



Parent & Family Newsletter



Hello Saint Mary's Parents and Families,

September marks a fresh start filled with possibilities. We encourage students to take this time to get settled, explore their new surroundings, and find ways to connect. Whether it's joining a club, attending campus events, or simply getting to know their roommates and classmates, involvement is key to building a strong and supportive college experience.

College Coach and Author Harlan Cohen's advice is for students to identify three places on campus where they can find connection and community. Things may have started strong for your student, but other students may be having some difficulty finding their people and the places on campus where they feel connected. This is normal and it will take time for some students to get into a routine and to find friends; patience will be required. If your student is having a hard time, encourage them to focus on building one connection this month - is there a club they can join, is there someone in a class they can invite to have coffee or to study, is there a department on campus they can gather support from? Can they start going to the Rec Center regularly during the week or study once a week in the InterCultural Lounge? Have your student follow our Campus Activities Instagram page @smc_cab, check the Events Page on their MySMC page, and encourage your student to start building one campus connection this month.

Thank you for being part of our campus community— we hope that your family plans on coming to our campus for Family Weekend the first weekend of October. Let your student host you, showing off their room and what may have changed since move-in day, have them show you their favorite campus spots, and introduce you to friends and spaces they have made a part of their life here at SMC. The full schedule is now posted on the [Parents & Family Website](#) and more information can be found below. We hope to see you there!

Julie Scaff
Asst. Vice Provost, Student Support Services

[SMC Home](#)

[Academic
Calendar](#)

[Student Life](#)

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NewsCenter](#)

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Resources](#)

Family Weekend: October 3-5

Family Weekend is a time for families to connect with their student, other Saint Mary's families, faculty, staff, and alumni. We encourage you to take advantage of your time on campus: Attend the various sessions, hike to the cross, visit the Museum of Art, or hang out in the quad!

A full schedule of events is now posted to the Family Weekend website and includes information about how to RSVP and how to order a Family Weekend T-shirt. We hope to see you all on campus that weekend!



Family Weekend Information

Getting Involved Helps Your Student Become Career-Ready



As the semester gets going, it's a great time to check in with your student: Have they joined any clubs or student organizations? Are they exploring leadership opportunities on campus? Getting involved helps students build community, develop skills, and gain valuable experience.

Encourage your Gael to visit the Career Center — it's one of the best resources on campus! From choosing an industry to work in to finding internships, building a resume, or preparing for life after college, the Career Center offers personalized support every step of the way. It's never too early to start making connections and building a path toward the future. Your student can make an appointment via their Handshake app!

Career Center Website

On-Campus & Commuter Student Meal Plans

Learn more about the [different meal plan options](#) available to you [HERE](#) and [how to add one to your SMC ID card](#).

Semester Meal Plan Costs

- 75 Block Meal Plan - 75 swipes: \$735
- 175 Block Meal Plan - 175 Swipes: \$1522.50
- 5 Day Meal Plan - Monday-Friday unlimited swipes into Oliver & \$100 board points/flex: \$2418
- 7 Day Meal Plan - Every day unlimited swipes into Oliver & \$40 board points/flex: \$2418
-

Not looking to add a meal plan? Maybe you just need a [little flex dining dollars](#) added to your card that can be used across on-campus dining locations **for a reduced meal cost** as well

as can be used off campus at key locations in the Moraga area and on Grubhub. And, by connecting your SMC ID to [GrubHub](#), you'll get a free GrubHub+ membership (free delivery on orders \$18+ -- you can pay with flex/board points, or apple pay/credit card as well).

MEAL PLANS:

5 DAY MEAL PLAN
5 Day Meal Plan with \$400 Board Points* per term, offering unlimited access to Oliver Hall Monday through Friday during hours of operation. This Meal Plan includes three (3) guest passes and one (1) faculty guest per term.
*Remaining Board points from Fall roll over to Spring term, but do not roll over to next academic year.

7 DAY MEAL PLAN
7 Day Meal Plan with \$400 Board Points* per term, offering unlimited access to Oliver Hall during hours of operation. This Meal Plan includes three (3) guest passes and one (1) faculty guest per term.
*Remaining Board points from Fall roll over to Spring term, but do not roll over to next academic year.

175 BLOCK
Residents living in Beckett Hall and More Hall will have the 175 Block meal plan, where students have 175 swipes into Oliver Hall each semester. This meal plan is included in the room/board costs for Beckett/More residents, and Townhouse residents can increase their meal plan from their included 75 Block meal plan to the 175 Block meal plan for an additional cost.

75 BLOCK
Residents living in the Townhouse Apartments will have the 75 Block meal plan, where they will have 75 swipes into Oliver Hall per semester. Townhouse residents can increase their meal plans from this base included meal plan to either the 175 Block meal plan, or the 5 Day / 7 Day meal plan for an additional cost that's not included in base room/board costs for townhouses.

FUN. FRESH. DELICIOUS.

