



PARENT TO PARENT

A Message from the
Parents Leadership Council

Dickinson

We hope you are enjoying your summer! As you continue to make plans for your Red Devil's arrival at Dickinson in August, we know that you will continue to have many questions. The virtual summer programs for parents and families will be a great resource for you – here is a recording of the first program that took place on June 30 that provided some excellent information about [summer advising](#).

As parents of a rising senior, we have learned that [Dickinson's website](#) provides a vast amount of information to answer many questions. In [last month's Parent to Parent newsletter](#), we provided details and website links on topics including housing, roommates, supplies and arrival on campus. In this edition, we are going to answer more commonly asked questions related to preparing your student for the fall semester in Carlisle and provide additional links to Dickinson's website for even more information.

What meal plan should my first-year student select?

If your family is anything like ours, food is very important. The good news is that there are many food options in the Dining Hall and other locations around campus, so everyone will be able to find things they like! "Any 20" is the meal plan suggested for all incoming first-year students during their fall semester. The Any 20 option offers 20 meals each week at the Dining Hall, while permitting your student to make "meal exchanges" at other food locations on campus. Students may change to another meal plan after their first semester. Explanations and comparisons of the various meal plan options (including "Flexboard Points Plans"), how to change meal plans and how "meal exchanges" work can be found online, along with [FAQs](#) about Dickinson meal plans.

Where can my student eat on campus?

There are four locations students can eat on campus:

1. The Dining Hall
2. Union Station snack bar and grille (known as the "SNAR") for a quick bite
3. The Underground Student Lounge for coffee, tea, fresh fruit and made-to-order smoothies and Red Devil sushi
4. The Grab & Go for deli sandwiches, soups, salads, snacks and beverages.

In addition, Biblio Café in the Waidner-Spahr Library offers coffee, tea and pastries for those needed study breaks! Descriptions of what each eating location has to offer, as well as daily menus, can be found on the [website](#).

Please note that during spring semester 2021 some dining services and meal plan options were altered or suspended to meet COVID-19 protocols, but we are hoping things will return to normal this fall. Keep a lookout for updates on the [Campus Dining webpage](#).

What if my student has special dietary needs?

The Dining Hall offers many dietary choices, including kosher, vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options at each meal. If your student has special dietary needs not addressed by the many regularly offered options or has allergy concerns, contact [Access and Disability Services](#) (ADS) to find out about accommodations that may be available from Dining Services. On a personal note, our daughter requires special meals, and the Dining Services staff has been fabulous in making sure she gets what she needs—and plenty of it!

What is the difference between a Declining Balance Account and Dining Dollars?

Declining Balance Accounts (DBA) is a debit card system linked to your student's ID card. A DBA can be used to purchase things on campus including at all Dining Services locations (with a 10% discount), the Farm Cart, Mail Center, Dickinson College Bookstore, Print Center, and library copiers. In addition, The Pizza Grille, an off-campus restaurant (one of our daughter's favorites!) also takes DBA. Details on purchasing DBA points can be found on the [website](#). Dining Dollars are much like DBA but can *only* be used in dining locations.

How can my student learn about getting involved on campus?

The best thing your student can do to make their time at Dickinson special is to *get involved!* Their education and growth will come not only from their time in classes, but also from the informal interactions and experiences that come from being an active member of the Dickinson community. Dickinson offers something for everyone. The college has over 100 student organizations, intramural athletics, 25 varsity sports and endless other opportunities for your Red Devil to find others who share their interests. [Dickinson's Opportunities for Engagement page](#) connects your student with the EngageD program for students. Definitely have your first-year check it out!

Our daughter, Rachel, made a conscious decision before even arriving on campus her first year that she was going "put herself out there," meet and get to know her fellow students and be involved. She started early by participating in social events for admitted students in the months leading up to fall semester and in the Pre-Orientation Program, meeting a number of her closest friends at Dickinson to this day. Three years later, Rachel is a member of the women's tennis team and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, a Presidential Fellow, a teaching assistant, a Bio Buddy, and a research assistant to several professors, and she also attends programs offered by the Asbell Center for Jewish Life. She has made great friends and has had experiences that have truly enriched her college life.

Can my first-year student have a car on campus?

First-year students are *not* permitted to have cars on campus or in Carlisle. Dickinson does not issue parking permits to first-years and cars without a Dickinson Parking Permit—whether parked in Dickinson parking lots or on the street—will be ticketed. That being said, your student doesn't really need a car because everything they may need is within walking distance of campus or, if a bit further away, accessible by use of Dickinson's Safety Shuttle. Shuttle service information, including stops and times of operation, can be found [online](#). Dickinson also offers a [MedVan](#) that runs weekdays for rides to/from doctor's appointments within the Carlisle Borough, and, with 48 hours advance notice, outside the Borough.

During move-in, move-out and spring break, the college offers a shuttle service to the Harrisburg Airport and Harrisburg train/bus station. More information on the airport/bus/train shuttle is available on the [website](#) and we understand will be updated with current information in the coming weeks.

Where do I send mail and packages for my student?

Receiving packages (particularly care packages with a “taste of home”) always excites Rachel. So how do you get packages—whether clothes, food, birthday surprises or Amazon deliveries—to your student? Before arriving on campus, students will receive an email with their mailing address and HUB (mailbox) number. Your student’s mailing address and HUB number will remain the same for all four of their years, no matter where they live on campus. Addressing your letters and packages properly is important for timely delivery. [Proper labeling instructions](#) can be found online. When letters or packages arrive for your student, they will receive an email from Mail Services alerting them and providing package pickup hours. Mail Services can also assist students with outgoing mail and packages as well as weekend deliveries.

How does housing work after the first year?

OK, it may seem early to be discussing your student’s sophomore year housing selection, but time flies, and they will be thinking about their next academic year before you know it. Starting with your Red Devil’s sophomore year, a variety of housing options are available—everything from standard dorms and suites to townhouses or apartments in downtown Carlisle (usually only for juniors and seniors). A lottery system, starting with seniors, then juniors and then sophomores, is used to put students in a “queue” each year for requesting the housing style and location of their choice. Students requiring special housing arrangements due to medical needs documented with the Office of Disability Services are given consideration in their placement priority. Information on Disability Services can be found at [Access and Disability Services | Dickinson College.](#)

Conclusion

So many questions and so little space! While we hope that we have addressed some of the top-of-mind questions you have regarding student life at Dickinson, we recognize that we have only covered a few subjects. Dickinson’s [Frequently Asked Questions for Incoming Students](#) webpage contains information and links on many additional subjects, including the Dickinson Gateway, first-year Orientation, summer advising calls and class requests, First-Year Seminar, health forms, placement exams, and much more. There is also an [Information for Parents of Incoming Students](#) page available online.

Before long, your student will be joining our daughter as a Red Devil. We hope that you and your student are excited about the fun and inspirational journey ahead of you over the next four years at Dickinson.

Andrew and Lori Flame P’22
Chairpersons, Parents Leadership Council

Future Editions of This Newsletter

In future editions of this newsletter we plan to cover additional items we think you will find

helpful, including:

Things We Never Thought Of – Things that other parents with kids in college told us (and we would never have thought of), such as medical release forms, Amazon Prime student membership rates, book rentals and how to celebrate your student's birthday while they are on campus.

When Your Child Wants You to Visit! – Information on Family Weekend, such as where to stay, things to eat and what to do. *First tip:* Make your hotel reservation *now* for Family Weekend, September 17-19.

The Top Things I Learned From My Daughter About Being Successful at Dickinson



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