. 6-8**. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Hill for a weekend of connection, celebration, and Green Terror pride. We'll kick things off at 5 p.m. on Friday with a welcome reception and wrap up the weekend at 10 a.m. on Sunday with our annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony and Parent & Family Weekend Brunch. We'll share additional details and registration information in the coming weeks.

Here's to a successful semester and a wonderful fall on the Hill!



Christine Moran
AVP of Student Success



Heidi Reigel '97
AVP of Constituent Engagement

ACADEMIC DATES

Monday, Sept. 7	Labor Day (no classes)
Monday, Sept. 21	UG Jan Term 2027 registration begins (non-travel courses)
Monday -Tuesday, Oct. 12-13	Fall break (no classes)
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Mid-semester UG grades are reported to the Registrar
Wednesday, Oct. 28	Last day to withdraw with "W" grade or select P/Dx/F, 4:30 p.m.

FALL EVENTS



Parents and families, want to know what's happening at McDaniel College?

McDaniel's fall 2026 events guide is chock-full of art exhibitions, performances, lectures, and other events here on the Hill. They're all open to your students, our campus community, and the public — including you! The best part? Most events are free, especially for McDaniel students!

Check out the full list of fall events and download a copy of our McLive! publication at mcdaniel.edu/calendar.

Exciting Community Events



McDaniel College community members leading the parade with a golf cart decorated like the Green Terror mascot.

Get involved! McDaniel College is a proud sponsor of the following upcoming Carroll County community events:

- The first-ever [Carroll Book Festival](#) is taking place Saturday, Sept. 19, with over 100 national bestselling and indie authors — including #1 New York Times bestselling author Jodie Picoult — book signings, panel discussions and author talks, children’s character breakfast, literary-themed vendors, and local food trucks! McDaniel students are needed to volunteer for various shifts across all areas of the festival and can [apply online](#) by selecting “McDaniel College” as the group from the dropdown. The festival runs 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Carroll County Farm Museum (500 S. Center St., Westminster) and is open to all ages! Admission is free.
- McDaniel College is proud to once again serve as this year's presenting sponsor for [Westminster Fallfest!](#) This annual fall community tradition takes place Thursday, Sept. 24 - Sunday, Sept. 27. McDaniel helps kick off the event by leading the annual Westminster Fallfest Parade on Thursday evening. Volunteers are needed to represent McDaniel by walking in the parade. Students can [sign up here](#).

CALENDARS

Our calendars are online! Check out [this page](#) to select from the calendar options:

- Public events

- Academic calendar
 - GREEN TERROR TIP! The academic calendar is a great resource to grab the dates for add/drop, fall break, exam week, and so much more!
 - Alumni events
 - Athletics events
 - Camps & conferences
 - Student events
 - Institutional events
-

RESIDENCE LIFE

At McDaniel College, Residence Life is dedicated to helping your student feel at home from day one. Our residence halls, suites, and apartments offer welcoming spaces where students can live, learn, and forge lasting friendships. The Residence Life team provides guidance, community-building activities, and resources to support your student's success while encouraging personal responsibility and respect for others. Remind your student to contact their resident assistant (RA) if they have any questions or concerns.

Curious about the opening and closing dates for our residence halls? Check them out here:

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

CAMPUS SAFETY

McDaniel College's [Department of Campus Safety](#) is available 24 hours a day for the campus community, providing services such as safety escorts, incident investigations, emotional wellness and support, and community outreach events. Parents can feel confident knowing that our team works closely with campus partners to promote safety awareness and maintain a secure learning and living environment on the Hill.

Please take time to connect with your student to ensure they are well and to remind them that resources are available through Campus Safety. As a reminder, McDaniel Alert is used for imminent, life-threatening emergencies. Students should sign up in their student portal for timely notifications.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS/BURSAR

[The Bursar's Office team](#) wishes your student a successful academic year! Here are a few important reminders:

Fall Semester Reminder

Students should now have all outstanding balances paid in full or be enrolled in a payment plan. If your student has a remaining balance, please ensure it is covered through an approved payment arrangement as soon as possible.

FERPA Authorization Required

To protect student privacy, students must complete the FERPA Authorization Form before Bursar's Office staff can discuss their student account with parents or family members.

It's Never Too Early to Plan for Spring!

Please keep these important spring billing dates in mind:

- **Spring Statements Available:** Mid-November
- **Spring Tuition Due:** Jan. 5
- **Spring Payment Plan Enrollment Opens:** Nov. 15

Spring Payment Plan Details:

- Installments due: **Dec. 1, Jan. 1, Feb. 1, March 1, and April 1**
- **\$75 enrollment fee** per semester
- The first installment is due at the time of enrollment.
- Remaining installments are due based on the date you enroll.

Planning ahead can help make the spring semester as smooth and stress-free as possible. If you have any questions about billing, payment plans, or financial aid, we're here to help!

