

August 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello from Miller School! The first day of school is now only 21 days away and everyone is in preparation mode! Attached to my email today you will find the following information to help you prepare for the opening of school on August 23rd:

- Letter from Mr. Drude , new Head of School
- Orientation Schedule for New Students
- Orientation Schedule for Returning Students
- Orientation Schedule for New International Students
- Letter for Boarding Boys - from Old Main Dorm Directors, Mr. Manuel and Mr. Hayden
- Letter for Boarding Girls - from Wayland Hall Dorm Directors, Ms. Tyler and Mrs. Landseadel
- Parent Reception Invitation for Monday, August 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
- Items Needed for Boarding Students
- MSA School Supply List

Today, I wanted to share some information and reminders as you make plans for the 2017-2018 school year:

- For all **new** international students, please make sure I have your final travel arrangements for your arrival at Miller School. For returning international students, please email Ms. Tyler (at Tyler@millerschool.org) with your travel arrangements by August 7th so that transportation can be arranged. ***All international students are reminded to be sure and travel with all of their required documents – their I-20, passport and VISA.***
- For returning students who purchased yearbooks in May, their spring supplement to add to their yearbook will be in their student mailbox when they return.
- Day parents who are interested in carpooling should email me with your name, address and a phone number. It would also be helpful to know if you would like carpooling to and from school or just in the morning or evening. I will then compile the list and send it out to all of those who emailed me about carpooling. Please send your information to me by Friday, August 11th.
- Currently, we are still working assigning Advisors for students. Final advisor assignments will be noted on the schedule contained in the packet you will pick up at orientation on Monday, August 21st for new students and Tuesday, August 22nd for returning students.
- Detailed orientation schedules for Monday, August 21st (for new students) and Tuesday, August 22nd (for returning students) are attached to this email and are also located on our website to help you with planning. (**Please note:** Dinner for students on Monday, August 21st and Tuesday, August 22nd will be at 5:30 p.m. to allow for the

evening activities. Beginning on Wednesday, August 23rd, dinner returns to its normal time of 6:00 p.m.) A schedule of regular meal times in the Dining Hall is located on the Miller website as well.

- Room assignments for boarding students are not sent out in advance. Once a boarding student has checked in on Monday and completed their stations at Old Main, they will then go to the dorm where dorm directors and duty team members will help them locate their room and move into the dorm. Boarding girls reside at Wayland Hall and boarding boys reside at Old Main.
- General School Supply List for students is attached to this email. For parents and students living in Virginia, this weekend, August 4th - 6th is the tax free weekend. Purchases of certain school supplies, clothing and footwear are exempt from the Virginia sales tax.
- Our Student Parent Handbook is now on the MSA website. Take some time to go through the handbook so that you and your student will be familiar with MSA's policies and procedures. Please make sure to note the highlights page in the handbook which will give you a "heads up" on new items or items that have been changed for the coming school year! Please note the dress code which begins on page 60.
- Textbook Ordering
Textbooks can be ordered from the [MBS Direct](#) website. To start, choose a term and your grade level, then select from the list of available courses on the subsequent page. Please be sure to do this process for **both** available terms: the **Summer Reading** term, as well as the **2017-2018 School Year** term. MBS Direct is offering **free shipping** on orders over \$99 placed between July 31 and August 6.

You may of course opt to order textbooks from vendors other than MBS Direct. In this case, please be sure to verify that the textbook title and edition are **exactly the same** as those listed on the MBS Direct website. Please note that in many cases, textbooks have multiple editions, but that **only the specified edition will be acceptable** for a given course. The best way to ensure the correct edition is to consult the ISBN number. This is the 13-digit number listed just beneath the author name of each textbook listing. **Getting the right edition is crucial:** different editions have different page numbers, different chapters, and different problem sets!

For some courses, reading and instructional materials cannot be ordered via MBS. In these cases, materials will be provided by the teacher. Some of these materials are free of charge, while others will be charged to a student's account. Please see the notes below for specific courses:

- ✓ **AP Biology:** Students will use an e-text this year. During the first week of classes, Mrs. Landseadel will provide a link for the purchase of the e-text (\$115.95), as well as a code for students to enroll in the correct online program for this course.

- ✓ **AP Chemistry:** Students will use an e-text this year. During the first week of classes, Mrs. Landseadel will provide a link for the purchase of the e-text (\$115.95), as well as a code for students to enroll in the correct online program for this course.
- ✓ **AP English 11:** Dr. Nabi will provide a course reader (approximately \$20). The summer reading text is also used as the main text throughout the year.
- ✓ **English 11:** Mrs. Goodbar will provide a course reader (approximately \$20). Also, one student-chosen novel will be ordered by the school and charged to MSA student account (\$10-\$15).
- ✓ **English 12:** One section is being taught by Mr. Kauffmann, another by Ms. Ainsworth. Depending on placement, one instructor-specific novel will be ordered by the school and charged to MSA student account (\$10-\$12).
- ✓ **French I, II, III, and Advanced:** Digital texts and workbooks will be used. Digital packages can be purchased for \$44.95 [directly from the publisher](#). Students must use their MSA email to register and purchase. Be sure to match the edition level listed with the level of the course you are taking (choose Level 4 for Advanced French). Only the digital edition should be purchased; do not purchase the print edition.
- ✓ **Spanish I, III, and Advanced:** Digital texts and workbooks will be used. Digital packages can be purchased for \$44.95 [directly from the publisher](#). Students must use their MSA email to register and purchase. Be sure to match the edition level listed with the level of the course you are taking (choose Level 4 for Advanced Spanish). Only the digital edition should be purchased; do not purchase the print edition.

