

PARENT & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HILL

We hope many of you enjoyed spending time with your students as they rested and recharged over Fall Break! It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the semester. The Hill is buzzing with energy as our McDaniel community makes the most of the second half of fall 2026!

[Parent & Family Weekend registration is now open!](#) We can't wait to welcome you back to the Hill on November 6-8 for a weekend of connection, discovery, and Green Terror spirit. At McDaniel, family is chosen, and everyone is welcome to experience your student's home away from home. Encourage your student to show you where they learn, gather, and relax — and enjoy a few new experiences together along the way!

Weekend highlights include opportunities to connect with faculty from a variety of academic areas and to learn about student support resources. Discover how McDaniel encourages students to explore career possibilities in the CareerTracks Session, and learn more about our study abroad programs, too! Looking for some fun? Join us for a '50s-themed murder mystery buffet, the Parent & Family Council's Welcome Reception, and the spirited Hilltop Huddle Suite experience during the final home football game of the season. We'll wrap up the weekend by celebrating student achievement at our Undergraduate Awards Ceremony and Brunch. Be sure to [reserve your spot](#) soon so we can welcome our extended McDaniel family!

We're also pleased to invite you to *New Generation, Different Concerns: The Role McDaniel Families Play in Addressing and Preventing Substance Use* on **Monday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m.** Join Dr. Malinda Kennedy and Kelsey O'Hara, MPH, of The Maryland Collaborative for an informative conversation about substance use among college students and the important role families can play in prevention. Drawing on their extensive public health experience, they'll share current trends in collegiate substance use (some may surprise you!), what research tells us about family influence, and practical strategies and conversation starters you can use with your student.

Whether you're wondering how to approach a difficult conversation or simply want to stay informed, this session will offer helpful insights and resources to support your student's well-being. We hope you'll join us! [Register today to take part in this important conversation.](#)

We look forward to seeing you on the Hill and celebrating all that makes this community so special!



Christine Moran
AVP of Student Success



Heidi Reigel '97
AVP of Constituent Engagement

ACADEMIC DATES

Wednesday, Oct. 28	Last day to withdraw with a "W" grade or select P/Dx/F
Wednesday, Oct. 28	Deadline to add a 1-2 credit independent study
Monday, Oct. 2	Spring 2027 registration begins
Sunday, Nov. 15	Deadline for May 2027 graduation application

Just so you know: Midterm grades were due to the Registrar by noon on Oct. 13, and the deadline to register for fall internships was Oct. 20.

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Midterm grades were made available on Oct. 13 for students to review.

Spring 2027 registration advising is underway! Please have your student schedule an appointment with their student success coach or faculty advisor as soon as possible.

Walk-in Wednesdays: Does your student need advising or support? Encourage them to visit Student Success & Support during walk-in hours, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays!

FIRST-YEAR UPDATES

First-year students have been busy, both in and out of the classroom! At the end of September, more than 130 of them took part in the First Year Experience (FYE) Renaissance Fair, a spirited evening that gave students a chance to connect with classmates, try something new, and build a

sense of community on campus.

The fun continues this fall. Coming up, students can celebrate the season at a pop-up pumpkin painting event, a relaxed and creative way to take a break from coursework and meet new people. Peer mentors are also hosting smaller, more personalized events. Movie nights, pumpkin hunts, and pizza parties abound!

On Monday, Oct. 26, students can learn more about the exciting job opportunities that the FYE program offers at a meet and greet! Later that day, students will join a few rounds of FYE Bingo, a fun way to enjoy friendly competition with classmates and a chance to win great prizes!

DO YOU HAVE A SENIOR?

The online graduation application for undergraduate students anticipating a May 2027 graduation is Nov. 15. Students need to submit their graduation application through Self-Service.

OFFICE OF STUDENT BELONGING

The Office of Student Belonging is excited to host a tent at the football game on Saturday, Nov. 7, during Parent & Family Weekend. Everyone will also have the chance to meet Arin White, our new associate director of student belonging! Whether your student is spending the weekend with family or staying on campus, they'll have a wonderful opportunity to make connections and feel at home on the Hill. There's always room for them here!

RESIDENCE LIFE

The residence halls will close at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25, for Thanksgiving Break and will reopen at noon on Sunday, Nov. 29. Check out the opening and closing dates on our [Residence Hall Calendar](#).

