



August 5, 2022

Dear Upper School Families,

Isn't summer a wonderful time to explore new interests, learn something new, interact with new and different people and sleep a bit more? I hope you are enjoying every last drop of summer. We truly look forward to reconnecting with your family in the very near future. Until then, I hope you'll reference this letter for details needed as we start off the school year.

Please read the following information carefully so you're prepared for the first few weeks of school!

Daily Schedule

Please arrive to VMS with plenty of time to be punctual for homebase.

- Monday, Wednesday Friday: Homebase begins at **8:10 am** (arrive so you're ready to engage at 8:10!)
- Tuesday and Thursday: Upper School Homebase begins at **9:00 am** (Upper School students can use 8:10 - 9 am to meet with teachers, to work on homework in or out of the building, or to sleep a bit later!) Be ready to engage by 9 am.
- Student schedules will be available to all students and parents on August 19, via the Veracross Portal.

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

Students NEW to Vail Mountain School:

- We look forward to seeing **new** students at **New Student Orientation for Upper School on Friday, August 19 at 10 am**. At 11 am we will host a BBQ for all new students and their families in grades K-12. Parents and students **new** to Vail Mountain School will join us for lunch with the faculty and staff.

Orientation Trip and Groups:

- Please read the letter from Ms. Sideli about Orientation - it is included in the August 5 summer communication
- Next week (August 12) students and families will be emailed about which trip they're attending and will be provided with a gear list
- **Friday, August 19 from 1:00-2:00 pm, we will host ALL Upper School students for their Orientation Trip Meetings.** Groups will discuss itineraries, logistics and packing lists in order to depart for their respective adventures on the morning of August 22. In order to be properly prepared for your trip, **student attendance is required**. It is ideal for students to carpool on this day, as there will be many families on campus.
- Orientation Trips begin Monday, August 22 and will return on the afternoon/ evening of Wednesday, August 24.

Parking for Seniors:

- Parking applications are “in process” - thank you to the many who have applied. The deadline to complete an application is August 5. Those who applied will hear from the parking committee by August 9

Summer Assignments and Summer Reading: .

- Students who are enrolled in AP classes should be fastidiously working on their AP summer assignments, which can be lengthy in nature. Please give yourself plenty of time.
- Similarly, students should be well into their summer reading by now. Go to the [Back to School Page](#) on our website, view the June 15 communication should you need clarity on summer reading. ALL Upper School students should be reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* in addition to their summer reading novel specific to their grade level. Please arrive prepared on August 25. (I haven't yet seen the movie, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, but I don't believe it will replace the magic of you reading this book!)

First Day of Classes:

- Thursday, August 25 is our official first academic day in the building. Our seniors will pair with their kindergarten buddies for the opening of school by the flagpole and parents are welcome to join us for this very special tradition. *Reminder, school begins at 9 am on all Tuesdays and Thursdays for upper school, including August 25!*

UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Upper School Student Leaders will be meeting on August 15 on campus. Formal elections/ nominations have not yet been held, therefore, leaders past and present are encouraged to attend. Honor Council Members, Cross-Age Mentors, Student Life Representatives, the Wellness Committee, Philanthropy Service Group members, Student Equity Committee and club leaders will gather to discuss the traits of good leaders and how to lead by example. Students should look for an email from Mr. Sweeney and Ms. Sideli detailing both the schedule of the retreat and the future Leadership Board Meetings. We look forward to gathering with our student leaders. Please be in touch with Mr. Sweeney and Ms. Sideli should you have further questions. For new students and ninth graders, there will be opportunities for leadership development once the year begins.

VMS FAMILY HANDBOOK

The VMS Family Handbook will be finalized and sent to all families in the August 12 communication. The Handbook sets baseline understandings for our community at VMS, outlines clear expectations, and serves as a good reminder what are the best and most inclusive practices for everything from communication to accountability. This year, like every year, there will be a rollout of new policies and some changes to existing procedures. Therefore, families new and returning should take the time to note these and other changes. Attached to the handbook will be the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology and the Athletics Policies - both especially important for Upper School families. Parents and students will be asked to sign and agree to the policies set forth in our handbook.

Back to School Night

- Mark your calendar for Back to School Night is on September 8. All parents are encouraged to attend. We will be in touch with more details of the event in the coming weeks.

I recognize this is a lot of information to digest! Please be in touch should you have any questions. I hope this letter finds you relaxing and enjoying the weeks before school begins.

Sincerely,

Maggie Pavlik
Director of Upper School

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