

# LIVE ON

## FAMILY NEWS

For the families of students living on campus  
at Michigan State University

### On-Campus Housing Sign-Up

Learn all about sign-up  
for 2026–27.

### Winter Break Housing

Learn what your student needs to  
do if wishing to stay on campus  
over the break.

### Residential Student Leadership

Get the scoop on how your  
Spartan could apply to be  
an RA or ICA.

# WELCOME

As we kick off a new academic year at Michigan State University, we're thrilled to accompany your student on the journey.

Fall brings renewed energy and a wealth of opportunities. We look forward to seeing the growth and accomplishments of our Spartans.

This period of transition is both exciting and sometimes challenging. Staying engaged with your student can make a big difference, as your encouragement and support play a key role in their success.

The Division of Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) is dedicated to making this experience seamless and supportive for students and their families. We understand this time can be emotional, and we're here to offer guidance and assistance.

Inside this issue, you'll discover answers to frequent questions, practical tips for navigating the academic year and updates on housing choices for 2026–27. We'll also spotlight campus resources, share ideas for staying active and healthy, and cover a variety of other useful topics.

Through every edition of Live On Family News, we strive to keep you connected and engaged in your student's MSU experience, providing helpful information and support to ensure they thrive. Here's to a fantastic and fulfilling year ahead.

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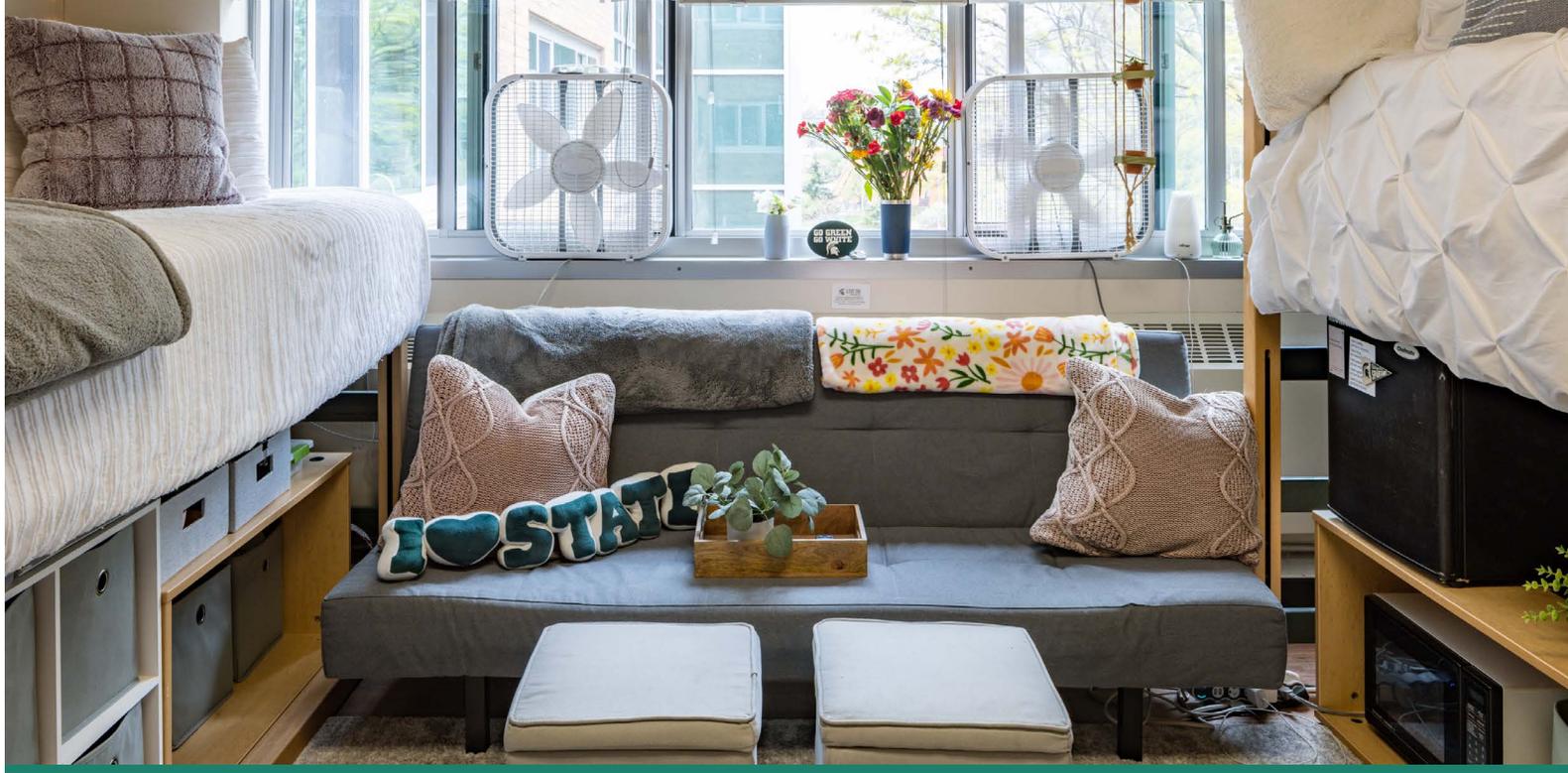
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## 2026–27 ON-CAMPUS HOUSING SIGN-UP

