

New Student Welcome 2026

Note: Events highlighted in teal are mandatory for ALL STUDENTS.

Friday, August 14

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Resident Student Check In, Various:

Dozens of student volunteers, the Residence Life staff, and the campus community make the move-in process incredibly smooth for resident students.

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Dinner, with family or in Grotto Commons Dining Hall:

Have dinner with your family before they depart or meet your RA for dinner in Grotto Commons. Please bring your Student ID if dining in Grotto Commons.

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Commuter Dinner, Grotto Commons Dining Hall:

Commuters! Join the Campus Involvement Center Staff for dinner in Grotto Commons Dining Hall. Please bring your Student ID, your meals are covered for New Student Welcome.

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Commuter Meet-n-Greet, Student Union:

Mandatory for Commuter Students. Come get all the information you need to get started at Mercyhurst as a commuter student — and meet some fellow Lakers, too!

Residence Hall Meetings, Various:

Mandatory for Baldwin, McAuley, Mercy and Warde students.

7:00-8:00 p.m.

New Student Welcome Kick Off, Saxon Stadium:

Mandatory. Kick off your life at the Hurst in style at this high-energy event! Join your fellow Lakers, Laker Leaders, New Student Welcome Staff, Athletics, and Mercyhurst Student Government for free giveaways, laughter, and fun!

8:00-10:00 p.m.

MSG Programming Board Event

MSG Programming Board plans events every Friday & Saturday night throughout the year! Join us this weekend for all the welcome events!

Saturday, August 15

Grotto Commons opens at 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast, Grotto Commons

Feel free to stop over at Grotto Commons for breakfast before heading to the morning presentations!

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Joining the Laker Family, Performing Arts Center (PAC):

Mandatory. Hear from MU staff who will highlight various ways to embed yourself into the Laker family from engaging in all our traditions to attending athletics, up until you graduate into the alumni family.

Information Technology at Mercyhurst, PAC:

Mandatory. Hear from the Information Technology office about resources and tips to stay connected.

Mercyhurst Dining, PAC:

Mandatory. Learn more about our dining facilities including guidance on meal plans and dietary needs.

11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.

Lunch, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Don't all rush in at 11:30, but be sure to have some lunch and arrive at the PAC in time to be seated with your iMU group.

Saturday, August 15, continued

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Living Life at Performance Level with Curtis Zimmerman, PAC:

Curtis Zimmerman, nationally recognized keynote, transforms and inspires students to live their lives at a higher level of performance. Curtis provides an innovative learning experience by engaging students with interactive games utilizing his performance expertise to demonstrate his key concepts and make his message memorable.

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Laker Leader Small Group, New Student Welcome Classrooms:

Mandatory.

4:30-7:00 p.m.

Dinner, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Be sure to look for Laker Leaders in the dining hall and RAs in the residence halls to head over to the annual Casino Night at Trinity Green! You won't want to miss it!

8:00-10:00 p.m.

MSG Programming Board Event

MSG Programming Board plans events every Friday & Saturday night throughout the year! Join us this weekend for all the welcome events!



Grotto Commons opens at 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast, Grotto Commons

Feel free to stop over at Grotto Commons for breakfast before heading to religious services or Easy Sunday Morning activities.

10:30 a.m.

Mass, Christ the King Chapel (Optional)

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Easy Sunday Morning, Various:

Check the New Student Welcome Hub for a full list of activities & locations. Choose from a variety of activities to relax, reflect, and refresh as we start a new week. Activity options will be shared on Saturday Afternoon.

11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.

Lunch, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Don't all rush in at 12pm, but be sure to have some lunch in Grotto Commons and arrive at the PAC in time to be seated with your iMU group for the next presentation.

1:00-1:30 p.m.

Mercyhurst Mission & The Service Experience, PAC:

Mandatory. The Community Engagement staff will take you on a journey of exploration as you dive into the Core Values of Mercyhurst and gain an understanding of the first-year service experience and how it all connects with being a Laker.

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Presentations:

Mandatory. Listen to three short, interactive presentations about Wellness & Alcohol Awareness, Title IX & Hazing, and Sustainability.

