

Parent Ambassador FAQ's for Incoming Families

General Questions

<p>Where can I locate important information for incoming freshmen</p>	<p>A welcome and registration page was created for all incoming freshmen. It includes: what you need to do before school starts, important dates, required physical forms and graduation requirements for students' four-year progression at Serra.</p>
<p>What type of summer communications can I expect?</p>	<p>Serra uses PCR Educator - a web-based school information management system that manages student data and securely shares academic records with students, teachers and parents. Families will receive an email from Keith Strange with directions on how to create an account in PCR before June 1. If you do not receive this email by June 1, please contact admissions@serrahs.com</p> <p>Near the end of June, all families will receive an electronic summer mailing that includes information about logistics, policies and procedures (student handbook), medical info, carpooling, orientation, photos, mothers' auxiliary, father's club.</p> <p>Once school starts, you will receive a weekly e-newsletter called "Spotlight" that is sent to all parents.</p>
<p>When will we receive information about carpools?</p>	<p>Carpool information comes out with the summer mailing. All families will receive a survey requesting interest in carpool formation. We encourage you to complete the carpool interest form. Serra will then group families in the same area and send out the lists in late July.</p>
<p>What is the uniform / dress code?</p>	<p>Students may wear collared shirts (polos), Serra t-shirts, or dress shirts. Students can wear jeans (no tears or holes), khaki pants or shorts, and sneakers or dress shoes. No athletic shorts, athletic pants (sweats) or open toe shoes/slippers are allowed. Serra sweatshirts or sweatshirts with a small logo (no larger than a fist) are also allowed.</p> <p>Certain masses will be designated as "dress up" where students are required to wear dress shirts, ties, slacks, and dress shoes.</p>

	<p>All students must be clean shaven, hair must be neat and at the collar. Students are not allowed to wear “man buns”, bleach or highlight hair, color hair or have long hair. When unsure, contact the school.</p> <p>Occasionally we get questions about hair and religious beliefs. When in doubt, encourage students to contact the school for clarity.</p>
<p>When are the medical forms due and what happens if you can’t get a doctor appointment for a physical?</p>	<p>Every incoming freshman must submit a medical form that documents a physical exam within the last year. These are due on July 31 and can be submitted to admissions@serrahs.com. If your son is considering participating in any sport at Serra, you create an account and upload the physical to the athletic clearance website. Families who upload their physical form are not required to email the physical form to admissions@serrahs.com.</p> <p>Information about the physicals (due dates and where to submit them) is also provided on the Serra website.</p> <p>We understand Shelter In Place has prevented non-urgent doctor visits and we may need to be flexible. Contact admissions@serrahs.com if you are unable to schedule an appointment with your pediatrician by July 31.</p>
<p>When will freshmen get their “Big Brothers”?</p>	<p>Big Brothers meet their Little Brothers during orientation (August 14 & 15). Orientation is usually two spirited and informative days for incoming freshmen to get better acquainted with Serra, to meet lots of new friends, and to find their way around campus. Orientation may be a little different this year given the coronavirus, but it will still be an opportunity for the freshmen to get to know each other and get ready for their new adventure as Padres. It will also be a perfect time for them to meet their Big Brothers.</p>
<p>Incoming freshmen parents were asked to consider making a contribution pledge in their welcome packets. When are those pledges due?</p>	<p>We will be looking to the parents of incoming freshmen (class of 2024) to start contributing to the Padre Fund in the new fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2020). However, contributions are gratefully received anytime and any donation received by June 30 will be acknowledged in the annual report and be considered for the President’s Circle.</p>

Courses & Academics

<p>When will we find out the results of the math & language placement tests?</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19, the math placement exam was cancelled. Families were notified last week regarding math placement. Students were placed in math based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High School Placement Exam ● 8th grade grades and level of math ● Math teacher letter of recommendations ● Students awarded honors at entrance were usually placed in honors math and science unless the above criteria suggested otherwise <p>If families disagree with placement, families should email ree@serrahs.com and request to have their son's application re-reviewed.</p>
<p>When will we receive the class schedules?</p>	<p>Near the end of June, students will receive, via email, a list of the courses they are registered for. This list of courses can be used to order books but does not include the class schedule.</p> <p>In early August, students will receive via email their class schedule. The class schedule gives the days and times for class meetings as well as the teachers for those classes.</p>
<p>When should we order books and technology devices?</p>	<p>Books can be ordered online through MBS direct beginning in July. Books should not be ordered until you receive your class list (end of June). MBS direct often has used books available for sale (if a physical book is required) but they sometimes go quickly so if you are interested in used books, order early.</p> <p>Some courses use online textbooks, some use physical textbooks and some use a combination or let students decide Each teacher makes independent decisions about what material best supports his/her class.</p> <p>Serra is a Bring Your Own Device school. While Serra doesn't dictate the device a student uses, we do require that it meets minimum system requirements. Requirements</p>

