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Millersville University



MILLERSVILLE PARENT AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Millersville!

We are thrilled that you and your student have selected Millersville University. This is a very exciting time in your child's life – and yours.

Millersville publishes a newsletter four times a year just for you, the parents and families of students. Beginning with this issue, we will be distributing the newsletter electronically to your email.

While much of the content of this first issue is geared to parents and families of our new students, it also includes information that is beneficial to all.

For events:

- [Cultural Events Calendar](#)
- [Millersville Community Parade](#), Homecoming Weekend
- [Family Day](#)

Helpful resources:

- [Parent and Family website](#)
- Parent & Family Orientation, [driving directions to the SMC](#)
- [Marauder Athletics](#)

The transition from high school or transfer student to college student is a big step. Whether it's living away from home for the first time, managing the academic workload or making new friends, the adjustment can be challenging.

Please know this: We want to partner with you and your student to give them the tools and assistance to make their college experience at Millersville a successful one.

To receive this e-newsletter, make sure we have your current email address. If your email changes, please be sure to update it with us at our [listserv request page](#). If you have an idea for a topic to include in the next newsletter, send your suggestion to us at muparent@millersville.edu.

We look forward to welcoming you and your student to campus this fall!

Best wishes for a happy and safe summer,

Aminta Hawkins Breaux, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Orientation Starts August 24

Learning their way around campus is just one of the challenges facing incoming freshmen. Orientation starts on Wednesday, August 24, when new students check into their residence halls from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. After saying goodbye to their parents and family members, students will begin their adjustment to college life.

They'll learn where the academic buildings are located, get familiar with the computer labs,

try out the variety of foods in the dining halls, find the best study spots and decorate their rooms.

It's a great time to meet new friends and socialize with their resident assistants, peer mentors and orientation leaders, all of whom were new students at some point. In fact, it is their job to introduce new students to all that is Millersville University, making this week the best time to ask questions and get, well, oriented.

During orientation, students won't have to worry about classes or finding their way in a new place. With their orientation group, they will get a campus tour and spend time eating together, and working to build friendships. Students will get a guided tour of downtown Lancaster, providing a glimpse into all that the city has to offer.

With team-building activities and events, plus some down time to explore by themselves, many incoming students look back at their orientation week almost as a summer camp before starting their college careers. By the time upperclassmen arrive on August 28, and classes begin on August 29, the freshmen will be comfortable on campus and confident to succeed at college.

Take a look at a [video about last year's orientation](#) and other important information to prepare you for the start of the academic year.

Five Tips for Incoming Freshmen

1. Use your student ID card. The student ID card is their access card to campus. It grants students access to services and activities throughout the campus including entry to their residence hall, using their meal plan in the dining facilities, getting into the new fitness center in the Student Memorial Center and allows students to check out library materials. It also provides discounts at some local eateries and serves as a free pass for the bus to get to the city, the mall or the shuttle around campus while classes are in session.
 2. Be safe in the residence halls. Follow the rules to keep everyone safe. These include no candles, hot plates, toasters or Nerf toys.
 3. Have fun! 'Ville After Dark, an organization on campus, provides fun, safe events during the weekends throughout the semester. From concerts to movie screenings, there's something for everyone.
 4. Get help to study hard. The Learning Services Office, and many resources on campus, can help students adjust their study styles to fit a college lifestyle and workload.
 5. Take a trip. The University Activities Board (UAB) organizes trips and events throughout the semester including inexpensive trips to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York City, to encourage students to broaden their horizons.
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Marauder Gold

Marauder Gold turns a student's ID card into a prepaid account that is an easy and safe way for parents and families to provide funds to their students.

Students can use Marauder Gold at the University Store, eateries on campus and laundry machines in the residence halls. It is also a valid form of payment at the copy shop, the ticket/box office, Starbucks on campus and the residence hall vending machines. Plus, a number of off-campus businesses accept Marauder Gold including John Herr's Market, CVS, the Sugar Bowl, Pizza Hut, Giant and many more.

A deposit of \$50 is required to open the account. For your convenience, the initial deposit can accompany your tuition payment. After that, deposits can be made in \$25 increments by using a credit card (American Express, Discover or MasterCard) or e-check via your student's MAX account.

[View the full list of retailers.](#)

Freshmen Learning Together

One Book, One Campus is a program that provides freshman students with a great way to become assimilated into the college atmosphere, starting with orientation. The goal of the One Book, One Campus program is to stimulate discussion and critical thinking around a common book's theme, while enhancing a sense of community among students, faculty and staff.

This year's selection is Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother, written by Pulitzer Prize-winner Sonia Nazario.

Students should read Enrique's Journey prior to arriving at Millersville University. During orientation, students will meet and interact with faculty members, as well as their peers, for informal discussions outside the boundaries of the classroom and formal academic requirements.

Enrique's Journey traces the true story a Honduran boy who sets off on a treacherous trip through Central America and Mexico to reunite with his mother who is in the United States. When he was five years old, Enrique's mother went to the U.S. in order to find work and send money to support Enrique and his siblings. The book provides the base for meaningful discussions of universal themes such as family responsibility, separation and assimilation into new cultures.

"We hope that by selecting a text with so many universal themes, an intellectual community can be built around the book," said Dr. Caleb Corkery, assistant chairman and associate professor of the English department. "This story will engage students in critical thinking and allow them to perceive the world from a different perspective."

On September 19, the book's author will be on campus for a symposium, "Understanding the Immigrant Experience." This event is free and open to the public.

For more information on One Book, One Campus, contact [Professor Corkery](#).

Sign up for MU Alert

Millersville University's MUAAlert system sends information about campus emergencies and weather announcements directly to your cell phone via text message and/or email – but you must register in advance for this free service.

Encourage your student to sign up for MUAAlert. Family members are also encouraged to sign up for the system to stay informed with emergencies and warnings on campus. Several phone numbers and email addresses can be registered with the account so alerts are sent to multiple devices.

For more information, or to create an account, visit the [MUAlert website](#).

Explore the Clubs and Campus Organizations

Academics are central to the college experience, but it is important for a student to make the most of the many offerings on campus. Clubs and organizations include Habitat for Humanity, the Human Powered Submarine Team, National Broadcasting Society, Gospel Choir, Student Senate, the Sci-Fi Club, the Snapper (weekly student newspaper), Greek organizations and a vibrant program featuring intramural and club sports such as fencing, ultimate Frisbee, water polo and lacrosse. Check out more options on the [Student Organizations website](#) and the [website for Campus Recreation](#).

In upcoming issues of the newsletter, we will feature one of the many opportunities for student involvement on campus.

University Christian Fellowship

In a time of decline for most organized religious groups, there continues to be strong spiritual interest among many college students. The interest may be expressed with questions about the war, world ending, heaven or hell, moral values or as basic as personal value. Something from the depths of our being wants to know that we are loved, have value and purpose for life, and have access to a power greater than ourselves.

Campus Ministries at Millersville University exists to meet students where they are, and helps them to deal with some of these tough questions about life and faith.

At Millersville, there are a variety of faith-based groups, campus ministers and opportunities. Take the time to become acquainted with campus ministries through the Millersville website, or personally contact a campus minister or advisor to those groups. Students can find out about the groups from the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, advertisements around campus or from word of mouth.

[Rev. Duane Metzler](#), campus minister for University Christian Fellowship, welcomes questions from parents and families. For additional information on places for worship available in the area for MU students, visit millersville.edu/campusministries.

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