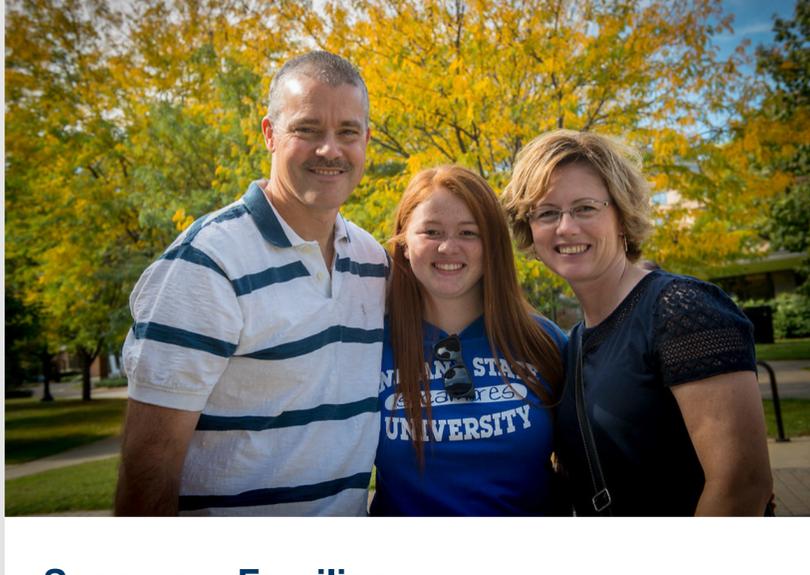


BLUE IS FAMILY

Family Newsletter

- September 2020 -



Sycamore Families,

We have had a busy last few weeks here at Indiana State! We have welcomed over 1,800 new students to campus and hosted several in-person and virtual events as a part of State Welcome 2020, and many students are now starting to settle into their daily routines.

This time of year can be an interesting one for students. New students are looking for ways to connect, upper class students may be looking for leadership positions and preparing for life after State. A lot of our students are looking for jobs, both on and off campus. In some cases, students can tend to take on more than they should, wanting to fit in as much as they can into each day! It can be hard for a student to vocalize exactly what and why something interests them, and the variety of organizations and opportunities available can be overwhelming. Sometimes they want to try something out because their friend is a part of it, sometimes it's because they've been told it will make them more marketable. As families and supporters of students, we know that they should be involved in things that they can grow and develop from. Asking your student "why do you want to do that?" and "how will that help you achieve your goal(s)?" is an important reminder to them about why they chose to come to State. Challenge your student with these questions! They will most likely be asked these questions down the road, whether by a professor or potential employer, and it's good to have perspective that will help guide in their decision-making process. When those questions come from someone they trust and look up to, it can be easier for them to answer and prepare for life once they leave college.

Please remember that our goal is to keep you informed not only with what events are happening on campus, but also what your student may be experiencing and how you can best support them and partner with us to make their experience the best it can be. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

With Sycamore Pride,

Debbie Rea Barber
Assistant Director, New Student Transition Programs/Family Programs

isu-familyprograms@indstate.edu

Follow us on Social Media!



Timely Issues

Ask your student about their classes. Students often struggle with the classroom policy differences between high school and college. One of the biggest struggles is attendance. Each class will have different guidelines and policies. Does your student know those policies for each class? How are they planning to track missed classes for each course? What is the tardy policy for each class? Most instructors have a certain number of allowed absences, then they start to lose points for being absent, and some have a set number of absences after which a student automatically fails the class. This may differ slightly this semester due to COVID-19, but make sure your student is familiar with the attendance policies in each class and has a process in place to keep up with their work if they need to miss class for any reason.

When and how often is your student studying? They need to schedule study time and stick to it, not just when they get to it. We encourage them to find time between classes to review notes both directly after class and before the next time so that the notes are fresh when they go into class. They also need to understand that most instructors will not teach from the book. They expect the student to read and know the material in the book and will teach at a level above the book. Failure to be familiar with the material in the book will put them at a disadvantage.

If your student is living on-campus, have they completed a roommate agreement? This agreement forces them to sit down with their roommate and set joint rules for the room, guests, use of each other's belongings, expectations of behavior, etc. Without it most students will not discuss any of this and it results in conflict later in the semester – usually when they are stressed out with mid-terms and projects. Encourage them to be proactive. They can get this form and process from their RA.

Has your student met their Academic Advisor yet? Their academic advisor is their primary resource on campus. They can help them with ANY issues that come up and like to see their students each month just to make sure they are doing ok. Encourage them to reach out to their advisor and schedule a meeting as soon as possible.



State Family Talk

Are you looking for ways to best support your student? Here are a few tips on how families can support and encourage their student from a student's perspective. This Sycamore [shares his perspective](#) on receiving support from family members in September and what student life is like during this time.

Dates to Know

September

- September 16 - Virtual Career Fairs
- September 24-29 - Interim Grading



October

- October 6 - Pathway to Graduation: Get Your 'Ish Together
- October 9 - Fall Break (No day or evening classes)
- October 28 - Pathway to Graduation: Should I Drop This Class?

[University Calendar](#)

Noteworthy at ISU



[ISU lands in top third nationally in Washington Monthly rankings](#)

[Princeton Review names ISU among Best in the Midwest](#)

[Graduation, retention rates show success of ISU's enrollment strategy.](#)

[ISU student appointed to Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#)

COVID-19 Contact Information

Office of the Dean of Students: 812-237-3829 | ISU-DeanofStudents@indstate.edu

Office of Residential Life: 812-237-3993

Disability Services: 812-237-2700

Student Health Center: 812-237-3883

[COVID reporting form](#)

[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



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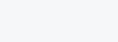
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