

Greetings from MCI!

October was filled with spectacular Maine weather, many fun activities, and the arrival of a lot of new faces to MCI. The beauty and peacefulness of Maine is best captured in the month of October as the leaves of the trees change color before shedding the leaves for winter and the crisp cool air replaces the short lived heat and humidity of the Maine summer. Fall athletic teams were in full swing and students were well adjusted to classes and the rhythm of the campus, which was true even in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic. We began October with a sit down dinner celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival that so many of our students celebrate at home, and we finished October with a Halloween sit down dinner where many students dressed in funny or scary costumes.

Activities for boarding students included hikes on Borestone Mountain and Bald Mountain, shopping trips to picturesque [Freeport](#) where name brand outlets line the streets and the Old Port of historic [Portland](#), apple picking at a local orchard and pumpkin carving with the Head of School. Using extraordinary caution, and paying close attention to all COVID-19 safety measures, students have been allowed to walk to local shops in Pittsfield to get off of campus and visit the homes of their day student friends.

As we approach the end of the quarter, students have been dedicated to their studies and finishing strong academically. Our students have become a very tight-knit family in the two short months that most of them have been there. As new students continue to arrive, our dorm staff AND current students, welcome them with bright smiles and an eagerness to help them get settled in so that MCI can quickly feel like home. Such a caring and loving community is not something that happens by accident. Our dorm community is committed to making sure that everyone feels valued and safe.

As we look forward to the Thanksgiving Break students are making plans for returning home, staying with friends, or staying right in the dorm. We are in the process now of determining the safest and most accommodating plan for the winter break in December and January as well. I can assure you that the safety of our students and our entire school community is our first and foremost priority.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Tom Bertrand  
Dean of Student Life

