



Dear Incoming 9th Grade Students and Parents,

My name is Steff Kerr, and I am the Director of the Ninth Grade Program at Sandy Spring Friends School. I am looking forward to getting to know your student better during the coming year and making sure that the transition to the Upper School at SSFS goes smoothly.

One of the most beloved traditions here at SSFS is the **9th Grade Camping Trip** that all 9th grade students attend in mid-August before classes start in the fall. It's a great way to bond and get to know one another before the school year begins. The trip includes hiking, canoeing, and whole-group games and activities at Catoctin Quaker Camp.

I wanted to reach out now to give you a little information ahead of time, and also to request that you put a few dates on your calendar:

- **Friday, Aug. 23: 9th Grade Trip Meeting at 5:00-6:30 pm in Studio B in the Performing Arts Center.**
All 9th grade students and parents should attend this meeting, which will give you a chance to get your equipment checked, if needed, ask questions, and find out more information about the trip.
- **Tuesday-Friday, Aug. 27-30: 9th Grade Trip Dates.** Students will meet at SSFS at **7:30 am** on Tuesday, August 27. Parents are welcome and encouraged to stay for breakfast (from 7:30-8:30 am) in Westview Dining Hall after dropping off their students. Students will return to campus by 2:00 pm on Friday, August 30.

Please make sure that your student has completed all their health forms for the 2019-20 academic year by August 9, 2019, so that they may participate in the trip. You may access and update your student's health records online by [logging in to the Magnus Health website](#) using your School-issued username and password. ([Click here for FAQs and troubleshooting.](#)) **The following forms must be submitted by August 9:**

- Physical form
- Immunization Record
- Medication Form (to include prescription and over-the-counter medication), completed and signed by a physician
- Medication information submitted via your Magnus health account

Medications cannot be self-administered (except for inhalers) and should be brought to the Health Center from Monday, August 5 – Monday, August 12 (Note that **Aug. 19 is the last day to bring in**



medications as time is needed to prepare and organize them for the leaders). Please contact the school nurse, Lisa Dyer, at lisa.dyer@ssfs.org or 301-774-7455 ext. 120 if you have any questions.

You can find links to an [equipment list](#), a [food suggestion list](#), and a [sample itinerary of the trip](#) on the [Parent Portal Page under Upper School Resources](#), or on the SSFS 9th Grade Web Page online (go to www.ssfs.org > Academics > Upper School > Ninth Grade Program: <http://www.ssfs.org/academics/upper-school/ninth-grade-program>). For first-time campers, it makes good sense to borrow or rent backpacks at REI in Rockville or College Park. [Campmor](#) and [Sierra Trading Post](#) have very competitive pricing if you wish to purchase a backpack.

If you have any questions or cannot make the Aug. 23rd meeting, please be sure to set up a time with me to have your equipment checked. I can be contacted by phone, 240-281-0142, or email, steffk@ssfs.org.

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

In Peace,

Steff Kerr
9th Grade Program Director