

INSTITUTE INSIDER

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A Newsletter for Pratt Families



This month, Parent and Family Programs and the Division of Institutional Advancement came together to hold the 125th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration. It was a great success, with an attendance of over 700 alumni and families. To all the Pratt families who joined us: **THANK YOU, WE HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT TIME!**

Left column, top to bottom: Parents register for workshops; families start off the morning with a continental breakfast; families get a taste of Pratt life by taking a figure-drawing workshop. **Right column:** Pratt families, friends, and alumni celebrate Pratt's 125th Anniversary Kickoff Weekend.

ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT RESOURCES AT PRATT

No matter what year your student is, he or she may face academic difficulty with one or a few classes. While you can't go through critiques or take tests for your student, and you may not be able to help him or her with specific subjects, there are things you can do to make sure that your student stays motivated and does not get overwhelmed. Encouraging academic success behaviors like good study skills, effective time management, and healthy living is one way that you can be supportive. Encouraging your student to seek out the resources Pratt offers is also very important. The staff at Pratt can be instrumental in identifying issues your student is facing, and they have the training and background to help your student develop appropriate solutions. If you feel your student needs extra support, here are some offices and programs you can direct him or her to contact.

Writing and Tutorial Center (WTC): The WTC provides writing support and tutoring in math and science. Staff is available for weekly, one-time, and drop-in appointments. Students can go the WTC in North Hall to set up an appointment.

The Office of Disability Services: Located in Willoughby Hall, Disability Services advocates for students and helps determine appropriate accommodations so they can maximize their potential. The office also provides time-management and learning support.

PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Staying physically and emotionally fit is important to student success. To ensure the overall well-being of your student, Pratt provides additional resources that you can direct your student to use.

The Athletics Department offers services to support wellness and recreation. The Pratt Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC) offers free gym access to all students. The gym includes a weight room, dance studios, and a large court for basketball, tennis, and volleyball games. The Athletics Department also runs PrattFit, a free program that promotes physical activity. When students join PrattFit, they receive a newsletter with exercise and nutrition tips. PrattFit also provides free and extremely popular exercise classes ranging from Zumba to Sunrise Yoga.

Let's Talk! is a relatively new initiative through the Office of Health and Counseling which provides informal, confidential consultations to students at various locations on campus. During these consultations, students can talk with a counselor about issues they are facing, find out what counseling entails, or bring up issues their friends may be dealing with. Students can find the Let's Talk! schedule on the Health and Counseling website.

IN THE KNOW

MEAL PLANS

Many of our students enjoy the convenience of using their Pratt ID card to purchase meals and snacks in our four different dining venues on campus (not to mention a savings of 8.25 percent in sales tax!). There are a few pitfalls parents find themselves in when helping their students sign-up for meal plans and add money to their students' meal plans. Hopefully, the following information will help.

Establishing a Meal Plan

This is a task accomplished only by the student and cannot be done online. Specific questions about the meal plans and choices can be addressed by Residential Life and Housing staff when students sign up.

In all cases, the meal plans' costs are fixed. Once selected and paid for, no refunds are possible. For all plans, one dollar equals one point and as students purchase items, the points are deducted from their plan. In general, the larger, annual plans are designed for students who regularly eat their meals in the dining hall. These plans provide a fixed number of points each semester. Point balances left over at the end of the fall semester are carried over and added to the spring semester allocation. Once signed up in the fall, the student does not have to sign up again in the spring; the point allocation and billing are automatic.

The semester-only plans are ideal for the occasional diner or for those who just want spending ability in the campus convenience store. These plans provide a fixed number of points that expire, if not used, at the end of a given semester. These plans do require a student to sign up each semester.

It is important to keep in mind that meal plans cannot be used in the Prattstore or in the copy center or print labs. These purchases are made with PrattBucks, a separate and distinct "account" on the Pratt ID card.

Adding Points to a Depleted Plan

Adding points is a quick and easy way for students to replenish their meal plan. Generally, this occurs toward the end of the semester. If the need arises earlier, students may benefit from speaking with a Residential Life and Housing staff member. Perhaps the plan they initially selected does not fully meet their needs.

Students (or their parents) can add points online via the PrattCard.com website. Your student can give you "sign-in" capabilities to add points. If your student has not signed up for a meal plan, points cannot be added via the website. In the past, students and parents have gone online to establish a meal plan and have mistakenly added money to the PrattBucks account thinking it would go for meal plan dollars. Be cautious and don't make this mistake. Before adding money, make sure your student has signed up for and has been using a meal plan. If so, make sure to select the "add points to a meal plan" option, not PrattBucks.

BON APPÉTIT!

PRATT EMERGENCY ALERT TEXT AND EMAIL MESSAGING

The Pratt Emergency Alert System is the quickest way to get important information on building and campus emergencies. Pratt Alert also keeps students informed of campus closings due to inclement weather by sending out notifications as soon as the decision is made to close the campus. The Pratt Alert system is used for emergencies and campus closings only. Personal information will not be used in any other way. Signing up is quick and simple, and contact information can be updated at any time. There is also space for students to include contact information of one other party (parents or another emergency contact). Encourage your student to make sure that they've signed up with Pratt Alert.

- 1 LOGIN to my.pratt.edu.
- 2 CLICK on the Emergency Alert Notification Symbol located on the dashboard.
- 3 ENTER your contact information.