

Transcript: A Conversation About Housing and Dining

Student Transitions & Family Programs

2022-2023 Family Webinar Series

May 4, 2022

Brittany McDaniel- All right, welcome everybody. We're just going to wait a few more minutes to make sure all families have logged in. And so please go ahead and get settled and we'll start in about a minute and a half. All right, well, hello all my name is Brittany McDaniel, and I want to welcome you to the first webinar in our 2022 and 2023 family webinar series. I'm the Associate Director for Residential Education within the office of Residential Life, and tonight I am joined by two of my colleagues, Evan Keil, Assistant Director for Residential Life, and Andrew Watling, Associate Director for dining operations. We're very excited that you have chosen to join us for tonight's conversation. Just a few housekeeping tips before we get started. First, we wanna make sure you know how to submit questions during this webinar, and so you'll notice that we have given you the ability to ask questions via the Q and A feature. Our professional staff within the student transitions and family programs are helping to field these questions, and so they'll ask these, and we'll be able to answer them. To make sure you know how to use the Q and A feature, please share the place you're watching from, and we will name a few of them on air. Second, we will be showing a PowerPoint created by our panelists during tonight's webinar, however, if you prefer to download this PowerPoint and follow along on your own, please use the link just shared in the chat. As a note, in the chat feature we will be sharing links and email addresses for the duration of this webinar. And then third, this webinar is being recorded live. Next week it will be uploaded to families.wustl.edu website. And in a moment we will hear from our panelists about housing and dining resources on campus. If something they say sparks a question, don't forget to send it to us in the Q and A feature. After the presentation, we will move into the Q and A portion for the evening. All right, and before passing things along to our panelists, I want to share some of the places that people are joining us from tonight. We have families tuning in from Atlanta Georgia, Kansas City Missouri, Leewood Kansas, so many exciting places across the country. And now, since I know you all want to hear more about housing and dining, I will go ahead and turn it over to Evan to first talk about Residential Life.

Evan Keil- Hi, my name is Evan Keil, I'm an Assistant Director in Residential Life, and really happy to be speaking with you about some of the pieces for housing and be able to remind you of some of our timelines to make sure that we get everything settled for your housing this fall. So just a reminder that if you haven't, if your student has not filled out the housing application yet, they should do this as soon as they possibly can through the WashU pathway. Students who've submitted their application have an opportunity to be able to edit their application all the way up until May 31st, so that may be including, changing their preferences, adding individuals they may want to include as roommates, as well as using our roommate search features, as long as your application is completely edited by May 31st, everyone will have an equal chance of being able to receive their preferences from that point on, so as long as you get your application in as soon as you can and everything's ready to go by May 31st, you won't have to worry about it, it's not a first come first serve application. If your student has any

housing accommodations that they may need, they will need to request those accommodations and provide all the proper documentation through our Disability Resources office, and that will need to be done before we start assignments, which once the application closes on May 31st, we will start working on first year assignments, so please make sure that you are being as proactive as possible if you do have any needs for housing accommodations and getting that approved through the Disability Resources center. And then as part of our process, students can search for and select up to one roommate as part of our process. And in order to do that, they need to put the student ID and the name of the student in the comments section of their application, again, that can be edited all the way up until May 31st. They're able to use our roommate matching and search features inside of the system. If they do not have someone that they know who's coming to the institution, they can try to look for individuals who either answer similarly on the profile and then they can reach out to via email, to have some discussions with to see if they'd be a good fit for a roommate, or maybe they're looking for someone that answers a little bit differently than them on those questions, and so they can also search for roommates in that way too. One thing that is important is once our housing assignments go out over the summer, we will not be able to conduct any room changes until after the first two weeks of class. And so, if for some reason you find an issue with or your student is not necessarily, there's someone else that they found over the summer that they'd want a room with more than the person they're currently placed with or they didn't request a roommate, but now they have someone in mind, they will have to wait, if they don't have that figured out by May 31st, they will have to wait until after the first two weeks of class in order to request a room change. So we get a lot of questions about what you should bring to housing, what items are prohibited in our housing areas, the best thing you can do is use the newstudents.wustl.edu website, and there is all detailed information about what you should bring, what you can bring, and what you cannot bring to the residence halls, so please use that website for any questions about particular items that you may be worried about that it may or may not be prohibited, each school does this a little differently, so it's really important that you're looking at this list even if you think you know what items would be prohibited and which ones wouldn't be. Also make sure that you're looking at the important things to know that is sent through our various offices to make sure that you have all the information that you need for when you are arriving to campus and moving in. And so that is gonna be it for my portion at this point, looking forward to answering some specific questions later on in the presentation.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, thank you, Evan for sharing that information. While hearing you speak, I was reminded of one question that I think many families might be wondering. Can you describe the difference between a modern residential college and a traditional residential college?

