

PARENT & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HILL

The energy on the Hill is unmistakable as another exciting academic year gets underway! Our returning students have settled back into campus life, reconnecting with friends, professors, and favorite traditions, while our newest Green Terrors are quickly finding their place in the McDaniel community. From the classroom to clubs, athletics, and campus events, students are already embracing the opportunities that make McDaniel such a special place to learn, grow, and thrive.

There's plenty to look forward to this semester, including Homecoming celebrations, performances, athletic competitions, and countless opportunities for students to connect and engage. We're especially excited for [Parent & Family Weekend, Nov. 6-8](#). We hope you'll join us on the Hill for a memorable weekend filled with special events, meaningful conversations, and time with your student. Whether you're cheering on the Green Terror, connecting with fellow families, or experiencing campus through your student's eyes, it's a wonderful opportunity to make some great memories.

As you explore this newsletter, you'll find important updates, resources, and news from the offices and teams dedicated to supporting your student's success. Wishing you and your family a happy fall, and we hope to see you on campus soon!



Christine Moran
AVP of Student Success



Heidi Reigel '97
AVP of Constituent Engagement

ACADEMIC DATES

Monday, Sept. 21	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 due by noon
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Deadline to register for fall internships
Wednesday, Oct. 28	Deadline to add 1-2 credit independent study
Wednesday, Oct. 28	Last day to withdraw with "W" grade or select P/Dx/F
Monday, Nov. 2	Spring 2027 registration begins (day/time assigned based on credits earned)
Sunday, Nov. 15	Deadline for May 2027 expected graduates to submit online Graduation Application

STUDENT SUCCESS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Spring 2027 registration planning is just around the corner! Beginning Sept. 28, first-year students may start the clearance process for spring 2027 registration by meeting with their success coach. Need support? The Student Success team also offers **Walk-in Wednesdays** for all students, with no appointment necessary. Encourage your first-year student to stop by, ask questions, and get the guidance to stay on track for a successful semester.

THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE: SETTLING INTO LIFE ON THE HILL



First-year students in front of a local bakery in downtown Westminster.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) team is hard at work making this fall semester a memorable one for all our new students, and there's plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead! Here are a few upcoming events for your student to have on their radar:

Renaissance Fair — Friday, Sept. 25

A festive event designed to bring new students together for a fun and memorable shared experience.

National Transfer Week — Oct. 19-23

A full week of programming and events celebrating and supporting our transfer students as they continue building community at McDaniel.

In addition to these larger events, peer mentors will be planning smaller-scale, First-Year Seminar-specific programming throughout the semester. Be sure to ask your students about what their peer mentors have planned.

If you want to stay updated on all things FYE, follow the fun on Instagram @mcdaniel_fye



Student having a conversation with a member of the CEO team.

The **Office of Career Development** in the CEO offers a variety of programs designed to help students build confidence, explore career options, and develop the professional skills employers value most. This fall, students can take advantage of resume reviews, interview preparation workshops, mock interviews, and two Professional Pathway Showcases that connect academic interests with potential career opportunities. We encourage you to remind your student to participate in these valuable experiences as they prepare for internships, employment, and their future career goals. Registration for all events is available on Handshake, McDaniel's career platform that connects students to events and opportunities related to internships and jobs.

Virtual Resume Reviews

Students can get personalized feedback on their resume before Professional Showcases and internship application deadlines.

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

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

Professional Pathway Showcase: Business, Computer, and Quantitative Sciences

Students from all years are encouraged to attend this networking event featuring more than 25 employers and graduate schools with internships and job opportunities related to business, computer, and quantitative sciences on **Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** in the mid-level of Roj Student Center.

Interview Success Strategies

Students will learn practical techniques to prepare for interviews, communicate their strengths, and make a strong impression. We have two sessions to choose from:

Monday, Nov. 2 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | Innovation Lab

Monday, Nov. 2 | 7-8 p.m. | Virtual

Mock Interview Day

Students practice their interviewing skills with real-time feedback in a supportive environment. Encourage your student to join us at one of the following sessions:

Wednesday, Nov. 4 | 1-4 p.m. | Mid-Level Roj

Wednesday, Nov. 4 | 6-8 p.m. | Virtual

Professional Pathway Showcase: Kinesiology, Health, and Natural Sciences

This networking event will feature internship and job opportunities from over 25 employers and graduate schools for students of all years in kinesiology, health, and natural sciences.

