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Thanksgiving

There will be no
classes from 7:00
am Wednesday,
November
25th — 29th.
Classes will re-
sume on No-
vember 30th.

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MID TERMS. WHAT ARE THEY?

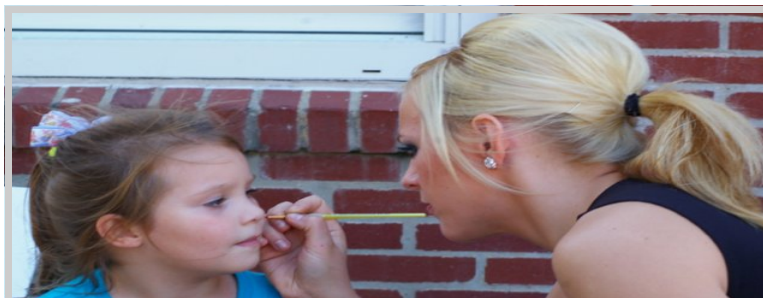
Mid-term grades are currently posted on your student's OneTech account. Within the next ten days, your freshman student will receive their mid-term grades by mail. What are mid-term grades? These are grades that only **freshmen** receive and they are a measure of how the student is halfway through the semester.

If the grades are not satisfactory, remind your student that there are tutoring and help labs for them. For example, the Doc Bryan Tutoring Center is open from 6-9 pm Monday through Thursday. For more information about the center, feel free to contact Mike Bogue at 479-968-0334 or email jboque@atu.edu.

Page five of this newsletter shows how to calculate your student's grade point average (GPA). Your student can check and print their grades from OneTech.

FAMILY DAY SUCCESSFUL

On September 26, the Beatles tribute band British Export performed for parents, students, and the entire TECH family. From beginning to end, the group had the crowd going. In addition, the cotton candy, sno-cones, inflatables, rock climbing wall, face-painting, and everything else, made it a great day for everyone. The Wonderboys dominated on the football field and the sold-out crowd cheered every play! The entire day was a great experience, and based on the comments that parents have sent in, it seems that the day was a huge success. Make plans now to attend the 2010 Arkansas Tech University Family Day!



Keeping your family connected!



COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENT

How often do you communicate with your son or daughter at Arkansas Tech University? Once a day? Twice a day? More? Arkansas Tech University's Parent Relations office is conducting a survey to see how often parents and family members communicate with their students. During this day and age, communications between student and parents are happening far more frequently than in days gone by. The once-a-week pay phone call from the lobby has been replaced with cell phones, text messaging, emails, tweets, and social site networks. If you filled out this survey at the Family Day, there is no need to do it again.

Please take the following survey; it will take less than one minute of your time. The survey is strictly voluntary and completely anonymous, and you can access the survey at the following link. <http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1344442>

COMMENTS ABOUT FAMILY DAY...



"We thoroughly enjoyed the day. The band was great. Once again I am amazed and impressed with the quality of people and programming at Tech. Everything is always top notch, and it makes me really glad my son chose to go to Tech."

"We enjoyed it all especially the British Export."

"Thanks for making family day a lot of fun. It was very well organized and as freshmen parents, we were very impressed. Good football game too."

"We had a great time at Family Day. It was a great opportunity to meet some of my daughter's new friends there at Tech. The concert was fun. What a wonderful choice of bands. We enjoyed the football game and the half price tickets were really helpful."

"Enjoyed it very much. Festive atmosphere and the band was great."

"We really enjoyed Family Day at Tech. All of it was well planned out and very nice. The band was great, the food and events were good, and we really enjoyed the football game."



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2009 ATU FAMILY DAY



AND THEN THERE WERE THREE:

Helping Siblings through the College Transition

You never thought the day would come that your children who argued over clothes, divided their shared room down the middle with masking tape, and avoided each other at school would actually be sad to say good-bye.

Sibling relationships can be enduring, and a sense of loss can be felt when an older sibling heads off to college.

