



February 4, 2020

Dear Tulane Parents and Guardians,

As Mardi Gras approaches, we want your help in impressing upon your student the importance of being safe while enjoying one of the country's biggest festivities. We do our best to educate our students in the areas of personal safety and responsible behavior, but we also need your help to ensure that your student takes those messages to heart. Students will also receive an email from us outlining safety tips as well as service hours during Mardi Gras closures.

For safety on campus, please reinforce the message that students should lock their residence hall doors at all times and not let people into the residence halls besides registered guests who will have authorized access. For safety off campus, students should attend parades in groups, walk on well-lit streets, have designated meeting spots, plan ahead for transportation and limit what they carry on their person (e.g., a small amount of cash, some form of ID, health insurance card and one credit card). Advise your student to plan ahead for transportation to and from the parades, as regular routes will be blocked off creating heavy traffic. If your student is using ride sharing apps (such as Uber or Lyft), ensure they are entering the correct vehicles as there may be impersonators. Moreover, when attending parades, students should avoid getting too close to the floats to reduce the risk of injury or arrest. We also want to encourage our students to be respectful of our neighbors as they travel to and from the parades and ensure no one in their group is left behind! When at a parade or off-campus location, students should report any emergencies directly to the NOPD by dialing 911, as heavy congestion and traffic may limit the ability of TUPD to respond to off-campus locations. They are still encouraged to follow-up with TUPD.

As students enjoy the Carnival season, we request that you consider having a conversation with your student about alcohol if you feel they might elect to drink. Empirical evidence suggests that students are less likely to suffer adverse drinking consequences when their parents discuss alcohol and binge drinking with them. We recognize that this can be a difficult topic for some parents to discuss with their children, so we'd like to suggest reading over [Tulane's Parent Handbook for Talking with College Students about Alcohol](#). If you are concerned about your student's personal safety, please contact the Tulane University Police Department at (504) 865-5911 or complete a concerns report at <https://tulane.edu/concerns>. TUPD and The Division of Student Affairs have personnel on-call 24/7.

Please remember, Tulane University recognizes a Mardi Gras Break on the academic calendar Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, February 25, thus, most offices at the University are closed from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21 to 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26. Due to the University holiday as well as city public transportation and traffic disruptions caused by parades, campus staffing and services will be reduced for the February 21 – 25 long weekend. This closure includes adjusted hours for dining operations, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Health Center, Lavin-Bernick Center, transportation services and other support operations. The hours of operation for the Mardi Gras weekend are publicized to the students in various formats and are also listed [online](#). In particular, note:

- Dining Services will hold normal hours of operation through Sunday, February 23. Limited [options](#) will be available 7 am – 2 am on Monday, February 24 and 10 am – 10 pm on Mardi Gras day, Tuesday, February 25.
- Students who want to stock up on groceries before the main holiday weekend may take the Elmwood-Metairie [Entertainment line shuttle](#) on Saturday, February 22 that stops at Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Golden City Asian Market, and the International Food Market.
- To support students during the weekend, Shuttles and Transportation has added special [parade shuttles](#).
- Tulane University Police Department will still operate 24/7 throughout the break and TUPD staff can access Student Affairs on-call staff for emergencies as needed. Encourage your student to visit the [TUPD website](#) which includes a short [safety video](#) and other helpful tips.
- Classes resume on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

All of us in the Tulane community want our students to have a safe, healthy and enjoyable Mardi Gras. We appreciate your help in reinforcing Tulane's message of safety and responsible behavior.

Sincerely,

J. Davidson "Dusty" Porter, PhD  
Vice President for Student Affairs

Kirk Bouyelas  
Chief of Police