Evan Keil - Yeah, so far as experience, there really is not any difference. We do everything we can to make sure no matter what building our first year students are living in, they have the same WashU experience. The true differences between the buildings is that many of our traditional styles work off of community style bathrooms, whereas our modern buildings all work off of a suite style bathroom situation. And the other difference I would say is that our traditional styles do not have elevators where all of our modern buildings do have elevators.

Other than that, all of the buildings have the same, all of the communities have the same amenities, the same staff support, and there are not any other differences besides those two facility pieces.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, thank you, Evan. Now I'm going to invite Andrew to speak with us about dining services.

Andrew Watling - All right, well, good evening, everyone. Thank you all for joining us. I'm gonna just talk a little bit about meal plans and I know as you go into the summer, there's gonna be a lot of questions that I'm sure you'll have around how to pick a meal plan, and what's the right kind of meal plan for you, and so hopefully we can answer a few of those questions for you here this evening. So I do wanna start and make sure that we talk about how the meal plans here at WashU are structured, because they are a little bit different than what you find at a lot of other universities where you have swipes or things like that built into the meal plans. So the meal plans here at WashU are all what we call declining balance, so that means when you get your meal plan, you get points, and those points are what you use to buy food throughout campus, so when you go into the dining halls, the coffee shops, or anywhere else like that, you're spending those points, and those points allow you to buy food on campus and use them when you want, where you want, and for whatever it is that you want, so there is no meals per week minimum, and one of the questions we usually get is, well, how many meals per week does each plan get me? And I think it's important to know that it's gonna vary greatly depending on your student and their eating habit and what their plans are for while they're here on campus and at WashU. So we have a few different meal plans that incoming first year students will have to pick from. The first one is the Silver Plan, and this is the minimum plan, and this is the one that first year students have to have as a minimum. This is the most common plan, and it typically gets students about 10 to 12 meals per week. And so you'll notice that that does not feed you on campus for every meal that you're gonna have to eat during the week, and that's because we know that students are gonna go off campus, they're gonna order pizza with their friends, they're gonna go and do those things, and so we don't want to require them to have a meal plan that's gonna force them to eat on campus every single meal if they don't want to. The Gold Plan is just a little bit bigger, so we typically say that gets you about 13 to 15 meals per week. And then the Platinum Plan is our largest, and this is the largest, it's also the best value plan. This is one that we strongly recommend for athletes. We also strongly recommend this for students who know that they're going to eat most of their meals on campus. So if you know that you're probably not gonna go off campus as much, if you're not going home on the weekends or anything like that, this is gonna be the plan that you're probably gonna want to get, because this is gonna allow you to get closer to 16 to 18 meals per week while you're on campus. It's also important to remember that you use your meal points not just to buy your meals, but it also buying you any of the snacks, your specialty coffees if you go to the Starbucks or anything else like that, that we have, or our sushi restaurant on campus, or even Paws & Go, which is one of our convenient stores on campus. So your meal points are also buying things like snacks that they're gonna have throughout the day. And so it's also important if you have a student who you know likes to go get their latte, or you know that they're gonna want a sushi and a boba tea every once in a while, they're gonna use some of

