

Blair Academy

An aerial photograph of Blair Academy campus. The main building is a large, multi-story structure with a blue roof and red brick accents. In the foreground, a large, full-bloomed pink cherry blossom tree stands on a green lawn. A paved walkway curves around the base of the tree. The background shows more campus buildings and a wooded hillside under a clear sky.

Tips for Blair Parents
2024-2025

WELCOME TO BLAIR

Welcome to Blair! As a new Blair parent, we know this is a very exciting and busy time, and you probably have many questions as you prepare for your child to arrive at Blair this fall. This guide contains a great deal of useful information, but there are likely questions we have not anticipated, as well as questions that a booklet cannot answer. We welcome your direct outreach...always.

We are grateful that you have decided to share your child with us. We view our role as that of partner in the work of "raising" them. As you will hopefully come to expect, we very much wish to keep communication lines open and well traveled. This booklet is merely the beginning of that relationship, and we hope it is a helpful first step.

Warmest regards,

Ryan M. Pagotto '97
Associate Head of School

Susan Long P'13 '16 '20
*Associate Director of
Advancement, Parent Relations*



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What would you say to your “first-year self”?

As shared by seniors during their Senior Exit Interviews in the weeks preceding graduation:

- Make good choices. Talk to teachers more; take advantage of every single moment because these four years fly by!
- Don't worry, take it in stride. As long as you're trying, everything will work out.
- Don't be afraid of making mistakes and don't fear failure. Have more confidence in yourself.
- Enjoy it more! Don't wish that the time will go by faster; it's gone before you know it.
- Prioritize your work; focus on time management before everything else.
- Don't be shy; step out of your comfort zone because Blair doesn't judge. Be silly and zany...just be you! Don't be afraid to try new things.
- Sleep! Staying up until 2 a.m. is not worth it. Put yourself out there because this is a place where you can do that.
- Get out of the dorm more; reach out to the prefects more often.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Set a tone for success early; don't wait until junior year.
- Don't just work for the grades. Get as much as you can out of your classes and soak in as much as you can from your teachers.
- Find teachers you trust, to whom you can talk and open up.
- Make the most of whatever you're doing and go in giving 100 percent.
- Be yourself. Don't get caught up in what others think of you.
- Do the things that make you happy...be creative...take an art class earlier!
- Don't sweat the small stuff.

Communication from Blair

In addition to regular communications from Head of School Peter G. Curran P'27 '27, there are many ways to stay connected to Blair throughout the year.

The Blair website, **blair.edu**, is the primary source of information about campus news and events, student life, the academic calendar and more. With your parent login, you are also able to access the parent section of the website that will provide access to grades, billing, directories and other important information.

The *Parents' Post*, a monthly e-newsletter sent to all parents, keeps you up-to-date on all the most important news. Expect to receive these newsletters in the middle of the month.

From Hilltop to Home is a monthly letter sent to all Blair parents by Associate Head of School **Ryan M. Pagotto '97**. The goal of this monthly communication is to keep parents abreast of what's happening in the Blair community and, hopefully, set their minds at ease during times of the year that can be challenging.

Blair maintains an active presence on numerous social media platforms. We invite you to follow Blair on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Vimeo and YouTube (you can find links to each channel in the #BLAIRACADEMY drop-down menu at the top right of **blair.edu**). Additionally, Blair regularly posts photos of campus events, sports and activities to PhotoShelter, which all parents can access and where they can download high-resolution images at no cost. For athletics photos, visit **blair.edu/sportsphotos**. Several athletic contests and campus events are also viewable on Livestream.com or LocalLive.com.



Student Handbook

The Blair Academy Student Handbook is a guide and source of necessary information, including student life policies, the academic program, health-and-counseling services and athletics. The handbook is available online by midsummer, and hard copies are distributed to all students at registration.

Blair Facebook/Directories

The hard copy Blair "facebook" is published each fall and distributed during Family Weekend. It features photos of every student, faculty and staff member. Additionally, parents can access an online directory in the password-protected parent portal of the website. Here, parents can also find contact information for other Blair parents, as well as faculty and staff.

Communication with Your Child

Students bring a personal mobile phone to Blair as there are no landline phones in dorm rooms. Additionally, should the need arise, students will be alerted by text of any emergencies on campus. Students must abide by the community standard regarding cellphones. This includes no cellphone usage in public areas during the academic day. Ninth grade students must turn in their cellphones nightly during study hall and before lights out. Parents may contact dorm heads for any after-hours emergencies that may arise. AT&T and T-Mobile coverage are better than Verizon in Blairstown.

An online community directory with contact information for other parents, as well as Blair faculty and staff, can be found on the password-protected section of the Blair website.

Whom Do I Contact?

It is not unusual for parents to have questions and be uncertain of the right person to call for answers. All of us at Blair are always more than happy to help guide you to the right person, but for a comprehensive list of people to contact for a variety of questions, as well as dorm head contact information, check the parent portal on the Blair website under FAQs and Contact Us.

