

- Check your email regularly; new information will be coming out.
  - Record Release Form, Health Records / Cumulative Records. This was at ASD or will be mailed to those who did not attend.
  - Complete required forms such as Magnus. (coming soon)
  - Download the required apps such as REACH and Magnus. (coming soon)
  - Review Important Dates (below)
  - Prepare for move-in/orientation (coming soon)
  - Review billing / financial aid info if needed
  - Review packing list (coming soon)
  - Sign up for communication channels (at check-in or email [communications@mssm.org](mailto:communications@mssm.org))
  - Check technology needs (device registration)
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- **Academics** - Your student's advisor. (Those will be assigned during the summer)
  - **Academic Support (Beyond Advisor)** - [academic-support@mssm.org](mailto:academic-support@mssm.org)
  - **Transportation for Breaks** - [transportation@mssm.org](mailto:transportation@mssm.org) and look for forms & schedules in the Penguin Weekly leading up to the break. We ask parents to update their students' break transportation before every break. Here is a sample break schedule for March, which is a long weekend break.
  - **Non-Break Transportation:**
  - (early departure, checking a student out for a weekend, doctor's appointment): [ri@mssm.org](mailto:ri@mssm.org)
  - **Dining Hall Matters:** Phebe DesJardins, Director: [phebe.whitley-desjardins@compass-usa.com](mailto:phebe.whitley-desjardins@compass-usa.com)
  - **Anything Financial Related:** Business Office: [businessoffice@mssm.org](mailto:businessoffice@mssm.org)
  - **Medical - Nurse Kristin Damboise, RN:** [health-support@mssm.org](mailto:health-support@mssm.org)
  - **Mental Health/Counseling - Dustin Damboise, LSW:** [health-support@mssm.org](mailto:health-support@mssm.org)
  - **Website / Penguin Weekly** - [communications@mssm.org](mailto:communications@mssm.org)
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- **We send a weekly newsletter called the Penguin Weekly** every Friday at 1 PM. It goes to all students, staff, and families. Contact [communications@mssm.org](mailto:communications@mssm.org) for updates to the mailing list or to request that something be added.
  - **We post stories to our website, ideally, twice a week.** You can see current and past stories on this page.
  - **We also post to Facebook, Instagram** ([mssmpenguins](#)), and LinkedIn.

[Community Handbook](#)

[Technology Guide & Device Registration](#)

[Infinite Campus](#)

[FACTS Tuition Mgmt](#)

[MyKidsSpending](#)

[Calendars](#)

[Athletic Calendars](#)

[Latest News](#)

[FLICKR Photos](#)

[FLIK Menu](#)

[Penguin Weather Station](#)

- **Residential Life:** 207-498-9956 (Mobile)  
207-325-3796 (Office) [RI@mssm.org](mailto:RI@mssm.org)
- **Admin on Duty:** 207-540-6013 [aod@mssm.org](mailto:aod@mssm.org)
- **Transportation Info:** [transportation@mssm.org](mailto:transportation@mssm.org)
- **Executive Director:** 603-667-5347 [constantiner@mssm.org](mailto:constantiner@mssm.org)
- **Business Office:** 207-325-3603 [businessoffice@mssm.org](mailto:businessoffice@mssm.org)
- **Nurse:** 207-498-9707 [damboisek@mssm.org](mailto:damboisek@mssm.org)
- **Counselor:** 207-554-9915 [damboised@mssm.org](mailto:damboised@mssm.org)

**What does a typical daily schedule look like?** [Check out these Day in the Life videos made by students.](#)

**What transportation options are available for getting to and from campus?**

Parents drop off at check-in and pick up at graduation. For other breaks, we provide downstate transportation. For students who need to ride the Cyr bus that departs at 7 AM in Caribou, we can drive them to that. We are also able to accommodate students who need to go to Presque Isle Airport which departs at 5:45 AM.

**Is there transportation for breaks and long weekends?**

Yes! If students live south of Houlton or in Houlton, we have buses that depart either Fridays or Saturdays, depending on the break. They stop at a few major cities along I-95, and we post the schedule to the Parent Landing Page a few weeks before break. If you live in the County, there is no bus service, and you will need to pick up your student or make arrangements. We ask that parents fill out the Transportation Form on the Parent Landing Page before each break.

**How does the school handle food allergies or dietary needs?**

Mrs. Phebe in the dining hall is able to accommodate allergies and special dietary needs as long as the student advocates for themselves and lets the staff know when they are in line.

**What should we do if our child has medical needs or takes medication?**

Contact [heath-support@mssm.org](mailto:heath-support@mssm.org) which goes to health services and the student life coordinator. Our Licensed Social Worker, Dustin Damboise, is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 3 PM.

**Does every student need a laptop?**

No, but it is highly suggested. We do not supply laptops to all students.

**How does communication with families work?**

We send out a newsletter with all the upcoming information on Fridays at 1 PM. It's called the Penguin Weekly. We limit mass communication with parents from the School to avoid overwhelming everyone with too many emails. We will discuss this more at check-in in August.

**How does MSSM help students build friendships and community?**

A student once noted that boarding school life was like having 100 of your best friends stay at your house every night. Most students stay in the dorm on weekends and spend time in clubs or participating in the many planned and pop-up activities. Graduates have said that after 3-4 years at MSSM, their relationships felt like they had known their classmates for much longer. Like-minded people find themselves gathering, and many form their own sub-communities.

**What happens if a student gets homesick?**

We encourage positive discussions such as, "You are going to have such an amazing time at MSSM. We can't wait to hear about it when you come home for breaks." When parents say things like, "I am going to miss you so much." It often puts stress on the students, and they feel as if they are abandoning the family.

**How can parents support their child during the transition?**

Your support matters most in the small things. Stay in touch, help your child get ready before move-in, send the occasional snail-mail letter or care package, and encourage them as they adjust to a new school, new routines, and greater independence.

**How does laundry work?**

There is a laundry center with machines that take cards. The cards cost \$5 to initially purchase and after the cost of the card, there will be \$3 remaining on the card. Each cycle costs \$1.50. The cards can be replenished at the machine by the dorm office.

**What is the mail and package process for students?**

Send packages or letters to :

Student Name, 95 High St. Limestone, ME 04750

**What are the break schedules and move-in/move-out dates?** Check our calendars page. And scroll down to the PDFs.

**What makes students most successful during their first year at MSSM?**

Understanding that asking for help is not a sign of failure. MSSM is a big change for students, especially those coming from 8th grade. It's truly like they are entering college with college-level classes, a college schedule, and living in a dorm. It takes a while to understand the new rules and systems and there are missteps along the way. MSSM has a strong support network, including office hours, structured study time, tutoring, guidance and counseling, small-group advisors, and more. Students have to learn to ask for help, and that will keep them on the road to success at MSSM.