



State of the plate



CATERING AT VILLANOVA

Welcome Home!

Dear Wildcats,
Welcome Home!

Whether you're returning to campus or just starting your journey at Villanova, we're excited to have you here. Our team has been busy preparing for your arrival, and we can't wait to share everything we've been working on.

At Villanova Dining, we're committed to creating an experience that's fresh, flexible, and focused on you. Over the past year, we've introduced thoughtful changes across our program that help reduce our environmental impact while making our menus more inclusive and efficient. One small ingredient change alone reduced projected annual emissions by more than 7,000 kg of CO₂e and removed the equivalent of 68,000 eggs from our supply chain—just one example of how everyday decisions can drive lasting impact.

We're also encouraged by the results of our Spring 2025 Dining Survey, which showed positive increases across key areas of the dining experience. Your feedback matters—and while we're proud of the progress, we know there's still work to do. We're listening, learning, and continually striving to serve you better.

To help keep those conversations going, we invite you to attend our Dining Office Hours and Open House events, held twice a month. It's a casual chance to share feedback, ask questions, and connect with our team. Follow the Wildcat Newswire and Campus Currents for dates, times, and locations—and join us for conversation, feedback, and fun.

As you explore campus, you'll find new dining options, enhanced spaces, and expanded offerings at many of your favorite locations. We also invite you to join us throughout the semester for special events as part of our Welcome Week and ongoing dining experiences.

To stay up to date with what's cooking, be sure to follow us on social media and our website for real-time menus, location hours, and updates at your fingertips. Here's to a great year ahead full of good food, great company, and shared moments around the table.

See you there,

Andrew Camuso

This month:

New &
Noteworthy

Local meets
Nova

Welcome Back
to Campus
Events

Meet the Team

Don't miss
these!

Connelly Center
Update



New Offerings on Campus

Bluefin at Cafe Nova

Bluefin has launched a new poke station inside Cafe Nova, serving fresh, customizable poke bowls packed with vibrant flavors and healthy ingredients.

Zaro's Bakery NYC Bagels

Enjoy authentic NYC bagels baked fresh every morning on campus by Zaro's Bakery—bringing a true New York breakfast experience to Villanova.

Rival Bros. Coffee at Drosdick Hall

Savor bold, locally roasted coffee and handcrafted espresso drinks in the new café-style setting inside Drosdick Hall.

COVA & Southwest Station Updates

The COVA dining locations, including Southwest Station, now feature updated menus with fan favorites from Belle Air Terrace and a juicier, more flavorful chicken recipe—created with your input.

Red Lantern at Dougherty Dining Hall

Try our new Asian-inspired station offering a rotating lineup of fan favorites like savory lo mein, classic fried rice, tender chicken teriyaki, and more—bringing bold, authentic flavors to your meal options.



Local meets Nova

We're proud to partner with Common Market to bring you fresh, seasonal ingredients sourced directly from local Pennsylvania farms. You'll see our featured farm partners highlighted throughout the café—from our rotating Farm Walls to special call-outs on our menu. Plus, keep an eye out for our monthly local fruit distribution in the dining halls for a healthy, delicious snack!



Welcome Back to Campus

Join us for a week of fun as we celebrate the first week back on campus!

- Monday Aug 25th: Wawa's Grand Opening Celebration
- Tuesday Aug 26th: Vendor Takeover! Rival, Zaro and Artisan Exchange, and more! See who is popping up all over campus
- Wednesday Aug 27th: Refresh & Recharge with Pitaya smoothie bowls
- Thursday Aug 28th: Your FYP page is coming to life! We're dishing up TANGULU!
- Friday Aug 29th: We're wrapping the week with blue treats and giveaways!

Meet the Team

Patti Beck

From public relations at Neiman Marcus to leading hotel operations, Patti's career has been a journey through the hospitality industry. A proud Penn State graduate, her favorite role is her current one as a General Manager at Villanova, where she loves connecting with students. Patti's goal is to make the dining program a supportive and welcoming part of campus life, whether students are grabbing a bite with friends or hosting family.

Favorite Dish: Villanova's Butter Chicken

Mary Fran Maloney

Since joining Villanova in 2010, Mary Fran has been instrumental in shaping our campus dining. After starting as a late-night manager, she took on the challenge of opening Café Nova in 2011 and grew into her role as General Manager for Dougherty Hall's operations. For her, the most rewarding part of her job is the opportunity to partner with the Special Olympics and serve the visiting athletes and coaches.

Favorite Villanova Meal: Take Me Out to the Ballgame Meal!

Advice for First Years...

Be sure to believe in yourself, and all that you are. Remember to embrace every opportunity and always know that mistakes are proof that you are trying. It is also important to prioritize academics, time management, and make time to be social. Most importantly, if you need help with something simply ask, as someone is always willing to help.

Villanova offers a wide range of philanthropic opportunities that not only allow you to give back, but also help you connect with new people, enrich your overall experience, and positively impact both your personal and professional growth.

College is the best four years of your life. Say yes to new things, make friends outside your comfort zone, join clubs or organizations that interest you, and don't shy away from trying something as simple as a new food. Keep a positive outlook and look for the good in every situation, even the tough ones. Study hard but also make time to enjoy life and the people around you. The friendships you form now will last a lifetime. Make the most of it, you only get to do this once!

Carmine Trovato

As the manager for St. Mary's Dining Hall, Second Storey, and the Law School's dining services, Carmine's priority is the guest experience. He works to ensure that every student and faculty member enjoys the wide variety of meals and retail offerings in a welcoming environment. Knowing how stressful academic life can be, his goal is to provide a smooth, friendly, and relaxing dining experience for everyone on West Campus.

Maria D'Alicandro

For 28 years, Maria has been a cornerstone of the Villanova dining family. She thrives on sharing her culinary passion, and her enthusiasm is infectious. As an Italian, her love for food pours out of her, she loves feeding the Nova community through her cafe, The Exchange.

Favorite Dish: Pasta in a blush sauce with shrimp



Maria

Carmine

Patti

Mary Fran



Meet the New Connelly Center

Wawa Partnership

We're proud to welcome Wawa to our dining portfolio—right here on campus. This first-of-its-kind partnership in higher education brings a local favorite closer to your daily routine. Whether it's a hoagie between classes, a morning coffee, or a mac & cheese bowl for a late-night snack, Wawa is ready to serve you.

Dining Options

The Connelly Center has two refreshed dining options! V (ヴァイ) has moved to a new location, offering an expanded menu of fresh sushi with rotating seasonal specials. Joining it is the new Nova Noodle Company, serving hearty, customizable noodle dishes inspired by global flavors. Both locations now offer convenient mobile ordering on Grubhub.

Don't Miss These...

- The catering team is launching **Snackademic**, a first-of-its-kind, student-driven menu featuring fresh, creative snack options inspired directly by Villanova students.
- We've gone digital! All dining locations now feature digital signage and updated menu boards. You can access real-time menus anytime online or through the Villanova Dining app, making it easier than ever to plan your meals.
- Your Late-Night Fix: We've upgraded our late-night menu! Head to **Second Storey** for delicious personal pizzas, perfect for a study break or late snack.
- Dine Sustainably: Make a difference with every meal! In addition to Dougherty and Donahue Halls, St. Mary's Hall has joined the **ReUse Pass** program to help reduce single use waste on campus.
- Starbucks is now at **Bartley Exchange**! Order ahead on the Grubhub App!

#FueledbyNova

