

May 2024

Dear SSA Boarders and Families,

I trust that you are all enjoying the spring and although this school year is ending, we are already thinking about welcoming you all in August and planning for the school year.

To that end, 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 international boarding students arriving on Saturday, August 24th between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We will have New International Student Orientation from 12:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Breakfast and a trip to our local shopping plaza will take place on Sunday, August 25th from 8:30-12:30 p.m.

NEW domestic boarding students arriving on Sunday, August 25th between 2:00 and 4:00 pm, with a meeting for parents of new boarders from 4:15-5:00 p.m. 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 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. We will then escort you to New Parent Night (for all new parents, day and boarding) from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Returning boarding students are expected back on campus Monday, August 26th between 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

Please take note of the following (all documents are available on the [Senior School section](#) of the Summer Information web page on 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, 11/22) and end of Thanksgiving Vacation (Sunday, 12/1)
 - Start (Friday 12/20 & Saturday 12/21) and end of Winter break (Saturday 1/4/25 & Sunday 1/5/25)
 - Start (Friday 3/14 & Saturday 3/15) and end of Spring break (Saturday 3/29 & Sunday 3/30)
 - End of school year (Friday 6/6 & Saturday, 6/7)

- 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.

During the first few weeks of August 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. Finally, given the potential for new enrollments through the end of December, some students may start the year in a single but get a roommate at a later date.

Enjoy these last few weeks of this school year and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Most sincerely,

Pamela Boehm

Dean of Residential Life