



FAQs 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 1st. If you do not receive this email by June 1st, 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 (July). 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>This is a basic overview of the dress code. Parents should refer to the JSHS Student Parent Handbook for the complete policy.</p> <p>Students may wear Serra t-shirts, polo shirts or dress shirts. Students may wear jeans, long pants, and regular shorts that are in good condition, hemmed, and fit at the waist. Formal, casual and tennis shoes that are neat, clean and unaltered can be worn. 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 Physical forms due? Where do we send?</p>	<p>Every incoming freshman must submit a medical form that documents a physical exam within the last year. These are due on Friday, July 23.</p> <p>Incoming freshmen not planning to participate in athletics during freshman year: Please scan and email the completed form to admissions@serrahs.com. You also can bring a hard copy into our main office or mail it to us.</p> <p>Incoming freshmen who plan to participate in a Serra team sport anytime during freshman year: Go to www.athleticclearance.com to create an account (make sure to click on 2021-22 school year and click on the correct school: Junipero Serra/San Mateo) and complete the online clearance process. You will upload your completed form to your online account or email your physical form to AD Justin Ferdinand at</p>

	<p>jferdinand@serrahs.com.</p> <p>Information about the physicals (due dates and where to submit them) is also provided on the Serra website.</p>
<p>Is there a roadmap/schedule of upcoming communications (what and from whom)? There are a lot of communications coming from different people and it is somewhat challenging to keep track of what to expect when.</p>	<p>While we appreciate that you are receiving communication from different constituents right now, you will see a slow down in communication in the coming weeks. You will receive emails regarding technology orientation in June, course schedules and orientation in the beginning of August, and a weekly Wednesday Serra Spotlight to keep you abreast on the happenings of Serra. You may see additional departmental communications as it relates to COVID-19 or the beginning of the school year. We have created a Class of 2025 webpage where you can find important dates, key information, and frequently asked questions.</p>
<p>Will there be any additional Zoom calls with current and incoming freshmen?</p>	<p>We will offer a virtual “Gearing up for Serra” information and student panel meeting in late July or early August. Our students will break down the “need to know ” as you head into your freshman year. Learn from those who came before you by joining our student lead information night.</p>
<p>What are the dates for the technology orientation?</p>	<p>Dates will be announced and sign ups open beginning in June. Look for an email around June 1 with instructions about how to log in to PCR (the parent/student portal). Once you are in PCR, you will be able to sign up for a tech orientation and access your summer math assignments.</p>
<p>When will freshmen be connected with their “Big Brothers”?</p>	<p>Big Brothers meet their freshmen during frosh orientation. 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, current Serra juniors who connect with freshmen to answer questions.</p>
<p>Will older siblings be paired with younger siblings in the big brother program?</p>	<p>No, siblings from the same family will not be paired together in the big brother program.</p>
<p>Incoming freshmen parents were asked to consider making</p>	<p>We will be looking to the parents of incoming freshmen (class of 2025) to start contributing to the Padre Fund in</p>

a contribution pledge in their welcome packets. When are those pledges due?	the new fiscal year (Fall 2021). However, contributions are gratefully received anytime and any donation received by June 30, 2022 will be acknowledged in the annual report and be considered for the President's Circle.
Is there a recycling program for Serra gear so older/bigger students can donate gently used gear to younger/smaller Padres?	Unfortunately, we don't have a program like this yet - but that could be a great initiative for 2022-2023!
How can I order Serra attire?	Families can order Serra gear through Serra's Padre Store . This is a print on demand company. We recommend ordering at least 4 weeks in advance.

Courses & Academics

What about language placement?	Language placement tests, tests that would allow your son to advance to a higher language placement, will take place on Tuesday, May 4 and Thursday, May, 6, 2021. Placement results will be emailed to parents.
How will math placement work this year?	Initial recommendations for math placement will be made based on the following criteria: math grades, math level taken, updated placement recommendation from current math teachers. (We will explain the process during registration.) Parents will be notified by May 15 of their son's math placement. We will hold a math placement challenge exam later in May for those wishing to appeal for a higher math placement.
When will we receive the class schedules?	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. 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.
When should we order books and technology devices?	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

	<p>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 are located at serrahs.com under academics and technology or found here.</p>
<p>What type of summer homework will there be and is it required?</p>	<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>
<p>How/when are auditions being held for chorus and band?</p>	<p>As of now, auditions are taking place online during the first two weeks of May. Placements will be finalized by the end of May. This may change as county regulations change. More info to come.</p>
<p>Are different types of devices or supplementary software (laptops, etc) recommended for ARC students?</p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>Can ARC students take an art class freshman year (and subsequent years)?</p>	<p>ARC students can begin to take courses to fulfill their VPA requirement (Visual and Performing Arts) beginning in their sophomore year.</p>
<p>Where should parents/students be directed for ARC specific questions?</p>	<p>General questions regarding ARC can be directed to the admissions office at admissions@serrahs.com. Specific questions related to your son should be directed to Gayle Rosenberg at grosenberg@serrahs.com. Please note that all incoming ARC families will be required to attend an ARC meeting at the beginning of the year.</p>

Extracurricular Offerings

<p>How do students sign up for extracurricular activities?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. Please email jferrando@serrahs.com with interest.</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 Monday, August 16. 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>