



1000 Samuel Miller Loop
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www.millerschool.org

August 3, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello from Miller School! The first day of school is now only 26 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 first day of school on Wednesday, August 29, 2018!

- Letter from Mr. Drude, Head of School
- Letter from Ms. Francis, Director of Campus Life and Student Experience
- Orientation Schedule for New Students and Returning Students
- Items Needed for Boarding Students
- MSA School Supply List
- Miller School Calendar for 2018-2019

As the start of school quickly approaches, I wanted to share some information and reminders as you make plans for the 2018-2019 school year:

- For all **new** international students, please make sure I have your final travel arrangements for your arrival at Miller School. **Returning** international students should have emailed Ms. Tyler (atyler@millerschool.org) with your travel arrangements by August 1st so that transportation could be arranged. If you have not sent this information, please do so by August 8th so we can make final transportation arrangements. Please use her regular email listed above and do not send the information via “wechat”. ***All international students are reminded to be sure and travel with all their required documents – 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 10th.
- Currently, we are still working on 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 27th for **new** students and Tuesday, August 28th for **returning** students.

- Detailed orientation schedules for Monday, August 27th (for new students) and Tuesday, August 28th (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 27th and Tuesday, August 28th will be at 5:30 p.m. to allow for the evening activities. Beginning on Wednesday, August 29th dinner returns to its normal time of 6:00 p.m.)
- Room assignments for boarding students are not sent out in advance. Once a boarding student has checked in on Monday or Tuesday and completed their stations at. Upon completion of all orientation stations at Old Main, room assignments will be provided by dorm directors. Boarding girls reside at Wayland Hall and boarding boys reside at Old Main.
- For parents and students living in Virginia, this weekend, August 3rd – 5th is the tax free weekend. Purchases of certain school supplies, clothing and footwear are exempt from the Virginia sales tax.
- Our Student Parent Handbook will be posted on the Miller website by Saturday, August 4th at noon. Please make sure to acknowledge the new dress code on page 62.
- Signing up for fall sports will be one of the stations at check-in during orientation. Possible offerings include:

✓ Athletic Management	✓ Gardening
✓ Boys and Girls Cross Country	✓ Girls JV Volleyball
✓ Boys Varsity Soccer	✓ Girls Varsity Volleyball
✓ Drama (On-campus production November 2 nd -5 th)	✓ Girls Tennis
✓ Endurance (biking and running)	✓ Strength and Conditioning
✓ Engineering Team	✓ Ultimate Frisbee
	✓ Equestrian

(In the fall season, Equestrian - horseback riding - is offered for an additional fee. It is requested Equestrian program sign-up takes place in advance. Please email MSA Athletic Director Mr. James Braxton at jbraxton@millerschool.org by Monday, August 20th if your student would like to participate. (Additional forms will need to be completed at orientation for students who wish to participate in the Equestrian Program.)

- 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 27th and August 28th.
- Once school begins, MSA will 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 that are coming up.

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
 Associate Director of Campus Life
kcason@millerschool.org
 434-823-4805 Ext. 239



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Dear Miller Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and you are enjoying your final days of summer. My family and I enjoyed the last two months getting in as much family time as possible. Coordinating two kids off to college is proving challenging with the start of Miller's school year, but I think June and I have it all worked out. Our very own Miller graduate, Matthew, is excited to start the next chapter of his life at JMU in a few weeks!

It has been a very busy summer here on the Hill preparing for the upcoming school year. I am pleased to announce that our new Director of Campus Life and Student Experience, Hattie Francis joined us full-time in July and is already making a big impact! If that title and office sounds unfamiliar, that is because it is new! Hattie is living on campus and joins Kathy Cason and Antoinette Tyler in our newly expanded student life office.

