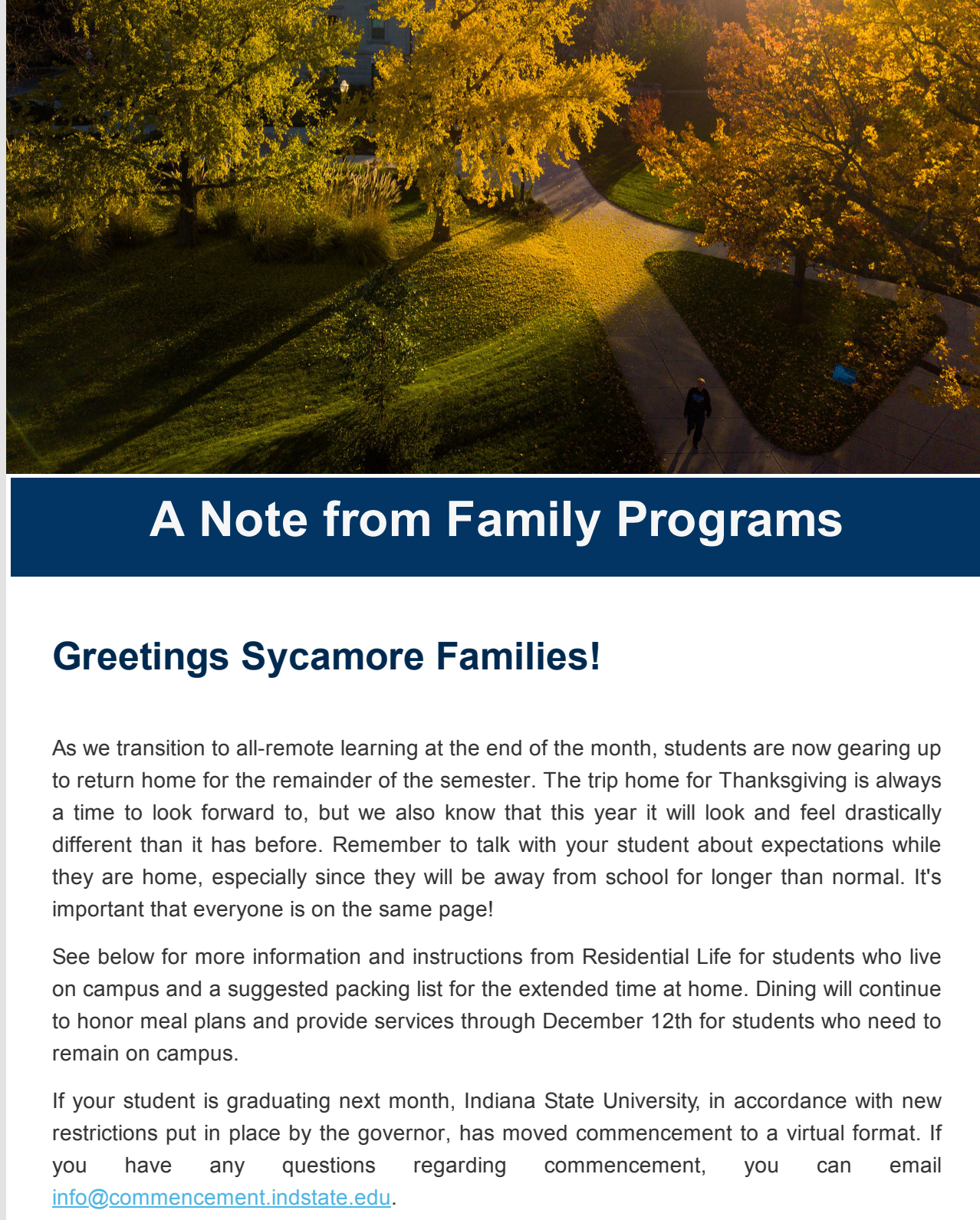


# BLUE IS FAMILY

## Sycamore Family Newsletter

- November 2020 -



## A Note from Family Programs

### Greetings Sycamore Families!

As we transition to all-remote learning at the end of the month, students are now gearing up to return home for the remainder of the semester. The trip home for Thanksgiving is always a time to look forward to, but we also know that this year it will look and feel drastically different than it has before. Remember to talk with your student about expectations while they are home, especially since they will be away from school for longer than normal. It's important that everyone is on the same page!

