

July 2018

NOTES FROM THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE...

Listed below, in summary form, is important information for you to have right from the beginning of the year; while it may repeat information touched on elsewhere in this mailing, you would do well to review it carefully and to keep it on hand during the year.

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE:

Friday, August 24 th	Pre-Season Football (invite only)
Saturday, September 1 st	Prefects Arrive
Monday, September 3 rd	9:00 A.M. ... Pre-Season Soccer, Field Hockey, Cross Country, Volleyball & Girls' Tennis (those invited by coaches)
Friday, September 7 th	9:00 A.M. ... International Students
Saturday, September 8 th	9:00 A.M. ... All remaining Boarding & Day students.

ORIENTATION DAYS: All students are expected to be on campus for Orientation by 8:30am on Sunday, 9/9 and Monday, 9/10. Over the course of two days, each class will participate in a variety of activities designed to integrate new students, unify the class, and prepare all students for the upcoming academic year. The events on Sunday will conclude no later than 5:00pm for day students, but there will be evening events for boarding students. Day students are welcome to attend. Students will convene in Dubois Theater for our Opening Convocation at 7:00pm on Monday, 9/10. Please look for a more detailed schedule and details regarding orientation later this summer.

Classes will begin on Tuesday, 9/11, for all students at 8:30am (breakfast opens at 7:30am).

School Meeting will follow lunch, which will be followed by afternoon activity sign-ups and practice for all teams.

On registration days, new students will have their photos taken for their student ID cards and for the electronic and print directory. The shoulder-up picture calls for collared shirts, combed hair, etc. On-the-spot attention (including razors) will be awaiting any students who need it. The photos may also be used by the yearbook staff...neat, clean and smiling should be the order for the day!

No student will be permitted to register unless the Business Office billing has been paid. Please make these payments by the deadlines given and do not wait until the day of registration. Similarly, no student will be allowed to register unless all of the medical forms have been submitted to the Health Center.

Parents should not bring, or send, students to the school before the designated registration time. Those expected back for pre-season athletic practices will hear directly from the coaches. During the days immediately preceding registration, the staff is intensely busy with last-minute

preparation and it is difficult to cope with early arrivals. **Permission to arrive on campus early may be granted only through the Student Life Office.**

If you are shipping trunks or boxes to school via UPS or Federal Express, be sure to include "Park Street" in the address (items received over the summer will be kept in a central storage area):

(Student's Name)
Blair Academy
2 Park Street
P.O. Box 900
Blairtown, NJ 07825

Students will be notified of their final dormitory and room assignments when they arrive for registration.

While the school supplies bed and mattress, students should bring their own pillows, linens and towels. Students should NOT bring electric appliances (i.e. toasters, coffeepots, TV's, etc.) or candles. For roommates who choose to have a compact refrigerator (limit one per room ... maximum capacity 3.2 cubic ft), a \$10 monthly usage fee will be assessed. For fire safety reasons, **halogen lamps, space heaters, extension cords and furniture without fire retardant labels are not permitted. Room fans are fine but no air conditioners please.**

LAUNDRY may be done by students in dormitory machines or may be sent out via "All-Prep Services" (detailed information will be included in a mailing from the Business Office). All-Prep is a separate entity and Blair does not assume any liability for the services performed by All-Prep.

HOPING THAT PARENTS WILL FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US whenever they feel that we can be of help to them or their children, we have also listed below some of the appropriate school personnel to contact in specific areas:

1. **General Adjustment:** During the first several weeks of school, Class Monitors and dormitory staff members pay particular attention to the adjustment of new students. By the first week of October, students will have selected a Faculty Advisor—a person on the faculty with whom they will feel comfortable discussing various school and personal issues. The Advisor becomes the primary contact for parents in terms of matters that have to do with the student's life at Blair—academic and otherwise.
2. **Class Monitors** serve each class by overseeing and coordinating matters for members of the class and working closely with Faculty Advisors. Monitors have an overview of class issues and needs and serve, as well, as a clearinghouse for schedule changes, etc. Students will learn who their Monitor is at registration.
3. **College Placement:** Contact Mr. Lew Stival (Dean of College Counseling), Mr. Joe Mantegna (Associate Dean), Ms. Britt Freitag (Assistant Dean) or Rachel Byrne (Administrative Assistant).
4. **Discipline:** Violations of stated school rules are managed by the Student Life Office. Serious breaches of discipline are referred to the Rules & Discipline Committee, which is comprised of faculty and students. It is our expectation that all students and parents will annually review the Student Handbook.