those points a little bit faster, and so the Platinum Plan might be the best option for them as well. When you look at the plans, you do need to remember that you can always change your plan in the spring semester. So if you buy a bigger plan in the fall, and then you decide that it was a little bit too much, those points will roll over to the spring and you can buy a smaller plan in the spring semester if you don't need the larger plan. And if you run out of meal points, you can always add Bear Bucks. And so the way that our plans are set up is you are supposed to run out right at the end of the semester. We would like to make sure that our students use all of their meal points, and so it's set up that you can add Bear Bucks to your account. It gets used in the dining halls with the same value as a meal point, Bear Bucks have the added benefit they can also be used for your laundry, you can use 'em at the bookstore or Bear Necessities, and you can also use them at certain off-campus vendors in the St. Louis area, Grubhub also takes Bear Bucks, so that's a huge plus as well. And that allows you to continue to use your card on campus when you do run out of meal points. The important thing to remember when you're picking a meal plan is they all give you roughly the same value. And so there's not a lot of difference between buying a Silver Plan and adding Bear Bucks throughout the semester, but you do have to think about how, make sure that you're comfortable doing that when your student calls and says, hey, I need 100 Bear Bucks added to my account. Is that gonna be something that you're comfortable doing, or would you rather load those points up front and know that they're gonna be there on their account? So there's a lot of different things to think about, but we do try to make sure that your plans are as flexible as they can be, that's really the goal with the meal plans here at WashU, is that they're as flexible for you and for your students' needs as possible. We don't restrict our meal plans to any location, so if it is a dining services location on campus, your student, as an incoming first year student, will be able to use their meal plan. A lot of universities say, you can only use your swipes at certain places, or if you're a first year student you have to eat at certain dining halls, here at WashU, we do not restrict them in any way. The only places that they can't use it, there's a cafe and a Starbucks in Bauer Hall that we as dining services don't operate, so I always like to make sure that we make that disclaimer, but they can use them anytime of day, we have something open from roughly about 7:00 am to 3:00 am every day on campus, we also have Etta's Micro Mart that is open 24/7, our Sally The Salad Robots are open 24/7 and all accept meal points. So there's a ton of opportunities throughout the day to use your points. And when you go into the dining hall, everything has a menu, just like any restaurant it has a price on it, and that's what you're gonna pay. And then students at any point they can ask for a receipt to be printed and that'll show their balance, or if they go on to their account, they can also see their point balance at any point that they want to. So they can always know exactly how many points they have on their account at any given time. And I think that's the end of the meal plan portion. And I'm gonna talk for a little bit about nutrition options on campus as well. So we have a dietician team here with dining services on campus. Rebecca Miller is our dietician. We do have another dietician that supports her as well. And our goal with dining on campus for students is that beyond just feeding them great food, we want it to be a supportive environment, we want it to be someplace that they're comfortable. We recognize that students coming to WashU may not be used to living away from home, you as parents may not be used to sending them away from home, and so we wanna make sure that their dining and nutrition needs are well taken care of, so when we look at the menus and what we offer, we try to make sure that they're balanced,