See below for more information and instructions from Residential Life for students who live on campus and a suggested packing list for the extended time at home. Dining will continue to honor meal plans and provide services through December 12th for students who need to remain on campus.

If your student is graduating next month, Indiana State University, in accordance with new restrictions put in place by the governor, has moved commencement to a virtual format. If you have any questions regarding commencement, you can email [info@commencement.indstate.edu](mailto:info@commencement.indstate.edu).

Registration for Spring 2021 has begun! If they have not already, please remind your student to schedule an appointment with their advisor as soon as possible. Classes can fill up quickly, so it's important they do this so they are able to get into the appropriate courses.

Additionally, be sure and check out the Sycamore Holiday Pop Up Shop (linked below) for some great gift ideas for your Sycamore!

As always, please reach out to our office for any questions or concerns. Wishing your family a safe, healthy, and wonderful Thanksgiving.

With Sycamore Pride,

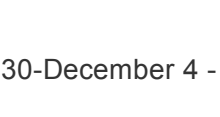
*Debbie Rea Barber*

Debbie Rea Barber

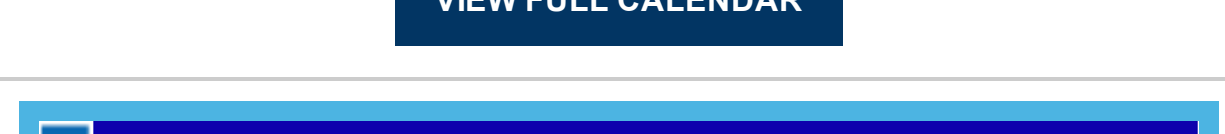
Assistant Director, New Student Transition Programs/Family Programs

ISU-FamilyPrograms@indstate.edu

### Follow us on Social Media!



## SYCAMORE HOLIDAY SHOP NOW OPEN!



SALE RUNS NOV. 11 - NOV. 23

[indstate.edu/shop](http://indstate.edu/shop)

### DATES TO KNOW

#### NOVEMBER

- November 9-22 - Spring 2021 Priority Registration
- November 23-27 - Thanksgiving Break; No Day or Evening Classes
- November 23 - Spring 2021 Open Registration Begins
- November 26-27 - University Closed
- November 30 - University Opens; Classes Resume Remotely

#### DECEMBER

- November 30-December 4 - Study Week
- December 4-15 - Final Grading Opens
- December 4 - Last day of fall classes
- December 7-11 - Final Exams
- December 24-January 1 - Winter Recess; University Closed

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

### ISU Board of Trustees approves changes to Spring 2021 Calendar

Indiana State University's Board of Trustees on Thursday unanimously approved changes to the Spring 2021 calendar, including a one-week delay to the start of the semester and the elimination of spring break.