The Office of Campus Life and Student Experience is charged with ensuring the well-being of *all* Miller School of Albemarle's students. The office will be working hard on an intentional campus-life program and ensuring the inclusion of all students (day, 5-day, 7-day boarding, domestic and international). The office will also be working on the development and delivery of a compelling new student-life curriculum. Stay tuned for announcements concerning exciting campus activities and guest speakers for all students -- *and families* -- in the coming weeks.

I am also pleased to announce that Miller's trustees have engaged with an experienced educational consultant, Dr. Jerry Larson of Educational Directions, Inc. Dr. Larson will assist MSA with strategic design and alignment. We began work this summer, and in keeping our mission and core values, the following has emerged as our main areas of concentration for the next three to five years:

1. Hire, train, and retain an extraordinary faculty
2. Build a compelling, engaging student experience
3. Develop an exceptional, integrated, and experiential academic program
4. Enhance our amazing campus to support our program and our people
5. Exercise remarkable fiscal management

Great schools actively seek advice and I am thrilled to embark on this journey of discovery and reflection. By all measures, MSA is doing very well and we want to ensure our success for many years to come. There is significant work to be done to make Miller the best in class in each of these five areas and I will be calling upon help from our parent body in due time. Please know that I plan to keep you all abreast of developments every step of the way.

It is with great excitement that I announce our new faculty and staff. We have worked very hard to find the very best people to join our team. Please help me welcome these fine individuals to the Hill for the 2018-19 school year:

- **Karen Ye**, *Chemistry*
- **Luke Robbins**, *Calculus*
- **Devin Barczewski**, *English (new position)*
- **Cara Macdonald**, *DE Science (new position)*
- **Jaime Fleming**, *Resident Faculty, Wayland*
- **Andrew Mills**, *Resident Faculty, Old Main (new position)*
- **Colby Summers**, *Resident Faculty Intern, Old Main (new position)*
- **Rebecca Eisloeffel**, *Resident Faculty Intern, Wayland (new position)*
- **Hattie Francis**, *Director of Campus Life and Student Experience (new position)*
- **Zachary Hunt**, *Athletic Trainer*
- **Melissa Stell**, *Part-Time Nurse*
- **T.J. Belinski**, *Duty Member (new position)*
- **Elizabeth Muir**, *Duty Member (new position)*

I spent my first year at Miller listening and asking questions. I have had many conversations with parents, alumni, students, trustees, and faculty and staff to get to know the community and learn more about our strengths and challenges. As I begin my second year, I am more excited and optimistic about our future than ever before! We remain a student-centered school with our mission of *mind, hands and heart* firmly at our core.

I look forward to days and weeks ahead. As always, my door is open, so please stop in to let me know what's on your mind - or just to say hello!

Sincerely,

J. Michael Drude
Head of School

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Dear Miller Families,

I am excited to begin the 2018-2019 school year with you as the Miller School of Albemarle's new Director of Campus Life and Student Experience. After teaching English at Lake Mary Preparatory School and completing my M.Ed. in Educational Leadership at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, the great Commonwealth of Virginia called me home. I responded to the call and it is a great honor that home now includes each of you as I become a member of the Miller family.

From a new dress code to redesigned Signature Weekends, there are many exciting changes occurring this year as MSA looks to ensure each student enjoys positive experiences and achieves personal growth while attending this wonderful school.

Signature Weekends will be held five times during the school year. Special events will take place on campus Friday and Saturday of each weekend. Eight student teams will compete in designated events for "Miller Cash"! Miller Cash can be used to purchase pre-determined rewards. On Signature Weekends, five-day boarding students may stay on campus at no charge. Seven-day boarders are encouraged to remain on campus to participate. Day students are members of student teams and must participate to receive Miller Cash rewards. All events will occur on campus; therefore, additional charges should not be incurred. However, five-day boarders and day students will be charged for food. This will occur during Miller Family Dinner on Friday and the Saturday evening meal. MSA's first Signature Weekend is Friday, September 14th – Saturday, September 15th. A flyer with details will be sent electronically. Student teams will be revealed during a one-time mandatory Help Session for all students. Plan to attend all Signature Weekends—your team needs you! Specific dates are on the MSA calendar.