Call us at 410-857-2209 or email bursaroffice@mcdaniel.edu.

FINANCIAL AID

We're excited to welcome our students and families back for another great year at McDaniel College! Whether your student is returning or joining us for the first time, our Financial Aid team is here to answer questions, guide them through the aid process, and ensure they have the resources they need for a successful year.

To provide the best service, each student is assigned a dedicated financial aid counselor based on their last name:

- A-F: Emma Sorrell | emma.sorrell@mcdaniel.edu | 410-386-4807
- G-M: Lerlene McAllister | lerlene.mcallister@mcdaniel.edu | 410-871-3311
- N-Z: Gabriella Vailati | gabriella.vailati@mcdaniel.edu | 410-857-2234

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's assigned financial aid counselor with any questions. We're generally available in person, virtually, or by phone Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FAFSA Update

The 2027-28 FAFSA is expected to open on Oct. 1, 2026. We strongly encourage families to

complete and submit their FAFSA as early as possible to ensure timely processing and maximize eligibility, as some aid programs have early deadlines.

Our team looks forward to supporting your student's success this year and working together to make the financial aid process smooth and stress-free.

CENTER FOR EXPERIENCE & OPPORTUNITY (CEO)



Welcome back! It's been a busy summer in the CEO. We've been planning events, gathering resources, and developing experiential learning opportunities to prepare students for personal and professional success. Through career development, international programs, and more, we help McDaniel students tailor their education to individual interests, talents, and passions in a way that's truly their own.

Study Abroad



Two students standing in a cobblestone street in the Jewish Ghetto during the SASS worldwide trip to Italy in January 2025.

Studying abroad can be one of the most cherished and unforgettable experiences in a student's life. Each student's experience will be unique, and the potential benefits can be transformative and far-reaching. Studying abroad requires careful planning, thoughtful consideration of individual goals, and research into available programs and destinations. McDaniel College offers a wide range of semester programs, short-term opportunities in January or the summer, and exciting

international internships. The International Programs team is excited to help students explore their options and find the best personal fit.

Faculty-led Jan Term 2027 programs are heading to the Bahamas, Australia, the German-speaking Region, Greece, and Spain/Portugal. Students interested in studying abroad for a semester or a full academic year can choose McDaniel's Budapest campus or programs in 30 other countries. [Visit our webpage](#) to see all study abroad programs open to McDaniel students.

Important Study Abroad Application Deadlines:

Sept. 15: McDaniel Faculty/Staff-Led Jan Term 2027 Programs

Oct. 1: Independent Jan Term 2027 Programs

Oct. 1: Spring 2027 semester in Budapest and 30 other countries

Career Development

The Career Development office supports students across all majors and academic disciplines as they explore and develop their individual career paths. We encourage students to consider how their interests and academic backgrounds can lead to a variety of careers, and we support them through our Professional Pathways model. The Professional Pathways model helps students connect with a broader range of employers and alumni to explore the evolving landscape of future employment. We meet students wherever they are in their career journey, offering a wide range of resources, events, and opportunities that align with their personal goals.

The McDaniel College Professional Pathways are:

- Quantitative, Computing, and Business Sciences
- Kinesiology, Health, and Natural Sciences
- Humanities, Arts, Education, and Social Sciences

Here's a preview of what's ahead in Career Development: We'll continue to welcome employers to campus for recruitment tables — an excellent opportunity for students to learn about internships, jobs, and other career pathways. We'll also host informal Career Cafés to help students build essential career skills, along with several Design Your Future workshops throughout the semester.

Upcoming Design Your Future Workshops

Make Your Resume Work for You

- Tuesday, Sept. 8 | 3:30-4 p.m. | Mid-Level Roj
- Tuesday, Sept. 8 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Virtual

Standing Out with Grad School Applications

- Thursday, Sept. 17 | 3-4 p.m. | Mid-Level Roj
- Thursday, Sept. 17 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Virtual

Important Opportunities for Strengthening Resumes

Drop-in Resume Reviews

- Thursday, Oct. 1 | 1-4 p.m. | Innovation Lab

Virtual Resume Reviews

- Wednesday, Oct. 7 | 6 -8 p.m. | Virtual
- Thursday, Oct. 8 | 6-8 p.m. | Virtual

WELLNESS CENTER



Golden light, changing leaves on trees, and a quiet bench to reflect.

Welcome to the Wellness Center!

We partner with students to support their health and well-being during their time here on the Hill.

The Wellness Center is the integrated office of Counseling and Student Health, providing mental health counseling, nursing care, and wellness education and promotion. The multidisciplinary staff empowers students to make informed choices regarding their overall health and well-being so that they can thrive on the Hill and beyond.