Other course-specific textbook notes:

- ✓ **Dual Enrollment courses:** Syllabus information is being coordinated between MSA and PVCC. It will be finalized soon, and reading lists will be forwarded to enrolled students.
- ✓ **English 8 and English 9:** The same text (Warriner's Handbook 4th Course) is used in **both** years.
- ✓ **Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC:** The same text is used in all three courses.

Shipping Textbooks and Summer Reading Books

Please be sure to **have Summer Reading books sent to current residences**. For all other textbooks, you may choose to have them sent directly to the Miller School of Albemarle. In this case, please **make sure your student's name appears in the mailing address**, so that the package can be routed accordingly. If you are ordering both summer and School Year textbooks from MBS Direct, and if these are being sent to different addresses, you will need to create **two separate orders**. If the separate summer order is placed during the free shipping window (7/31 - 8/6) and still incurs a shipping charge, please let us know, and MBS Direct will credit your account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Jason Nabi](#), Director of Academics. (Note: Textbooks sent ahead will be located in two locations for pickup. For boarding girls, textbooks will be moved to Wayland Hall. Boarding boys can pick up their textbooks in my office.)

- Signing up for fall sports will be one of the stations at check in during orientation. Many of you have asked about offerings for the fall sports season so parents and students can discuss the options prior to sign ups. Fall sports offerings will include:

- Athletic Management
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys Varsity Soccer
- Drama (For the Fall Drama Production on campus on November 3rd-5th)
- Endurance (biking and running)
- Engineering Team
- Equestrian
- Girls JV Volleyball
- Girls Varsity Volleyball
- Equestrian

(In the fall season, Equestrian, horseback riding, is offered for an additional fee. We do request that those who are interested in participating in the Equestrian program sign up in advance so that we can do the necessary planning since the facility we use is off campus. Attached to this email and located on the MSA website you will find a letter and application for the program and two release forms that must be completed and returned to Mr. Gartner, Program Director, by Monday, August 21st. His email address is ggartner@millerschool.org

- Girls Tennis
- Wilderness/Outdoor Skills
- Strength and Conditioning
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Yoga
- **Note:** This year, as part of our Physical Education program, our school nurse, Megan Hollomon, RN, has designed a Health and Wellness Initiative. Four times throughout the year, students will meet with Ms. Hollomon in order to discuss the different dimensions of wellness, health goals, nutrition, mental health, managing stress, and developing healthy relationships. Because students will meet as a sports team, the seminars will be tailored to different age and gender groups. For more information, please contact Ms. Hollomon: mhollomon@millerschool.org.

- Some of the Clubs that will be offered for this year (sign ups will be held after school starts) include:

- ✓ Chess Club
- ✓ International Club

- ✓ Outdoor Club
- ✓ Pep Club
- ✓ Pre-Engineering Club
- ✓ Society of Women Engineers (S.W.E.)

(*Note: New clubs start from year to year based on student interest. Students should check with me if they have a particular interest in starting a club with a faculty sponsor.)

- What are “Signature Weekends?” Signature Weekends are held five times during the school year. We plan special events on those weekends (some events are on campus and some off campus or we may have a combination of both.) Events might include a trip to King’s Dominion, renting out the trampoline park, taking special trips to Michie Tavern, or going to the water park. On Signature Weekends, 5 day boarding students can stay on campus at no charge. 7 day boarders are encouraged to remain on campus to participate. Day students are also encouraged to sign up for the activities. We try to cover most of the cost for day students but on occasion, day students may be charged for some of the events on their student accounts if the cost for the activity is high (like a trip to King’s Dominion where we provide the ticket to the park, transportation on a commercial bus and food money for the day.) Our **first** “Signature Weekend” is Friday, August 25th – Saturday, August 26th. A flyer with Signature Weekend Plans for our first weekend will be sent out electronically to you next week so you can review the plans for our first Signature Weekend. Plan ahead for other Signature Weekends which are scheduled for the following dates:
 - October 20-21, 2017
 - November 10-11, 2017
 - January 26-27, 2018
 - April 6-7, 2018
- Summer Reading Assignments are posted on the website. All students should have completed their summer reading as well as the assignments prior to their return to campus on August 21st or August 22nd.
- MSA School Calendar (one that you can print out) for 2017-2018 will be sent to you via email next week.

Once school begins, I send out a weekly newsletter each Friday afternoon to parents which will highlight the week’s events on campus as well as outline things you need to know (like the process for school pictures, weekend activities, assemblies and other happenings on campus.)

Please don’t hesitate to contact the school with any questions you might have. Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Kathie Cason
Director of Student Life

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