they're high quality food, it's a diverse menu, and that it's accessible to all of our students, so that includes students with dietary needs, allergies, if you're vegan or vegetarian, or if you are kosher or you dine halal, or anything like that, we try to make sure that all of these are widely available to students. And it's really our goal to make sure that through dining on campus, students who come here can thrive and really give themselves an opportunity to potentially even explore new dietary style or really grow in one that they're trying to practice and make sure that they have those available, so we do have a kosher kitchen on campus, we have a certified halal station on campus, and we have vegan and vegetarian menu items throughout our menus, so everywhere you go on campus you can get a full protein balanced, vegan or vegetarian menu item as well. For students who do have allergies or intolerances, we do label all of our food, and so when you go into any of our dining halls, you'll see icons like the ones pictured up here, and we're actually updating these so they'll look slightly differently. And if anyone knows they just added sesame as the ninth food allergy, so you'll start to see that one on here as well, but every menu item that we have on campus, you see these icons, and so it's really easy to quickly identify what allergens might be included in those. We also have the same information available on our website, so you can check it ahead of time, see what's available in different dining halls. And then really importantly, we don't use nuts in any of our food production outside of the bakery. So we have a bakery that's separate from the rest of our kitchens, and that is the only place on campus that we use peanuts or tree nuts in any of our production. So when you go through the Bear's Den or the DUC or the Village or any other locations, there's no nuts outside of the bakery items. And so I think that's a really important thing for us to note. If you do have, and I have to apologize, this is slightly out of date, and I should have caught this, we do have some programs for students who do have more serious food allergy needs. It says GET food, we now actually put a shift over to Grubhub, but we have a Grubhub menu called Simply Made, and that's available to students who really need a little extra care from our culinary team. They can order their meal, it's prepared in a separate facility within all of our main dining units, by staff who are trained to do that. And all you have to do to get onto that list is talk with Rebecca Miller who's our dietician, and she'll talk to your student, make sure that she understands what they need, how we can best help them, and then if they meet the needs of their Simply Made menu, she'll add them to that list, and they'll be able to order through the Simply Made menu and have it specially prepared for them. And this is really important for students who have very severe allergies, especially if it's to an uncommon item that may not necessarily have an icon, this is a really good opportunity for them to have their food safely prepared, but still fresh and made by our chefs. And I highly encourage any students who have a dietary need, is to reach out to us as soon as possible, and talk with one of our dieticians, the earlier we start talking with you or your student, the better we're gonna be able to help you, there's nothing harder than waiting until you show up to then start asking questions about your dining needs if you do have allergies or other dietary needs, I would much rather we have the summer to help make sure that you're set up to be successful when you get here in August. And then finally, we do try to make sure that it's as easy as possible to eat healthy here on campus. What we try to make sure is that we don't ever tell you specifically what food is healthy or what's not, because we recognize that healthy is very different person to person, but we do have the Bear Balance program, and this is something that we designed and it indicates foods that kind of fit a certain profile, so you can see some of the things below

that we measure it off of, but it makes sure that there's lots of whole grains and not too many added sugars and things like that. So if you look around campus, you'll see the Bear Balance logo on certain products, and those are ones that we've kind of picked out and say, these are really designed to be healthy and really better for you products. All of the nutrition information is available for all of our units online, so if you're really concerned about what's in something, or you need to track it for a certain reason, all of that information is available, and then our dieticians are also here to help you navigate that or find things that are gonna be suitable for you when needed.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, thank you, Andrew for sharing that information, just wanna ask a quick question I think maybe families might be wondering, which is, when should a student reach out to you if they have significant dietary or restrictions and would like to connect one on one?

Andrew Watling - Yesterday would be the best answer, as soon as possible, the sooner we know what your needs are and the sooner we can help start making sure that you have a plan ready for the fall, the better we're gonna be able to help you and I think the better prepared you and your student are gonna be when you get here. We can start connecting you with the chefs, we can make sure that we have you set up and that you know what foods are gonna be available for you, and we would much rather do that now than later, so that we know that you're gonna be here and we're ready and we know everything that we need to do.

Brittany McDaniel - Wonderful, thanks, Andrew. So now we're going to move on to the question and answer portion of the webinar, and so, as a reminder, please submit your questions via the Q and A portion. So our first question is for Andrew. Andrew, do students get reimbursed for unused meal points at the end of the academic year, or do they roll over?

Andrew Watling - At the end of the fall semester unused points will roll over to the spring semester, at the end of the spring semester unused points do not get credited back, so you do wanna make sure that you use any points that you have. We make a number of different things available to do that, we have some kind of bulk purchase opportunities where students can come in and buy large quantities of items if they have access points, and they'll take 'em home for the summer and have those available, we also have some donation opportunities, you can buy products that get sent to a local food bank. We also have our food security fund that you can transfer unused meal points to at the end of the semester. And that goes back to a fund that we use to provide meal points to students who are in some financial need throughout the semester.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, thank you. Our next question is for Evan. Evan, do you have pictures of each room?

Evan Keil - Not of each room, but we do have our virtual tours available online through our website, which show multiple halls and rooms within each style that we have, whether it be traditional, modern, singles, doubles, suites, our apartments on the north side and off campus.

