

MCI's Residential Life Newsletter

September 2026

Greetings from MCI:

Hello and welcome to MCI for the 2026-2027 school year. We have had a busy summer here in Maine with STEAM Camp in July and then training and the opening of school in August and early September. I am happy to report that the school year is off to a wonderful start, which you will hear about directly from our students below.

I wanted to personally thank you for entrusting us with providing a safe and nurturing environment for your child to grow and thrive in. As our mission statement states:

"MCI will inspire students to lead ethical, purposeful, and happy lives as local and world citizens."



We will do our best to live up to that mission statement and to send your child(ren) back home better for attending our very special school, Maine Central Institute.

All my best,

Mr. Dean

Dean of Student Life

SOLI (Summer Orientation Language Intensive) / Prefect Training

It was a pretty busy week in the dorm because we had SOLI Week and Prefect training. SOLI Week gave us a chance to spend more time with other students and do different activities together before the first day of school. It was fun to see people from different countries and spend time outside of our normal routine.

We also had Prefect training for the students who are going to be dorm leaders at MCI this school year. During the training, we learned more about what Prefects do and how they should help students in the dorms. We talked about leadership, communication, and how to deal with different situations. We wrapped up Prefect training with an escape room. Working together to solve the puzzle was a great team building experience. I'm happy to say that we escaped the room with just over 5 minutes remaining on the clock.

Overall, I think SOLI Week was a good experience. SOLI Week helped us become closer as a dorm, and Prefect training helped students understand more about being a good leader.

Gyuwon Choi
South Korea

Summer Ballet



Every summer, MCI opens its doors to ballet students all around the world for a Summer Intensive as part of its Bossov Ballet Theatre (BBT) program. Led by Artistic Director Natalya Getman, students learn the precision and intensity of the Vaganova technique, and rehearse variations and repertoire of a classical ballet. The program culminates in a production of said ballet complete with costumes, sets, and lighting, to be performed for the public.

This past year, the intensive spanned two weeks, and brought students from Mexico, Japan, and multiple U.S. states to MCI's campus. We performed *Don Quixote*, a high-energy comedy ballet set in Spain, and also took classes that broadened our understanding of the range of ballet, such as character, pilates, and contemporary jazz.

Though I unfortunately could not stay for the full two weeks of the program, this intensive truly deepened my understanding of ballet technique and the standards required of pre-professional students, as well as fostered an incredible community that allowed dancers from all different backgrounds to make connections and learn together.

The quality of instruction is amazing, and the program is a great way to learn more about Bossov Ballet and MCI in general as a prospective student; in fact, it was through them that I first learned about the school and decided to study here. Overall, BBT's intensives are an unforgettable experience that shapes dancers' technique, work ethic, and appreciation for ballet.

Paloma Killoran
United States

New Student Experience (Thailand)

This is my second year in the United States. Last year I studied in New York but I did not like it, so I decided to transfer to Maine, which has much more beautiful nature and less pollution. Now, as an international dorm student at Maine Central Institute, I am having a really wonderful time living on campus.

Being here allowed me to immerse myself in the student community, make new good friends that come from around the world, and try the exciting new things that I never tried before. Choosing this school is giving me a great experience and an opportunity to learn.

Rachapon (Nick) Namma
Thailand

New Student Experience (Italy)



My journey at MCI began with an action-packed week that helped all of us transition smoothly into campus life. Coming from Piacenza, Italy, as a new exchange student, I arrived feeling a mix of excitement and nerves about being so far from home.

Luckily, our orientation week was filled with awesome activities specifically designed to help us explore the campus, make new friends, and get comfortable with our surroundings. We went on campus tours to learn where our classrooms were, participated in fun icebreaker games, and spent hours bonding with students from all over the world. My absolute favorite activity was the dodgeball tournament—it was high-energy, super competitive, and a fantastic way to laugh and break the ice with everyone!

Beyond the fun activities, the first official day of school was crucial in helping us adapt to a brand-new environment. Right from the start, the teachers were incredible. They walked us step by step through the American school system, explained how our daily routines and credits work, and guided us through our class schedules so we wouldn't get lost. Having supportive faculty and friendly classmates around on that first day made what could have been an overwhelming experience feel manageable and exciting.

