



MAINE CENTRAL INSTITUTE

Residential Student Guide

2024



Pictured: MCI's front campus during a spring sunset

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Pictured: Hiking trip to Borestone Mountain in Monson, Maine

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

ARRIVAL DATES

New Student Arrivals

Fall Athletics Start for Boarding Students

New Student Orientation (SOLI)

Returning Student Arrivals

Opening of School Ceremony

Sunday, August 25

Monday, August 26

Monday, August 26 through Saturday, August 31

Sunday, September 1

Monday, September 2

PLANNING YOUR DEPARTURE

We know this is an exciting time for you and your family and we want your first few weeks here to set the tone for the wonderful year we're about to have together, making memories. Next are some ways you can get started, to ensure your transition to MCI is a smooth one!

DOWNLOAD WHATSAPP

MCI uses WhatsApp to communicate with our residential students and their families. We find it to be a helpful tool to stay connected, especially with the majority of our campus population being from different countries.



[For Apple Devices](#)

[For Android Devices](#)

SHARE YOUR FLIGHT

After downloading & installing WhatsApp, reach out to Mrs. Thompson (scan QR code) with the flight details for your arrival. She will communicate with you and your driver as you travel, to ensure a timely pickup at the airport. She can also answer any questions you may have before or after arriving.



Opening of School	Arrival Dates	Approved Airports
New Students & Prefects	Sunday, August 25, 2024	Bangor Airport (BGR) Portland Jetport (PWM) Boston Logan Airport (BOS)*
Returning Students (Domestic & International)	Sunday, September 1, 2024	

** MCI will make only ONE trip to Boston on Sunday, August 25 to pick up new students. Airport arrivals into Boston Logan Airport should be NO LATER THAN 6:00pm. Families who would like to reserve a seat on this trip, should contact Mrs. Thompson within 7 days prior to their student's arrival date.*

ASK QUESTIONS

After reading over this document in its entirety, you may find you have questions. Write them down to make a list, or ask them as you think of them. We are here to help!



WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Below are the suggested items you may find you need for school and your dorm room. We realize it's difficult to squeeze all these essentials into a couple suitcases, so we encourage you to shop online using sites like Amazon so they are here waiting for you before you arrive!

DORM ROOM ESSENTIALS

- Bedding Twin/Twin XL
(99 x 190cm / 99 x 203cm)
- Towels and washcloths
- Soap / body wash
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Shower Caddy
- Hangers
- Laundry detergent
- Air freshener
- Small trash can
- 3M Command strips
- Umbrella
- Mini Refrigerator (*optional*)
- Snacks & drinks

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Backpack
- 3-Ring Binders
- Folders / Binder Dividers
- Notebooks & Lined Paper
- #2 Pencils & Pens
- Highlighters
- Erasers
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Tape & Glue
- Study Lamp
- Printer / Printer Paper (*optional*)
- Laptop (*optional*)

STRICTLY PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Drugs / Alcohol
- Weapons
- Candles / Incense / Lighters
- Cigarettes & Vape Products
- Microwave
- Air Fryer

SEND YOUR PACKAGES TO:

(Your Full Name)
295 Main St.
Pittsfield, ME 04967

WHAT ARE MY BANKING OPTIONS?

There are a number of ways to receive money from your family throughout the school year. Below are some popular banking options you may want to consider.

MY KIDS SPENDING

The MyKidsSpending (MKS) portal helps you and your family manage funding for on-campus expenses like tuition, dorm stays, transportation, apparel at the MCI Bookstore, or even snacks at our campus marketplace. When families use MKS, both parents and students have access to view account activity and add money to their account. MKS funds are strictly for on-campus purchases with a minimum recommended deposit of \$2,000.

BANGOR SAVINGS BANK

While MKS is a great option for on-campus, there will be times you'll need access to cash for off-campus spending as well. MCI works with a local bank and together we help students set up an account so they have access to their money via a debit card and ATMs. Within the first few days of arriving at MCI, students will be taken to Bangor Savings Bank to start the process of creating a bank account. Fun Fact: Bangor Savings Bank never charges an ATM fee - anywhere in the world!

HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO CHECK MY GRADES?

MCI uses two primary applications for managing classroom work, homework assignments, and grades: Google Classroom and PowerSchool. Teachers will add homework assignments with due dates and class documents to Google Classroom, in addition to any important announcements. Once assignments and exams have been completed, your teacher will grade your work and log the results on PowerSchool. Students and parents each have logins to PowerSchool and can keep track of your academic progress throughout the year.



AT THE AIRPORT

If you are traveling from outside of the U.S. you will be stopped at customs upon your arrival. All students here on an F1 Visa may be asked to answer the following questions:

- What school are you traveling to?
- What grade are you in?
- Why are you traveling to school?
- What is the address and phone number of your school?

Maine Central Institute
295 Main Street
Pittsfield, ME 04967
+1 (207) 487-3355

At **Bangor International Airport** you will exit the terminal and continue downstairs. Baggage claim will be to your right after exiting the stairs.

At **Portland International Airport** you will exit the terminal and continue downstairs. Baggage claim will be straight ahead after exiting the stairs.

At **Boston Logan Airport** you will exit the terminal and find baggage claim and customs straight ahead.

Contact Mrs. Thompson to let her know you have safely arrived, and start looking around for an MCI staff member, holding a **bright yellow MCI sign**. If you don't see your driver right away, *don't panic and keep looking* - we will be there and Mrs. Thompson can help direct you!



ARRIVING AT MCI

Upon arriving on campus, you will be greeted by your dorm director. They will go over some quick announcements and then you will be shown to the room you'll be staying in for Summer Orientation & Language Immersion (SOLI) week. All SOLI participants will live with another new student for their first week at MCI. Following SOLI, you may change rooms or be placed in a different dorm with the roommate you will live in for the year. ***Please keep in mind when unpacking that first week that this might not be your permanent home for the year.***

RESIDENCE HALLS

All residence halls feature at least one common room, shared kitchen, on-site laundry facility, and are secured with a passkey system. Each dormitory also has one Dorm Director and a minimum of three dorm parents who live in apartments with their families, within the residence halls.

ALUMNI HALL

Girls' Dormitory



Alumni Hall features multiple rooms on each level, called suites. Each suite has its own bathroom, a prefect (student leader) room, and three double occupancy student rooms. Students are provided with a bed with mattress, a desk with bookshelf, chair, and a wardrobe or closet with drawers. One of Alumni Hall has two lounge areas: one features a pool table, television with video games, a seating area and vending machines, while the other has a television with larger seating.

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Dana Fehnel





MANSON HALL

Boys' Dormitory



Manson Hall features three levels of rooms. Each level has its own bathroom, two prefect (student leader) rooms, and multiple double occupancy student rooms. Students are provided with a bed with mattress, a desk with bookshelf, chair, and a wardrobe with drawers. Manson Hall has one common room which features a pool table, ping pong, television with video games, a seating area and vending machines.

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Meg Thompson





Pictured: Hiking trip to Borestone Mountain in Monson, Maine

SUMMER ORIENTATION & LANGUAGE IMMERSION

MCI's Summer Orientation & Language Immersion program, better known as SOLI is offered in late August for international students who are new to our school. SOLI offers two-course pathways to serve students in gaining English language proficiency, and encourage student interaction with various participatory techniques. The SOLI Cup Competition, woven into classes and evening activities, fosters an atmosphere of speaking English, friendly competition, and taking healthy risks. With a mix of in-person classes & excursions, as well as

regular community zoom calls, you will quickly start to get the feel of what living on campus at a boarding school really looks like.