So you can see the type of housing you would be living in all four years at WashU you, and again, that is available on our website, which a link has been shared in the chat for that.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, going back to you, Andrew, can you talk a little bit more about Bear Bucks, specifically if a student signs up for the platinum dining plan, what is a reasonable amount to put on for Bear Bucks?

Andrew Watling - Yeah, so Bear Bucks are their campus card account, and so every university usually has something and it's all called a different thing at every campus, but that account is separate on their card and they can use it in the dining halls, they can use it, like I said, for laundry, the bookstore takes it, there's a ton of local restaurants and other businesses around campus that take those points, all the vending machines and everything like that. So it's really useful to have Bear Bucks on your account, even if you're not using it for dining. How many is really hard to say, because it depends a lot on what they're going to use it for. We have students who they add 'em \$25 at a time and they just add a little bit as they go. And then we have a number of students who will add 1,000 or 1,500 Bear Bucks at the beginning of the semester and just work off of that. It really depends what you're comfortable doing, and the great thing about Bear Bucks is you can add them as many times throughout the semester as you want, so you're not stuck trying to do it once at the beginning of the semester and just guess. So as much as I would love for you to load a ton of money onto Bear Bucks up front, I would say the best answer is to start small and just load it as you kind of use it and as you see your student needing them, and you'll, I think fairly quickly figure out roughly how many Bear Bucks they realistically are gonna be using around campus.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, all right, Evan, what if an incoming first year student has not submitted their housing application yet?

Evan Keil - They should do that as soon as possible, preferably tonight, but if you can do it tomorrow, that would be really good, and I know that might not be within everyone's capabilities, but the sooner you submit, the quicker that someone, you're gonna be able to search for roommates if you want to try to find your own roommate, not everyone who goes through our process selects a roommate, there's actually a large portion of the student population that does not choose to elect a roommate at WashU and that's perfectly fine, at the same time, if you're wanting to potentially be found as a roommate, or you want to find a roommate, the earlier you complete your application, the better. And as we said, previously, applications can be edited until May 31st, which then they'll close for edits and we will begin starting working through assignments.

Brittany McDaniel - Wonderful, Andrew, can you provide a snapshot of what kinds of food are offered at WashU?

Andrew Watling - Yeah, we have a little bit of everything. One of the things that we really pride ourselves on is the amount of ethnically diverse food options and really kind of really high quality and different things that we have on campus. So we have everything from chicken

tenders and cheeseburgers to made to order Mongolian grill, world fusion, which does a lot of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean, they have goat stew as one of the dishes that they serve on a rotation, lots of different options, and so really what we try to make sure is that there's something for everybody, you're not gonna get tired of eating the same thing twice. And there's a lot of opportunities for you to have comforting food and also a lot of opportunities for your student to try something that maybe they haven't had before or haven't seen available.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, Evan, so when it comes to housing, can students select suite mates or can they only select specific roommate?

Evan Keil - For first year students, you can only select specific roommates or for your specific roommate, you're not able to get in like a six person suite with six different people. There are a variety of both singles and doubles in our housing inventory, and then within suites, there are both singles and doubles, so yeah, usually we get questions about, are all the singles in a certain building or all the doubles in a certain building. All of our buildings have a variety of different room types, and so selecting a certain room type does not necessarily mean you're gonna get placed in a particular building. And yeah, to answer the question again, just, you are only able to select your specific roommate. And if you do select a roommate, we prioritize putting roommates together or requested roommates together, so if you select a roommate, even if your top preference is a single on the preference list, we will put you in a double with your requested roommate. So for those who are wanting to get into a single, you should not request a roommate as part of your application. And about 20% of our first year class are in singles and that means 80% are gonna be in doubles. So we try to encourage people to pull in roommates that they're interested in living with as part of that process.

Brittany McDaniel - Wonderful, Andrew, do local restaurants accept Bear Bucks?

Andrew Watling - Yes, many of them do. If you look in the chat, I think somebody put in the link to the campus card website, they have a full list of all the restaurants and businesses around the area who accept Bear Bucks, and it's a fairly extensive list, and it seems like it's growing every day.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, Evan back to you, when will housing assignments be announced and how will move in times work this year?