FINANCIAL AID

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for the 2027-28 academic year is now open! While it may feel early, since the fall 2026 semester has just begun, we encourage you and your student to submit your 2027-28 FAFSA as soon as possible and cross this off your list. Completing the FAFSA early helps ensure priority consideration for financial aid and allows families to plan with accurate financial information.

If your student is a Maryland resident, please be aware that this past year the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) only awarded funds to students who submitted their FAFSA **and**

MHEC One App by the March 1 deadline. State scholarships and grants are limited, and MHEC will only award funds while they are available.

Policy Highlights of the Month:

Housing Updates

Students' financial aid eligibility is directly tied to their housing status. If your student decides to change their housing status from living on campus to commuting or vice versa, they must complete a [Housing Update Form](#) with the Financial Aid Office.

Here's what to know:

- Students moving from resident to commuter status will see a reduction in their McDaniel aid, since the cost of attendance decreases.
- Federal or private loans may also be adjusted when housing status changes.

We strongly recommend that students consult with the Financial Aid Office before finalizing any changes to their housing arrangements so that they can understand how these changes may impact their aid package.

Common FAFSA Myths: The Parent Edition

Myth: The FAFSA form takes forever!

FACT: It takes most parents **less than eight minutes** to complete their section of the FAFSA form.

Myth: If I fill out the FAFSA form, I will be responsible for paying for my child's college education.

FACT: Adding your information to your child's FAFSA form **doesn't make you responsible** for paying for their education. It only enables Federal Student Aid to estimate your child's eligibility.

Myth: I make too much money for my child to qualify.

FACT: Many families are surprised to qualify for grants, work-study, scholarships, or federal student loans. Your **child also won't qualify for state student aid if you don't submit a FAFSA form.**

Myth: My child can complete the FAFSA form without me.

FACT: Most students **must provide parent information to qualify for all forms of federal student aid.**

And as always, our team is here to assist you with all your financial aid needs.

Connect with your student's financial aid counselor:

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

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

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

THE BURSAR'S OFFICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE: REFUNDS VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT ONLY

- Spring semester refunds will be issued via Direct Deposit only.
- Students have received instructions for setting up Direct Deposit through PayMyTuition.
- Parent PLUS Loans: If the refund is from a Parent PLUS Loan and the funds are being returned to the parent/borrower rather than the student, the borrower must also set up Direct Deposit.
- To receive the refund, the student must designate the borrower as an authorized user through PayMyTuition. The borrower will then be able to establish their own Direct Deposit profile.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Nov. 1: Final fall payment plan installment is due.
- Nov. 2: Spring course registration opens, and your student's account must be in good financial standing for them to be able to register.

SPRING 2027 SEMESTER

Spring statements will be available on Monday, Nov. 16. Spring payment plans also open that day, with the first installment due upon enrollment. Installment amounts are based on your enrollment date in the plan. The last day to enroll in the payment plan option is Jan. 5, 2027. There is a \$75 enrollment fee.

The additional payment plan installment dates are:

Dec. 1, 2026

March 1, 2027

Jan. 2, 2026

April 1, 2026

Feb. 1, 2026

STUDENT & FAMILY RECOMMENDATIONS

To help ensure timely communication and easy access to account information, students are encouraged to complete the following steps as soon as possible. Completing these actions early will help ensure that both students and their families have the information they need for the spring semester:

- Review financial statements monthly to ensure the student's account remains current.
- Complete FERPA authorization
 - FERPA authorization allows the Bursar and Financial Aid teams to speak with designated family members regarding the student's financial account and financial aid information.
- Set up authorized users
 - Students should designate appropriate family members as authorized users so they can access statements and make payments on the student's account.

CENTER FOR EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY (CEO)

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 can be found on Handshake, McDaniel's career platform connecting students to events and opportunities related to internships and jobs.*

Professional Pathway Showcase: Business, Computer, and Quantitative Sciences

Tuesday, Oct. 27 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Roj Student Center, mid-level

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.

Interview Success Strategies

Students will learn practical techniques for preparing for interviews, communicating their strengths, and making a strong impression.

- 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.