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Laker Leader Small Group, New Student Welcome Classrooms:

Mandatory.

4:30-7:00 p.m.

Dinner, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Be sure to look for Laker Leaders in the dining hall and RAs in the residence halls to head over to the next presentation in the PAC.

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Diversity University with Monti Washington, PAC:

Mandatory. Using slam poetry and role-playing, this speaker connects with and inspires audiences. Monti will cover all dimensions of inclusion, including gender, race, sexuality, physical disabilities, socioeconomic circumstances, and more.

8:00-10:00 p.m.

MSG Programming Board Event

MSG Programming Board plans events every Friday & Saturday night throughout the year! Join us this weekend for all the welcome events!

 **Monday, August 17** 

Grotto Commons opens at 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast, Grotto Commons

Feel free to stop over at Grotto Commons for breakfast before the Day of Service!

9:00-9:25 a.m.

Day of Service Site Introductions, New Student Welcome Classrooms:

Mandatory. Don't forget to wear your service project T-shirt today. No flip-flops or open-toed shoes are allowed! Go to your assigned classroom based on your iMU section number to meet your service project facilitator and Laker Leader.

9:30-10:00 a.m.

Board busses for Day of Service, Mary Garden:

Mandatory. Look for your Laker Leader and your iMU section number. Board your assigned bus when directed.

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Day of Service:

Mandatory. Please see the New Student Welcome Hub for more details.

12:00-1:15 p.m.

Lunch, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Don't all rush in at 12pm, but be sure to have some lunch in Grotto Commons and arrive on time to your location listed on your tag for the Step UP Workshop.

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Student Services Fair, Student Union

Mandatory. You've got questions, we've got you! Come by and meet with different offices to ask questions and get more information about the resources available to you so you're ready to start off strong.

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Dinner, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Be sure to look your tag for the location of the next session.

5:30-7 p.m.

Skits, PAC:

Hear from student staff about what it's like to be a Laker, from going to classes, making friends, becoming an independent adult, and more. These skits will give you a visual of what college life really looks like.

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Laker Leader Small Group, New Student Welcome Classrooms:

Mandatory.

8:00-10:00 p.m.

Hypnotic Intoxication, PAC:

Come out and watch as Mercyhurst's favorite hypnotist, Keith Karkut, hypnotizes students to make them dance, scream, laugh, and even become intoxicated without the use of alcohol! A longtime favorite event at Mercyhurst, Hypnotic Intoxication will have your friends doing things you never knew they could.

 **Tuesday, August 18** 

Grotto Commons opens at 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast, Grotto Commons

Feel free to stop over at Grotto Commons for breakfast before you start the day!

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Winter Sport Physicals, MAC:

All varsity student-athletes must report at the time assigned by their coaches for their physical. Please bring a charged cell phone and insurance card.

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Spring Sport Physicals, MAC:

All varsity student-athletes must report at the time assigned by their coaches for their physical. Please bring a charged cell phone and insurance card.

Tuesday, August 18, continued

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Field Day

This is your last chance to earn points for your NSW Team! Come participate and cheer on your group!

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Lunch, Grotto Commons:

Please bring your Student ID. Grotto Commons Dining Hall is open from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. today, so feel free to go any time! Just be sure to give yourself time to get ready for Convocation.

1:30-2:00 p.m.

Get Ready for Convocation:

Dress is business casual.

2:00-2:15 p.m.

Seating for Convocation, PAC:

Mandatory. Laker Leaders and the New Student Welcome Staff will assist you in being seated for convocation.

2:30-3:15 p.m.

Convocation, PAC:

Mandatory. One of the many great Mercyhurst traditions, First-Year Student Convocation brings together university administrators and academic officers for the official ceremony to formally admit you and your fellow first-year students to Mercyhurst.

3:15-4:00 p.m.

Academic Meetings, Various, check your tag:

Meet with faculty in your respective major. Please see your tag or the New Student Welcome Hub or check your email for more information regarding locations.

After 4:30 p.m.

Dinner, Grotto Commons:

Meal plans start today. From here on out, your meals are on you. Make sure to bring your Student ID every time you visit the dining hall.

 **Wednesday, August 19** 

First Day of Classes!