

FAQ for New Families

(Edited 7/23/20)

What furniture is already in the dorm?

All rooms are supplied with a bed, desk, desk chair, dresser, overhead light, trash, and recycle can. Some of these items are built in, while others stand alone. These items may not be removed from the room, so please do not bring any pieces of extra furniture.

Do dorm rooms have landlines?

Each room is equipped with a landline and an individual phone number for parents to call. Students need calling cards to make long-distance calls from these phones. Wifi calling may be possible on most mobile devices in School buildings and dorms.

What items should I bring?

Due to COVID-19, we ask that students do NOT bring ANY furniture to campus. We also ask that you limit decorations of the walls.

BEDDING

- bedspread or quilt (size: twin extra long)
- blankets
- pillow
- pillow cases (at least two sets)
- sheets (at least two sets) (size: twin extra long)

PERSONAL ITEMS AND TOILETRIES

- a small fan (strongly recommended), bi-directional window fans are preferred.
- desk lamp (not halogen, not multi-head)
- at least one piece of luggage or suitcase
- first aid items such as Band-Aids
- bath towels, washcloths (2-4)
- hairbrush or comb
- moisturizer
- nail clippers
- shower caddy (required) for shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and other toiletries
- laundry detergent
- hand sanitizer
- over-the-counter medications (prescription medications and psychotropic drugs must be stored at the Health Center)
- surge-protected power strips (also available in our campus store)
- tissues
- water bottle
- cup/mug, eating utensils, plate, and bowl for evening snack or feeds (Hotchkiss dishware is not permitted outside the Dining Hall)
- other personal care items to consider: feminine hygiene products, deodorant, razors

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS

- bike, lock, and helmet
- hangers

What items are NOT allowed?

- any additional furniture (such as a bean bag chair, fluffy rug, couch, etc.)
- coffee makers with hot plates
- extension cords
- electric heater
- halogen lamps or lamps with more than three heads
- holiday lights (battery operated are OK)
- hot pot or hot plate
- iron, ironing board, or steamers
- light bulbs
- microwaves
- refrigerators (proctor refrigerators are already on campus)
- stoves
- toaster or toaster ovens
- Xbox or other gaming equipment
- media players such as AppleTV, ChromeCast, and Roku
- wireless printers
- live animals/pets

What clothes should I bring?

The weather in the northwest corner of Connecticut varies from an average high of 78°F with sunshine in September to an average low of 30°F at night in November. Due to COVID-19, we are asking all students to limit the amount of clothing that they bring to campus. Please consider only bringing the essentials so that the rooms can be kept cleaner and you can move easily to a different location, if necessary. If needed, additional items could be shipped to you later.

There are three tiers of the dress code, depending on the formality of the occasion. Here is a list of sample items to consider:

- Academic dress: collared shirts, shirts without logos, polo shirts, dresses, tunics, tailored pants, denim in good repair, skirts, comfortable shoes
- Special event dress: coat and tie, dress slacks, button-down shirts, blazers, jackets, dresses, dress shoes
- Relaxed dress: bottoms in good repair, leggings worn with dresses, skirts, or tunics (may not be worn alone), joggers, athletic wear and shoes.

All garments should be in good repair and not excessively worn or revealing. The length of clothing should be appropriate for the classroom and allow a student to sit comfortably.

More items to consider packing:

- specific athletic wear and gear may be sport-dependent
- active wear: socks, sneakers, sweats, t-shirts, athletic shorts
- general: underwear, socks, sleepwear
- optional comforts: bathrobe and shower sandals
- rain jacket and umbrella (highly recommended)
- other: bug spray and sun protection

Where can my child do their own laundry?

There are laundry machines in the basements of Buehler, Dana, Edelman, Flinn, Garland, Memorial, Redlich, Tinker, and Watson dorms. These are free of charge to use, but students must supply their own laundry detergent/dryer sheets. An optional laundry and dry cleaning service, E&R (the Campus

Laundry), is located in the basement of Tinker Hall. Information about signing up for this service will be provided in the August electronic *Family Update*.

What school supplies should we bring?

All items below, with the exception of backpacks, are available at the Campus Store on the lower level of the Main Building. Supplies will vary by class, but it is a good idea to bring the following:

- backpack
- binders (2)
- graphing calculator: Texas Instruments TI-NSpire CAS calculator. Our students must own the CAS version.
- highlighters
- loose-leaf paper
- notebook(s)
- paper clips
- pencils and pens (10-plus)
- ruler
- scissors
- tape
- envelopes (stamps are available for purchase at the Post Office)

Can I send items through the mail before move-in day?

Yes. If you are shipping items or supplies to campus, please be sure to send packages as soon as possible (shipping items before August 10 is recommended). As a reminder, furniture like couches, bean bags, rugs, etc. are NOT allowed and therefore should not be shipped to the School.

Any shipped parcel or package will be available for student pick-up at the Hotchkiss Post Office. We accept packages sent via all common carriers (e.g., U.S. mail, UPS, FedEx, DHL). Please send mail and packages to students (using their legal name if possible) at this address:

Student's Name (first and last)
The Hotchkiss School
11 Interlaken Road
Lakeville, CT 06039

Pay all shipping charges in advance, as Hotchkiss will not accept any cash on delivery (C.O.D.) packages.

What can we purchase at the Campus Store?

The Campus Store offers both necessities for the dormitory and classroom, as well as Hotchkiss gear and personal supplies. The main store is located on the lower level of the Main Building. Contact us at (860) 435-3670, via email: schoolstore@hotchkiss.org, or online at www.hotchkisschoolstore.com

When will my child receive information about their faculty advisor?