Our office is located on the second floor of Winslow Hall and is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In addition to scheduled appointments, students can walk in to see the counselor on duty or college health nurse for more immediate needs.

Encourage your students to utilize this important resource!

If you have any questions, please call us at 410-857-2243 or email us at wellness@mcdaniel.edu.

You can also [visit our website](#) or follow us on Instagram ([@mcdaniel_wellness](#)) to stay up to date on all the programs we offer!

FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA and Financial Aid Renewal

If your student has not yet submitted the 2026-27 FAFSA and plans to continue their college journey next year, we strongly encourage them to do so as soon as possible at [studentaid.gov](#). Completing the FAFSA remains an essential step in determining eligibility for both federal and institutional financial aid.

Scholarship Opportunities

Spring is an excellent time to explore additional scholarship opportunities. We encourage your student to review available options through our [scholarship database](#).

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Reminder

To remain eligible for financial aid, students must meet the following SAP requirements:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0
- Successfully complete at least 67% of attempted credits

The Financial Aid Office reviews SAP at the conclusion of each academic term. If your student is considering any schedule changes, we strongly encourage them to contact their student success coach or a member of our Financial Aid team beforehand. Even small adjustments can impact aid eligibility, and we're here to help them make informed decisions.

Preparing for Summer Courses

If your student is considering enrolling in summer courses, they may be eligible for financial aid. We recommend they connect with our office to review available funding options and enrollment requirements.

Graduating Seniors — Loan Repayment Preparation

For our graduating seniors and their families, we encourage you to begin planning for student loan repayment if your student has borrowed federal loans. These loans include a six-month grace period after graduation. Students are also required to complete Exit Counseling, which provides important information about repayment options and responsibilities.

Stay Connected

For helpful tips, reminders, and updates throughout the year, we invite you to follow our Financial Aid Fridays on Instagram [@McDaniel_Financial_Aid](#).

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Since arriving on the Hill, our students have been jumping right into campus life! From celebrating the first day of classes and playing Bingo for Books to exploring the Involvement Fair and enjoying a late-night skate, there have already been plenty of opportunities for them to meet new people and find their place at McDaniel.

And the fun isn't slowing down! Coming up, students can look forward to:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 1** | SGA Town Hall | Naganna Forum | 7-8 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 2** | Dunkin' Sample Pop-Up | Memorial Plaza (Red Square) | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 2** | Wellness Fair | Baker Memorial Chapel (Big Baker) | 5-7 p.m.

It's exciting to see our newest — and returning — Green Terrors getting involved, making connections, and taking advantage of all that life on the Hill has to offer!

Want to keep up with what's happening on campus? Check out [What's Up McDaniel](#) for full event details and upcoming activities!

GIFT 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!

- \$1 million from Beth Heckert Tevis '77, M.Ed. '84 and Jack Tevis.
- \$200,000 from the late Patricia Johnson Krantz '70 to support The Patricia Johnson Krantz '70 Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- \$143,851 from the late Marjorie Roy Espenschade '76 and Park Espenschade to support The Espenschade Class of 1976 Nursing Endowed Scholarship and The Marjorie Espenschade '76 Spirit of Nursing Award.
- \$35,000 from Sharon Klompus M.Ed. '75 to support The Sharon L. Klompus M.Ed. '75 Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- \$27,500 from John Masti to support The Lindsey Nichols '16 Endowed Women's Basketball Award and The Lindsey Nichols '16 Current Use Women's Basketball Award.
- \$25,000 from Alma Edgerly to support The Henry P. and Gretchen Stein Hornung Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- \$25,000 from John Van Horn '72 and Susan Van Horn to support The Van Horn Literary Endowed Scholarship Fund.
- \$25,000 from the late Virginia Phillips '43 to support The Virginia Phillips '43 Endowed Library Fund.

[Make your gift online today.](#)

HUG FROM HOME



Hug from Home McDaniel branded mug.

The Hug from Home campaign lets parents show their support while giving back to all McDaniel students. Gifts of \$75 or more to the Fund for McDaniel from Sept. 21 - Oct. 14 sends your student a McDaniel beanie or mug and a personal note from you, while funding scholarships, experiential learning, and campus improvements. Gifts of \$125 or more to the Fund for McDaniel from Sept. 21 - Oct. 14 sends your student a McDaniel beanie, mug + note from you. Double the impact, double the warmth!

For more information, [click here](#).

CONVERSATION STARTERS:



Students with the Green Terror in front of a Westminster deli on Main Street.

Connect with your student about their time on the Hill!

- What was the highlight of Welcome Back Week for you?
- Which class are you most excited about this semester, and what are you looking forward to learning?
- Which course do you anticipate being the most challenging, and what steps are you taking to set yourself up for success?
- Have you identified campus resources or support systems that can help you along the way?

Let's Get Social



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

Update Your Contact Information

McDaniel College
[Unsubscribe](#)