

Dear SSA Boarders and Families,

I trust that you are all enjoying the summer and I hope that you are getting excited about the prospect of the school year beginning! I am thrilled to take on the role of Dean of Residential Life and look forward to working with a great team of dorm advisors, residential life faculty and all of you!

Though there are happily a few more weeks before we will all return to Shady Side, I wanted to reach out now with a few reminders. These are mostly directed at those of you who will be new to the boarding program, but I have included our returning boarders as well to make sure that everyone has consistent information.

New families, our schedule for the start of our time together has NEW boarding students arriving on Sunday, August 29th between 2:00 and 4:00 pm, with a meeting for parents of new boarders from 4:15 to 5:00 pm in the Benedum Student Center of Rowe Hall (students will meet separately with our dormitory Prefects). Following this meeting, families of all new boarders are invited to dinner Sunday evening from 5:00-6:00 pm. We will then escort you to New Parent Night (for all new parents, day and boarding) from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Returning boarding students are expected back on campus Monday, August 30th between 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

Please take note of the following (all documents are available on the [Newly Enrolled Families](#) page and the [Boarding tab](#) found in the Parent Portal of the SSA website):

- For new families: the “Boarding Clothing & Furniture” document, the boarding FAQ, and new boarder welcome letter are all documents that you should have already seen.
- **ALL boarding families** should complete and return the [“Res Life Off Campus Permission Form”](#) to attendance@shadysideacademy.org.
- ALL families should review the [“Res Life Calendar”](#) document, particularly if you are looking ahead to making travel plans and need to know when students must leave the dorms or when they are allowed to return. As in past years, we will arrange transportation for any *international students* to/from the airport on the following days:
 - Start (Friday, 11/19) and end of Thanksgiving Vacation (Sunday, 11/28)
 - Start (Friday 12/17 & Saturday 12/18) and end of Winter break (Saturday 1/1 & Sunday 1/2)
 - Start (Friday 3/18 & Saturday 3/19) and end of Spring break (Saturday 4/2 & Sunday 4/3)
 - End of school year (Friday 6/3 & Saturday, 6/4)

- ALL families should review the “Residential Life” section of the [Student-Parent Handbook](#). It is important that everyone is well aware of the expectations that we have for boarders.
- As noted in the [School’s Health and Safety Protocols](#) we will be determining the mask policy in the dorm based on the number of vaccinated boarders and the most up-to-date COVID-19 health guidelines. All boarders should bring several masks to school.

Finally, we ask that each boarding student (or one parent/guardian) complete this [short survey](#) which will help us gather information that will assist us in ensuring a smooth start to the school year. Specifically, it includes questions regarding COVID-19 vaccination status, host family information, whether or not you/your child needs assistance with establishing a bank account, and whether or not (if you are an international student) you need transportation from the airport to Shady Side on August 29, 2021.

Over the next two weeks, we will go through the process of pairing up students as roommates and assigning rooms. Given our breakdown of students and overall numbers please understand no student is guaranteed to have a single. Some, but not all 12th graders may end up with single rooms, but this should not be an expectation this year.

Enjoy these remaining weeks of summer and please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Most sincerely,

Pamela Boehm