Evan Keil - We announce assignments over the summer, we try to get them out as quickly as we can, generally, we get them out early July, but there's not necessarily a hard date. And then as far as how move in times work, our office is discussing if we want to or there's a couple different ways we might have move in work, 'cause as I'm sure you know there are two days, we have both Friday and a Saturday available for move in. We are working on getting a system put together so that individuals are able to pick a particular day, and if someone doesn't pick a particular day, we would then assign them a time and a day to move in, but individuals do receive a particular time slot and day in which they need to move in, and it's really important to

stick to that, otherwise we are not able to get individuals moved in in a timely fashion because we have traffic congestion around our buildings.

Brittany McDaniel - Wonderful, Andrew, students can pay cash for meals on campus if they're exceeding their meal plan, is that correct information?

Andrew Watling - They can pay with a credit card. We currently do not accept cash in any of our dining facilities around campus, we do accept credit and debit cards from all your major providers. It is highly recommended that you pay with Bear Bucks, Bear Bucks are non-taxed. And so there is an additional benefit to you and your students if they use Bear Bucks, so we highly encourage the use of Bear Bucks, it's also gonna be a lot faster, but they can pay with a credit card if they need to.

Brittany McDaniel - And then Evan, can students bring a refrigerator, and if so, what size do you recommend?

Evan Keil - Students can bring mini refrigerators. All of the specifications are listed in our items list that I talked about earlier in the link was shared in the chat, so please refer to that for all the specific wattages and sizes and things. Unfortunately, I can't remember off the top of my head.

Brittany McDaniel - No worries, all right, going back to Andrew, is the meal plan active and are dining halls open during break, so meaning fall break, Thanksgiving, winter break?

Andrew Watling - Yes, the meal plans are active throughout the whole semester and obviously, we don't have everything open, but during break times there's always some kind of food service available. There's always students who can't make it home, there's also all the faculty staff who are here and still like to be able to eat, so there is always something open, and we do make sure that any time we close things like the allergy friendly stations and some of those areas always remain open so that anybody with dietary needs is always taken care of during breaks as well.

Brittany McDaniel - Evan, is res life housing guaranteed for all four years?

Evan Keil - If a student chooses to continuously live with us each year, then we prioritize assigning them housing through our system, so for example, if a student were to live in our housing from freshman to senior year, we prioritize getting them an assignment. If a student lives off campus their sophomore year and then wants to come back on campus for their junior or their senior year, we have to prioritize the students who have lived with us all four years, and it's not guaranteed that that person who went off campus could come back on campus. And so that, or sorry, on and off campus can be a misnumber because our housing inventory includes both on and off campus properties, and so Residential Life housing manages the south 40, a number of on-campus properties on the north side, and off campus apartments that are north of Forest Park Parkway as well, like our Greenway apartments and the lofts, and so if you're wanting to live with Residential Life in WashU and you want an off-campus experience, we also

offer that through our housing stock. Generally, juniors and seniors live off campus and our freshman and sophomore students are prioritized for our on campus housing.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, all right, Andrew, the next question we have for you is I think one I asked when I first started is, where is the Starbucks on campus?

Andrew Watling - Well, we have two Starbucks, one of them is the one in Bauer hall that we as dining services don't operate, so they don't take meal points, but it is there, the other one is in the new McKelvey Hall, so it's the far, it will be Northeast corner of campus, and that is called Bytes Café. We have the full line of Starbucks drinks and some of the most lovely people that work there that are on campus, I think personally.

Brittany McDaniel - Awesome, thank you, all right, Evan. So once students get their assigned room and address, can families start ordering things to be shipped to their assigned address? Would the ordered items arrive at each student's room or would they need to go pick them up from somewhere on campus?

Evan Keil - To be completely transparent, I'm not sure that is really a mail services question, we do have multiple centralized package areas. I know that once a student moves in, they're able to receive items to the centralized mail centers, but I'm not sure how early someone can ship something to those and it be held for them. My colleague may have an answer to that question, Will, I'm not sure if you know.

