

# Parent & Family Newsletter



## Strong Start with Academics

Encourage your student to stay on top of their course content by attending class, regularly checking Canvas and other online course resources, visiting instructors' office hours, reading their Illinois State email, and seeking academic assistance. If students need help, many free academic services are available, including [Peer Success Advocates](#), [tutoring for many courses](#), [seminars and workshops](#), [writing assistance](#), and more. Students can visit [University College](#) for more information.

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## Assisting your Student Navigate an Absence from Class

There are many differences between high school and college in terms of class attendance.

Students in college are expected to meet the attendance expectations set individually by each instructor. Instructors include their attendance expectations in their course syllabi and/or on their Canvas sites.

Unlike high school, when parents/guardians/students may have reported absences to a central location at the school, no centralized reporting of absences to Illinois State is necessary unless a student is seeking to be excused under a university policy. University policies override instructor-specific expectations **only** for these student absence reasons: (1) bereavement due to the loss of a family member, (2) military duty or training obligations, or (3) isolation/quarantine that is mandated in writing by a health official. To utilize one of these excused absences policies, your student can complete the [Absence Reporting form](#) or contact

the Dean of Students Office at (309) 438-2008.

[Accommodation requests for religious obligations](#) can be submitted to [Student Access and Accommodation Services](#). If granted, these accommodation requests may also result in university-approved absences. The Athletics department helps NCAA athletes manage absences that are required to attend athletics competitions/meets/games.

The Dean of Students Office can issue [courtesy absence notifications](#) to instructors to assist students who would otherwise not be able to contact all their instructors in a timely fashion themselves (e.g., due to hospitalization or significant health or family matters). However, the Dean of Students Office **does not** have the authority to determine what absence is or is not excused. Students are expected to meet the attendance expectations set individually by each instructor and/or seek clarification from their instructors about whether a certain absence is excused.

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### **Family Weekend 2024**

There are many exciting activities planned to enjoy with your student during Family Weekend on September 13-15. While registration is not necessary for Family Weekend, certain events do require a ticket purchase.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, stop by the Parent and Family Services Open House tent on the East Lawn outside of Turner Hall (south of Hancock Stadium). It's a great opportunity to gather your group for a free commemorative photo and meet staff from the Dean of Students Office.

For a full schedule of events and ticket information, visit the [Family Weekend website](#).

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### **Homecoming 2024: Relive the Moments**

Homecoming 2024 takes place on September 23-29. With a [full schedule of activities](#), there are many ways to get involved throughout the week, including the Homecoming Parade, Town and Gown 5K, tailgating, and Redbird Football vs. North Dakota State on Saturday, September 28. [Relive the Moments](#) at Homecoming 2024!

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### **Flu Shot Clinics**

Illinois State University's Student Health Services and Mennonite College of Nursing will hold three flu shot clinics during the fall semester.

The flu shot clinics will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Bone Student Center on Monday, September 16, Wednesday, October 2, and Friday, October 11.

Flu shots are free for eligible ISU students, but an appointment is required.

Students can schedule an appointment by logging into the [ISU secure health portal](#).

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## Fall Internship and Career Fairs

The upcoming Fall Internship Fair and Fall Career Fair provide great opportunities to connect Illinois State students with potential employers.

The [Fall Internship Fair](#) takes place on Wednesday, September 18, from 2 to 5 p.m., in the Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center. Redbirds can connect with employers from various organizations and learn about internship opportunities.

The [Fall Career Fair](#) will be held on Thursday, October 3, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center. During the fair, students and alumni connect with employers seeking candidates for their full-time positions.

To help Redbirds prepare, Career Services is hosting a [Navigating Career Fairs](#) event from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, September 30, in the Bone Student Center. Employers from various industries will be available to provide practical tips about job searching. Participants rotate through various sessions to learn the basics of how to make a great first impression, research employers, incorporate skills and experiences into their pitch, and much more.

Additional information can be found on the [Career Services website](#).

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## Safe Redbirds App

Safe Redbirds is the official safety app for Illinois State University. Through the app, users can access important safety alerts and provide instant access to campus safety resources.

Download the free app today from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).



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