### Current First-Year Students

We are pleased to be your students' on-campus home for their first two years at MSU. As you may be aware, MSU has a two year live-on requirement for students enrolling as first-year students. On-campus living provides convenience, an all-inclusive bill and numerous resources to support student success.

We know off-campus apartments begin marketing to students and their families for the following year as soon as Spartans arrive on campus. It's important to note, first-year students should not be signing any off-campus leases, housing agreements, housing contracts, etc., this fall. Current first-year students will select their on-campus housing for 2026–27 in the spring.

They will have the opportunity to select their specific hall and room, select housing with groups of friends, as well as submit interest in single rooms. We'll share more details about housing options, housing exceptions and group housing by the beginning of the spring semester. Learn more at [liveon.msu.edu/second-year-sign-up](https://liveon.msu.edu/second-year-sign-up).

We encourage students to explore campus and all the resources it offers, meet new people, create new friendships, and get involved with their new community.

### Current Second-Year+ Students

Students currently in their second year or beyond living on campus will have the chance to submit an application for the 2026–27 on-campus housing selection. We recognize the high demand for on-campus apartments and residence hall space for upper-level students and, unfortunately, cannot accommodate everyone. Students who apply will receive a selection time, randomly generated but based on their class standing. If your student does not select a space during their selection window, they should look at their off-campus housing options.

The form will be open through Oct. 23. On-campus options for second year+ students include 1855 Place, University Village, singles in Owen Hall and double residence hall rooms across campus. Eligible students living in 1855 Place or University Village will have the chance to retain their current space Oct. 21 through 23. Students living in a residence hall or residence hall apartment cannot retain their current space. This group of students can also explore off-campus housing options for their third year and beyond. Learn more at [liveon.msu.edu/upper-level-sign-up](https://liveon.msu.edu/upper-level-sign-up).

If you or your student would like more information about on-campus housing options, please contact the Housing Assignments Office at 517-884-5483 or [liveon@msu.edu](mailto:liveon@msu.edu).

# HOUSING OPERATIONS DURING BREAK PERIODS

You and your student may have questions about how housing operates during break periods like Thanksgiving break and spring break. Live On has put together a helpful webpage explaining these break periods and operations at [liveon.msu.edu/hall-operations](https://liveon.msu.edu/hall-operations).

## Winter Break Housing

The finals season can be stressful, and students often find themselves preoccupied with exams and studies. Winter break can sneak up on them, making it challenging to arrange accommodation. Thankfully, MSU offers between-semester housing options. Winter Break Housing is available from Friday, Dec. 12, through Saturday, Jan. 10, in all residence halls.

Soon, students can apply for this housing via their My Housing account at [liveon.msu.edu](https://liveon.msu.edu). We'll email students information about fees and when the application is open. For those living in University Village and 1855 Place, Winter Break Housing is already included in their lease, so no additional application is required.

Students not applying for Winter Break Housing need to check out of their rooms by Friday, Dec. 12. Note: Students should plan to take anything needed over break, but they do not need to move-out of their rooms entirely.

## PACKAGE GUIDELINES

Packages, mail and deliveries are received by our residential Service Centers. Live On expects residents will follow all applicable local, state and federal laws when receiving items at the Service Centers.

## Recognized Carriers

Service Centers accept packages from established carriers such as UPS, USPS, FedEx, DHL or Amazon. This is to ensure we have a proper chain of custody and can log the delivery correctly.

