



Dear Madeira Families,

While the school year has only recently ended, the fall is ever-present in our thinking, and we can't wait to welcome you all to campus in the fall.

As noted in the [May 5th communication](#) from Ms. Warner, we are planning for robust on-campus learning and we expect the vast majority of our students will be in person the entirety of the year. Based on the advice of medical experts, we are targeting a 90% COVID-19 vaccination rate as our communal goal. Should we achieve it, we hope to be able to relax the majority of our COVID mitigation protocols. We anticipate that we will retain modest protocols, such as mask wearing and physical distancing, for unvaccinated individuals. As a point of reference, please see the attached letter from Fairfax County about COVID immunizations for 12-15-year-olds.

### **What to know for Summer 2021:**

As many of you are planning travel, here's what we can say with some specificity: Like colleges and universities, Madeira and other boarding schools fall in the congregate living category when it comes to CDC guidance regarding COVID risk mitigation.

As of May 2021, our medical experts advise that travel by public transportation poses a significant risk of exposure which in turn heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our congregate living community and, as such, all students who use public transportation should quarantine for 14 days after travel, and prior to returning to campus, regardless of vaccination status.

**Important Note:** This is the current guidance as of May 2021. We expect this guidance to evolve in the coming weeks. We will provide another update to the community by July 15 or as soon as we learn of new guidance for congregate living communities related to public transportation.

- What this means for families vacationing/travelling in August: Please be aware of the current 14-day quarantine requirement if your student plans to travel by public transportation in the weeks prior to the start of the school year.
- What this means for students arriving to Madeira by public transportation in late August: We recommend that you wait until later in the summer to book/confirm your student's travel plans. If possible, a refundable or "no change fee" ticket is recommended.

If you absolutely must book tickets now, the "safest" option would be to plan for your student to quarantine for 14 days with a parent/guardian after travel in a location where she could (post-quarantine) travel to Madeira by private transportation. We will not be able to accommodate quarantining students on campus.

All families, boarding and day, are asked to complete the [Travel & Arrival Form](#) by July 1st to indicate the date on which your student will be arriving to campus for Orientation/Registration as well as their method of travel. We will use this information to assign a specific arrival time unique to your student for their arrival to campus.

Please be aware that we may ask students to present a negative PCR test result upon arrival to campus in late August. (Test should be administered no more than 72 hours prior to arrival.) We will share other masking, social distancing, and COVID mitigation protocols later this summer as guidance continues to evolve and once we have a sense of our community vaccination rates. We strongly encourage all community members to be vaccinated this summer.

### **Fall Arrival Dates/Orientation:**

- **PARENTS**, you will want to note the [Important Dates](#) page of our website which will give you a sense of everything from when classes begin, to when breaks are, and most importantly, what day your daughter should [arrive on campus!](#) (I suggest bookmarking this page in your browser, but it can always be found under Quicklinks or the [Parents & Families](#) section of the Madeira website.) Please note the weekends that are identified as Community Weekends, as all boarding students are expected to be on campus for these five weekends. Day families will want to make note of these weekends as well, since many campus-wide social events happen on these days. Day students are always encouraged to participate in weekend activities. You will receive more information about community life and weekends from Ms. Pubal ([apubal@madeira.org](mailto:apubal@madeira.org)), our Assistant Dean of Student Life & Culture for Student Engagement, in mid-June.
- **NEW STUDENTS**, we know you must be curious about what to expect your first few days at Madeira (Trust us, you will be very busy!). We will post a detailed schedule for Orientation and preseason on the [Orientation](#) page of the Madeira website in mid-July. For now, please know that all new students will arrive on Sunday, August 22nd between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. There is a full day of orientation programming for both new students and parents on Sunday, including a dinner for new parents that evening. Students have their own special dinner, followed by evening activities; boarding students are expected to spend Sunday night on campus. Orientation continues for everyone through Monday morning. At lunch, parents depart, and all students will be engaged. New students will be all together for meals and new student programming each day of the orientation period. There is grade level programming on the weekend of August 27th. Classes begin on Monday, August 30th. New students don't forget to [upload](#) your photo for the community directory by July 1st.
- **ALL STUDENTS** - DOS & Health Forms Due July 1st  
The Dean of Student Life & Culture Office has posted forms in the My Forms section of the Student-Parent Portal. You can find the link to the [Student-Parent Portal](#) in the Quicklinks section of the website. These forms are due July 1st. More information specific to boarding life, such as the packing list and link to the roommate questionnaire, will be sent to boarding students in early June by Mr. Southworth ([hsouthworth@madeira.org](mailto:hsouthworth@madeira.org)), our Associate Dean of Student Life & Culture for Campus Life & Strategy. Boarding parents, you have a questionnaire as well! Please use [this link](#) to help us get to know your daughter.

We are excited to welcome you to the community and eager to answer your questions and share information. Please do not hesitate to contact the Dean of Students Office with any questions at 703-556-8211 or [dos@madeira.org](mailto:dos@madeira.org).

Sincerely,  
The Dean of Students Office