Advisors & Monitors

From the start, your child will be surrounded by adults who are looking out for them, including dorm heads, coaches and teachers. Students are asked to select a faculty advisor by the first week of October. This is a faculty member with whom they feel comfortable discussing various school and personal issues and who focuses on life beyond academics. The advisor becomes the primary contact for parents in matters that have to do with all aspects of the student's life at Blair—academic, athletic, social and otherwise. Each advisor sends a letter to parents of their advisees at the end of each semester, sharing insights into the student's life at Blair.

Class monitors work to facilitate communication among faculty, students, parents and advisors. Monitors have direct responsibility for everyday academic matters such as course changes and the arrangement of parent-student-faculty meetings, if necessary. Monitors oversee the review of a student's record at the end of the semester and work with advisors to develop improvement strategies when necessary. Students are assigned their monitor at registration. Formal communication from the monitor comes with the midsemester grades in the fall. Additional communication will come as needed, but parents are welcome to contact monitors at any time with questions regarding students' academic progress.

School Meeting



We gather as a community twice each week for School Meeting. Monday's meeting is run by Mr. Pagotto and Friday's meeting is run by the Senior Class Council (SCC). The purpose of School Meeting is to provide information that is important for the community to hear

in person; to celebrate various achievements by teams, groups and individuals; to provide opportunities for students to exercise public speaking skills in front of a large audience; and, in the case of Friday's meeting, to offer a lighthearted (and sometimes entertaining) conclusion to the week by way of a video or skit by the SCC.

Family-Style Dinner

Boarding students gather for family-style dinners, which are typically held on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the first semester and then one evening per week for the winter/spring semester. Unlike buffet dinners, where students, faculty and their families can attend when they wish and sit wherever they choose, family-style dinner is a more formal “sit-down” dinner with assigned seating. Faculty members serve as the “heads” of each table with the support of a senior leader known as the “table foot.” The goal is to provide an opportunity for students to meet other students and faculty they may not otherwise connect with and foster conversation at each table. The dinner begins with a blessing of the food or a poem and a reading of the menu by a student. Dinners conclude on Tuesday evenings with our Society of Skeptics speakers introducing their talk for the evening, and on Thursdays following dinner we often have art receptions or current events forums.



Grades, Comments, Schedules & Summer Reading

Grades and comments, as well as the monitor and advisor letters, which come out twice a year, are available online through the parent portal on Blair’s website. In May, new parents receive a proposed schedule from the academic office so that their child(ren) can begin the course scheduling process. Students receive their final course schedule when they arrive on campus in the fall.

Required summer reading and coursework is posted on the Blair website in early June.

Day Students

Day students are very much a part of the Blair community, and we encourage them to take full advantage of the School's programs, facilities and resources. Classes begin each day at 8:30 a.m. and, once they arrive on campus, day students are required to remain here at least until the end of the academic day. Generally speaking, day students are expected to leave campus by 8 p.m. each school night. There are certain occasions during the year when day students are required to remain on campus for an evening program, such as Convocation, the Fall and Spring Concerts, Christmas Vespers or Winter Gathering. Blair's policy remains that day students are not to reside overnight in the dormitories. Exceptions can be made in cases where inclement weather makes it difficult for day students to commute.

International Students

Blair Academy has long welcomed international students to campus. We support these students by securing passports and travel documents, coordinating school breaks and vacation travel, and helping them adjust to campus life and U.S. culture. We offer a special time for families of international students to meet individually with the Head of School when they arrive for registration at the start of the school year. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the student life office or Associate Director of Advancement.



Prefects

Prefects are select seniors who serve as mentors and live alongside younger students in the dorms. Prefects play an important role, working to help alleviate students' homesickness, shorten their academic and social adjustment period, and help students "learn the ropes" faster than they would on their own. Prefects communicate regularly with dorm heads about how students are adjusting to life at Blair, discuss concerns, and share feedback and ideas.



Roommates

Students are not permitted to choose roommates their first year at Blair. The student life and admission offices put careful thought into pairing new students. Students will receive instruction from the student life office in late August about how they can obtain information about their dorm and roommate. After the first year, students can decide with whom they would like to share a room. There are a limited number of singles on campus, and those are granted using a lottery system.