Thursday, Nov. 12 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Mid-Level Roj



Students eating outside in Budapest.

Studying abroad is one of the most transformative experiences available to students, helping them build cultural awareness, independence, confidence, and valuable skills employers and graduate schools highly value. Students interested in studying abroad in fall 2027 or a future term are encouraged to begin planning early. Starting now gives students more time to explore program options, meet with an advisor, and prepare for academic, financial, and personal considerations. In addition to individual appointments, the Office of International Programs offers information sessions to help students get started on their study abroad journey.

General Study Abroad Information Session

Wednesday, Nov. 11 | noon - 1 p.m. | Innovation Lab

Wednesday, Nov. 11 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Virtual

Budapest Information Session

Tuesday, Nov. 10 | noon - 1 p.m. | Innovation Lab

Tuesday, Nov. 10 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Virtual

Funding Your Study Abroad Workshop

Tuesday, Oct. 20 | noon - 1 p.m. | Innovation Lab

Tuesday, Oct. 20 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Virtual

ATHLETICS: CHEER ON THE GREEN TERROR



The volleyball team in a huddle during a match.

There's nothing like the energy of game day on the Hill! Encourage your student to show their Green Terror pride and come out to support our athletic teams this season. Whether it's football or field hockey in the stadium, volleyball matches at Gill, or soccer on the field, there are plenty of opportunities to see our student-athletes in action.

Check out schedules, scores, and team updates on the [McDaniel Athletics website](#) so you don't miss a moment of the excitement!

Green & Gold Challenge

The **Green & Gold Challenge** is a weeklong competition to help student-athletes reach new heights. For one week each year, Green Terror athletic teams ask for your support to help ensure that student-athletes have the resources they need every step of the way to compete at the highest level.

The Green & Gold Challenge can only be successful with the help of student-athletes, coaches, alumni, parents and families, and fans. Help spread the word and garner support for your favorite Green Terror team.

[Learn more on the Green & Gold Challenge page!](#)

We're jumping for joy! Registration is open for Parent & Family Weekend!



The Green Terror jumping in front of the Ward Memorial Arch.

[Join us Nov. 6-8 for a fun-filled weekend of campus traditions](#), special events, and time with your student. We hope you'll make plans to be part of this exciting McDaniel tradition. Spots fill quickly, so [register today!](#)

RESIDENCE LIFE

A quick reminder that **fall break is Oct. 12-13!** Students are welcome to head home and enjoy a little time away, but if your Green Terror plans to stay on campus, they can — **the residence halls will remain open during fall break.** While there won't be classes on those days, campus will still be buzzing — the dining hall and administrative offices will be open, and students are welcome to stay on campus and enjoy a mid-semester breather.

For a complete list of opening and closing dates for the year, be sure to check out the [Residence Life Opening & Closing Calendar](#).

WELLNESS CENTER



Two students having a conversation in Memorial Plaza.

Welcome to the new academic year! We know your students are living on campus for the first time, returning to campus, or spending a lot of time on campus as commuters. After spending much of the summer together, you may find your student's transition back to campus an adjustment for you, too. As a team at the Wellness Center, we want to help you recognize common signs of adjustment and homesickness and identify ways to support them.

Signs your student is dealing with adjustment and homesickness:

Missing home, family, friends, or pets

Feeling lonely, overwhelmed, anxious, or more emotional than usual

Calling or texting home more frequently

Expressing that they want to go home

Difficulty making connections or getting involved on campus initially (due to still learning time management and warming up to the new environment)

Changes in sleep, appetite, or motivation (physiologically, the body may need time to adjust to new routines, and time management is still being worked on).

Ways you can support them:

Normalize: Remind them that adjusting to college takes time and that mixed emotions are normal. This is a new environment for them, and new experiences can sometimes bring increased anxiety and discomfort, which can decrease over time.