Amazon Lockers have been installed in Brody, Holden and Owen Halls. If spaces are available, you'll see these options during your Amazon checkout. You can still choose to have packages sent directly to your address and use the regular delivery process if you prefer or if the lockers are full. Please remember to pick up your packages promptly when you receive a notification. If you have any issues with the lockers, contact Amazon directly for assistance.

## Unclaimed Packages

Any package or U.S mail that is unclaimed after 7 days will be returned to the sender.

## Forwarding

Students must update their address in the Student Information System (SIS) and their My Housing account at [liveon.msu.edu](https://liveon.msu.edu). They are also advised to update their address with all companies they receive regular mail from six weeks in advance of move-out. If both have been updated, mail will be forwarded to students for up to six months. Unfortunately, international mail will not be forwarded.

## Missing Packages or Mail

If a resident thinks their mail or package is lost or mishandled, they should contact their neighborhood administrative coordinator (NAC) immediately. Provide a description, tracking number and delivery confirmation if possible. The NAC will respond within 24 hours; contact details are on the hall pages at [liveon.msu.edu/neighborhoods](https://liveon.msu.edu/neighborhoods).

## Perishables

Service Centers hold perishable deliveries only for a short time. If left too long, they will be discarded. Residents will receive an MSU email notification when their deliveries arrive and are expected to pick them up. If a perishable item must be discarded, the resident will receive a 24-hour notice via MSU email.

## RESIDENT ASSISTANTS AND INTERCULTURAL AIDES

Living on your own for the first time can be challenging, but MSU provides peer-to-peer resources to help through our two Residential Student Leader positions. Resident assistants (RAs), who are experienced students, offer guidance, conflict resolution and campus support. If needed, they'll connect your student with others who can help. Intercultural aides (ICAs) work with RAs to build community, foster relationships, and support academic and social success. They focus on engaging residents in the process of "crossing differences" through programs like their weekly roundtable discussions.

## Residential Student Leader Recruitment

Applications for RA and ICA positions for the 2026–27 academic year are open through Nov. 21, with interviews in the spring and training in spring and summer. These roles enhance the resident experience by fostering communication and interaction. Students interested in leadership and helping others should apply at [liveon.msu.edu/workwithus](https://liveon.msu.edu/workwithus).

Information sessions will be held in late October and November with virtual and in-person options.

Try to help and then not stress so much about grades. It just creates more pressure and anxiety. But also encourage them to reach out for help. It's a new experience for them and you as well. Staff is there to help; parents are here to lend support.

- Pam, parent





## STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (SRR)

The SRR outlines rights and duties as a student. It includes policies on drugs, unauthorized entry to campus buildings, academic integrity, physical harm and more.

### Students have the right to:

- Learn free from undue interference.
- Live and sleep in a safe and clean environment.
- Redress grievances when your rights are violated.

### Students have a responsibility to:

- Allow others to exercise the same rights that you have.
- Live and abide by MSU's community standards.
- Make things right when you do wrong.
- Check your email daily.

The SRR was recently updated to be more readable and easier to support students. Learn more at [ossa.msu.edu/srr](https://ossa.msu.edu/srr).

On-campus students also have specific terms and conditions to adhere to found in our On-Campus Housing Handbook at [liveon.msu.edu/Documents](https://liveon.msu.edu/Documents).

## INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Live On and Eat at State are committed to maintaining an inclusive, positive and supportive living environment in the residence halls. We want to build communities that encourage personal growth, relationship building and academic success. Our resident assistants, intercultural aides and caucuses offer support and education to help students thrive.

Learn more about resources and bias reporting information at [liveon.msu.edu](https://liveon.msu.edu).

## RESIDENCE HALL GUESTS

MSU supports residents' rights to host guests but requires that residents accompany them at all times. Guests must follow posted policies, and residents are responsible for their behavior. If your student hosts guests, they should ensure they adhere to community standards of integrity and responsibility.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY AT MSU

Ensuring campus safety is our top priority. Please discuss personal safety with your student, emphasizing they should only invite trusted individuals into their residence and not hold doors open for others. Encourage your student to download the SafeMSU app for safety features. If a student sees or hears something harmful, they should call MSU Police and Public Safety at 517-355-2221. In an emergency, call or text 911.