School Supplies

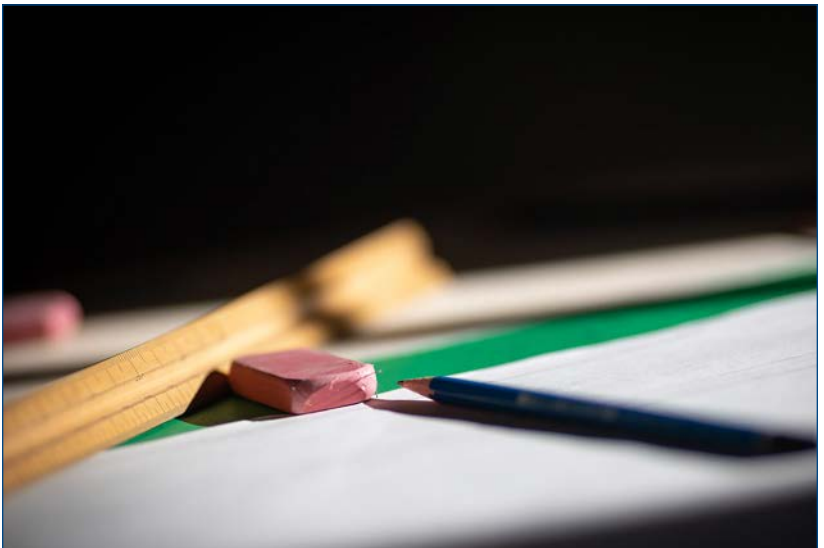
Students should plan to bring general supplies that are commonly needed, such as binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters, scissors, tape and paper clips. Teachers who require specific materials will give students ample time to obtain any additional supplies at the beginning of the year. The School Store stocks all required classroom supplies, including scientific and graphing calculators and other regularly used items.

Textbooks

Your child's course schedule will be viewable through the parent portal on Blair's website in mid-August. This schedule should be used as a guide for ordering textbooks, which can be purchased through the Blair website beginning in August.

Computers

Laptops or tablets are essential for students. Both PCs and Macs are suitable, but Macs are the preference. Students use laptops due to their flexibility and limited dorm space. Students may also use the computers and printers located in campus buildings, including the Chiang-Elghanayan Center, Timken Library and some dorm common rooms. High-speed wireless Internet is available in every campus building. For more information, please contact the technology office at tech@blair.edu.



Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Etc.

Bicycles, non-motorized scooters and skateboards are permitted at Blair Academy. Helmets are required. The School does not permit hoverboards on campus.

Appliances in Dorms

With the exception of hair dryers, fans and irons, no electrical appliances are allowed. All cooking, heating and cooling devices, and aromatherapy diffusers are prohibited. Irons must have automatic shut-off capability. Each room may have one compact refrigerator (with a maximum capacity of 3.2 cubic feet), and a monthly \$10 usage fee is charged. Please be aware that no extension cords are allowed, only power strips with fuses. Examples are provided, and we ensure that an ample supply of approved cords is available in the School Store.



SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

General Needs:

- Two sets of sheets (standard twin size)
- Blanket/comforter
- Pillow
- Foam mattress topper
- Mattress pad
- Bath towels
- Clothes hangers
- Window fan
- Mirror
- Desk lamp
- Mini fridge (only one permitted per room, not larger than 3.2 cu. ft.)
- Rug
- Room decorations
- Laundry bag, detergent and dryer sheets
- Command™ hooks
- Alarm clock (required for ninth graders, cellphone alarm does not count)
- Mobile phone charger
- Power strips/surge protectors
- Storage crates/bins
- Reusable water bottles and dishes for in room
- School supplies (see p. 9)
- Computer (Mac or PC)
- Backpack
- Sports equipment
- Disinfectant wipes
- Swiffer (or similar cleaning tool)

Toiletries:

- Shower tote
- Personal items (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, razors, etc.)
- Band-Aids and antiseptic cream
- Sunscreen
- Shower shoes/flip-flops

Clothing:

- Class-day attire (see p. 13)
- Formal attire for dinners, some school events
- Athletic wear, including equipment for sports
- Casual wear
- Winter coat, hat and gloves
- Rain/snow boots
- Umbrella

Note: *No prescription or over-the-counter medications are allowed in students' rooms*

What Not to Bring:

- Halogen lamps
- Dartboards
- Candles, incense, potpourri burners
- Small electric appliances
- Hoverboards, electric scooters or electric skateboards
- Space heaters

All rooms come furnished with a twin bed (standard size), dresser, desk, desk chair and closet for each student and one garbage can.

Shipping to Campus

Students are permitted to have items shipped directly to Blair at any time throughout the school year beginning August 15. They receive email and text notifications when their packages arrive on campus.

Physical Address & Private Carrier (UPS, FedEx, DHL)

Shipping Address:

Student Name
Blair Academy
2 Park Street
Blairtown, NJ 07825-0600

Post Office

Students are assigned a school post office box when they arrive on campus.

Student U.S. Postal Service Mail & Shipping Address:



Student Name
Blair Academy
PO Box 600
Blairtown, NJ 07825-0600

Storage

Limited summer storage space is available in each dorm for students who travel long distances to Blair. Please note that all summer storage items must be labeled clearly.

