



Dear New Students and Families,

Congratulations to all incoming Snails! Hello and welcome to the Madeira community. It is amazing to think of all that has changed in the last few months. Our students and adults have expanded their use of online tools to allow for virtual classes, students have attended advisory from their kitchens and living rooms (a tweak to the pre-COVID scenario where adults would invite their advisees to gather together in their on-campus home or apartment for advisee meetings), we have moved our traditional Gnome Hunt (which involves dorms competing to find a gnome hidden somewhere on campus with help from Mrs. Newsome's clues) to Instagram, we have attended Class Meetings from all over the world, and our student clubs and groups have hosted virtual movie nights, star gazing, and other gatherings to stay in touch. I am continually impressed with the creativity and resilience of our community as we adapt to our current circumstances.

In the Dean of Students Office, we are already planning for the upcoming school year. We are excited to bring our community back together on campus in August. We are creatively planning for a new normal where we will be living and learning in ways that promote a healthy campus during this global health situation. Part of that planning is around students' safe return to campus, which may include COVID-19 testing. Given that, we expect to be modifying the current arrival and orientation schedule. In addition, we are asking every family to complete this new [Safe Return to Campus survey](#) by **June 19**. Your arrival date and time will be determined by the information you share in this form. As such, please hold off on making any travel plans related to your arrival until we have shared the final schedule. We expect to do that no later than the end of next week.

If you have not yet submitted your permission form, (which your parents/guardians can access through the [Student/Parent Portal](#)), and other forms from the [New Girls webpage](#) please do so now, the deadline is **July 1**.

We can't wait for you to arrive! We are excited to welcome and support you in your transition to community life at Madeira. With that in mind, here is some information we want you to have as well as tips and tricks which we want to share as you prepare for the new school year.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS

- Day students can expect to receive updates on arrival days and times for registration and Orientation. For day students who are arriving to campus for the first day of school, we may require girls to get a COVID-19 test at home prior to arrival and submit the test results before arriving to campus. Students will need to be prepared to be socially distant on campus and wear face coverings at all times. There will be additional guidelines for day students while they are on



campus during the school day.

- You have also received [communication from Mrs. Sotos](#), Madeira's Director of Nursing at the Health & Wellness Center, indicating that electronic health forms in your student's [Magnus Health portal](#) are required to be completed by **July 1**, while health forms requiring a physician's signature are due **August 1**. A helpful hint, get your influenza vaccine prior to arriving on campus as this is a school requirement this year.
- As Ms. Cabeza de Vaca shared in her recent message to families, as we prepare for the start of the 20-21 school year, it will be important for the health and safety of all members of our community that every family have a plan for their daughter should she need to leave campus. The Student Campus Departure Plan document can be found in your daughter's [Magnus Health Portal](#). Parents, please review, complete, and submit the document no later than **July 1**, with the steps your family will take if the need arises for your daughter to leave campus should she become ill or need to quarantine for a period of time. In this scenario, day students will be expected to depart campus within 90 minutes.
- **MAD Money:** Most campus transactions, such as the campus store, class and club fundraisers, and some weekend activities (most weekend activities are free for students!), will function with MAD Money, the school's debit payment system. Each student starts the year with \$100.00 in MAD Money preloaded into the account. A parent may load more funds onto their student's MAD Money account via your Student/Parent Portal. This site will also allow you to monitor your student's purchasing activity and reload the account as needed. A student may add funds by visiting Ms. Cappel in the Business Office in the basement of the Student Center and adding funds to their account using cash, check, or a credit/debit card. Students will also be able to withdraw up to \$20.00 at a time for cash needs. For questions about MAD Money, please contact Ms. Cappel (ccappal@madeira.org) in the Business Office.

ADVICE FOR AN AMAZING MADEIRA EXPERIENCE

- **Get Involved:** It's the single most significant thing you can do to maximize your Madeira experience and ease your transition to high school. Join a team, try out for the play, [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. Take advantage of the school and student organized on-campus activities that we expect to offer to support our community as school starts with our health & safety modifications. [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!



- **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. 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 and the dining hall. In addition, when you are walking around campus, we want you to engage with one another rather than your Snapchat 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. Snails, when you sit down with your summer reading books, leave your phone in another room.
- **Get to know your extended junior and senior Snail Family:** They are your team captains, club heads, resident assistants, and representatives in student government, and soon they will be your friends! You are getting to know some of them through the videos that we are sending this summer. 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 are happy to help however they can. Additionally, make sure to utilize your SWING sister and new SWING families as a resource this summer. They will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to get to know you before you officially meet on campus in August!
- **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 year-round. You will have the opportunity to join their families for events throughout the school year.
- **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 be times during your Madeira transition when you are overwhelmed, excited, exhausted, worried, or flummoxed (and sometimes you may be experiencing all five of these feelings at once)! While you can always rely on your parents/guardians, your Madeira family is there for you too. Often a campus adult or student leader can be enormously helpful! Our job is to support you when you need it—don’t be afraid to reach out to us.

Continue to check your email regularly this summer (at least once a week) for updates! There is a lot of great (and important) information headed your way over the summer, and you need to stay tuned in to new communication from Madeira. This is especially important this summer as we will be sharing updates as we make decisions about school next year in response to COVID-19. In coming communications, you can expect to hear more details about our testing, tracking, and safety protocols related to COVID-19, and self-quarantining prior to arrival to campus. Please email aod@madeira.org or contact the DOS Office via phone at 703-556-8211 with any questions or concerns.



I'm so looking forward to meeting you all in August! Welcome to the Madeira Family. 😊

Best wishes,
Ms. Pubal

MADEIRA

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