Old Main and Wayland residential faculty are super excited to meet new students and to reunite with returning students. It is the goal of our residential program to provide students with a safe and comfortable environment that is inclusive of all cultures, as well as many opportunities to participate in fun activities and learn healthy living habits. Jonathan Hayden, Danny Manuel, and Andrew Mills will serve as Old Main's residential faculty. Jamie Fleming and Jessica Landseadel will serve as Wayland's residential faculty. All are super excited to meet you and answer any questions you may have during move-in and orientation. All student residents will be informed of initial dorm meetings by both residential faculty and dormitory residential advisors (RAs) during move-in and orientation.

Please review dormitory rules and regulations provided in the student handbook prior on arriving to campus. We all look forward to learning each of your interests and supporting your success throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Hattie Francis
Director of Campus Life & Student Experience

Orientation Check-In, Monday, August 27

Who	What	When	Where
RA's and On-campus Students	Breakfast	8:15-9:00 am	Dining Hall
Boarding Student: Last Name A-K	Orientation Check-in	9:00-10:00 am	Old Main Foyer
Boarding Student: Last Name L-Z	Orientation Check-in	10:00-11:00 am	Old Main Foyer
Day Students	Orientation Check-in	11:00 am	Old Main Foyer

Orientation, Monday, August 27

All Students , immediately following check-in	Complete mandatory Stations 1-7, and optional Stations 8-12	9:00-12:00 noon	Detailed locations provided on Orientation Checklist
Students and Parents	Buffet Lunch	12:00-1:10 pm	Bistro
Students and Parents	Miller School Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of School Address • Campus Life Team Introduction • Parent/Student Q&A 	1:15-2:15 pm	Gym
Students and Parents	Advisory Meetings	2:15-2:45 pm	Advisories will depart to specified locations at the appropriate time.

Who	What	When	Where
Assigned Students Only	Math Assessment ESOL Assessment	2:45-3:30 pm 3:30-4:30 pm	Library
Students Only	Optional shopping trip	2:45-5:00 pm	Meet transportation at the Portico
Parents Only	Refreshment Break	2:45-4:00 pm	Bistro
International Parents Only	Campus Life: Kathie Cason	4:00-5:00 pm	Board Room
Students and Parents	Free Time	4:00-5:30 pm	MSA Campus
Students and Parents	Dinner	5:30-6:15 pm	Dining Hall
Parents	Departure from campus	6:30 pm	Shuttles depart from Portico
Students	Shopping trip for students who did not attend the first trip; Free Time	6:30-9:00 pm	Meet transportation at the Portico; MSA Campus/Dorms
Students	All students report to dorms	9:15 pm	Old Main Wayland Hall
	Report to assigned room	10:10 pm	
	Lights out	10:20 pm	

Orientation, Tuesday, August 28

Who	What	When	Where
RA's and On-campus Students	Breakfast	8:15-8:50 am	Dining Hall
New Students	Hike	9:00-12:00 pm	Busses will depart at 9:00 from the Portico
All Students	Lunch	12:00-12:55 pm	Dining Hall
All Students	Athletic Meeting	1:00-1:45 pm	Gym
Students with cars	Car Meeting	1:45-2:10 pm	Gym
All Students	Campus Tour	2:15-3:15 pm	Begins in Old Main Foyer
All Students	Student Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool open • Corn hole • Kona Ice 	3:00-5:00 pm	MSA Campus
All Students	Dinner	5:30-6:15 pm	Dining Hall
Residential Students: New and Returning	Dorm Meet and Greet	7:00-8:15 pm	Old Main: Central Lounge Wayland Hall: Basement
Residential Students	Free Time	8:15-10:00 pm	Old Main Wayland Hall
Residential Students	Report to assigned room	10:10 pm	Old Main Wayland Hall
	Lights out	10:20 pm	