New Student Celebration How-To’s

We’re so excited you’ll be joining us for this year’s virtual New Student Celebrations! Whether you’re an incoming student or parent, a helpful alum, or a current student or parent, there is something for all of you. Here is some helpful how-to information to help you feel prepared for your New Student Celebration experience.

What Your Celebration Will Look Like
New Student Celebrations will take place in two parts. The first part will be the Welcome to the Family webinar. You’ll learn about resources available through the Association of Rice Alumni as well as hear from alumni leaders, parents, and current students as they answer submitted questions and talk about their Rice experience. We hope to make this a great celebration to welcome new students into the Rice family!

The second part will be the individual city’s Meet and Greet. You’ll interact through a Zoom meeting with incoming students and parents, alumni, and current students and parents as you ask questions or share helpful answers. These Meet and Greet calls will be hosted by alumni leaders across different regions and will serve as the networking and informal piece of the celebration. The alumni hosts are excited to get to know participants and answer any questions that come up.

Can’t find your city, state or country on the list – do not worry! Join the event most convenient for you and we will take care of the rest!

How to Access Your Zoom Links
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email that includes two separate Zoom links for your New Student Celebration – one for the Welcome to the Family webinar and one for the Meet and Greet. Be sure to check your spam folders for this email if you don’t see it after registering! We’ll also send you a reminder email the week of your event just in case. Make sure to pay attention to which one is the webinar link and which one is the meet and greet link.

On your event day, here’s how to access the webinar session:
• Find your confirmation or reminder email for the appropriate links
• Click on the Zoom link
• A window should appear, but if it does not, press “Launch Zoom now”
• You may choose to enter with computer audio or with the dial-in number provided

How to Make the Most of Your Celebration
• Wear your Rice colors or apparel!
• Use one of these awesome Rice Zoom backgrounds.
• Bring your family! We’d love to see the whole crew at the celebration.
• Make connections! If you’re a member of the class of 2024, we encourage you to create your Sallyportal account before your event in order to join the class of 2024 group. This is a great way to continue to connect with your fellow classmates!
• Review Rules of Engagement below to learn more about Zoom features!
New Student Celebration Tips for Engagement
We’re excited you’ll be joining us for our virtual New Student Celebrations! Whether you’re a professional Zoom user or new to the platform, we hope this is an enjoyable and easy experience for everyone. The following are helpful tips for participating in the various parts of the Celebration.

Welcome to the Family Webinar
Learn about resources available through the Association of Rice Alumni as well as hear from alumni leaders, parents, and current students while they answer questions and talk about their Rice experience.

➢ Zoom webinars are designed so that the host and panelists can share their video, audio and screen. Webinars attendees are part of the audience. You’ll have the ability to interact via Q&A, chat, and by answering polling questions. We hope that whether you’re a family gathered around a screen or viewing the webinar on your own, you’ll join us in kicking off the celebration!

Meet and Greet Zoom meeting
Interact through a Zoom meeting with incoming students, current students, families and alumni as you ask questions or share helpful answers. The Meet and Greet will be hosted by alumni leaders across different regions and will serve as the networking and informal social piece of the celebration. The alumni hosts are excited to get to know participants and answer questions that come up!

➢ Zoom meetings are interactive sessions. Participants can mute/unmute and start video/stop video from the lower left corner of the screen anytime during the meeting. If you’re a family participating, feel free to share a screen or use separate devices.

Zoom Tips for Engaging in the Meet and Greet

Mute your microphone
During the meet and greet event, you will be asked to mute your microphone until you have a question or comment. This helps to minimize audio feedback. Mute your audio by clicking on the microphone icon located in the lower left-hand corner of the menu bar.

Audio is NOT Muted  Audio is muted

Raise Hand Function
Clicking on the “Raise Hand” function allows the meeting host or moderator see that you have a question. You can access this feature by clicking on Participants at the bottom of your screen and then finding the “Raise Hand” button. Wait till the moderator or alumni host calls on you to speak.

Once your question is answered, please “lower” your hand.
Chat function
The chat feature provides the ability to send instant messages during the session. You can send a private chat to one person or message all participants. In the event you experience issues with your microphone, using the chat feature can serve as an alternate means of communication.

There will be a chat moderator to ensure all questions are answered.

Please update your participant name to your full name
Click on the Participants icon at the bottom of the window then click More and a Rename option will show up. Please make sure you have your first and last name.

Zoom Code of Conduct

Be Kind and Courteous
We’re all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Kindness is required and please respect each person when they are speaking.

No Hate Speech or Bullying
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like (but not limited to) race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.

No Promotions or Spam
Give more than you take from this event. Self-promotion (around your business), spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.

Respect Everyone’s Privacy
Being part of this event requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private.