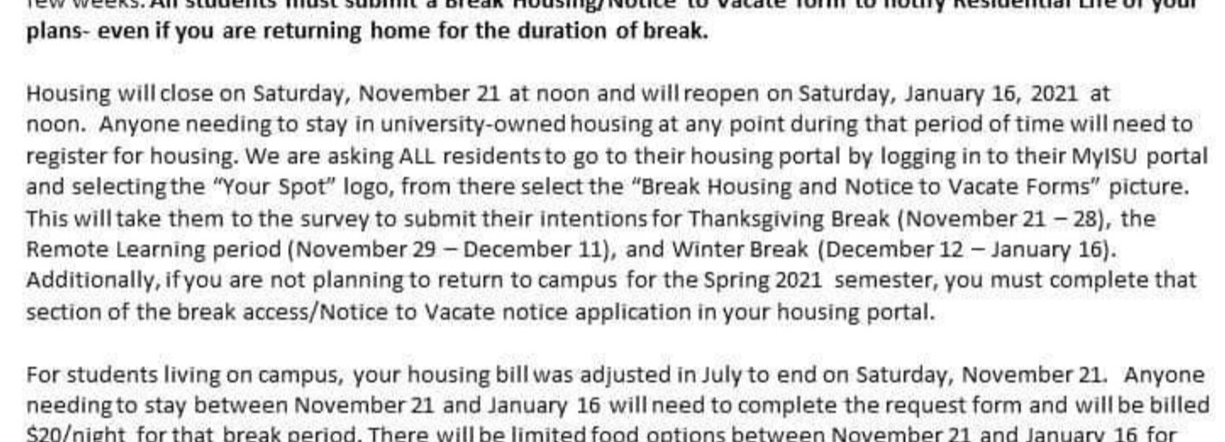
- The semester will begin Tuesday, January 19, a day after the holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr.
- Spring break, which was scheduled for March 8-12, is eliminated.
- The last day of spring classes remains April 30 with final exams on the previously scheduled dates of May 3-7.

The changes are intended to mitigate potential impact of COVID-19 on in-person instruction and work on campus. Students and faculty will be asked to self-quarantine at least 10 days before returning to campus in January. Eliminating spring break will reduce travel and the likelihood of spreading the virus to the ISU community.

The three shared governance units, Student Government Association, Staff Council and Faculty Senate, supported the changes in a meeting with President Deborah J. Curtis and her cabinet.

## Thanksgiving Break and Remote Learning Reminders

### Students Living on Campus



Title: 2020 Fall ResHall Closing Letter  
Subject: Important Residence Hall Closing Information

It is time to make plans for Thanksgiving Break, the online remote learning period after Thanksgiving, and the Winter Break Period. Please continue reading for important information and steps you MUST take in the next few weeks. All students must submit a Break Housing/Notice to Vacate form to notify Residential Life of your plans - even if you are returning home for the duration of break.

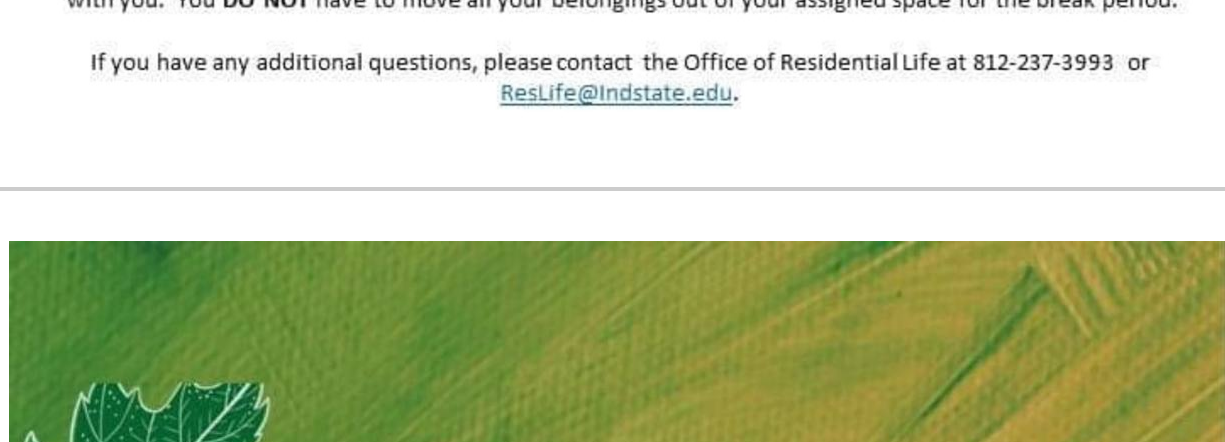
Housing will close on Saturday, November 21 at noon and will reopen on Saturday, January 16, 2021 at noon. Anyone needing to stay in university-owned housing at any point during that period of time will need to register for housing. We are asking ALL residents to go to their housing portal by logging in to their MyISU portal and selecting the "Your Spot" logo, from there select the "Break Housing and Notice to Vacate Forms" picture. This will take them to the survey to submit their intentions for Thanksgiving Break (November 21 - 28), the Remote Learning period (November 29 - December 11), and Winter Break (December 12 - January 16). Additionally, if you are not planning to return to campus for the Spring 2021 semester, you must complete that section of the break access/Notice to Vacate notice application in your housing portal.

