



## Freshman Welcome Registration ~ Class of 2024 Important Information for Parents and Students

Welcome to Serra! We will be sharing a lot of information with you this evening. Some key topics are addressed in this overview, with information on how to get additional details or answers to your questions. Please note that, in some cases, additional information will be sent to you by traditional mail or through email. Watch for these communications, and be sure your email is set to recognize Junipero Serra High School.

### Physical Examination and Immunization Requirements

In order to have your son begin classes in August, he must have on file at Serra the appropriate verified documentation for his completed physical examination and immunization record.

**Physical Exam:** Serra uses a web-based provider to collect and maintain each student's medical history, contact information and release forms. You will receive an email from the Admissions Office in early June, which will provide a link to access and download the *Preparticipation Physical Evaluation* form, which includes a medical history to be completed by parents and a physician's evaluation to be completed, signed and stamped by a licensed medical physician.

- **Incoming freshmen not planning to participate in athletics during freshman year:** Please scan and email the completed form to [admissions@serrahs.com](mailto:admissions@serrahs.com). You also can bring a hard copy into our main office or mail it to us.
- **Incoming freshmen who plan to participate in a Serra team sport anytime during freshman year:** Go to [www.athleticclearance.com](http://www.athleticclearance.com) to create an account (make sure to click on **2020-21** school year and click on the correct school: **Junipero Serra/San Mateo**). It will prompt you to complete the online clearance process. You will upload your completed form to your online account or email your physical form to [Athletics Director Justin Ferdinand](mailto:Justin.Ferdinand@jsserra.com).

**Important Note:** The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), the governing body for high school sports in California, requires that student-athletes have a current annual physical examination, or statement by a medical practitioner, certifying they are physically fit to participate in athletics before they are eligible to try out, practice or participate in interscholastic athletic competition. The date of the certification must be within 365 days of the *completion* of the sports season.

**Serra must receive the completed *Preparticipation Physical Evaluation* form no later than Wednesday, July 29, 2020.**

**Immunization Records:** You are required to provide us with a copy of your son's most current official immunization record. It must include proof of the Tdap booster shot required of all California students. You can send a copy of the record electronically by fax (650.573.6638) or

scan and send by email to [admissions@serrahs.com](mailto:admissions@serrahs.com). You also can bring a hard copy into our main office or mail it to us.

Serra complies with the immunization regulations of the State of California and the Archdiocese of San Francisco, for all freshmen and transfer students. California School Immunization Law (Health and Safety Code Sections 120335-120375) and the Archdiocese of San Francisco require that no registering student shall be admitted to school unless and until the parents (a) have established the required record of immunizations received by the student, (b) presented a statement of medical exemption, or (c) have filed an affidavit, prior to January 1, 2016, stating beliefs opposed to immunizations. (Visit the National Vaccine Information Center's website for more information on California SB 277, which disallows personal and religious belief exemptions.) You can find more information at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).

Questions: Contact Linda Cuddy at 650.345.8207 ext. 6115 or [lcuddy@serrahs.com](mailto:lcuddy@serrahs.com).

### **Required Freshman Summer Reading Program**

Summer reading helps students maintain their literacy over the summer and prepare to tackle challenging critical thinking and writing tasks as soon as they enter Serra High School. Incoming freshmen are required to read two books over the summer. Students placed in Honors Freshman English are assigned two specific novels to read. All other freshman students are assigned one required memoir and one additional book that they choose from a list of books of various categories. It is expected that students will have completed the required summer reading prior to the first day of classes in August.

The [summer reading book lists](#) and additional information about summer reading are available [online](#).

### **Required Summer Technology Orientation**

Incoming students are required to complete a technology orientation program in the summer before they begin at Serra. The purpose of this program is for students to:

- set up the necessary accounts and passwords for the various technology applications they will be using as Serra students.
- familiarize and practice technology skills required of all Serra students.
- review and discuss the school's expectations as they relate to technology usage and online behavior.

This program is conducted in one, three-hour session on campus during the summer, which is followed by required participation in a series of online activities for the remaining weeks of summer. You will be able to select from several course dates.

You will need to sign up your son for Technology Orientation online through the PCR Parent Portal, which can be accessed from the [Serra website](#), beginning June 1. We will send you an email reminder prior to this date, which will also include detailed information on how to log into the PCR Parent Portal and sign up for the Technology Orientation date that works best for your family.