### Do ✓

- Lock your door whenever you leave your room.
- Call 911 or use the Emergency Green Phone if there is a safety concern.
- Remind your peers of community expectations. Travel with others whenever possible.
- Follow all emergency procedures.

### Don't ✗

- Prop doors.
- Give IDs or keys to anyone.
- Let someone you don't know in the building, or to use your ID for accessing elevator or living wings.
- Ignore emergency protocols.
- Record others without permission in private spaces.

# JOIN OUR TEAM

Campus jobs offer flexibility, foster social connections and enhance resumes. The Division of Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) is hiring for various roles, including building facilities workers, dining staff, cooks and more. RHS supports the MSU community and aims to deliver outstanding Spartan experiences. Encourage your student to visit [jobs.rhs.msu.edu](https://jobs.rhs.msu.edu) for open positions.



Say, “Hi!” to people in your classes and the hallway. Someone has to be the first to be friendly, it might as well be you!

- Rose, parent

## RECYCLING IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

Throughout every building on Michigan State’s campus, students can find labeled recycling bins for all paper, plastic, metal and glass materials. These bins are located in each building for students’ convenience and to encourage recycling whenever possible.

Trash and cardboard should be taken outside to the dumpsters and not left in stairwells or hallways.



## FINDING A HOME AT MSU

Learning how to support your student from a distance can be a challenge but we are here to help! Here are a few ways you can help guide your students as they adjust to campus life.

### Wayfinding

The interactive MSU Wayfinding site ([maps.msu.edu/interactive](https://maps.msu.edu/interactive)) helps Spartans find walking directions, time estimates and accessible building entrances. Students can also download the official app of Michigan State University to explore the in-depth map of campus, and review dining options—all from their mobile device.

### Necessities

Consider gifting Spartan Cash to your student for easy purchases at over 100 campus vendors. A full list is available at [spartancash.msu.edu](https://spartancash.msu.edu).

### Student Organizations

With over 1,000 student organizations, including the Acafellas and Underwater Hockey Club, MSU caters to diverse interests. Explore options at [involve.msu.edu](https://involve.msu.edu).

## Finding the Right Fit

About 66% of Spartans change their major, and that's okay. With over 400 programs available, Career Services in the Student Services Building offers guidance to help students find their best fit.

### Transportation

Navigating MSU's 5,200 acres is facilitated by bike lanes, walking trails and the CATA bus system, which provides free campus routes during fall and spring semesters. The CATA transit app ([cata.org/transit](https://cata.org/transit)) offers route details.

### Use Neighborhood Resources

Students can access amenities like laundry rooms, study lounges and community kitchens. Music practice rooms are available for telehealth appointments. More information is at [liveon.msu.edu/Community-Spaces](https://liveon.msu.edu/Community-Spaces).

### Attend a Hall/Neighborhood Event

Encourage participation in neighborhood events for socializing and relaxation. These get-togethers often feature free food and are a great way to meet people. Events hosted by Spartan Compass are open to all first-year students, and the Residence Halls Association (RHA) and University Activities Board (UAB) host many events for all students. RAs and ICAs can help students find information on upcoming events to attend.



If your kids are introverted, you have to let them know that they'll never meet friends staying in their room all day. They will not be happy if they do not put any effort into getting themselves out there.

- Tonya, parent

# SPARTAN FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Spartan Family Connections (SFC) is a central resource for Spartan families as they help their students succeed while navigating life at MSU. SFC provides resources and tools to engage families of students, both biological and chosen, to assist them in thriving at MSU with the goal of graduation. Learn more at [family.msu.edu](http://family.msu.edu).

## Coming Soon: The Spartan Family Cookbook!

The Spartan Family Cookbook is more than just a collection of recipes — it's a taste of MSU prepared right in your kitchen. From vintage favorites to allergen-friendly meals inspired by Thrive dining hall, you'll find nostalgic classics, campus specialties and modern recipes designed with every Spartan in mind, whether you're craving a timeless family treat or looking for inclusive dishes that meet today's dietary needs. Perfect for alumni, parents, supporters and students alike, this cookbook is a flavorful way to bring a little East Lansing comfort home — and share a piece of the Spartan table with your family.

Sign up for the Spartan Family Connections newsletter to keep in touch!



sign up for  
the newsletter

# Spartan Family Connections Care Kit

**We know sending your student off to college can be an emotional time.**

And whether you are feeling sentimental or celebratory (hey, we don't judge), Spartan Family Connections wants to offer you a bit of MSU comfort — delivered right to your door!