ORIENTATION TO MCI & COMMUNITY

- Classes and experiences with MCI faculty and staff to gain comfort with campus
- School-year expectations in living on campus to help students establish positive routines early
- Local excursions to experience life in Maine with built-in community-building activities

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

- Daily courses in English literacy, history, and performing arts that encourage student interaction through participatory techniques such as public speaking and group work
- Comprehensive testing to ensure students are placed appropriately for the school year



Pictured: SOLI students enjoying our local 45-acre community park - Manson Park



Pictured: Opening of School Festivities at Camp Fairhaven in Brooks, Maine

OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

Each school year we schedule a variety of fun activities & Maine adventures for you to participate in - every weekend there is something different to experience. Some popular activities include:

- Hiking
- Apple Picking
- UMaine Hockey
- Go Karts & Mini Golf
- Maine Celtics (Basketball)
- Escape Rooms
- Rock Climbing
- Ice Skating
- Dinner & Movie
- Portland Sea Dogs (Baseball)
- Shopping (Mall & Outlets)
- Skiing & Snowboarding



Pictured: Our MCI Husky in front of Founders Hall

MCI TRADITIONS

MCI and our local community are built on traditions; traditions that have been passed down and celebrated for many generations! Whether we're welcoming our alumni back to campus for Homecoming, building snow sculptures during Winter Carnival, or feeding Pittsfield and our surrounding towns during the International Food Festival - it's all to show the PRIDE we have for our school! Next you will read about some of our most favorite annual traditions.



Pictured: Tubing at Camp Fairhaven in Brooks, Maine

OPENING OF SCHOOL

Each September we welcome back our returning students to campus and hit the ground running. The energy around campus is vibrant and full of excitement, as our students return to each other, and their “home away from home”, after a long summer break. After a week of SOLI and the new students having the campus to themselves, they are enthusiastic about meeting the veterans of the dorms.

Shortly after arriving, students go through an orientation, register for classes and then have some free time to get to know each other before starting school. We get everyone together to play games on front campus like volleyball, soccer, bocce ball, corn hole, and manhunt.

Within the first couple weeks of school, we load everyone on to buses and enjoy a fun outing together. Some years we head to a local camp to swim, kayak, play archery tag, and go water tubing; while other years we go to an amusement park.





Pictured: Formal Sit Down Dinner for Lunar New Year

SIT DOWN DINNERS

MCI's boarding community gathers regularly for a family-style meal, which we call sit down dinner - some are formal, while others are themed dinners. These meals are meant to promote interaction between community members, highlight our vast number of cultures, or to celebrate holidays and MCI traditions like Homecoming and Winter Carnival. Sit down dinners are a staple of the boarding school experience and a great way to "get the family together for a meal".





Pictured: Junior class float at the Homecoming Parade

HOMECOMING

Homecoming is a four-day event which centers around school spirit and pride in our community. During this weekend, students are dressed in specific colors (gray, black, white or garnet) with each color representing their class, freshman through senior year. The weekend consists of a school spirit parade, class competitions, home games for all our fall athletic teams, and concludes with a semi-formal dance. This event is a big deal for our local community, and brings back wonderful memories to those who graduated many years ago from MCI.



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Wednesday	Homecoming Sit Down Dinner & Float Building
Thursday	Pep Rally, Parade, Class Competitions & Bonfire
Friday	Cross Country Meet, Football Game & Pep Band Performance
Saturday	Boys & Girls Soccer Games, Field Hockey Game, Homecoming Dance



Pictured: Our MCI Husky at the Cultural Heritage Ceremony

CULTURAL HERITAGE CEREMONY

Our Cultural Heritage Ceremony is a celebration of the vast number of countries and cultures that are represented on MCI's campus. Each year we all gather in Parks Gymnasium to witness our talented musicians and dancers perform pieces from their home countries. We finish the celebration with the unfurling of each flag that makes up our faculty and student body, accompanied by that country's anthem.

Last year's countries included:

- Spain
- South Korea
- Brazil
- Ukraine
- Guatemala
- Italy
- USA
- Turkey
- Myanmar (Burma)
- China
- Japan
- Mexico
- Native American
- Peru
- Tanzania
- Hungary
- Bermuda
- Colombia
- Puerto Rico
- Russia
- Taiwan
- Lithuania
- United Kingdom





Pictured: Students posing with their snow sculpture

WINTER CARNIVAL

Winter Carnival at MCI is many students' favorite week of the whole school year! It's a time-honored tradition which offers a week-long schedule of events, after returning from February break. We kick this action-packed week off with a sit down dinner to get students excited about what's to come, and end with our prom, called the SnoBall.

