



Dear New Students and Families,

Congratulations to all incoming Snails! I know you are all counting down the days until your arrival on campus and the start of [Orientation](#) on August 22. In the Dean of Student Life and Culture Office, we are quickly making the shift from last year to this upcoming year and are so excited to regain a sense of normalcy on campus this fall. If you have not yet submitted your [Travel & Arrival Form](#) or the Permission Form and Vehicle Form (both of which your parents/guardians can access in the My Forms section of their [Parent Portal](#) account), and other forms from the [New Girls](#) webpage please do so now, **the deadline is July 1.**

All new day students will arrive to campus on Sunday, August 22 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. which will allow everyone to participate fully in the orientation programming for new students (and parents). We will assign you an arrival window between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. based on the information you shared in the Travel & Arrival Form; your time will be communicated in mid-July.

On August 22 new students will have Orientation activities until 9:30pm; parents will have programming through late afternoon followed by a dinner where you will have the opportunity to meet senior members of the Administration as well as some current parents. Programming continues for new students and parents on Monday morning; parents will depart at lunch. Parents, we welcome your attendance at as much of this programming as you are able to attend. For the balance of the orientation period, day student will have full days of programming that will conclude between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. daily through August 27. Day students are encouraged to participate in our optional evening activities which conclude between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on most days. Finally, each grade will have a grade-level sleepover on the weekend of August 27-29 and classes begin on Monday, August 31. The complete Orientation Program with exact dates and times will be available in mid-July.

As the countdown to your first Madeira year continues, read through this email for some tips and tricks to help you prepare for your arrival:

- **Get Involved!** By doing so, you'll maximize your Madeira experience and ease your transition to high school. Join a team, try out for the play, and join a club or an interest group or an affinity group. Don't have experience as an athlete or actor? No problem! This is your opportunity to try something new or continue an activity about which you are passionate. We have opportunities for girls of all experience levels. Parents, we encourage you to [get involved](#) in the community as well. There are many opportunities to work with other Madeira parents, faculty and staff over the course of the year.
- **Enjoy our wide range of Weekly Activities!** Madeira offers a multitude of both on and off campus events every week. All snails are welcome and encouraged to attend all of these offerings. Students will keep track of weekly activity sign-ups using the REACH account they will set up after arriving at Madeira, and by listening for weekly activity

announcements at Community Meeting Time (CMT). Parents can see the activities being offered by looking at the weekly list posted in New Parents Can Use (NPCU) electronic newsletter.

- **Prep for unplugging:** Used to having your phone with you all the time? Take some time this summer to “disconnect.” We value personal relationships and face-to-face interactions immensely at Madeira. We want each of our community members to feel known. One of our community values is awareness of self and others and we ask that you respect Madeira’s “unplugged” activities/events and cell phone free zones such as classrooms, the dining hall, and the library. In addition, when you are walking around campus, we want you to engage with one another rather than your Instagram account, so we expect that if you need to use your phone while out and about, that you stop and “pull over”! While it may sound silly that you need to “practice” not checking your phone, it can be harder than you think to digitally disconnect, especially after this past year!

-- Are you an incoming student with a brilliant idea for an activity? Please share it! You are welcome to stop by my office (located behind the Adult-On-Duty (AOD) desk in the Student Center) to share a suggestion, submit it via the purple suggestion box at the AOD, or bring your ideas to a SWWAG (Student Welcoming & Weekly Activities Group) student leader.

- **Get to know your extended junior and senior Snail Family:** They are your SWING sisters, your team captains, club heads, resident assistants, and representatives in student government, and soon they will be your friends! They can be helpful in solving little problems, showing you where things are, or just being a friendly face who can help you navigate your many [Madeira “firsts.”](#) They are here to help you, so don’t be afraid to reach out to them! Remember, they were new to Madeira not that long ago and understand you better than anyone. If you’ve not yet begun to check your Madeira email now is the time to do so as communications such as this one with lots of important information and maybe even a welcome video from your SWING sister will be sent there.
- **Meet Snail Faculty:** Some of the best relationships you will forge at Madeira will be with your teachers, coaches, dorm parents, and other Madeira adults, so get to know us! Have lunch with your advisor, set up a conference with your French teacher, play with the counselors’ dogs on the Oval, take every opportunity to get to know the adult community on campus. Many teachers and staff members live on campus so you will have the opportunity to join their families for game nights, The Great Cookie Exchange, “Dinners at Home” and other events throughout the school year. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate in these events. We can’t wait to get to know you too!
- **Overnights at Madeira:** Typically, it is common for day students to spend the night on-campus after weekend trips or to have sleepovers with friends. While last year we were not able to offer this opportunity, we hope to resume these this year at some point. We will be in touch with details as they are planned.
- **Practice asking for help:** You are about to embark on a new adventure. Whether this is your first year of high school or your third, there will certainly be times during your Madeira transition when you are excited, but also overwhelmed. While you can always rely on your parents/guardians, your Madeira family is here for you too. A campus adult

or student leader can be enormously helpful during this transition! Reach out to us and you will always receive a helping hand. We want to make sure you feel comfortable, safe and supported in this community.

Continue to check your Madeira email regularly this summer (*at least once a week, hopefully more often*) for more updates! There is a lot of important information headed your way over the summer and you need to stay tuned in to new communication from Madeira. As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Feel free to email or ring me directly!

I am so looking forward to meeting you all in August!

Welcome to the Madeira Family,
Ms. Pubal
Assistant Dean of Student Life & Culture for Student Engagement