**Our Spartan Family Care Kit includes MSU-branded household items such as a cozy throw blanket, a stainless-steel tumbler, postcards you can send your student and more!**

Visit [spartanfamilyshop.com](http://spartanfamilyshop.com) to order your care kit. Proceeds from the \$75 purchase go to fund family programming and events.

**Your heart is in East Lansing, let us bring some East Lansing to you!**

- **20 oz. Tumbler:** Enjoy your favorite beverages in style with this tumbler, featuring a slide-lock lid, double-wall insulation, and an exclusive Sparty engraved design.
- **Soft Plush Blanket:** Stay cozy with this 54" x 38" blanket, showcasing the MSU Spartan Tartan on one side and a Helmet design on the other.
- **Squirrel Stress Reliever:** Relieve stress with this fun and quirky squirrel stress reliever, complete with an MSU helmet.
- **MSU-Branded Picture Frame:** Display your favorite memories in this elegant 4" x 6" picture frame, adorned with the MSU logo.
- **6-Pack of MSU Postcards:** Share your Spartan spirit with friends and family using this set of six beautifully designed MSU postcards.



Spartan Family Connections  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



## EAT AT STATE

### Unlock Exclusive Dining Experiences with Combo-X-Change!

MSU students may use CX swipes to pre-register for exclusive, interactive Experiential Dining Events – no extra cost! Just regular online and pay with your Combo-X-Change to secure your spot. Each experience has limited availability, so sign up early and make the most of your swipes! Check out all the fall semester events on [eatatstate.com](http://eatatstate.com).

**Student Organic Farm-to-Fork Feast Chef's Table Edition**  
Hosts: Chef Mary Sanders and Chef Nick Griffin  
Thursday, Oct. 9, 6–8 p.m. | Brody Square Private Dining Room | Admission: 4 CX

Enjoy a five-course meal and one unforgettable night! Savor a gourmet meal crafted with ingredients from MSU's Organic Farm — think appetizer, soup, salad, entrée and dessert. Vegan option available. Limited seats — registration link opens soon!

**Mozzarella Madness Demo: Stretch It, Shape It, Eat It**  
Host: Chef Dustin Ignash  
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. | The Vista at Shaw  
Admission: 3 CX

Ever pulled fresh mozzarella straight from the pot? Now's your chance. Discover the art of cheese-making during this hands-on demonstration and take home your creamy creation. Registration opens soon — don't miss the melt!

**Cena de los Muertos (Dinner of the Dead) Chef's Table Edition** | A Night with Chef Paulina Rivas Ayala  
Thursday, Oct. 30, 5–6:30 p.m. | Sparty's Market at Holden  
Admission: 3 CX

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a vibrant and meaningful Mexican tradition. It honors deceased loved ones through joyful remembrance rather than mourning. Join Chef Paulina as she shares the cultural significance of the meal during this five-course dinner.



*Chefs Table with Chef Jose*

## Dining on Campus

Now that you've moved in and are getting settled, it's the perfect time to branch out and explore all the dining options across campus! While it's easy to stick with your "home" dining hall, every location offers something unique — and you never know when you'll discover a new favorite. You can check daily menus anytime at [eatatstate.com](http://eatatstate.com).

Here's a quick tour of your dining halls:

- Brody Square — Known for its huge variety and lively atmosphere.
- The Edge at Akers — Global flavors and customizable options.
- Heritage Commons at Landon — A cozy spot with comfort food and rotating specialties.
- Thrive at Owen Hall — Our completely allergen-free venue.
- South Pointe at Case — Fresh, local options in the heart of South Neighborhood.
- The Gallery at Snyder/Phillips — Vegetarian and vegan-friendly options plus favorites with a twist.
- The Vista at Shaw Hall — Homey vibe in the heart of campus.

## What's a Combo (CX)?

Your Combo-X-Change (CX) lets you swap a meal from your dining plan for specific items at participating spots across campus. You'll hear students call it a "combo" or "CX."

