



Boarding Students (Upper School & Middle School) Opening of School: Registration, Move in & Orientation

From Dean of Students Elizabeth Fontaine Squindo

Aug. 7, 2020

Hello everyone,

We are excited to be welcoming students back to campus in a few short weeks. Thank you for your patience as we figure out what our process looks like and how the opening of school will work. We've outlined the registration, move in and orientation process below since it is different from what we have done in previous years. Our goal is to warmly welcome students back, get everyone safely situated and ready to start the school year in a healthy, positive manner. Our community's safety and health has been at the forefront of our planning. We ask that everyone wear face masks and social distance when coming to campus. We will have signage around campus to help guide everyone through this new orientation process as well as explain how to use various spaces on campus.

Students will be able to see their course schedules in [PowerSchool](#) by the end of next week, by Aug. 14. As with every other academic year, students' course schedules may change slightly. If students have questions regarding their course schedules, they should contact their advisor or [Mrs. Conlon](#), our Registrar. We are finalizing our book distribution process, and we will have more information on that soon.

Once boarding students arrive on campus for registration, they will not be permitted to leave the campus. We encourage families to either mail items to campus or complete any necessary shopping, including setting up a bank account, before arriving on campus. Unfortunately, parents and guests are not permitted to enter the dorms. A hospitality space will be provided in the former library for any parent/guardian traveling with their student.

If you or your student are unable to physically come to campus to participate in registration, we will communicate with you directly and share the necessary information over email and video calls. If you would like your student to participate in "WMA at Home," our online learning option, please contact Kevin Kane, Dean of Studies, at kkane@wma.us.

Next week, we will be hosting a Zoom meeting for our boarding families. It will be on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 6 p.m. A specific invitation with the link to the meeting will be sent out early next week. The meeting will also be recorded for families who are unable to attend. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact us. My email is efsquindo@wma.us, and Dean of Residential Life Mike Mannix's email is mmannix@wma.us.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

- Returning boarding students may arrive on campus starting on Monday, Aug. 17. New boarding students may arrive on campus starting on Monday, Aug. 24. All travel plans must be approved by the Deans Office. Please complete [WMA's travel form](#) to provide us with your plans.
 - If a student is registered for the Saturday, Aug. 29 SAT on campus, they must arrive on campus by the morning of Sunday, Aug. 23, to ensure they complete their quarantine in time to take the SAT test.
- When a boarding student arrives on campus, their first stop is the Health Services parking lot on Faculty Street. They should go to the Testing Trailer at the rear of the parking lot for their health screening and first PCR test.
- Students will then be directed to the Admissions Office porch to pick up their registration folder, student ID and dorm key.
- Students will then move into their dorm room. As a reminder, parents and guests are not permitted to enter the dorms.
- After students move into their room, they may say goodbye to their parents/guardians before their parents leave campus.
- Students will then begin their quarantine in their dorm room. During quarantine, all students will need to wear masks in the common spaces of their dorm. These few days of quarantine are a great time for students to focus on themselves and prepare for the upcoming year. Meals will be delivered to their rooms. Students will have scheduled time to leave their rooms to go outside, take a walk or get some exercise outdoors. They should work to establish a good sleeping schedule as well as catch up on any summer work they may have not completed. All summer work assignments can be found on [our website](#).
- All students, new and returning, will participate in online orientation activities through Canvas, our learning management system, to get them acquainted with the system and oriented for the new year.
- Students will take two more rounds of COVID-19 tests over the next five days.
- Once a student has had three negative tests over their quarantine, they will participate in socially distanced orientation activities. The mornings will be focused on academic preparations, while the afternoons will have more social or active events for students to safely participate in.
- The first advisor meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Friday, Aug. 28. Students should check their WMA Gmail account for an email from their advisor for the specific time and link to the meeting. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend this first meeting to meet their child's advisor.
- The first day of classes is Monday, Aug. 31.
- The first day for varsity teams' practices is Tuesday, Sept. 1. Junior varsity teams and Afternoon Program Activities meetings will start on Wednesday, Sept. 2.