

PACKING AND PREPARATION LISTS FOR BOARDING STUDENTS

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL 2026-2027

Updated June 2026

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMPUS

Prior to arrival in the houses, students should review these packing and preparation lists, which include recommended and optional items as well as skills to practice for living in a communal setting. All student rooms include the following items per student: standard twin bed and mattress, desk, desk chair, trash and recycling bins, closet or armoire, and dresser. Windows have roller shades measured to fit each window.

Students are encouraged to exercise restraint when packing for campus. Many optional items, such as area rugs, curtains, and mini-fridges should be obtained after meeting one's roommate and seeing the physical space. Please note that mini-fridges (cannot draw more than 2.0 amps and 240 volts) are limited to one per room, and each house common room has a full-size shared refrigerator and microwave. There are numerous big-box stores within a fifteen-minute driving radius of campus.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMPUS

- Bedspread/comforter blanket (beds are U.S. standard twin size: 39" x 75" / 96.5cm x 190.5 cm)
- Sheets/bedding (beds are U.S. standard twin size: 39" x 75" / 96.5cm x 190.5 cm)
- Pillows
- Towels
- Clothes hangers
- Laundry basket and laundry detergent
- Alarm clock (physical clock separate from phone and not voice-deactivated)
- Power strip with surge protector
- Desk lamp (no bulbs exceeding 60 watts or halogen lamps)
- Plastic shower caddy for toiletries
- Shower shoes (flip flops or slides)
- Key chain for physical room key
- Personal toiletries
- Athletic clothing, equipment, and bag
- Course books and school supplies as determined by the class and teacher
- Class, casual, chapel (formal), and athletic attire and footwear

NON-REQUIRED, OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Personal place setting (plate, cup, mug, bowl, fork, butter knife, spoon)
- Cleaning supplies (dish soap and sponge, disinfectant wipes, handheld vacuum)
- Snacks and a plastic snack container with a latch (to prevent spills, mess, and pests in rooms)
- Window, standing, and/or desk fan

- Sleep mask and white noise machine (for light sleepers)
- Wall decor (cloth hangings and items requiring nails are prohibited)
- Wall-safe hanging products (e.g., Command Strips, Command Hooks, painter's tape)
- Headphones (noise-canceling headphones are particularly useful during study hall)

SKILLS TO PRACTICE BEFORE ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

- Setting and waking up to an alarm independently
- Timing personal hygiene: allocating sufficient time in the mornings and evenings to care for oneself (shower, brush teeth, and dress) and determining preferred time of day to shower, particularly depending on athletic schedules
- Timing meals: allocating sufficient time in the mornings and evenings to attend breakfast and dinner before class or check-in time
- Creating a communication plan with family members and/or guardians
- Washing, drying, and folding laundry, including sheets
- Using a microwave safely: reading instructions, adding water when needed, not heating metal
- Good sleep hygiene: no screens before bed, evening sleep routines
- Cleaning personal and shared spaces: vacuuming, organizing one's desk/workspace, wiping down kitchenette spaces, making a bed, taking out the trash and recycling
- Planning ahead: checking a schedule and Google Calendar for the next day and making a daily plan
- Charging a computer fully before school

PROHIBITED ITEMS

For the safety and well-being of our house communities, certain items and item categories are prohibited. Many of these prohibited items pertain to fire and building safety and security, as determined jointly with the Southborough Fire Department, and are therefore repeated in the Fire Safety section. If prohibited items are discovered in students' rooms, they will be confiscated, and a conduct response will follow. Repeat possession of a prohibited item will also be treated as an honesty violation.

- Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, and cartridges. Cannabidiol (CBD) may not be kept by students and is permitted only in health services with a physician's letter
 - Prescriptions and medication: All prescriptions and medications must be reviewed by Health Services to determine if they are permissible in student rooms or should be kept in Health Services
- Decorations, paraphernalia, or references to drugs, tobacco, or alcohol
- Pets of any kind, including fish and small reptiles
- Weapons or ammunition of any kind, including replicas that resemble real firearms or weapons
- BB guns, airsoft guns, paintball guns, and any other shooting apparatus
- Knives, including kitchen, utility, and pocket knives (a butter knife with a single place setting is permitted)
- Televisions or monitors larger than 26"
- Walkie-talkies

- Wireless equipment such as wireless routers, wireless access points, or other multi-user devices
- Candles, incense burners, matches, and lighters
- Halogen lamps
- Air conditioners, space heaters, microwave ovens, or any fans that also produce heat or have AC elements
- Electrical appliances that produce heat—such as toasters, hot plates, kettles, coffee makers, immersion coils, popcorn makers, irons, electric blankets, air fryers, portable washing machines, or drying machines
 - Toasters, kettles, and hot pots may be used and stored in common kitchenettes or common rooms only
- Personal furniture larger than a loveseat (one per room)
- More than one mini-fridge per room
- Mini-fridges drawing more than 2.0 amps and 240 volts