

# opinion

## Students should be able to use meal swipes off campus

CASS TOLLIVER  
AU-Live Sports Editor

Being an upperclassman at Ashland University comes with many perks— one of those being the meal swipes meal plan rather than the unlimited meal plan for Convo. These meal swipes can be used at Convo, Eagles nest, Tuffy’s smoothie bar and the Schar cafe. While those are all great options, sometimes the food on campus gets to be repetitive. Students eat the same food for two semesters of the year and then do it all over again starting in the fall.

In my opinion, meal swipes should be able to be used at local restaurants and coffee shops. If this were the case, I feel like more students would be more likely to purchase the meal plan with the highest number of meal swipes since they could use them for local places as well.

As students get older and live in the senior apartments, or even off campus, they tend to purchase the least expensive meal plan with the least amount of swipes, or do not purchase

one at all. Having meal swipes for off campus dining could potentially turn that around.

Some local restaurants that could participate in this are Burger King, Subway, Taco Bell, Eva’s Treats, Whit’s Frozen Custard, Wendy’s and any others that would be willing. Along with those, some local coffee shops that could participate are Vines Bakery and Downtown Perk.

“I believe having the opportunity to let students use meal swipes for local dining options around Ashland would improve the overall business in Ashland,” junior Jessica Zaper said.

If this were a dining option for students at AU, prospective students may be more interested in coming here. Having the option to use meal swipes off campus can be seen as an attraction, and could be a selling point for potential students when they are visiting.

“Most students want to eat off campus at least a few times a week, so if students could use meal swipes to get their off campus meals then it would actually be helping the city of Ashland,” Zaper said.

Other universities, such as Ohio State, are already implementing this idea on their campus. While OSU is a much bigger campus than AU, this is one way to stay competitive in the Ohio college search.

Students at AU try to use all of their swipes each semester so that there are none left over, but sometimes run into difficulties in doing so.

“Students feel like they have so many extra swipes left that kind of just go to waste, so it could solve the problem by giving students another way to use their extra swipes,” Zaper said.

Allowing meal swipes to be used at local dining options would benefit the students and the local businesses. While this would be a huge adjustment for AU, it would have positive outcomes for more people than just the students.

If meal swipes could be used at certain places off campus, students would have more of a variety of choices for dining, local dining options would make more money, and AU would be able to compete with bigger universities to potential students.



CASS TOLLIVER  
Vines Bakery gives students close, off campus choices

## Get your jingle on for the holidays

CHRISTINE JENKINSON & GRACIE WILSON  
News Editor and Assistant Editor

NOVEMBER

☐

Most importantly: give thanks

☐

Make time for friends and family

☐

Be thankful that school is winding down

☐

Deck the halls with boughs of holly (after you have celebrated Thanksgiving of course)

☐

Grab some hot cocoa and watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade

☐

Start up a Christmas countdown

☐

Go black Friday shopping (continue saving with those great deals on Cyber Monday)

☐

See Frozen 2 to get into the winter spirit (in theaters Nov. 22)

☐

Eat plenty of Thanksgiving leftovers

☐

Prepare the Christmas playlist

JANUARY

☐

Grab some friends and go ice skating

☐

Rock your first day of the new semester (Spring semester starts Jan. 13)

☐

Make those New Year’s resolutions (and try to stick to them, but let’s be honest...)

☐

(Please) don’t leave the Christmas decorations up for too long

☐

Go snow tubing or skiing, Snow Trails is right up the road!

☐

Have pajama days and hope for a snow day

☐

Make some snow angels

DECEMBER

☐

Volunteer to ring the bell for Salvation Army or spare some change

☐

Donate to Toys for Tots (distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford them, run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve)

☐

Crank up your Christmas music playlist (Jonas Brothers, Like its Christmas)

☐

Celebrate Christmas with your college friends before we leave for winter break (the last day of the semester is Dec. 12)

☐

Go Christmas caroling (because the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear)

☐

Drive around to look at Christmas lights

☐

Keep the Christmas spirit alive

☐

Watch a Hallmark movie (They’re basically all the same, but there’s something about that Christmas feeling they give you)

☐

Wear Christmas pajamas and exchange presents Christmas morning

☐

Decorate your tree (it might by cringy looking at your home-made ornaments from first grade, I feel your pain)

☐

Wear an ugly Christmas sweater (Maybe even enter a contest or make your own)

☐

Bake all your favorite Christmas cookies

☐

Make a gingerbread house (get rid of that possible Halloween candy)

☐

Build a snowman (and sing along to the Frozen soundtrack while you do)

☐

Wrap Christmas presents for your friends and family

☐

Cozy up with a roaring fire, fuzzy socks and a movie

☐

Watch all the Christmas movies (my favorite is Charlie Brown Christmas)

☐

Ring in the new year

☐

Get some candy cane ice cream (it is never too cold for ice cream)

the Collegian

EDITOR’S NOTE

The views expressed in the columns do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or Ashland University.

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Every letter must be signed and include contact information. The Collegian reserves the right to edit any letter for content, grammar or length. The Collegian prints letters for university and public interest. Please send letters to:

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137 Center for the Arts

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