For students living on campus, your housing bill was adjusted in July to end on December 12, 2021. Anyone needing to stay between November 21 and January 16 will need to complete the request form and will be billed \$20/night for that break period. There will be limited food options between November 21 and January 16 for those staying on campus. Meal plan will be available to be used through December 12. The ability to use meal plans is not guaranteed for Winter Break. This is subject to change. Students staying on campus November 21 - December 11 will remain in their current housing assignment. Residence hall students, not already living in Sycamore Towers, staying December 12 and January 16 will need to relocate temporarily to a space in Sycamore Towers for the break period.

Please follow the directions below to indicate your Thanksgiving, Remote Learning, and Winter Break housing needs. All students are required to complete this form and follow the steps listed below:

- Log into the housing portal [directions explained above] as soon as your plans have been finalized.
- Complete the Break Housing and Notice to Vacate Forms and submit any necessary documentation.
- Watch your @sycamores email for your approval to stay and important additional information.
- If your plans change - go back into your housing portal to adjust your dates to prevent your student account from being billed.
- If you are not planning on returning to campus for spring, please submit the additional required information.
- Attend your floor closing meetings for specific information about what to do when you leave for Thanksgiving Break, Remote Learning, or Winter Break.

### Students Living in University Apartments/500 Wabash



Title: 2020 Fall Apartment Closing Email  
Subject: Important Apartment Closing Information

It is time to make plans for Thanksgiving Break, the online remote learning period after Thanksgiving, and the Winter Break Period. Please continue reading for important information and steps you MUST take in the next few weeks. All students must submit a Break Housing/Notice to Vacate form to notify Residential Life of your plans - even if you are returning home for the duration of the break period.

Housing will close on Saturday, November 21 at noon and will reopen Saturday, January 16, 2021 at noon. Anyone needing to stay in university-owned housing at any point during that period of time will need to register for housing. We are asking ALL residents to go to their housing portal by logging in to their MyISU portal and selecting the "Your Spot" logo, from there select the "Break Housing and Notice to Vacate Forms" picture. This will take them to the survey to submit their intentions for Thanksgiving Break (November 21 - 28), the Remote Learning period (November 29 - December 11), and Winter Break (December 12 - January 16). Additionally, if you are not planning to return to campus for the Spring 2021 semester, you must complete that section of the break access/Notice to Vacate notice application in your housing portal.

For students at University Apartments/500 Wabash, your housing contract includes the period of time from November 21 - 28 and December 11 - January 16. You will just need to let us know which dates you will be here. For the dates of November 29 - December 11, you will be charged a \$20/night fee for every night you indicate you will be staying. There will be limited food options between November 21 and January 16 for those staying on campus. Meal plans will be available to be used through December 12. The ability to use meal plans is not guaranteed for Winter Break.

Please follow the directions below to indicate your Thanksgiving, Remote Learning, and Winter Break housing needs. All students are required to complete this form and follow the steps listed below:

- Log into the housing portal [directions explained above] as soon as your plans have been finalized.
- Complete the Break Housing and Notice to Vacate Forms and submit any necessary documentation.
- Watch your @sycamores email for your approval to stay and important additional information.
- If your plans change - go back into your housing portal to adjust your dates to prevent your student account from being billed.
- If you are not planning on returning to campus for spring, please submit the additional required information.
- Attend your floor closing meetings for specific information about what to do when you leave for Thanksgiving Break, Remote Learning, or Winter Break.
- Remember, if you are not returning to campus for the remote learning period to take all of your textbooks with you. You DO NOT have to move all your belongings out of your assigned space for the break period.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Office of Residential Life at 812-237-3993 or [ResLife@indstate.edu](mailto:ResLife@indstate.edu).

## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- Identification Documents
  - Driver's license, passport, social security card, student ID card, etc.
- Work-Related Items
  - Specific work uniforms, shoes, name tags, schedules, phone, laptops, chargers, etc.
- Winter weather gear
  - Hats, gloves, coat, boots, socks, sweaters, etc.
- Medications or medical documents
- Classes or contact lenses
- School supplies
  - Rental textbooks that need to be sent back or returned to bookstore
  - Laptop and charger
- Phone chargers
- Clothes
  - Enough from your entire break period of two (2) months
- Bathroom items and toiletries
  - Tooth brush & tooth paste, shampoo & conditioner, shaving items, towels, hair brush, hair styling tools & supplies, soap, hygiene products, etc.
- Home electronics
  - Television, game systems & games, media players (Blu ray/DVD players, MP3 devices, etc.)
- Animals
  - Goldfish and tanks
    - Fish food
    - Clean out/empty tank if you're not taking it home
  - Emotional support or service animals
    - Any food, treats, medications, or items needed to care for these animals

### Timely Issues

#### November

### Writing Center

The end of the semester is often times when students have important papers due. Encourage your student to use the Writing Center for help with this- they can assist at all stages of the writing process and often times makes a huge difference in their grade! The Writing Center will be holding virtual appointments for the remainder of the semester. Your student can schedule their appointment [here](#).

### Holds

November is when new registration holds are placed on students' accounts. This can happen for several reasons - missing immunization records and/or transcripts, as well as university bills that have not been paid below \$1,000. Remind your student to check their portal to see if any holds have been placed on their account that could prevent registration for the spring semester.

### Registration

Registration for Spring 2021 has started! Make sure your student has met with their Advisor about classes for next semester. It is important for students to register as soon as possible so they can get the classes they need.

### Housing Intentions

It's time to start thinking about where your student is going to live next year. If your student will be living on campus, Housing intentions are rapidly approaching, so make sure they are talking to their RA and checking their email for any important dates and reminders.

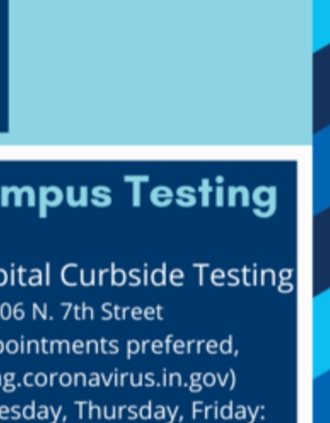
If your student plans on living off campus, make sure they check out our Housing Fair, which will open virtually on January 11th, with an in-person fair planned on February 3rd. Your student can watch for details and information [here](#).

### Student Experiences:

- Better understanding of where they stand academically
- Resolution of roommate conflicts/problems
- Building pressure around coursework and end of the semester requirements
- Increasing support from and closeness to campus friendships
- Registration for spring courses
- Financial strains

### Noteworthy at ISU

- [ISU Sales Team recognized at the National Team Selling Competition](#)
- [In annual Fall Address, ISU president celebrates 99 percent placement rate for graduates](#)
- [Couples creates a \\$250,000 endowment for ISU study abroad scholarships](#)
- [Indiana State professors co-author study on climate impact in East Africa](#)



### COVID-19 Contact Information

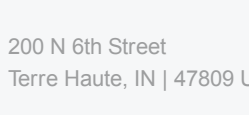
Office of Dean of Students: 812.237.3829 | [ISU\\_DeanoofStudents@indstate.edu](mailto:ISU_DeanoofStudents@indstate.edu)  
Office of Residential Life: 812.237.3993  
Disability Services: 812.237.2700  
Student Health Center: 812.237.3883

[COVID Reporting Form](#)  
[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



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