- Wednesday, Nov. 4 | 1-4 p.m. | Roj Student Center, mid-level
- Wednesday, Nov. 4 | 6-8 p.m. | Virtual

Professional Pathway Showcase: Kinesiology, Health, and Natural Sciences

Thursday, Nov. 12 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Roj Student Center, mid-level

Internship and job opportunities will be highlighted at this networking event for students of all years, featuring over 25 employers and graduate schools related to kinesiology, health, and natural sciences.



McDaniel students in Budapest.

Studying abroad is one of the most transformative experiences available to students, helping them build cultural awareness, independence, confidence, and valuable skills that 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 the process 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.

Budapest Information Session

- Tuesday, Nov. 10 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Innovation Lab
- Tuesday, Nov. 10 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Virtual

General Study Abroad Information Session

- Wednesday, Nov. 11 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Innovation Lab
- Wednesday, Nov. 11 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Virtual

ATHLETICS

Join us for our annual Trick-Or-Terror event on Friday, October 23, at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the McDaniel College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Enjoy carnival-style games and FREE

candy for children ages 12 and under who come dressed in their best Halloween costume.

Cheer the Green Terror on to victory during Parent & Family Weekend! The football team takes on rival Johns Hopkins on Saturday, Nov. 7, in the final game of the season. Women's basketball hosts the annual Rebecca Martin Memorial Tournament on Friday, Nov. 6, and Saturday, Nov. 7, while swimming dives into Centennial Conference action against Ursinus on Saturday, Nov. 7. Check out the [athletics website](#) for game times. And don't forget – you can cheer on the Green Terror from afar with our livestreams!

Support the McDaniel College men's basketball team as they face Division I UMBC on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. Purchase tickets through the UMBC [online ticket sales office](#). Use promo code MCDANIEL26 for a special discount and join us at Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena!

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Students laughing as one student shows off a scarf.

Students can find information about events and clubs on What's Up McDaniel, where they can also register for trips and purchase tickets.

Planning your fall bucket list? Don't miss out on these great upcoming events!

- Thursday, Nov. 12 | Wings and Sings
- Friday, Nov. 13 | Sweater Weather Fest
- Saturday, Nov. 21 | Weekend Blitz Trip to NYC
- Thursday, Dec. 3 | Coffee and Coloring
- Monday, Dec. 7 | Late Night Breakfast

Hilltop Highlight: Sweater Weather Fest will be an indoor/outdoor event featuring fire pits, a hot chocolate truck, s'mores, crafting, games, and off-campus vendors! A great night to snuggle up in a sweater and join us for fall vibes!

CAMPUS SAFETY

The National Crime Prevention Council designated October as Crime Prevention Month. We recognize and celebrate the practice of crime prevention, while promoting awareness of important supportive measures for students and employees on campus. Additionally, [the Annual Security and Fire Safety \(Clery Act\) Report](#) is now available.

Crime Prevention and Safety Tips to Keep Your Student and Our Campus Community Safe:

- Always carry a cell phone or other communication device with you when you are out by yourself.
- Update your contact information for McDaniel Alert messages.
- When traveling on foot, if you go walking or running, always do so in well-populated areas and during daylight hours, and avoid walking in alleys and poorly lit areas off campus.
- Always lock your vehicle and never leave items inside your vehicle in plain view.
- Park in well-lit areas. The college routinely assesses parking lots and campus lighting to maintain a well-lit campus.
- Always lock your dorm, house, or apartment door.
- Do not prop open any doors to campus residences.

Know the Rules & Stay Safe: Students are expected to be familiar with and follow the college's Student Conduct policies — including those related to fire safety, weapons, and facsimile weapons — and the college's drug-free campus requirements. A few minutes of awareness can prevent a serious issue! Please take time to review the policies and understand the expectations for living and learning on campus.

Planning ahead for break? Shuttle service is available!

Is your Green Terror making travel plans for the upcoming breaks? McDaniel's Department of Campus Safety offers shuttle service to and from **Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport and BWI Amtrak** to help students get where they need to go for Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

Students can find the shuttle registration links on the [Campus Safety page in the MyMcDaniel Portal](#). Be sure to plan ahead and reserve a spot!

- **Thanksgiving Break:** Registration opens **Nov. 4 at 8 a.m.** and closes at **11:59 p.m. on Nov. 18.**
 - Space on the shuttle to BWI Airport or Amtrak can be reserved for Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., as well as Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.
 - Return pickup from BWI and BWI Amtrak will be on Sunday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m.