For additional information, please contact:
Gael Dining Office 925-631-4905



Housing & Dining Website

Fall Sports Are Here!

Fall sports are in full swing and the Gaels are off and running on the court and on the pitch!

Women's Soccer, led by Head Coach Theresa Romagnolo opens WCC play on September 24th vs Gonzaga while Adam Cooper's men open WCC play on the 27th vs WCC newcomer Seattle University.

Be sure to get to UCU Pavilion on October 2nd during Family Weekend, when Tyler Hildebrand and the Women's Volleyball team open the home portion of their schedule against USD. Dubbed **300 to 3,000**, this game is free to all and will include free pizza and other giveaways.

To purchase tickets to any of these events, please go to [SMCGAELS.COM/TICKETS](https://smcgaelsonline.com/tickets).



Gaels Tickets Website

2026 Jan Term Travel Courses and Registration

We are just four months away from the start of Jan Term! This January we have **13 amazing** travel courses and it's important for your student to be aware of key dates and the travel registration lottery process if they plan on taking a travel Jan Term course.

A condensed list of key dates follows. The full list of registration steps and deadlines is on the Jan Term Travel website button below.

- **Travel Course Information Sessions:** Tues, Sep. 2 - Friday, Sep. 19 --> *Happening now and students must attend an info session in order to get instructor permission to enroll in a travel course!*
- **Jan Term Travel Scholarship Application:** Closes Friday, Sep. 12 @ 5:00pm
- **Travel Course Deposit Window:** Wed, Sep. 17 & Thurs, Sep. 18 only



- **Travel Course Lottery Form:** Closes Friday, Sep. 19 @ 5:00pm
- **Travel Course Registration Lottery:** Wed, Sep. 24 (Seniors) and Thurs, Sep. 25 (Juniors, Sophomores, and First-Years)
 - *Note: First-year students can travel domestically, but not internationally.*

Jan Term Travel Registration & Information

Fall Campout

To Be Seen, To Be Known, To Belong
September 20-21, 2025

Encourage your student to kick off the year with an unforgettable night under the redwoods—starlit skies, campfire s'mores, games, and conversations that spark real connection. Through fun community-building activities, students will create new friendships, strengthen their sense of belonging, and start the year feeling recharged and inspired.



Fall Campout Registration
Link

Fair Trade Fridays

Students can stop by the Mission and Ministry Center on the first Friday of each month (10am-12pm) during the Fall semester to sample Fair trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate. Fair Trade Fridays seek to educate and promote Fair Trade Practices in the Saint Mary's College educational community. We will be hosting a Fair Trade Friday during Parent & Family weekend on Friday, October 3



Mass of the Holy Spirit

In keeping with a long tradition dating from the founding of European universities during the Middle Ages, Saint Mary's College celebrates the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Friday, September 19 at 1:30pm in the Chapel. All are encouraged to join in this special liturgy to bless our entire community at the beginning of another academic year together. Grounded in our Lasallian Core Principles, especially our theme of "Respect for All Persons," this is a liturgy invoking the Holy Spirit to guide our learning, relationships, and actions throughout the Academic Year.





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Immersion Trip to the Salinas- Watsonville Area

The Human Cost of Food Immersion - The Mission and Ministry Center is sponsoring an Immersion Experience to the Salinas-Watsonville area during midterm Break (October 16-19). Students are invited to participate in this program centered on Organic Farming, Migrant Farmworker Issues and the Importance of agriculture to Salinas Valley of California.



**Immersion Trip
Registration**

Donating to the Parent Fund

Help us shape a brighter future for our students by donating to the Parent Fund. Your generosity supports vital initiatives and creates lasting opportunities for generations to come. Please click the button below to contribute.

We encourage our loyal parent donors to renew their support or make a new contribution to enhance the exceptional student experiences at Saint Mary's. Watch for our winter campaigns and consider giving during our Club Sports Kickoff



Week (October 1-8) during Parent Family Weekend. Your gift--regardless of size--makes a meaningful impact on the lives of current and future Gael students.

Donate to the Parent Fund

Information for Parents & Families

Staying engaged with your student's college experience helps foster meaningful support and connection. We offer several resources to keep you informed:

- Parent & Family Newsletter – Stay updated on important dates, campus events, and helpful tips by reading this monthly newsletter
- College Social Media Channels- Follow SMC on Instagram @stmarysca for real-time updates and campus highlights.
- [Parent & Family Website](#) – Access quick links to common resources including academic calendars, billing info, and campus departments in one convenient place.
- Family Weekend & Campus Events – Attend events designed to bring families into the campus community.

These tools help you stay involved while supporting your student's independence and growth. Still have questions? Email us at family@stmarys-ca.edu for additional assistance.

Parents & Families Website

Click Here to View Upcoming Campus Events



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Saint Mary's College of California | [Website](#)

Family Programs | 1928 Saint Mary's Road PMB 4238 | Moraga, CA 94575 US

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