Staying Connected

Whether a sibling is feeling lonely or confused about their new perceived role in the family, there are a variety of ways that parents can help those children at home stay connected with an older sibling at college.

Plan family gatherings

Plan a dinner out for just family when the college student comes home to visit.

Explore a new city by meeting halfway between home and college for a day.

Have the younger sibling(s) and college sibling(s) collaboratively plan a family weekend getaway.

Virtual connection

Plan weekly phone calls for younger siblings to talk with their older sibling.

Provide access to email for siblings back home.

Help a sibling prepare a college care package.

Snail mail is always fun to get, so encourage siblings to write each other regularly.

Plan a campus visit: **Sibling Weekend, Homecoming, Athletic Events**

Opportunities to Reconnect with Siblings Still at Home

Multiple changes are happening for the college sibling, and similarly the siblings left behind are experiencing change in a newly constructed family unit. Consider how you can:

Anticipate the new “family order”

The middle child or younger child will now take on the role of the oldest in the family.

Resources such as transportation, bedroom space, computer, etc. may need to be reallocated appropriately amongst those siblings still at home.

This is the time to give special attention and support to the siblings still at home.

Be careful not to send a “guilt trip”

It is easy to try to “make” an older sibling spend time with a younger sibling, but allowing the reconnection to happen naturally will lead to a long-term renewed relationship.

Be careful not to make a returning student feel guilty for wanting to spend time with friends, bringing new college friends home, or needing alone time, rather than spending time with family.

Family Reconfiguration When College Student Arrives Home

A homecoming will require adjustments.

Younger siblings experience mixed emotions and may need support from parents if they feel that a returning college student is monopolizing family time and resources.

Younger siblings may be confused by perceived and real changes in their college sibling. Once able to talk about everything and anything, siblings have led different lives over the past few months and may need to become re-acquainted.

The middle or youngest sibling has become comfortable with his role as the “oldest” the past few months, and will need to adjust to the adapted family hierarchy once again.

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HOW IS GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATED?

How is Grade Point Average (GPA) calculated?

Arkansas Tech University has provided a website that will automatically calculate the GPA. It is http://www.atu.edu/acad/advisingcenter/GPA_Calculator.htm

Each letter grade is worth a specific number of points: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0. For each course your student has taken, multiply the number of hours (credits) for each course by the number of points for the grade you received. For example:

CLASS	COURSE #	# OF HRS.	GRADE	TOTAL
ENGL	1013	3	C (2)	6
BIOL	1014	4	C (2)	8
HIST	1503	3	B (3)	9
MATH	1113	3	D (1)	3
		13 Units		26 Grade Points

Now, divide the number of grade points by the number of units to get your semester GPA. **26 divided by 13 = 2.0 GPA.**

NEW SERVICE

The Health and Wellness Center has a new service for the students. The *Online Healthy Life Students' Self-Care Guide* is now on the Health and Wellness website. By going to the website, www.atu.edu/hwc, and clicking on Students' **Self-Care Guide** they can find out what to do for hundreds of symptoms. Also you and your student can keep up with what is happening at the Health Center by becoming a fan on Facebook. We are listed under Arkansas Tech University Health and Wellness Center.

UNDECIDED? NO PROBLEM!

Is your student unsure about his/her major and career? Consider suggesting career development. Career Development Specialist, Brian Henderson will provide a series of personality assessment tools that will be used to help your student find his/her ideal major or career based upon interests, motivational traits, personality, values, abilities, aptitudes, personal work style, and work environment preferences. Have your student contact our Career Development office at (479) 968-0278 or email bhenderson3@atu.edu for more information.

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ON CAMPUS COUNSELING SERVICES

Did you know that the University has counseling services that are FREE to the students? Located in Doc Bryan Building, room 233, counselor Valerie Breashears or Dr. Larry Root would be glad to speak to your student about academic situations, behaviors, relationships, and feelings that students might be having. Office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

479-968-0276.

TECH
Parent Association