

NOVEMBER 2020

THE WARRIOR LINK

MIDLAND UNIVERSITY'S PARENT AND
FAMILY NEWSLETTER



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LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you happy and healthy. I'm grateful that, together, we have made it to the end of the semester. Technically, the semester ends on December 4th after finals. However, as you know, we have decided to have our final two days of face-to-face classes virtually to allow our students to have a few more days to get home before the Thanksgiving holiday. I am happy to share that, as we neared the end of our face-to-face classes here at Midland, our coronavirus numbers decreased significantly. We are very fortunate to have the cooperation of your students and your support. I would also like to publicly thank all of the Student Affairs staff for all of their hard work and dedication to our students during the first semester. They have worked tirelessly to make sure that all of our students feel supported during quarantine and isolation. Our staff has delivered hundreds of meals, provided rides for students to the local testing facilities, and delivered other necessities as necessary. I hope that if your student has been impacted by coronavirus during this first semester, that they have been well taken care of here on campus.



As your student returns home for the break, I encourage you to ask them about their experience here at Midland. Please talk to them about how they did academically and ask them about any new friendships they have developed. Talk to them about any organizations they have joined and other activities they have participated in. Despite the challenges we have encountered during the first semester, we have gone the extra mile to engage our students to the best of our ability. Unlike some other institutions, we continued offering student organizations and other opportunities for our students to get together safely. We truly value engagement here at Midland and hope that your student was able to benefit from one of the many programs we organized.

With the Thanksgiving holiday quickly approaching, we here at Midland are grateful for many things. We are grateful for our students, we are grateful for the opportunity to be together during the first semester and we are grateful that our students are able to return home to their families safely. I wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. May the rest of your year be blessed, and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with your daughters and sons.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lawrence Chatters
Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer

FALL 2020 CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

- For the third consecutive year, Midland University reported record enrollment numbers, with nearly a 12 percent increase from the 2019-20 enrollment. Midland also enrolled a record number of freshmen this year.
- Midland University Giving Days raised more than \$130,000 with 181 donors.
- The football team defeated Hastings 43-0 for our Homecoming game. Student athletes heralded many other equally-epic wins at their matches, meets, and games.
- Warrior Welcome Days for our first-year students was a huge success. Socially-distanced activities included a day at Camp Rivercrest, where student got to swim, do the high ropes course and zipline, play basketball, hike, and more.
- Student Affairs gave out so much Midland swag and so many awesome prizes! This semester, students have won AirPods, a mini fridge, groceries (Students love Grocery Bag Bingo!), a Google Home, Warrior Bucks to The Grille, and more.
- Midland Activities Crew hosted a full house for our MU's Got Talent student showcase during Homecoming Week.
- Students earned free tickets to Vala's Pumpkin patch, enjoyed a self-care day on campus that included free coffee and chair massages, and had several pet therapy sessions on the green.
- Some Performing Arts highlights were the *Picnic* and *Spamalot* shows.
- In the residence halls, Miller Hall had its opening and now houses approximately 96 students.
- A core team of professional staff members assembled to create a quarantine and isolation task force, which has provided snacks, games, necessities, and encouragement for students in isolation.
- Despite not having the traditional intramural sports like basketball, football, or dodgeball — a record number of students participated in Midland Intramurals this fall. Be sure to ask your student about the online game Among Us.

WINTER BREAK TIPS

Navigating the adult child and parent relationship

Going away to college may have created feelings of independence for your student, and a strong desire for independence may continue when your child comes home for break.

When a student's desire for independence collides with a parent's expectation that their child will slip back into a pre-college, dependent role, arguments may ensue. Some experts suggest that, as long as your young adult child is completing responsibilities at home (such as chores), they should otherwise be responsible for how they're spending their time — just like they manage their schedule while at college.

Study tips for finals at home:

- Help to create a space that supports your student's studies.
- Help your student to eat and snack well for focus and energy.
- Help to create a cozy space for breaks. Remember those care packages you sent to campus? Help them to achieve a similar experience during finals week.
- Remind your student they've done this before!
- Help your student to recharge, regroup, and refocus.
- Congratulate your student on making it this far.

Healthy snack ideas:

- Hummus and veggies (cucumber, peppers, carrots)
- Apples and peanut butter
- Cottage cheese and fruit

Some fun, lower-risk outdoor activities you might consider for your family:

- Hiking
- Biking
- Fishing/hunting
- Golfing
- Bonfire
- Ice skating
- Sledding, snowboarding

Holiday family gathering tips from the CDC:

If having guests to your home, be sure that people follow the steps that everyone can take to make Thanksgiving safer. These steps include:

- Have a small outdoor meal with family and friends who live in your community.
- Limit the number of guests.
- Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
- If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. You can use a window fan in one of the open windows to blow air out of the window. This will pull fresh air in through the other open windows.
- Limit the number of people in food preparation areas.
- Have guests bring their own food and drink.
- If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items like food containers, plates, and utensils.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday, November 25th - Sunday, November 29th** - Thanksgiving Break
- No classes*
 - *Students planning to remain at home for finals can complete an express checkout for Thanksgiving Break, but halls will remain open.
- **Monday, November 30th** - Study Day
- **Tuesday, December 1st - Friday, December 4th** - Online Finals Week**
- **Saturday, December 5th** - Christmas Break begins - Residence halls close at Noon
- **Sunday, January 3rd** - Halls open at Noon for students registered for Interterm
- **Monday, January 4th - Friday, January 22nd** - Interterm
- **Wednesday, January 27th** - Residence halls reopen at 9 AM for students registered for Spring Term

The spring semester will no longer include a Spring Break, previously scheduled for **Saturday, March 20th through Sunday, March 28th.**

- **Thursday, January 28th** - Spring classes begin
- **Friday, April 2nd - Monday, April 5th** - Easter Break - no classes*
- **Friday, May 7th** - Final day of regular classes
- **Monday, May 10th - Thursday, May 13th**
- **Thursday, May 13th** - Spring term ends***
- **Friday, May 14th** - All residence halls and apartments close on at Noon***

Important Holiday Information

Midland University strongly suggests that if students go home for Thanksgiving, they remain home to complete their finals unless circumstances deem otherwise.

As students prepare to leave for Thanksgiving break, they are advised to take any belongings they will need for the remainder of the year until the start of the interterm/spring semester. This includes books, notes, instruments, sports gear, computers, mobile devices, charging/power cords, appropriate weather/season apparel and amount of clothing, medications, plants and other key personal items. Students who are not planning on returning to campus for interterm/spring semester should plan to completely remove all personal belongings. Students will not be permitted to return to their residence hall until the start of the semester for which they are registered.