Dress Code

Respect for the collective academic endeavor and respect for all community members and the School includes attending to appearance. From 7:45 a.m. until the conclusion of the class day, when in the dining room and all academic buildings, the following dress code applies:

Class Dress—During hours when classes are in session, including lunch and School meetings, the following dress code applies:

- Shirts/Tops: collared shirts, tailored blouses, turtlenecks or sweaters that cover the front and back of your torso. Sweatshirts can be worn over an approved top. T-shirts may only be worn with another approved article of clothing (e.g., a vest, sweater or scarf). Sleeveless blouses are acceptable.
- Pants: khakis, denim jeans without holes or tears, or trousers.
- Shorts: must have pockets and be fingertip length or longer. Shorts are permitted up until October 1 and after April 15.
- Dresses and skirts: must be fingertip-length or longer.
- Hats, caps and hoods must be removed in classroom buildings, in the theatre, the library and dining facilities, except in accordance with sincerely held religious tenets.
- Team members may wear parts of their game uniforms to classes on game days with the approval of their coaches.

Formal Dress—On certain occasions, more formal attire is required. Choice of formal dress should be sincere and consistent with the significance of the occasion. One evening a week during family-style dinners and other formal School functions, the following formal dress code applies:

- Sports coat or suit, dress shirt with tie and long trousers.
- More formal dresses, fingertip-length or longer.
- Skirt or dress pants, a blouse or sweater, or blazer.
- Dress shoes, clean sneakers or dress sandals—no flip-flops or slides.
- Any comparable cultural attire.

Haircuts

There are numerous hair salons and barbers nearby where students may get a simple trim or a more complicated cut. Faculty advisors offer weekend trips or students can request to be driven on an individual basis.

Laundry

Free laundry machines are available in every dorm. All-Prep Laundry is an outside service that offers wash and fold, as well as dry cleaning. Pickup and drop-off days are Mondays and Thursdays. Information regarding this service is sent to families over the summer.

School Store

The School Store offers a variety of school supplies, Blair-wear and gifts. Your child can use his or her student ID as a debit card to make academic purchases, which will be charged to his or her account. Parents may set spending limits for the purchase of Blair-wear and gifts if they choose. Students must have an available balance on their student debit account to make these purchases. The School Store is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (when School is in session). You may also shop online at blair.edu/about-blair/schoolstore.

Spending Money

Blair Academy debit/ID cards give students the ability to purchase items in the School Store, The Black Canteen and the athletic supply store without the need for cash. Students may also use this card to withdraw cash from the Student Bank (located in the School Store). There is an online process through mykidsspending.com, a third-party administrator, that allows parents to deposit funds into their child's debit card account either with a debit/credit card or an electronic check. Parents may also put money in a student's account by contacting **Marivelle Clavel-Davis '82** at davism@blair.edu or (908) 362-2028. Parents can limit how much a student may spend per week, month or term. Information on mykidsspending.com is sent to parents over the summer.

Athletics

Blair Academy firmly believes that athletics are an integral part of a student's education and that regular physical activity is essential to healthy development. Accordingly, every student at Blair is required to be physically active, either on a team sport or as part of a physical activity, during all three seasons of the year. Ninth graders and new tenth graders must play a team sport (or its equivalent) during the fall. Eleventh graders are strongly encouraged to play a team sport (or its equivalent) during the fall. Twelfth graders have no interscholastic (team) sport requirement, but are strongly encouraged to participate. As an alternative to the interscholastic (team) sport requirement, a student may receive credit for participation in drama, robotics, debate, dance, yearbook or *The Oracle*, the School's e-newspaper.



Students may be invited by the varsity coach of fall sports to come to Blair prior to the start of the academic year for preseason training. These invitations will be extended before the start of the summer break. Additionally, most spring athletic teams travel to warmer climates during the last week of spring break for preseason training. Spring preseason trips are an additional cost for students. Some teams also charge an additional fee for team apparel or equipment.

Parents are welcome to attend all athletic events. Team schedules and scores are available on Blair's website at blair.edu/athletics. Many games are livestreamed through our School's partnership with LocalLive and can be viewed at no cost through the links on our website. Athletics photos can be viewed at blair.edu/sportsphotos.

College Counseling

At Blair, formal college counseling begins in your child's 11th-grade year. Our process—rooted firmly in a “fit-first” philosophy where we help students find the best-matched list of colleges for their individual interests, personalities, passions and talents—grows out of students' explorations of Blair offerings from their first day on campus. We find January of the 11th-grade year marks an ideal time to engage students in conversations about their past choices and about their continued development to aid them in reflecting on whom they are becoming and projecting where they want to go. With small caseloads of students, our counselors pair these personalized sessions with group college counseling classes to prepare students to enroll in future homes where they will thrive as they challenge themselves to grow.