## Where You Can Use a CX

- Starbucks
- Sparty's mini-markets and Sparty's Markets
- The International Center Food Court
- The Workshop at STEM (open to all students)
- Panera Bread at Minskoff Pavilion
- Strange Matter Coffee at the MSU Union
- The Sandbox at Holden Hall
- Grubhub mobile ordering

## Dietary and Allergy Support

Culinary Services is here to make dining safe, inclusive, and delicious for everyone. Our nationally recognized food allergy program offers a personalized experience, and nutrition/allergen info is always available at [eatatstate.com](http://eatatstate.com).

- Have a food allergy or intolerance? Reach out anytime to our registered dietitian at [dietitians@rhs.msu.edu](mailto:dietitians@rhs.msu.edu).
- We offer halal, kosher, vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, nut-conscious, and allergen-friendly options.



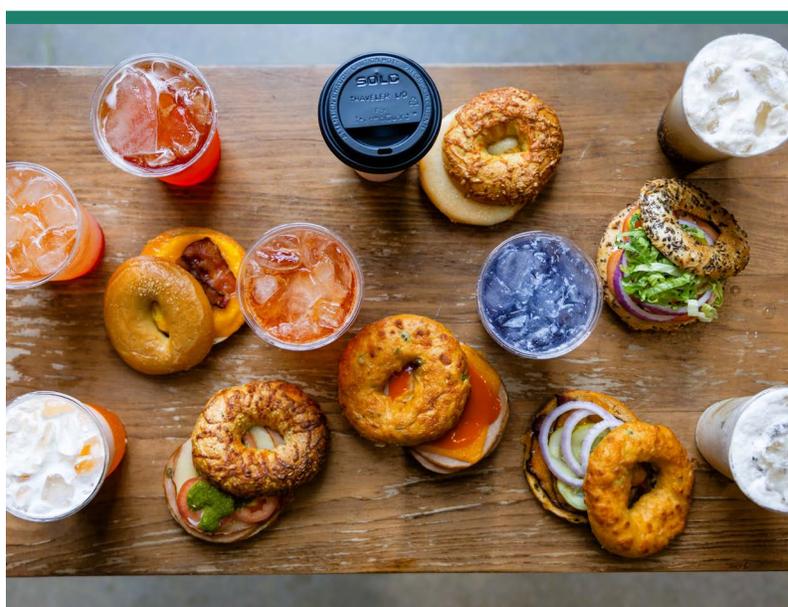
Starbucks menu items



Sparty's Market at 1855 Place



The Sandbox at Holden Hall



The Sandbox menu items

## Thanksgiving Break Dining Options

Thanksgiving break hours will be in effect from Wednesday, Nov. 26, through Sunday, Nov. 30. Below, please find details regarding dining options for those who may be remaining on campus for the long holiday weekend.

See [go.msu.edu/dininghours](http://go.msu.edu/dininghours) for complete details. For winter break dining options, please visit [eatatstate.com](http://eatatstate.com).

**Thursday, Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day):** The Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center will be open from 6 a.m. to noon for a continental breakfast, which includes baked goods and pastries, fruit, bread, coffee and tea, as well as cereal and milk.

Kellogg Market will be open from noon to 5 p.m. with an expanded selection of grab-and-go items as part of the Combo-X-Change program. All other dining locations will be closed.

**Friday, Nov. 28 – Sunday, Nov. 30:** Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center will continue offering a continental breakfast from 6 a.m. to noon each day.

**Friday, Nov. 28 – Saturday, Nov. 29:** Kellogg Market and Owen Hall Sparty's will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Combo-X-Change meals can be redeemed at these retail stores. All other dining locations will be closed.

**Saturday, Nov. 29 – Sunday, Nov. 30:** Thrive at Owen will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 30:** Select dining locations will reopen.

*Thrive at Owen Hall*



Find a regular day/time to Facetime when you can SEE your student. Texts and phone calls are fine, but some Sundays we could see on his face things were rough. Have your open-ended “starter” questions ready for the call too. Our weekly call was nonnegotiable, even if just 5 minutes.

- Beth, parent

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: SPARTAN ONE STOP NOW OFFERING IN-PERSON SUPPORT

Spartan One-Stop opened its physical space in the summer to continue supporting students on their academic journey. One-Stop now serves as the primary source for questions on student accounts, financial aid and registrar services. If a student’s question needs to be referred to another area, the One-Stop team will manage the handoff.

Whether your student is returning or new to campus, they will want to make note of important contact information for Spartan One-Stop. Additional details and examples of frequently asked questions can be found at [onestop.msu.edu](https://onestop.msu.edu).