Listen: Give them space to share without immediately trying to solve the problem. This is a great opportunity to ask what resources, people, or activities they have access to that can help, which encourages them to take the lead on problem-solving.

Encourage connection: Encourage them to connect with peers, explore campus activities, and establish a new schedule and/or routine. For example, we held an Involvement Fair in August, where many clubs and campus departments were available for them to engage with. Having a schedule that includes both academic classes and participation in student work, activities, and/or clubs will help with balance.

Stay connected: Let them know you're there, while giving them space to let them develop their independence.

When to be concerned:

If you notice persistent, worsening, or significantly interfering changes in mood or behavior that affect functioning (sleep, eating, academics, relationships), please encourage your student to connect with the Wellness Center.

The Wellness Center offers **urgent walk-in appointments** Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. if your student ever needs immediate support.

If your student expresses thoughts of harming themselves, someone else, or indicates that they do not feel safe, please seek immediate support. You can call and/or encourage your student to call Campus Safety at 410-857-2202.

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

CAMPUS SAFETY

The Department of Campus Safety is excited to welcome students back to campus for the new school year! Our team is here to help create a safe and supportive environment where students can live and learn confidently.

A quick reminder: All student vehicles on campus must be registered and display a valid parking permit for the 2026-27 academic year. This helps us manage parking fairly and ensures emergency access to lots and roadways. Students can complete registration online through the Campus Safety portal page.

McDaniel College's Department of Campus Safety is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether it's a safety escort, vehicle assistance, or responding to emergencies, our team is always available to support students. Campus Safety can be reached anytime at 410-857-2202.

We look forward to a great year ahead!

FINANCIAL AID TEAM

Greetings from the Financial Aid team! We hope that your student's semester is off to a great start.

Be in the know.

Now that the semester is underway, this is a great time to revisit important financial aid policies and procedures. Throughout the fall, we'll use this space to highlight key policies and reminders. A full list of financial aid policies is available [online](#).

This month's spotlight: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

All students who receive federal aid and McDaniel need-based aid are required to meet **Satisfactory Academic Progress** standards, as mandated by federal regulations. To remain eligible for financial aid, your student must:

Maintain at least a **2.0 cumulative GPA**; and

Successfully complete at least **67% of attempted credits**

It's important to remember that attempted credits can include courses in which a student receives a **withdrawal (W)** or **failing grade (F)**. These grades can negatively affect a student's completion rate and may impact future financial aid eligibility.

Looking Ahead: 2027-28 FAFSA

The **2027-28 FAFSA** will open on **Oct. 1, 2026**.

Don't wait to file! Completing the FAFSA early helps ensure your student is considered for available federal, state, and institutional financial aid. We strongly encourage students and families to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after it opens.

Your Financial Aid counselor may have changed

Our Financial Aid counselor assignments have been updated based on the student's last name. Please use the information below when contacting your student's assigned counselor:

A-G: Emma Sorrell | emma.sorrell@mcdaniel.edu | 410-386-4807

H-N: Lerlene McAllister | lerlene.mcallister@mcdaniel.edu | 410-871-3311

O-Z: Gabriella Vailati | gabriella.vailati@mcdaniel.edu | 410-857-2234

We're Always Here to Help!

Remember, your financial aid counselor and the Financial Aid Team are here to support you and your student throughout the semester. If you have questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Financial Aid Office

Phone: **410-857-2233**

Office Hours: **Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Email: finaid@mcdaniel.edu

You can also stay connected with us on Instagram: **@mcdaniel_financial_aid**

We look forward to supporting you and your students throughout the academic year!

HUG FROM HOME



Hug from Home mug.

The **Hug from Home** campaign lets parents send their student an exclusive cozy gift while funding scholarships, experiential learning, and campus improvements for all McDaniel students. When you make a gift of \$75 or more to the Fund for McDaniel by Oct. 14, we'll send your student a McDaniel beanie or mug and a personal note from you. A gift of \$125 or more will get your student a McDaniel beanie and scarf, plus a note from you. Double the impact, double the warmth!

Make a Gift!

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



Students enjoying themselves outside a store in downtown Westminster.

- Are you settling into a routine?
 - Is there anything that has been harder than you expected?
 - How can I support you this month?
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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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