The college counseling office remains available to help students or parents at any time, and we encourage open lines of communication about the college process, especially during 11th- and 12th-grade years. Counselors are available by phone, email or appointment at any time you wish to ask a question. The college counseling office hosts programming for parents of all grades on Family Weekend and partners with industry experts to offer guidance on a variety of college-related topics such as preparing for standardized testing, paying for college, developing healthful mindsets and understanding how admissions decisions are made. Counselors share information about upcoming events and pertinent information via email, and you can follow them on Instagram @Blair_College_Counseling to keep track of upcoming offerings.

Dining Services

Blair students eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Romano Dining Hall, which features an abundance of healthful options, including a robust salad bar, hot, homestyle entrées, homemade soups and sauces, a wide range of deli choices, artisanal pizza, and freshly baked breads and desserts. Breakfast, lunch and some evening meals are served buffet-style; on other weeknights, students and faculty families sit down together at family-style dinners. The dining services staff is more than happy to work with individual students to accommodate personal allergy/dietary needs. For more information about dining at Blair, please visit blair.edu/student-life/dining-services.

The Black Canteen, better known on campus as “The Can,” offers food for purchase. Located in Hardwick Hall’s Blair Commons, The Can is a popular place to socialize, study and relax between classes and in the evenings.

Care Packages for Students

Blair Academy’s dining services can make cakes, cookies and other treats to be delivered to your child. At various times throughout the year, “treat bags” may be offered for sale for occasions such as exam time or Valentine’s Day and are a nice surprise for the students. To order, send an email to catering@blair.edu.



Health Center & Counseling Services

Led by Blair's Director of Health Services and staffed by registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and advanced practice nurses, the **J. Brooks Hoffman '36** Health Center provides emergency and ongoing care, health education and counseling.

Nurses staff the Health Center seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Blair uses the services of Leroy Nickles, MD, a specialist in emergency medicine, who comes to campus for appointments on various days throughout the week (though students can come at any time for evaluation by the nursing staff). The local hospital provides more advanced care if needed.

Blair also provides confidential, short-term and solutions-focused counseling services to all students, addressing issues such as stress management, peer relations, family issues and academic struggles.

The School counselors and other Health Center staff can assist with arranging appointments with clinical psychologists and psychiatrists who contract independently with families and provide safe, private space for these meetings to occur.



Spiritual Life

Blair was founded by local Presbyterian elders in the spring of 1848. While continuing to respect the Judeo-Christian values of its founding, Blair welcomes students of all faiths and embraces a wider, inclusive view of religious life and is a member of the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education.

Chapels are an important part of Blair life, bringing together the entire Blair community to hear a student, faculty or guest speaker on a topic of moral importance, an individual issue of faith or a personal story. Faculty members and student leaders provide additional opportunities to nurture the spiritual lives of community members through reading prayers and mindful meditation.

For students who wish to attend weekend services, Presbyterian and Methodist churches are located a short walk from campus; transportation to other places of worship can be arranged through the Student Life office or another faculty member. Blair also maintains active Christian Fellowship, Jewish Union and other interfaith groups on campus. The Rev. David Harvey serves as the School chaplain.

Christmas Vespers & Winter Gathering

Christmas Vespers and Winter Gathering are all-school events that take place in December before winter break. Students are invited to attend one of these two holiday celebrations. The annual Christmas Vespers is a traditional readings and carols service for the entire School community. It includes two one-hour services, one for ninth and 10th graders and one for 11th and 12th graders, held at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Blairstown. Winter Gathering is an event elevating messages of hope, togetherness and seasonal spirit with activities and readings by students in the Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation and Collaboration. Between the two services, a formal holiday dinner is scheduled for faculty and students. Formal attire is required.

Community Service

At Blair, leadership and service are woven into every curricular and cocurricular experience. More than half of Blair's student body serves our community in formal leadership roles. Blair students are engaged in service projects addressing educational disparities, environmental challenges and disaster recovery. In recent years, volunteers have tutored at local elementary schools, raised money for regional shelters for abused women and worked to solve real-world problems with large organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

On our annual Day of Service, our students, faculty and staff fan out to assist various nonprofits across the region, many of which already know Blair students from working with them in other capacities throughout the school year. In addition, the Blair community regularly holds fundraisers for meaningful causes, including Blair in Kenya, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Red Cross, local charities and families in need.



Blair Travel

Blair encourages students to engage in communities, both near and far from our campus. In recent years, students and teachers have explored Europe, Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Faculty members lead language and cultural immersion trips in March and June. These transformative experiences afford Blair students an opportunity to learn from and alongside people in a variety of settings by observing traditions and behaviors of productive civic engagement. Travel opportunities vary annually and information about current trips is offered in year-end communications and during School Meetings throughout the year.

