



FAQs for Incoming Families

General Questions

Where can I locate important information for incoming transfer students?	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. Have additional questions or can't find information? Contact admissions at 650-345-8207 x 6115 or admissions@serrahs.com .
What type of summer communications can I expect?	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 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. Once school starts, you will receive a weekly e-newsletter called "Spotlight" that is sent to all parents.
When will we receive information about carpools?	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.

What is the uniform / dress code?	<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>
When are the Physical forms due? Where do we send?	<p>Every incoming student must submit medical forms that document a physical exam within the last year. Please keep in mind that physicals are only good for one year, which may require you to resubmit during the school year depending on when your son's last physical was. We recommend that you complete the physical over the summer so that it covers the entire school year.</p> <p>Incoming students not planning to participate in athletics during the school 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 students who plan to participate in a Serra team sport anytime during the school year: Go to www.athleticclearance.com to create an account (make</p>

	<p>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 jferdinand@serrahs.com.</p> <p>Information about the physicals (due dates and where to submit them) is also provided on the Serra website.</p>
My son has his license. How does he get a parking permit? Where should he park?	<p>Serra's parking is limited to Juniors and Seniors. All students parking on campus, at the Elks Club or in other designated Serra areas are required to complete a parking application. Once approved, students will receive a parking pass and designated parking location.</p> <p>There are fees associated with parking. The fee for 2020-2021 was \$210. Fees for 2021-2022 have not yet been determined (4/2021). Please check the parking application for more information on updated fees. Families will be charged annually through TADS.</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>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 transfer student webpage where you can find important dates, key information, and frequently asked questions. Please do not hesitate contacting admissions at 650-345-8207 x 6115 or admissions@serrahs.com with any questions.</p>
Will there be any additional Zoom calls with current and incoming freshmen?	<p>We will offer a virtual "Gearing up for Serra" information and student panel meeting over the summer. Our students will break down the "need to know" as you transition to Serra. Learn from those who came before you by joining our student lead information night.</p>

What are the dates for the technology orientation?	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.
Will older siblings be paired with younger siblings in the big brother program?	No, siblings from the same family will not be paired together in the big brother program.
Incoming parents were asked to consider making a contribution pledge in their welcome packets. When are those pledges due?	We will be looking to the parents of incoming students to start contributing to the Padre Fund in 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

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 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>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>
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. Summer reading is located 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?	<p>Recorded auditions submissions are due to tstephens@serrahs.com no later than May 3.</p> <p>Please read the Serra Music Department Audition Letter.</p>
Are different types of devices or supplementary software (laptops, etc) recommended for ARC students?	<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>
Can ARC students take an art class freshman year (and subsequent years)?	<p>ARC students can begin to take courses to fulfill their VPA requirement (Visual and Performing Arts) beginning in their sophomore year.</p>

Where should parents/students be directed for ARC specific questions?	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.
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Extracurricular Offerings

How do students sign up for extracurricular activities?	<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 Padres 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>
If our son wants to play a fall sport, does he try out in the summer? When will we hear information about fall sports?	Please contact jferdinand@serrahs.com for information about try-outs and fall sports.