Every student is assigned a faculty advisor, who is responsible for attending to the student's academic and personal development. The advisor is often the primary contact for parents/guardians and serves as the point person for communication. Parents with concerns and questions about their student should contact the faculty advisor first. Advisors will reach out to you by the end of July.

What if my child needs academic accommodations and study skills support?

The Class of 1964 Teaching and Learning Center houses the study skills program, which offers assistance with organization, time management, and content-specific support in math, science,

reading, and writing. If you think your student would benefit from additional study skills support, please be in touch with your student's advisor or class dean. If your student requires accommodations due to a disability, please forward documentation and contact Study Skills Coordinator Jane Herold P'17,'20,'24 at jherold@hotchkiss.org.

How do students learn to manage their time?

One of the biggest lessons new students at Hotchkiss learn is how to manage their time effectively. Juggling how to complete coursework regularly and study for assessments while also making new friends and participating in new activities may be a new skill for some. Most new students take advantage of free periods and study hall hours to complete their work routinely. When a student is struggling, there are a few ways we monitor their progress. Often, teachers work in collaboration with faculty advisors, class dean, and dorm faculty to monitor a student's progress closely. Additionally, they might call upon the study skills staff to help consult with the student or offer alternative study options. Many times, simple techniques (e.g., using an academic planner and checking in with teachers regularly) and a more focused routine, such as checking classroom assignments daily, will make a big difference. The study skills program offers additional academic support that can help a student learn to become a better self-advocate and seek help from teachers more proactively.

How will I know if something is wrong, especially if my child might feel homesick?

Faculty members and parents are expected to work together to ensure that students do well. In a residential school community, faculty members are trained to look for signs if a student is not feeling well or seems distressed. As teachers, dorm faculty, coaches, and advisors, they work with each other to observe students in various School settings. An advisor is typically the first person to bring up concerns with parents. Conversely, parents should feel comfortable contacting an advisor or class dean if they have concerns or sense something is not quite right with a student. We encourage parents to communicate with their students whenever they can and to work as partners with our faculty members.

What number do I call if I need to get a hold of someone at the School?

From off campus, you can call the main School number at (860) 435-2591, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From a campus phone: Dial 0. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CALL 911. For general questions that are not time sensitive, please call or email the Deans' office at (860) 435-3739, Amber Jordan ajordan@hotchkiss.org or (860) 435-3189, Stephanie Thibault sthibault@hotchkiss.org.

What are ways in which parents can get involved at Hotchkiss?

Parents can volunteer for the School in a variety of ways. For details and to sign up, visit: www.hotchkiss.org/parents/parent-volunteer, or contact Director of Parent Programs Johanna Haan P'14 at (860) 435-3121 or jhaan@hotchkiss.org.

The Hotchkiss School (Office Contact Information)

Main School Number (860) 435-2591

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

New Student Orientation (860) 435-3189

Nora Yasumura, nyasumura@hotchkiss.org

Questions about move-in day & the new student orientation program

Academic Life and Registrar (860) 435-3186

Heather Mechare, hmechare@hotchkiss.org

Course selection and enrollment, student schedules, grades, transcripts, contact information updates

Admissions (860) 435-3102

admission@hotchkiss.org

Student visas, I-20 forms, & final transcripts

Athletics (860) 435-3287

Robin Chandler '87, [chandle@hotchkiss.org](mailto:cchandle@hotchkiss.org)

Danny Smith P'18,'20,'24, dsmith@hotchkiss.org

Athletic schedule, co-curriculars

Business Office (860) 435-3168

Ellen Fontaine P'04,'07, efontain@hotchkiss.org

Enrollment, student billing, payment plans, tuition payments

Campus Store (860) 435-3670

schoolstore@hotchkiss.org

Textbooks, supplies, or apparel

Class Deans (860) 435-3189

Nora Yasumura, Prep Class Dean, nyasumura@hotchkiss.org

Maggie Crain, Class of 2023 Dean, mcrain@hotchkiss.org

Andrew D'Ambrosio, Class of 2022 Dean, adambrosio@hotchkiss.org

Christy Cooper, Class of 2021 Dean, ccooper@hotchkiss.org

Diversity & Inclusion (860) 435-3102

Yassine Talhaoui, ytalhaoui@hotchkiss.org

College Advising (860) 435-3180

Communications Office (860) 435-3201

Danielle Sinclair, dsinclair@hotchkiss.org

Names & Faces /debit card photos, Parent Portal, & website help

Counseling (860) 435-3659

Jodi Von Jess P'19, jvonjess@hotchkiss.org

Deans' Office

(860) 435-3739, Amber Jordan ajordan@hotchkiss.org

(860) 435-3189, Stephanie Thibault sthibault@hotchkiss.org

Attendance, residential life, student well-being, & questions for class deans or community life

Financial Aid (860) 435-3110

Cynthia Curtiss, ccurtiss@hotchkiss.org

Questions about financial aid awards

Health Center (860) 435-4437

Greta Anderson, manderson@hotchkiss.org

Student care, immunizations, & medical needs

International Programs (860) 435-3179

David Thompson, dthompso@hotchkiss.org

For international students & information about international programs

Information Technology (860) 435-4487

Darren Visconti, dvisconti@hotchkiss.org

Student usernames & passwords, information technology & security, network & laptop support

Laundry Services (860) 435-3275**Post Office** (860) 435-3299**Residential Life** (860) 435-3739

Amber Jordan, ajordan@hotchkiss.org

Dorm related questions

Spiritual and Religious Life (860) 435-3669

Jason Larson, jl Larson@hotchkiss.org

Religious services & support

Student Bank (860) 435-3165

Nancy Hiller, nhiller@hotchkiss.org

Student ID, student debit card (One Card) login

Study Skills (860) 435-3206

Jane Herold P'17,'20,'24, jherold@hotchkiss.org

Academic support, resources, & accommodations