Blair Fund

Blair parents, alumni and friends are asked to support our annual fund each year. Current parents have answered that call generously, with typically about 85 percent choosing to make a gift each year. Donations to the Blair Fund go directly to the School's operating budget, helping to enhance the Blair experience for all students. Extracurricular programs, service and leadership opportunities, and scholarship aid are among the everyday, critical needs supported by the Blair Fund. A member of the advancement team or a fellow Blair parent will be in touch to ask for your support during the year, and we ask you to consider a meaningful gift at whatever level is comfortable for your family. Participation in the fund is so important—a gift of any amount will help make a difference.

Parent Volunteering

Blair offers many different ways for parents to volunteer, both on and off campus. It's a great way to become better acquainted with the Blair community while connecting and building relationships with other Blair families. Every volunteer plays an essential part in the overall success of the School. To learn more about volunteering at Blair, visit the parent portal of our website or contact Susan Long, Associate Director of Advancement, at longs@blair.edu or (908) 362-2033.



Weekend Activities

Blair strongly believes that much of the boarding school experience has to do with positive involvement in the community after the academic day has ended. Students find an array of organized activities on campus—athletic events, “grill-and-chills” on the turf, dances, movies, food trucks and more—or they may take part in off-campus excursions, including mall trips, visits to New York City, the San Gennaro festival, fast-food loops, Blair “Uber,” and lunch and dinner outings for various types of cuisine. Weekend activities are announced at Friday School Meeting and are posted in the parent portal on Blair’s website.



Dances

The Winter Ball, a semiformal dance, is held in January at Blair. Tickets can be purchased in the student life office. Each year has a different theme, and the event is decorated by dedicated and hardworking parent volunteers. Past themes have included “A Night in Paris,” “Enchanted Forest” and “Winter Wonderland.”

The 11th- and 12th-grade prom, held in May, is for upperclass students only. This is a formal event held off campus at a venue within an hour’s drive of Blairstown. Students are transported to and from prom via buses chartered by the School. We offer tuxedo rentals and flower orders on campus prior to prom. You will receive more information well in advance of both events.

Weekends

Weekends Off Campus & "Community Weekends"

We know it's nice for students to be able to get away from campus now and then. With the exception of the "community weekends," which are "closed" weekends, students may request to leave campus for weekends with parental permission. Community weekends are designed to bring the community together and, although parents are welcome to visit campus at those times, they are asked not to request permission for their child to leave campus. Please refer to the Student Handbook for guidelines on how many weekends students are permitted to leave campus per semester. Students must complete a REACH request by noon on Friday to depart for the weekend. Parents receive an email through the REACH system requiring them to approve each request to leave campus for a weekend.

Family Weekend



Every fall, Blair's annual Family Weekend provides a wonderful opportunity for families to visit campus and experience their child's life at the School. Family Weekend begins with a Thursday night reception for parents, a chance to connect with other Blair parents from near and far. Friday highlights include teacher meet-and-greets,

dinner in the Romano Dining Hall, "Blair on Stage" performances and more. Visit your child's classes and enjoy an afternoon of athletic contests on Saturday. Of course, there is also plenty of time for parents and students to reconnect after the first busy weeks of the fall semester. Students are welcome to go home with their parents after their last obligation on Saturday. There are no classes on the Monday following Family Weekend. Students are expected back on campus by 7 p.m. on Monday and classes resume on Tuesday.

Peddie Day

Each November, Blair's fall sports teams face off against the Peddie School Falcons in one of the School's most beloved traditions: Peddie Day! What began in 1903 and is now New Jersey's oldest prep school football rivalry has evolved into a week-long celebration of school spirit culminating in a "Peddie Day Eve" bonfire and pep rally.

Peddie Day includes a full day of athletic competitions. The entire School, as well as many parents and alumni, come out in force to cheer the Buccaneers to victory, and the school that achieves the most wins takes home the coveted Kelley-Potter Cup.

Don't let your student tell you not to come or that you would be the only parent there! We welcome all parents and alumni to campus for both the Friday night pep rally and bonfire, always held at Blair, and the Saturday Peddie Day events, alternating each year between the Blair and Peddie campuses. Please join us on Saturday in the Blair parent and alumni hospitality tent to connect with friends and enjoy great food.



Commencement



Graduation Week

Blair's commencement takes place on Sharpe House lawn the Thursday morning prior to Memorial Day each year. The days leading up to graduation are filled with many activities that celebrate the Blair experience. While parents and family members are welcome to attend many of the festivities during the preceding week, almost all parents typically attend Wednesday evening's Senior Prize Assembly and Baccalaureate service and senior dinner, in addition to Thursday's commencement ceremony and luncheon. For more detailed information, please visit the parent portal of Blair's website.



Area Restaurants & Shopping

There are several popular places to dine in or near Blirstown, ranging from fast food to fine dining, including some that are within walking distance from campus and others that will deliver to campus. When parents are in town, students enjoy the opportunity to go out to eat.

Students are permitted to walk down the hill to Blirstown's Main Street, where there are restaurants, a small market and a handful of shops.