One thing that surprised me coming from Europe was the academic routine itself. I initially thought classes would be easier, but balancing challenging schoolwork with daily sports practice and my daily prayers is quite demanding. However, trying new things has been amazing—like joining cheerleading, which is totally different from playing tennis back home! The teachers here make a huge difference: they are very professional in class, but also approachable, friendly, and funny outside of lesson time. Overall, living with my roommate and learning about new cultures every day has been an incredible experience. Although I originally planned to stay for just one semester, this welcoming MCI community has me seriously considering staying for the whole academic year!

Matilde Fadini
Italy

Fall Sports – Cheering

The 2026-2027 fall cheer season has been nothing short of incredible. Though it is not over yet, we've already created memorable moments and bonded tightly as a team. We kicked off the preseason with just a handful of cheerleaders, but as we started school we quickly grew into a big group of 20, mostly made up of residential students from the dorms.



Since the majority of team members are international students with different backgrounds, it is not uncommon for us to start a season with many newcomers with no cheer experience, and finding our footing as a team can have some challenges. However, with such a great group of people and a positive atmosphere, we could become each other's biggest supporters naturally through time we spent together at practices and games.

So far, we've performed at two halftimes and we are currently working towards the Play for Cure game coming up this weekend and the Game Day Competition at Hamden Academy on October 17th, followed by our final home game for

senior recognition.

One of our biggest highlights of the season was Homecoming Week, where we performed at Pep Rally as well as the home football game. Since it was a new experience for most of the team members, it was an absolute joy to see all of them getting their experiences. All in all, this fall season has been going wonderfully, and we hope to finish this season successfully and come back ready for the winter season.

Koyuki Watamura
Japan

Fall Sports – Soccer



There are a lot of amazing fall athletic teams at Maine Central Institute, and I will talk about the boys' soccer team. The boys' soccer team stands out due to our incredibly diverse roster, featuring talented players from all around the world. Each team member brings a unique set of skills and international playing styles to the field, making us a dynamic group.

Despite our different backgrounds, we have built great team chemistry and a strong sense of unity both on and off the pitch. We constantly communicate, support one another, and combine our individual strengths to play as a team. No matter the challenge, we always step onto the field with determination and give our best until the game ends.

Minho (Liam) Kim
South Korea

Funtown / Splashtown Trip

Our school trip to Funtown was super exciting and unforgettable! We had a blast trying out the high-speed Turbo Drop, racing go-karts on the Grand Prix tracks, and trying the flying trapeze together.

As a new school year starts, this trip was a great way for everyone to break the ice and get to know each other quickly. It's an amazing start to making new friends!

Yueqing (Judy) Chen
China



Homecoming Parade and Class Competitions

On September 17, 2026, Homecoming brought school spirit to the streets of Pittsfield as students celebrated with a lively parade featuring creative class floats and sports team trucks. Each grade brought its own theme to life: the freshmen featured a Trojan horse, the sophomores explored space, the juniors chose the 2000s, and the seniors took on a construction theme. Students also proudly wore their class colors: gray for freshmen, black for sophomores, white for juniors, and maroon for seniors. Also, there were trucks representing girls' and boys' soccer, field hockey, cheerleading, golf, and football teams to celebrate Homecoming.

As the parade made its way through Pittsfield, students tossed candy to townspeople, sang along to music playing through speakers, and danced with their classmates. The colorful floats, enthusiastic teams, and smiling faces made the parade a memorable celebration of our school community.

As the parade ended and the sun began to set, the excitement continued at the football field for the class competition. The seniors kicked off the evening with their handprinting tradition before running across the field to signal the start of the competition. Students competed in four spirited challenges: a piggyback race, a balloon-popping game, a dizzy bat race that required ten spins before racing back, and a water-bucket challenge that put each class's teamwork to the test. Cheers rang out across the field as classmates shouted encouragement and proudly supported their grades.

After the final games, everyone gathered around the bonfire to enjoy warm hot chocolate, take photos, and spend time with friends. From the parade through town to the laughter around the fire, the day gave students plenty of memories to share long after Homecoming ended.

Suyeon (Avery) Jin
South Korea

Homecoming Dance

We had an unforgettable Homecoming dance this year. The dance was held from 8:00 to 11:00 on Saturday night, but everyone started getting ready around 6:00. We put on our brand-new suits and ties and could not wait to enter the venue. When the dance began, people felt a little shy at first.

However, once the music started playing, the atmosphere lit up right away. Everyone began dancing, taking photos and chatting. After 9:00, we all danced together, and the mood reached its peak. At the end, we took a big group photo. It was truly an unforgettable dance.

Yuhao (Jason) Zhang
China