The event lineup ranges from athletic competitions such as basketball, dodgeball and volleyball, to skits, Quiz Bowl (trivia), and sledding relays.





Pictured: Students serving hot pot during the festival

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Our International Food Festival is a celebration of the many cultures and traditions of our students. It's a time for students to share a dish from home, while teaching their peers and the local community about its importance to them - it may be served during a special celebration, their grandmother's secret recipe, or simply their favorite childhood dish. The event is promoted on local news channels, drawing in people from all over.





Pictured: MCI's Graduating Class of 2023

COMMENCEMENT

Commencement is a part of every high school experience, but here at MCI we do things a bit differently. Our commencement ceremony consists of the traditional cap & gown graduation, but before walking down the aisle, we host an event called Senior Chapel and a barbeque for our boarding seniors. Parents are encouraged to attend the events of graduation weekend, whenever feasible.



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Thursday	All Senior Class Outing (BBQ, swimming & games)
Friday	Senior Chapel (awards & scholarships ceremony)
Saturday	Graduation Parties & Final Goodbyes
Sunday	Commencement

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

The answer is YES - we do have a school dress code at MCI! While some schools require a specific uniform, we do not, however there is a standard that needs to be met when dressing for classes. In addition to our school dress code, we also have monthly formal dinners called Sit Down Dinners in which specific clothing is required. More information on sit down dinners can be found on the following page.

Below you will find a list of essential clothing items needed for your upcoming time at MCI.

REQUIRED SCHOOL CLOTHING

- Collared shirt / blouse / sweater
- Dress pants / chinos / khakis / cargos / corduroys
- Skirt / dress (below fingertips, with arms at sides)
- Shoes / boots / sneakers / dress sandals

CLOTHING NOT PERMITTED

- Sleeveless shirts / spaghetti straps / t-shirts / crop tops
- Jeans / shorts
- Athletic pants (including sweatpants & windpants)
- Camouflage pants & shirts
- Beach-style or athletic sandals
- Revealing / Tight clothing (no midriff / cleavage / undergarments showing)



All "Not Permitted" items are acceptable in the dorms and on campus when school is not in session, **except** revealing / tight clothing.



REQUIRED FORMAL DINNER CLOTHING

- Skirt / dress / dress pants / slacks
- Collared button-down shirt / blouse / sweater
- Shoes / boots / sneakers / dress sandals
- Suit jacket / Tie / Belt / Dress socks
- Dress shoes / heels



DAILY SCHEDULE

Times	Day 1	Day 2
7:00am - 7:40am	Breakfast	
7:45am - 7:55am	Advisor	
8:00am - 9:20am	Period 1	Period 5
9:20am - 9:30am	Break	
9:30am - 10:50am	Period 2	Period 6
10:50am - 11:30am	Lunch 1	Lunch 1
11:30am - 12:50pm	Period 3B	Period 7B
10:55am - 12:15pm	Period 3A	Period 7A
12:15pm - 12:55pm	Lunch 2	Lunch 2
12:55pm - 2:15pm	Period 4	Period 8
2:15pm - 2:45pm	Husky Time	
2:45pm - 5:00pm	Extra Help / Athletics / Free Time	
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Dinner	
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Evening Study Hall	
8:30pm - 9:45pm	Open Gym / Free Time	
10:00pm	Dorm Curfew	
10:30pm	Lights Out / Quiet Hours	

SCHOOL BREAKS

You may have seen MCI’s Academic Calendar and noticed there are four scheduled school breaks each year. The dorms will remain open during each of these school closings, with the exception of our two-week December break.