A Few of Our Favorite Local Eateries

Blirstown Diner

53 Rt. 94, Blirstown
(908) 362-6070

Blirstown Inn

70 Rt. 94, Blirstown
(908) 362-8121

Buck Hill Brewery

45 Rt. 94, Blirstown
(908) 854-5300

Gourmet Gallery

31 Main St., Blirstown
(908) 362-0051

The Airport Café

36 Lambert Rd., Blirstown
(at the Blirstown Airport)
(908) 362-1600

Cesco's Pizza

538 Rt. 94, Fredon
(973) 383-2840

Dunkin'

484 Hope Blirstown Rd., Hope
(908) 459-0019

Frank's Pizza & Restaurant

152 Rt. 94, Blirstown
(Acme Shopping Center)
(908) 362-1588

North Shore House

912 Swartswood Rd., Newton
(973) 383-5460

The Circle

310 Rt. 94, Newton
(973) 862-6410

Doghouse Bagel & Deli

141 Rt. 94, Blirstown
(908) 362-7777

Starbucks

Delaware Water Gap Travel Plaza
19 Simpson Rd., Columbia
(908) 818-0329

Chick-Fil-A

Delaware Water Gap Travel Plaza
19 Simpson Rd., Columbia
(908) 496-7001

For additional options, please visit blair.edu/places-to-dine.

Accommodations

Sigety Alumni House

2 Old Academy Dr., Blirstown
(908) 362-6121 ext. 5641

[blair.edu/alumni/
sigety-alumni-house](http://blair.edu/alumni/sigety-alumni-house)

5-minute walk to campus

North Shore House

912 Swartwood Rd., Newton
(973) 383-5460

Please call for reservations
20 minutes from campus

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

8 North Park Dr., Newton
(973) 940-8888

ihg.com

25 minutes from campus

Residence Inn® by Marriott®

271 Continental Dr., Mount Olive
(973) 691-1720

marriott.com

25 minutes from campus

The Ampersand Inn

140 Goodale Rd., Newton
(973) 300-0395

ampersandinn.com

30 minutes from campus

The RoseMary Inn

88 Hainesburg River Rd., Columbia
(908) 496-8855

therosemaryinn.com

15 minutes from campus

Marriott Courtyard

15 Howard Blvd., Mount Arlington
(973) 770-2000

marriott.com/ewrma

30 minutes from campus

Holiday Inn

1000 International Drive North,
Budd Lake

(Route I-80, Exit 25)

(973) 448-1100

holidayinn.com/buddlakenj

30 minutes from campus

Hilton Garden Inn Rockaway

375 Mount Hope Ave., Rockaway
(973) 328-0600

hiltongardeninn.com

35 minutes from campus

Whistling Swan

110 Main St., Stanhope

(973) 347-6369

whistlingswaninn.com

25 minutes from campus

Airbnb

There are several Airbnb options throughout the area. If you are interested in renting an Airbnb for your stay, please visit airbnb.com.

For more options, please visit blair.edu/accommodations.

Planning for Travel

If your child will be flying to and from Blair Academy, please review the school calendar so that you can book flights on a schedule that matches set departure and return times. You should also check your child's athletic schedule to make sure travel does not interfere with practices or games. Absences due to travel arrangements should be avoided.

Airports

Transportation is available to and from all area airports. See below for approximate driving times to and from the airports closest to Blair Academy:

- Newark Airport: 1 hour, 15 minutes
- JFK Airport: 1 hour, 45 minutes
- LaGuardia Airport: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- Philadelphia Airport: 2 hours, 15 minutes
- Lehigh Valley Airport: 1 hour

Bus & Train

During major school breaks, the School offers charter bus service to Newark Airport and to New York City (Port Authority). Students may sign up for the bus a couple of weeks before the break. The closest Amtrak stations are located at Newark Airport and Newark Penn Station. Contact the student life office at dejesj@blair.edu or (908) 362-3120 for additional information. Charter bus and car shuttle services are billed to your school account.

Car Services

Blair Academy works with State Shuttle (24-hour shuttle/private car service) and Blairstown Limo to schedule drivers for special travel arrangements. Please contact the student life office at (908) 362-3120 or dejesj@blair.edu for additional information.

Important Contacts

- Main School number: (908) 362-6121
- **Ryan M. Pagotto '97**, Associate Head of School
pagotr@blair.edu
(908) 362-3106
- Andee Ryerson, Dean of Students
ryersa@blair.edu
(908) 362-5654
- Nathan Molteni, Assistant Head of School for Academics
molten@blair.edu
(908) 362-3126
- Susan Long P'13 '16 '20,
Associate Director of Advancement, Parent Relations
longs@blair.edu
(908) 362-2033
- **Marivelle Clavel-Davis '82**
Business Office Assistant Controller
davism@blair.edu
(908) 362-2028
- **Paul Clavel '88**, Director of Athletics
clavep@blair.edu
(908) 362-5651
- **J. Brooks Hoffman '36** Health Center
healthcenter@blair.edu
(908) 362-2010
- Ally Thomas, Director of Counseling
thomaa@blair.edu
(908) 362-5687

School Calendar

This is an abbreviated calendar with key dates that parents find most useful—**please note this schedule is subject to change**. Refer to the Blair website for the most up-to-date information.