Will Andrews- Yes, so the questions come 'cause of last year we did pilot a program where families, if you had items mailed by a specific date and they arrived at our mail center, then once your student arrived to campus, those items were in the room. What I would say is be on a lookout for more information coming from student transition and family programs through an email, but more information for that will be on the student mail center website, but there will be a window in which students can have packages delivered and anticipate those items being in your room prior to arriving to campus.

Brittany McDaniel - All right, so Andrew, we have a fun question submitted by a family member. What is your favorite dining location on campus?

Andrew Watling - Ooh, that's a tough one. I love lbby's, if you go to lbby's, it's our sit down restaurant on campus and they can use meal points there, I think they have some really, really wonderful food options, I also love world fusion, which is in the Bear's Den, Sonia who works there is one of the best cooks that we have and she doesn't make a single bad thing, so everything there is always wonderful. So those are two, probably my two favorite.

Brittany McDaniel - Wonderful, and then Evan, for you, what is gender inclusive housing?

Evan Keil - Yeah, so gender inclusive housing at WashU means that should an individual want to request to live with, you can request to live with whoever you want, and so a student,

regardless of any identities that they may hold around their gender, can request for another student, regardless of any identities they hold around their gender to live together, and we accommodate that. And that counts for all four years, any hall, it doesn't necessarily depend. Will, do you have something to add there?

Will Andrews - Yeah, I just wanna add in a little bit more, what it also means for junior inclusive housing is on the application we ask if you're open to, if you would like to live in gender inclusive housing, or if not, we want all students to take that question very seriously, because not all students select a roommate. So if you indicate that you are open to gender inclusive housing, there's a good chance you would be placed with other students who choose gender inclusive housing. So that means you could be selected to live with a student of a different gender, a different sexuality, a student could be trans, the student can be transitioning, there's many different options they can have there, but don't select gender inclusive housing if you only want to live with an individual that you specifically know. If you select it, that means through our process, we will assign you a student who also indicates that they are open to gender inclusive housing. So again, we're trying to create a safe space for students to express themselves openly and feel open to living in a space with others who are going to show them the respect by using the correct gender pronouns, and also, again, be a safe space while living on campus, so we want students to identify who are open to providing safe spaces for other students who also wanna live in gender inclusive spaces.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, thank you. So we're going to go ahead and ask one last question for the evening, and as a reminder, the recording for this webinar will be posted at families.wustl.edu next week, and we'll share that link in the chat right now. Panelists, thank you so much for the information you've shared tonight, what is your one last piece of advice for families of new WashU students as they look forward to the fall semester?

Evan Keil - For me, really pay attention to the communications you're getting from the student transitions and family programs office. It will include all of the information that you're gonna need for move in, again, like what things you should or shouldn't bring, what the first few weeks will look like, it really has everything that all the information is gonna be communicated to you through that office. And so make sure that you're paying attention to that. And for me and in our office, make sure you get your housing applications in as soon as you can, and if you want to select a roommate, make sure that you're searching and getting all of that information completed before the 31st of May.

Andrew Watling- And I think for me, I think the biggest piece of advice I would have is encourage your students to take advantage of the resources that are here on campus to support them. There's a ton of them, not just in dining, but across campus, and I would highly encourage everybody to take advantage of those if they think that they might need some assistance in any area, and I would further encourage you to push your students to be the ones to reach out and talk to those resources, it's always wonderful talking to our parents, but it's incredibly more useful and it really helps us really help your student if they can reach out and talk to us, and I know for a lot of students, that's a very scary thing sometimes and a real push

for them, but I would encourage you as parents to push them to reach out and ask and talk with the resources that are here, cause it's gonna be really beneficial long term.

Brittany McDaniel - Great, thank you, Andrew, thank you, Evan, the information you both have provided this evening is extremely helpful and I'm confident that families of WashU students learned a lot from your presentation. Families, we hope you learned valuable information this evening and stay tuned for our next webinar, which is a conversation with habit, health, and wellness occurring on Monday, June 13th, you can register for this webinar at families.wustl.edu, and we will see you then, have a great night.