- **Winter Break:** Registration opens **Nov. 21.**

Don't forget! [McDaniel College's Department of Campus Safety](#) is a resource available to your student 24 hours a day by phone at 410-857-2202 or in person at 152 Pennsylvania Avenue.

WELLNESS CENTER



Yellow and purple flowers in a vase.

This month, we would like to highlight **Mental Health Awareness**. Recently, the McDaniel College Wellness Center participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) **#IWillListen campaign** for the first time. The campaign's goal is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health by encouraging meaningful conversations and active listening. Throughout the month, we have hosted several events designed to create open dialogue around mental health, including our annual **Mental Health Screening Day** on Oct. 5.

As simple as it may sound, listening is one of the most powerful ways to support someone who is navigating mental health concerns. We encourage you to check in with your students about how they are doing and to truly listen to their experiences. By listening, you can help them feel seen and supported, connect them with helpful resources, and remind them that they are not alone.

The timing of this year's campaign aligns closely with midterm exams, a period that often brings increased stress for many students. During this time, it is especially important for families to be aware of the mental health resources available on campus. The Wellness Center, located in Winslow Hall, offers urgent walk-in appointments from **8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday** and **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays**. Students can also stop by in person,

call us at **410-857-2243**, or schedule an appointment online through the [Wellness Center page on the MyMcDaniel Portal](#).

In addition to utilizing campus resources, we encourage families to have conversations with their students about their overall health and wellness, including maintaining regular appointments with a primary care provider (PCP). PCPs can also help coordinate care and provide referrals for mental health services when appropriate.

As your student continues to navigate college life, relationships, and personal growth, it is important to remember that you are not alone in supporting them. We also encourage families and students to seek support through community organizations. For example, NAMI offers two free support groups. The **NAMI Family Support Group** is a peer-led group for adults who have a loved one experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition. Students seeking support for their own mental health can participate in **NAMI Connection**, a peer-led recovery support group for individuals living with mental health conditions.

Our hope is to continue building partnerships with health and wellness organizations and offering programs that foster holistic support for our students and their families. Together, we can create a community where mental health is openly discussed, support is accessible, and no one feels alone in their journey.

GREEN & GOLD CHALLENGE: RESULTS ARE IN!

Thank you to all 1,325 donors who contributed \$231,382 during our 2026 Green & Gold Challenge! Fifteen teams surpassed their goals, and we had some incredible battles for the top spots.

Check out our final leaderboards below and see if your team took home a win.



GREEN AWARD

- 1st** - Men's Lacrosse
- 2nd** - Men's Wrestling
- 3rd** - Men's Basketball

LEVELED-UP AWARD

- 1st** - Swimming
- 2nd** - Men's Wrestling
- 3rd** - Baseball

LOYAL FAN AWARD

- 1st** - Women's Soccer
- 2nd** - Baseball
- 3rd** - Men's Basketball



Do you own a business?

We're excited to announce our new **Parent & Family Business Directory**, launching on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28! The directory will be open to businesses owned by parents and immediate family members of current and former McDaniel students. If you would like your business to be included in the directory, please [submit your information here](#). Submissions must be received by Nov. 15, 2026, to be included in the directory launch on Nov. 28. Post-launch, the directory will be updated on the 15th of every month.

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



- What's something that's been harder than you expected this semester? How are you navigating the challenge?
- Have you met with your success coach or faculty advisors to plan for the spring semester?
- How are you balancing your academic requirements and social activities as you head into the last weeks of the semester?

Need some McDaniel gear to show off your Green Terror Pride?

Looking for the perfect way to celebrate your student's McDaniel journey? The Kyle Cavan Jewelry Collection features cufflinks and elegant pieces with the McDaniel College seal, plus an exclusive architectural piece featuring the Ward Memorial Arch! The collection includes beautiful

keepsakes you can personalize for birthdays, holidays, or special milestones. [Explore the jewelry here.](#)

You can also show your Green Terror spirit from anywhere by shopping the [Campus Store's Spirit Shop](#) for apparel, accessories, and more!

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.

[Update Your Contact Information](#)

McDaniel College

[Unsubscribe](#)