

2026-27 Academic Information for New Students/Families

Dear New MSSM Students and Families:

As we prepare for your first year at MSSM, we would like to review what you can expect this summer regarding your future academic program. This letter is being sent to students via their MSSM email accounts, as well as to parents via the email accounts we have on record. At this point, all student school-related correspondence will be conducted via their MSSM email account. During the school year, we expect students to check their MSSM email on a daily basis. For now, once or twice per week is sufficient.

As mentioned in a previous email, English and math placement tests will be administered using the Canvas platform, so students should pay attention to notifications for these and follow the directions found within. If students have not yet activated either their MSSM account or their Canvas account, they need to do so ASAP. Links to both placement tests will be sent out soon.

In mid-June students will be receiving fall course request information from Dr. Deb Eustis-Grandy via their MSSM email account. There will be two separate emails - one with a link to descriptions of available courses, and another with a link to the course request form. Your entry grade (9, 10, 11) will influence how many choices you'll be able to make on the request form. Everyone will be able to choose their World Language class (if needed), and optional Fine Arts and Math Team sessions. All English and Mathematics courses will be assigned based upon placement test results and transcript analyses. Science courses will also be assigned to students (unless they have already taken Chemistry) based upon Math placement test results and transcript analyses. Students entering in grades 11 may have some choices, including the ability to select an elective in social science or computer science. If you indicate on the form an interest in an upper level language class, you will be contacted by the instructor of that class. They will set up an online meeting to ask you a few questions to help determine your placement.

Until you are assigned to an individual advisor, Dr. Eustis-Grandy can answer any questions you might have regarding the scheduling process. Once all new students have completed the course request form, we will add students to rosters and finalize schedules. These should be available in Infinite Campus (our academic data platform) by mid-August. Once you arrive on campus, your 2026-27 academic advisor will help you with any scheduling questions. Look for an email from your new advisor in early August.

Staff are working on revisions to the *Community Handbook* for 2026-27. Until these are completed, you can view the current handbook on the [MSSM website](#).

Parents - if you have any concerns about your student's readiness for independent living, we'd encourage you to take some time over the summer to work with your student on skills such as

self-advocacy, personal responsibility, time management etc. Over the first few weeks of the semester we'll certainly assist new students with the transition to MSSM's expectations, but they eventually need to become self-sufficient.

Your only other suggested preparations for the academic portion of your upcoming year involves organizing your school supplies. At the end of your first week at MSSM, you will have an opportunity to go to Presque Isle for some shopping, but you should consider bringing the following items with you:

Required:

- Laptop or tablet - (PC or Mac laptop preferable - Chromebook or tablet may not be appropriate for computer science classes)
- Binder with paper and dividers - one for **each** of your four core classes
- Pens and pencils
- Graphing Calculator (TI-83 or TI-84 is recommended)
- World language dictionary (required for Spanish classes; optional for French)
- Composition Book (required for Spanish classes)

Useful, but not essential:

- Stack of index cards for flash cards
- Sticky notes
- 3-hole punch
- Stapler
- Composition Book (must have stitched binding)
- Highlighter(s)
- Printer
- Ream of printer paper

Watch for some introductory emails from the Residential Life Staff over the summer, as they prepare to get you settled into life at MSSM. We're all looking forward to seeing you in Limestone on August 19th's *Move In Day for New Students*.

Welcome to MSSM!

MSSM Division Leaders -

Dr. Deb Eustis-Grandy (STEM)
Anthony Scott (Humanities)