5. **Medical:** A physician holds office hours in the Health Center as needed. At all other times, a nurse is on duty and can furnish information or take messages for the doctor. **Please be sure that all of your Medical Forms are complete and on file with the school by the time of registration.** Mrs. Parker is the Director of Health Services at the Health Center; the Health Center telephone number is 908-362-6121, (ext. 5624) or (ext. 5625).
6. **Business:** Any problems or questions regarding bills, payments, or a student's accounts, etc., should be directed to Mrs. Marivelle Clavel-Davis (ext. 5615) or Mrs. Debbie Gordon (ext. 5630) in the Business Office.
7. **Special Permission:** All requests for special permission (other than medical matters) to be absent from school should be directed to the Student Life Office. Parents are asked to schedule medical appointments for their sons or daughters at times which do not interfere with school responsibilities
8. **Parent Volunteering:** Contact Susan Long P '13, '16, '20, Assistant Director of Advancement for Parent Relations (ext. 5705), concerning ways you can help with on and off campus activities.

All faculty named above can be reached through the school switchboard (908-362-6121), although it may be necessary to leave a message to have your call returned. Faculty e-mail addresses may be obtained through Blair's website.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD - please stay in touch with him or her ... when the hours get long and the tasks tedious (as they sometimes do!) they need to know of your continuing love and support!

- ... **BY MAIL** - Though your child will have a specific mailbox number here, we ask that when addressing mail, or sending packages you simply put the student's name, Blair Academy, P.O. Box 900, Blairstown, New Jersey 07825-0900. **Please do not send cash in the mail.**
- ... **BY PHONE/TEXT** - While our cell phone policy has loosened over the years due to the pervasiveness, ease, and relative low cost of the devices, please understand that Blair remains committed to being a community in which face to face interaction is the norm and students are not distracted by texting, web surfing, or chatting on a cell phone. Your child may very well be asked to put his or her phone away while talking with you in a campus courtyard, while walking to class, or while in an off-limits area such as the dining hall, and we simply request that you support our guidelines and ask your child to call at an appropriate time.
- ... **BY E-MAIL** - New students have received their Blair email address. Returning students will maintain their email addresses from previous years. If you have any questions or your child did not receive their email address, please contact the Technology Office at tech@blair.edu.

PARENTS MAY VISIT at any time which does not conflict with a student's daily requirements. You may take your son or daughter out for meals in the vicinity of Blairstown if his or her school obligations permit. As much as possible, please don't plan to take your child out of formal dinners. Permission to miss those meals must be granted by the Student Life Office.

DORMITORIES ARE CLOSED FOR MAJOR SCHOOL VACATIONS (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring) **AND FOR THE WINTER LONG WEEKEND** (February 1st - February 6th). Check the school calendar for the date and time students may leave and are due back on campus, and remember to allow additional time for travel from airports, etc. Parents are expected to respect the integrity of the academic year and are asked **not to request early departure or late return from weekends or vacations**. Please contact Jo Ellen Van Vliet in the Student Life Office (ext. 5605) if you need assistance arranging transportation to and from school for your child.

SUNDAY VESPERS. Boarding students are required to attend Vespers two times each semester and day students are welcome to attend. **All students (boarding and day) are required to attend Christmas Vespers on Friday, December 7th.**

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE—EITHER IN A TEAM SPORT OR IN A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (see Student Handbook for specific requirements by class). Students may only be excused from this requirement by instruction of the school physician or family physician. (Any student excused for physical/health reasons will be expected to participate in a non-athletic afternoon activity.) Communicate directly with Mrs. Parker, the Director of Health Services, about medical excuses. Students provide their own equipment for intramural and recreational sports. The school supplies some equipment for certain team sports.

PARENTS' WEEKEND is scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 18th, 19th & 20th. Letters of invitation will be forthcoming, but parents are urged to mark this date on their calendars and keep it free. Note that there are no classes on Monday, October 22nd, giving parents the opportunity to spend an extended weekend with their children.

We hope that the preceding information will be of help to you. Again, if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to call on us at any time.

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