	are located at serrahs.com under academics and technology or found here .
What type of summer homework will there be and is it required?	<p>Summer homework is an important way for students to retain the skills and knowledge developed over the school year and help with the smooth transition into a new school. Students should expect to be evaluated on their summer work at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>Math - all students will have math homework over the summer (regardless of what level math they are placed in). Math homework will be available by logging on to PCR (after June 1).</p> <p>English - all students are expected to read two books over the summer, one chosen by the English department and the other from a list of summer reading options. Summer reading is located <i>now</i> on the Serra website under academics or here. It will also be available through PCR (after June 1).</p>
How/when are auditions being held for chorus and band?	Auditions are taking place online during the first two weeks of May. Placements will be finalized by the end of May.
Are different types of devices or supplementary software (laptops, etc) recommended for ARC students?	ARC students do not need specific devices or software that differs from the standard requirements for everyone. The ARC office does have additional tools available for students to borrow to help support their learning plans. For example, this could be a computer in a quiet space to take an exam or recording pens for note taking (student must get teacher's permission to record), silencing headphones, etc.

Extracurricular Offerings

How do students sign up for extracurricular activities?	Club day takes place in the fall soon after school starts. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the wide variety of clubs offered at Serra and to sign up for what interests them.
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	<p>Sports. There will be info about how to sign up for fall sports in the summer mailing. At this point, we are waiting for direction from the WCAL and CCS athletic leagues regarding athletics in the fall.</p> <p>Student government elections for freshmen will take place in October.</p> <p>Auditions for the fall play will be the first week of school.</p> <p>Student Ambassadors: We are seeking passionate, driven, and committed freshmen to join our student ambassador program. Student ambassadors host 8th graders when they visit campus, participate in admission events, and answer prospective students questions when needed. Applications will be sent out in June to incoming freshmen. Applicants will be interviewed and selected over the summer and will attend a training the week before school starts.</p>
<p>If our son wants to play a fall sport, does he try out in the summer? When will we hear information about fall sports?</p>	<p>There will be a mandatory Frosh Athlete and Parent orientation on Tuesday, August 18th. Students who are interested in playing any sport at Serra should attend this meeting.</p> <p>We hope to have a decision on fall sports over the summer.</p>

Distance Learning & COVID-19 Related Questions

<p>What’s happening with summer school and summer camps?</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 and shelter in place, Serra made the difficult decision to cancel all summer camps and limit summer school offerings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Freshman Bridge Program (06/17-7/17/20) which supports students in the transition from middle
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	<p>school to high school with skill and academic enrichment will be offered in a virtual distance learning setting. Families with questions about this program should contact admissions@serrahs.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry and Geometry Honors will be offered virtually through Serra. Registration info is on the website. A few exceptionally strong Algebra I incoming freshmen have been invited to consider taking a summer geometry class for advancement. <p>All summer camps including the Serra Sports & Rec Camp, Serra Swim School, Musical Theatre Conservatory, Peninsula Wrestling Club and Next Level Sports will not be offered.</p>
<p>How is distance learning working at Serra?</p>	<p>Students continue to follow an A/B block schedule (periods 1-4 on A day, 5-7 on B day). These days are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, Wednesdays are reserved for counselor meetings, home room meetings, teacher office hours and student activity periods.</p> <p>Teachers teach their classes in a virtual setting through Zoom classes. Our teachers were already well versed in using interactive educational tools and technology in their classrooms so the switch to distance learning was easier than they expected. Teachers engage the students with tools like EdPuzzle, ScreenCastify, Flipgrid, Kahoot, ClassZone and work hard to make the classes as interactive as possible.</p> <p>Students are getting grades (as opposed to just pass/fail). This rewards the students for the work they are doing. They are being held accountable. Teachers will work with students one on one if they are facing particularly challenging circumstances at home.</p> <p>Finals this semester are not cumulative and worth up to 10% of semester grade. (finals are usually 20% of the semester grade). Most “finals” are project based assessments (papers, essays, videos, other projects). This change allows teachers more flexibility to focus on the concepts that they think are important, assess comprehension in different ways</p>