Space is limited to the first 20 students who sign up for each session date, so signing up early is the best way to ensure that you get your first-choice date. Please note: The afternoon sessions are reserved for those students who also are attending the Serra Summer School program. Students *not* attending Serra Summer School should sign up for one of the morning sessions, which run from 8 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Please be sure to sign up no later than June 10. Students are *not* required to bring the portable wireless device they plan to use in school to the Technology Orientation.

## **Course Progression and Graduation Requirements**

Serra's college preparatory curriculum is a rigorous course of study that provides our students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in college. Serra's academic requirements for graduation meet UC and CSU requirements for admission (this is not the case for all high schools). Extensive class offerings and a consistent focus on college readiness allow Serra students to exceed those requirements.

All students will take a minimum of six classes during their freshman year. These include English, math, world history, biology, theology and a world language. The level of English, history, science and math will depend on placement. Students also will select an elective class or an independent study period; a small group of students will be placed in a Directed Study class.

You can review the four-year course progression, UC/CSU course requirements, and Serra's graduation requirements in the PCR Parent Portal. Click "Student Information" and then "Scheduling Next Year" to locate the information.

## **Ordering Textbooks**

Serra contracts with an online textbook purchasing service, MBS Direct, to provide students with textbooks and/or digital versions of textbooks. Beginning July 6, you can place orders with MBS Direct through the [Serra website](#), or by calling MBS Direct toll-free at 1.800.325.3252. When you place your order, you will be given the option to purchase either new books or used books, depending on availability. Shipping is *free* on orders over \$99 from July 6 through July 19. When ordering books, please pay special attention to the "Messaging" for each book in each course. This will indicate if a book is **required** or **optional** and/or if a student needs to purchase the actual textbook or may purchase an EText. It is important that you place orders well in advance of the start of school as teachers will expect every student to bring all required materials on the first day of class.

You will receive information by mail in late June that includes the list of courses your son will take next year. Use this course list to select books for purchase.

Questions: Email [Sally Lockie](#), or by phone at 650.345.8207 ext. 6150.

## **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program**

Students are *required* to bring a portable internet access device (e.g. Chromebook, tablet, or laptop) to school daily. The program allows students to access internet resources as needed on campus and in classroom curriculum. The BYOD model holds particular advantages for Serra students--not only does the program respond to personal device preferences of students and their families, it also replicates the environment students will encounter in college classrooms.

Minimum device requirements and examples of acceptable portable devices can be found [here](#).

## **Freshman Athletics**

Fall sports--cross country, water polo and football-- will begin for incoming freshmen on Wednesday, August 12. Nothing takes place before that time. You will receive an email during the summer that provides details about fall sports meetings and activities, which will include dates and times.

Questions: Contact Director of Athletics [Justin Ferdinand](#).

## **Pledge Campaign for the Class of 2024**

Each Serra family is asked to make a separate financial commitment in the form of an annual Parent Pledge for each child attending Serra. This annual parent pledge supports our mission and helps to enhance the current programs that are offered to your son(s). All families are invited to consider participating at the President's Circle level of \$1,944. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Donations to the Parent Pledge assure that all students will receive the very best educational experience at Serra.

Each year, we hope to achieve 100 percent *participation* from all families, including recipients of financial aid, at a level that is comfortable and meaningful for each family. Participation and support of the annual Parent Pledge campaign further validates our mission and enables us to secure additional funding from foundations and alumni who are asked to participate in our annual fund as well.

We know from experience that our alumni, foundations and other benefactors look to the commitment of parents in deciding their own levels of support, particularly as we ask them for larger gifts for program enhancements.

Questions: You can find more information on our [website](#); just click on the "Support Serra" tab on the home page and then select "The Padre Fund: Current Parents" from the pulldown menu. Further questions can be answered by contacting Serra's Annual Fund Director [Lisa Callagy](#) at 650.573.9935.

## **Parent Volunteer Opportunities**

Find more information about these parent organizations on our website, [serrahs.com](http://serrahs.com):

- **Class of 2024 Pledge Campaign Volunteer Team:** Please contact Annual Fund Director [Lisa Callagy](#) at 650.573.9935.
- **Mothers' Auxiliary:** Select the "Parents" tab on the homepage, then select "Welcome Parents" from the pulldown menu.
- **Fathers' Club:** Select the "Parents" tab on the homepage, then select "Welcome Parents" from the pulldown menu.
- **Booster Club:** Select the "Athletics" tab on the homepage, then select "Serra Booster Club" from the pulldown menu.
- **TRISTARS** (Tri-School Theater Arts Recognition and Support): Visit [trischoolproductions.com](http://trischoolproductions.com), select the "Get Involved" tab on the homepage.

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