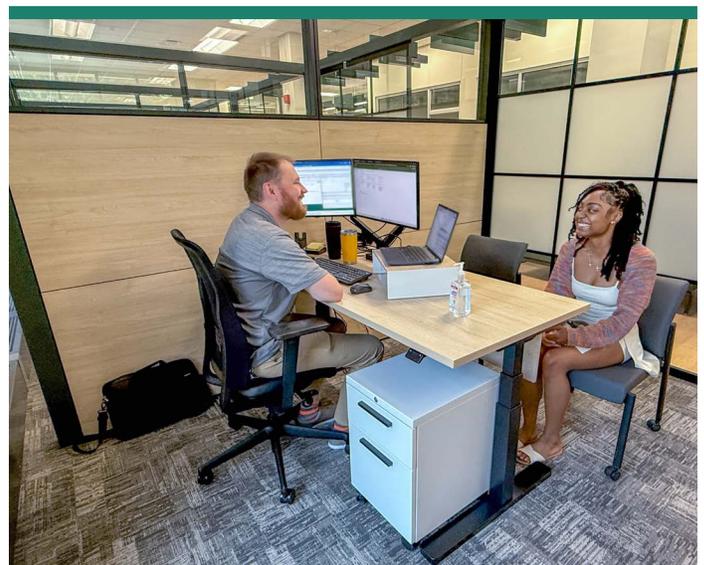
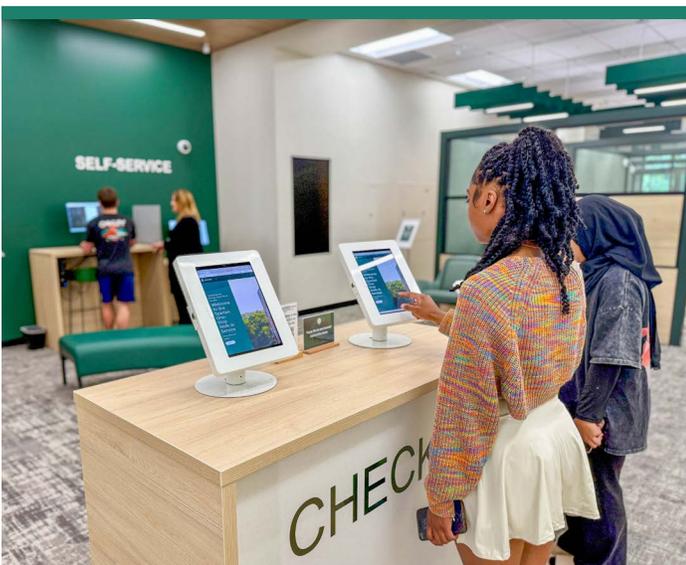
**-Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**-Phone:** 517-432-8000

**-Email:** [onestop@msu.edu](mailto:onestop@msu.edu) (if you are a family member/parent, please include your student's MSU ID or Net ID)

**-In-Person:** Hannah Administration Building, 426 Auditorium Road, Room 140

Parents, guardians and other guests can be granted guest access to the Student Information System. Please be sure to review this information before reaching out on your student's behalf: [sis.msu.edu/help/guest-access.html](https://sis.msu.edu/help/guest-access.html).



# calendar

## OF EVENTS

oct.  
6-11



HOMECOMING WEEK

oct.  
20-21



FALL BREAK

nov.  
27-28



THANKSGIVING BREAK

dec.  
8-12



FINAL EXAMS

dec.12-jan.11

WINTER BREAK

*Residence halls close at 8 p.m.  
on Dec. 12 for winter break.*



jan.10

RESIDENCE HALLS OPEN  
FOR SPRING SEMESTER





Housing Assignments Office  
Michigan State University  
1855 Place  
550 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

NONPROFIT  
MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 249

Residence Education and Housing Services is part of the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University. Live On Family News is a quarterly newsletter published throughout the academic year to keep Spartan families connected to what is happening in Residence Education and Housing Services at MSU. You can read past issues at [liveon.msu.edu](https://liveon.msu.edu).

[liveon.msu.edu](https://liveon.msu.edu)

# Spartan Cash

Michigan State University

Invest in your student's success! Deposit Spartan Cash to your student's MSU ID today at [spartancash.com](https://spartancash.com).

[spartancash.com](https://spartancash.com)