	<p>and relieve some of the pressure students are feeling while still holding them accountable.</p>
<p>What other activities are Serra students involved with outside of academics during the crisis?</p>	<p>Athletics - All spring coaches have been reaching out to athletes on their teams to keep them engaged and active. Brian Carson (strength coach) has been holding workout classes open to all students. Mr. Willet has morning stretch breaks.</p> <p>Club Activities - Clubs have virtual meetings and gatherings when possible. Trivia club still holding its spring trivia contest, student government elections taking place, newspaper transitioned to online format.</p> <p>Campus Ministry - Campus Ministry holds weekly prayer services, masses or gatherings often organized by the student Encounter leaders. They have also organized distance service opportunities for students such as letter writing to older, isolated citizens.</p> <p>Counseling - Counselors have reached out individually to every Serra student and family during the crisis. Additionally, they are holding regular group meetings with each homeroom.</p>
<p>How are music and studio arts classes being handled with distance learning? What about classes with science labs?</p>	<p>Teachers and students have adapted in a number of creative ways.</p> <p>Music - classes have pivoted from group exercises to solo performances. The music director is working one on one with each student</p> <p>Art/Ceramics - initially students were given art supplies to take home with them. When those supplies ran out (because shelter in place lasted longer than expected), new assignments utilized materials students could find at home. They are also working on artist and museum projects like the Getty Museum Challenge. Check it out HERE</p>

	<p>Drama - Classes have shifted to monologue practice instead of group scenes. They are also reading and critiquing plays.</p> <p>Science Labs - Teachers are using a number of online activities to simulate labs and create interactive learning. Tools like Nearpod let students manipulate science environments and observe, measure and quantify results.</p>
<p>How about ARC students? How are they being supported during Shelter in Place?</p>	<p>The ARC is doing individual calls and outreach with each ARC student. They are also reaching out to teachers as needed to advocate for ARC students in their classes.</p>
<p>What health and safety measures are being put into place?</p>	<p>Every aspect of school life is being evaluated from small details to logistics to large gatherings.</p> <p>Extensive new cleaning and hygiene practices are being developed for classrooms, administrative offices, common areas, library, athletic facilities. Cafeteria service and seating is being reconsidered and designed.</p>
<p>What's the plan for the fall?</p>	<p>Serra is communicating regularly with the San Mateo County Office of Education, San Mateo County Health Officer and the SF Archdiocese to be proactive and fully informed about public health and safety requirements and recommendations.</p> <p>Serra is developing a range of options for the 2020-2021 school year with Plan A representing a full return to school as usual, Plan E representing a complete online distance learning environment and Plans B, C, and D representing various hybrid models. We also understand we may start the year with one model and then either gradually or suddenly need to migrate to another one. Our goal is to be flexible and prepared to offer the most enriching and meaningful college prep education possible regardless of the restrictions on our movement or interactions.</p> <p>There is a tremendous amount of work taking place this summer to prepare the school and the community for any one of these plans. Preparation includes new hygiene and safety practices, technology upgrades, professional development and creative thinking.</p>
<p>Will sports still be happening in the fall?</p>	<p>No decisions have been made yet about fall sports. The Athletic Director is in regular communication with the Western Catholic Athletic League (WCAL) and other athletic officials. All schools in our league are in the same situation and likely to make the same decisions about fall sports.</p>
<p>What is Serra doing about graduation for the seniors?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Profiles - We are writing personal profiles for every senior. This is our opportunity to honor and

	<p>celebrate these unique and special young men. The profiles will be released throughout the month of May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senior Awards On Thursday, May 28, we will be honoring our graduates who have excelled in a number of different areas during their time at Serra. ● Parent/Son & Baccalaureate Liturgy of the Word (Friday, May 29 - 5:30 p.m.) Campus Ministry is preparing a final prayer service for the senior class and their families. It will be a time for the class to unite in prayer and celebrate with each other as they prepare for graduation. ● Virtual Commencement (Saturday, May 30 - 10 a.m) We hope that despite the changes to the ceremony, it will still capture the spirit of brotherhood and celebrate the amazing successes of our seniors. ● Graduation in Person - Although we cannot confirm the exact date and time, we are committing to the Class of 2020, to celebrate graduation in person together at a future date.
<p>My family has been financially affected by COVID-19 and I am now concerned about our ability to pay Serra’s tuition. Do you have any suggestions?</p>	<p>Serra is committed to working with families who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are concerned about your ability to pay tuition, please review and complete the new financial assistance form here on the website.</p>
<p>Q: If we have a model in the fall that has students in the classroom, will students who are ill/sick be able to Zoom in to class remotely?</p>	<p>That is a strong possibility. Before COVID-19, students who were absent from school did not have the opportunity to Zoom in to be part of the class. Given the experience we've had with Zoom teaching so far, teachers will probably be much more comfortable with that option for ill/sick students. The same could be said for faculty who may have to stay at home because of COVID-19.</p>
<p>With respect to fall sports, is it possible that some sports might go ahead while others don't? (ie could cross country take place even if football is suspended?)</p>	<p>We don't know yet. The Athletic Director is in regular discussions with the league administrators and we do not know yet when decisions will be made.</p>