Options during a school closing include:

- Staying in their dorm (\$65/night)*
- Visiting family or friends in the U.S.
- Returning home (if feasible)
- Staying with a local friend (day student)
- Planning a getaway with friends (must be pre-approved by Dean of Student Life)

** Please note, dorms are closed December 21, 2024 to January 6, 2025. Students are encouraged to visit home, whenever possible, but families may choose to make other arrangements.*

2024-2025 SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Vacation	Last Day of Classes	Approved Travel Date / DEPARTING	Approved Travel Date / RETURNING	Classes Resume
November	November 26, 2024	<i>Long weekend - students are permitted to travel; usual rates apply.</i>		December 2, 2024
December	December 20, 2024	December 21, 2024	January 5, 2025	January 6, 2025
February	February 14, 2025 *	February 15, 2025	February 23, 2025	February 24, 2025
April	April 18, 2025 *	April 19, 2025	April 27, 2025	April 28, 2025
Seniors	May 23, 2025	June 1, 2025		
Summer	June 5, 2025	June 6, 2025	August 31, 2025	September 2, 2025

** Half days / Early Release - classes end at 11:10am*

2024-2025 APPROVED TRAVEL DATES

In the SCHOOL CLOSINGS section you will see that MCI has scheduled specific Approved Travel Dates. On these dates, MCI will transport students to and from the specified drop-off and pickup locations below. Drop-off and pickup times will be scheduled according to the needs of the boarding community as a whole. MCI will provide free transportation to Bangor Airport and the Concord Coach Lines bus stations in Bangor and Augusta between the hours of 6am and 9pm (additional charges will apply outside of these times). All transportation requests must be received by Mrs. Thompson a minimum of three weeks prior to the approved travel date, but can be sent any time throughout the school year leading up to those dates. Transportation requests submitted after the deadline, will be subject to the fees listed below.

MCI is not responsible for transporting students outside of the approved travel dates/times and cannot guarantee a driver, however we will make every effort to accommodate the student’s transportation needs. A minimum of 48 hours advance notice is required.

In the event an MCI driver is available on a day which falls outside of the approved travel dates & times, the following transportation fees will apply:

MCI TRANSPORTATION FEE SCHEDULE

Airport / Bus Station	6am to 9pm	9pm to 6am
Bangor International Airport (BGR)	\$65	\$100
Bangor Concord Coach Lines	\$65	\$100
Augusta State Airport (AUG)	\$65	\$100
Augusta Concord Coach Lines	\$65	\$100
Portland International Jetport (PWM)	\$200	\$250
Boston Logan International Airport (BOS)	\$400	\$400

If MCI is unable to secure a driver on dates and times which fall outside of the approved travel dates, it will be the responsibility of the family and student to find alternative transportation.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 19	Fall Athletics Begin
August 25	New Residential Students Arrive
August 26 - August 31	Summer Orientation & Language Immersion (SOLI)
September 1	Returning Residential Students Arrive
September 2	Boarding Student Orientation & Registration
September 3 & September 4	First Days of School - New & Returning Students
October 16 - October 19	Homecoming Events
October 30	Community Service Day
November 1	Close of 1st Quarter
November 18	Winter Athletics Begin
November 27 - December 1	November Break (dorms open)
December 21	Dorms Close (school break)
December 21 - January 5	Winter Break (dorms closed)
January 5	Dorms Reopen
January 17	Close of 2nd Quarter
January 21 - January 24	Mid-Year Exams
January 24	Close of Semester 1
February 14	Early Dismissal at 11:10am
February 15 - February 23	February Break (dorms open)
February 27 - March 1	Winter Carnival
March 12	Parent / Teacher Conferences
March 28	Close of 3rd Quarter
March 31	Spring Athletics Begin
April 18	Early Dismissal at 11:10am
April 19 - April 27	April Break (dorms open)
May 4	International Food Festival
May 22 & May 23	Senior Final Exams
May 30	Close of 4th Quarter
	Senior Chapel at 1:00pm
	Boarding Senior BBQ at 5:30pm
June 1	Commencement at 12:00pm
June 2 - June 5	Underclassman Final Exams
June 6	Close of Semester 2
	Community Service Day
	Dorms Close for Summer Break
