

*Hello Jodie:*

*I am the parent of an incoming freshman at MSU and I am wondering if you could tell me who I need to contact to have information regarding his account sent to me.*

*Thank you.*

*A parent*

Dear parent,

Welcome to the MSU family! I think there are a couple of things that can be done to keep you informed about happenings at MSU. First, we can add your email to our [Parent list](#) so that you receive the monthly Family Newsletter and any alerts that go out through that means. We can also add your email to the [Bobcat Bulletin](#), a weekly e-newsletter with the latest information about MSU success stories, programs and events. This will give you lots of general information and regular updates on MSU.

From a student accounts perspective, you will receive information about billing etc. if your student adds you as an authorized user on QuikPAY <http://www.montana.edu/wwwbu/QuikPAY.html>. This link will tell your student exactly how to add you, and gives you information about the service. On the QuikPay system, authorized payers will see the static bills we have sent to QuikPay as of the date we send the file. We update the file weekly for about the first month of school, then monthly after that until the next term is billed. The authorized payers receive an email when we send a new bill file to QuikPay; this can be helpful in keeping up with fee payment.

Your student can also fill out and return a signed FERPA form allowing staff in MSU student accounts and financial aid to speak with you about financial aspects of his account. [Click here for the form](#). You will need to know the password when contacting the student accounts office. This form does not give the designated person the ability to look at the student's account.

Grades and academic information are a little different. Your student can choose to give you his MyInfo username and password. If he does so, you would have the same access as he does to his transcripts, current grades etc. The PFA suggests that you visit with your student about your expectations with regard to this kind of communication before he/she leaves for school.

Finally, signing up for MSU Alert will keep you in the loop if there is ever an emergency on campus. You can enroll yourself at: <http://www.montana.edu/msualert/> and we recommend that you encourage your student to enroll as well. Being a part of this service means that if there is ever an emergency on campus, you will receive an email and/or text message telling you where to find more information. This service is used only to communicate urgent messages. It is not used for spam or general information.

I think that covers everything. Please let me know if this answers your question or if you need further information. Have a great afternoon, and again, welcome to the MSU Family!

Jodie

Hi Jodie,

*I'm trying to find a school calendar so I can work on airfares and timing, etc. When are the breaks, dorm closings, weekends of importance, etc.?*

*Could you tell me where to look for this on-line?*

Thanks,

A parent

Hi parent,

Most definitely! The calendar is located at <http://www.montana.edu/aircj/facts/calendar.html> It is a link called CALENDAR OF EVENTS found on the left side of the home page about half way down under the Quick Links box and Bobcat Athletics. The term calendar shows all the academic dates you need to know and the calendar of events includes things like concerts and lectures – as well as Parent/Family Weekend which will be October 30-November 1st.

I found the schedule for dorm closings on page 18 of the Residence Life Handbook. <http://www.montana.edu/reslife/pdfs/handbook.pdf> They are posted here for your review.

### **Occupancy Periods**

#### **Fall 2009 Semester:**

- All residence halls open for occupancy on: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
- All residence halls close for Thanksgiving break (exclusive of residents who have paid for break housing during the Thanksgiving break) on: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at noon.
- All residence halls open for occupancy on: Sunday, November 29, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.
- All residence halls close for winter break (exclusive of residents who have paid for break housing during the winter break) on: Saturday, December 19, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

#### **Spring 2010 Semester:**

- All residence halls open for occupancy on: Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.
- All residence halls close for Spring break (exclusive of residents how have paid for break housing during the spring break) on: Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.
- All residence halls open for occupancy on: Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.
- All residence halls close for the closing of the academic year on: Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.

#### **Cost of break housing:**

- Thanksgiving: \$40.00 flat rate – The dates are as follows: November 25- 29, 2009. The residence hall dining facilities are NOT open during these dates
- Winter break: \$220.00 flat rate – The dates are as follows: December 19 – January 10, 2010. The residence hall dining facilities are NOT open during these dates.
- Spring break: \$80.00 flat rate – The dates are as follows: March 13-21, 2010. The residence hall dining facilities are NOT open during these dates

**In order to minimize disruption within the academic focus of finals week, we request that you vacate your room within 24 hours after your last final exam. Disruptive behavior during finals week will result in the Resident Director requiring that you vacate immediately.**

Interim housing will be provided (**at an additional charge**) for students wanting to stay during the interim period between Fall and Spring Semesters. Students living in Johnstone Center, North Hedges Suites, and Roskie will be allowed to stay in their current room. Students living in all other halls may be required to move during the interim period to consolidate space. Unless you live in Johnstone Center or Roskie, you may not occupy your room between semesters as the halls will be closed. **Due to safety and security issues, guests are not allowed during interim or break housing periods.** Mail/packages are not distributed or forwarded during break periods.

Thanks and please let me know if you need something more. Have a terrific afternoon,

Jodie