Fall 2024	
Sunday, August 25	Football preseason athletes arrive & register
Monday, August 26	Prefects arrive and register
Wednesday, August 28	Registration for preseason fall sports (those invited by coaches)
Monday, September 2	Registration for all remaining boarding & day students, orientation program begins in the afternoon
Tuesday, September 3	First semester begins
Friday, September 6	Convocation (required for all students)
Saturday, September 7	Community Weekend #1
Saturday, September 14	Community Weekend #2
Monday, September 30	No classes, varsity athletes due back for afternoon practices and boarding students return by 7:45 p.m.
Friday, November 1 & Saturday, November 2	Family Weekend
Monday, November 4	No classes, varsity athletes due back for afternoon practices and boarding students return by 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 9	Peddie Day at Peddie; weekend departures begin after the conclusion of athletic contests
Saturday, November 23	Thanksgiving vacation begins at noon; dormitories close
Sunday, December 1	Boarding students return by 7:45 p.m.
Monday, December 2	Classes resume
Saturday, December 14*	Holiday break begins; dormitories close. Assessments end by 3 p.m.; first semester ends; no student may depart for vacation prior to December 14.

School Breaks — Dormitories are closed for the following school vacations: Thanksgiving break, holiday break, winter long weekend, spring break and summer break. Check the school calendar for dates and times students may leave and when they are due back on campus. Remember to allow additional time for travel to and from airports.

School Calendar

Winter/Spring 2025	
Monday, January 6	Boarding students return by 7 p.m.
Tuesday, January 7	Second semester begins
Saturday, January 11	Community Weekend #3
Saturday, January 18	Winter Ball
Friday, January 31	Winter Long Weekend begins at noon after last class; dormitories close
Wednesday, February 5	Boarding students return by 7:45 p.m.
Thursday, February 6	Classes resume
Thursday, February 27	J-term begins
Saturday, March 8	Spring break begins at noon after last J-term class; dormitories close
Monday, March 24	Boarding students return by 7:45 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25	Classes resume
Saturday, March 29	Community Weekend #4
Wednesday, April 16	Grandparents' Day
Friday, April 18	Easter Weekend; classes end at noon and no Saturday classes
Monday, April 21	No classes, athletes due back for afternoon practices. Boarding students return by 7:45 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20	Junior/Senior Prom
Wednesday, May 21	Packing day for seniors; Class of 2025 Senior Assembly & Baccalaureate
Thursday, May 22	Graduation
Saturday, May 24	Community Weekend #5
Sunday, May 25	Underclass exams begin in the afternoon
Tuesday, May 27	Underclass Prize Assembly
Wednesday, May 28	Underclass exams end at noon. Students depart for summer vacation; dormitories close.

School Breaks — Parents are asked to respect the integrity of the academic year and not to request early departure or late return from weekends or vacations. Transportation to and from local airports, train stations and New York City (Port Authority) can be arranged through the student life office.

Campus Map



Campus Map

Legend

1. The Arch
2. Ivy Hall: Dormitory, Advancement & Business Offices
3. Clinton Hall: Classrooms & Student Life/Academic Offices
4. Locke Hall: Dormitory & Head of School/Admission Offices
5. Insley Hall & Flight Deck: Dormitory & Romano Dining Hall
6. **J. Brooks Hoffman '36** Health Center & Hoffman House
7. Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation & Collaboration
8. Kathryn Hall: Dormitory
9. Lakeside Hall: Dormitory
10. Robert J. Evans Open Air Theatre
11. Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts
12. Boiler House: Communications Office & Heating Plant
13. Anne L. Siegel "Annie" Hall: Dormitory
14. Freeman Hall: Dormitory
15. Mason Hall: Dormitory
16. Tennis Courts, Sloane Tennis House & Seasonal Winter Sports Complex
17. Hampshire Field & Blair Track
18. Tracy Hall: Squash Courts & Golf Pro Shop
19. Hardwick Hall: Athletic Facility, Blair Commons, The Black Canteen & College Counseling
20. West Hall: Dormitory
21. Timken Library
22. The Bogle Science Center & Cowan Auditorium
23. J. Li Golf Training Center
24. Sharpe House: Head of School Residence
25. Crew Training Center
26. South Cottage: Dormitory
27. The Old Academy: First School Building
28. Sigety Alumni House



blair.edu

Blair Academy, PO Box 600, Blirstown, NJ 07825-0600

(908) 362-6121