



Merit Academy Back to School FAQ's

- **What happens on the morning of the first day of school?**
 - The first day opens with a ceremony. If you plan to attend the ceremony (approx. 30 min or so), it will start at approx. 8:10 on the football field (it takes some time to organize the students by class). Students will be on the field, parents on the bleachers (if you choose to come). If you simply drop off the students, it will follow the same drop off and times, including any students who bus.
- **Will my student be able to eat breakfast on the first day of school?**
 - Yes, students who choose the breakfast meal (paid by Proposition FF, for now) will eat in the Ursa Popina and then head to the football field for the opening day ceremony.
- **What time does drop-off begin?**
 - Students who eat breakfast can be dropped off starting at 7:30 AT THE EARLIEST. Doors will NOT be open prior to that, and we will have a skeleton crew of staff between 7:30 and 7:40. For those who can wait, we suggest beginning drop off at 7:40. Please see the map on the Families page of our website:
<https://www.merit.academy/families>
- **What time should we arrive for pick-up at the end of each school day?**
 - Due to the congestion during pick up and unfriendly emails we receive about that traffic, it is absolutely IMPERATIVE that we do not begin forming a pickup line until dismissal at 3:15. Students are in class until 3:15, so there is no movement in a car line before that. Please, do NOT arrive earlier, unless you are parking to personally pick up your children, or they have an appointment that day and need to be dismissed earlier. Parking is VERY limited at the end of the school day.
 - Please make sure we are moving the traffic quickly and without issue. We will have several staff members to help guide the traffic proceedings, especially during the first week or two.
 - Note: it is MUCH faster and without any wait if you pick up your child later in that pick up window (i.e. 3:20 or 3:25), especially if you have older students who do not have siblings in the School of Grammar.
- **What if I have bus questions?**
 - Bus information is posted on our website under the families page. Please call our front office with any further questions: (719) 686-2274
- **When do we find out what house our students are in?**
 - Friday, August 22 is House Sorting Day! Depending on grade, they will be sorted in the morning before lunch. You will know thereafter what color they can wear on



Fridays for house days! More information is coming, including time of sorting for each grade.

- **When is picture day?**

- Picture day is Friday, August 29. Please keep an eye out for information on payment. We have professional photographers who take outdoor photos, and families can purchase the DIGITAL photo and then print whatever sizes/forms/amounts they wish.
- Homeschoolers and full-time students will be photographed. These are also used for the yearbook.
- Students can be OUT of uniform on this day, in uniform, or in house colors, whatever they choose, AS LONG AS they are within the boundaries of the uniform (i.e. no crop tops, spaghetti straps, inappropriate logos, tight pants, no leggings without skirts, etc)

- **Can kids wear hoods/hats in the building?**

- No. If your child cannot wear a hoodie without wearing the hood on their head in the building, they will not be allowed to wear a hoodie.

- **How can I check my child's grades?**

- You and your child can access their grades, including what assignments are missing, etc, through your parent and their student Infinite Campus portal. If you do not have access, yet, please reach out to Krystin White: kwhite@merit.academy, or call 719 686 2274.
- Many SOG classes use Class DoJo for updates and assignments, as well. Grades 3rd and older will have Google Classroom. Please watch for information coming from your child's teacher for this link
- SOL/SOR teachers use Google Classroom. Students are responsible to check Google Classroom if they are absent or forget their assignment at school.

- **What if there is a snow day?**

- Initial snow days or 2 hour delays will be “real” snow days, meaning no assignments will be posted. If we appear to be using quite a few days and need to go remote for snow days or 2 hour delays, then Upper School students and grades 3-5th will need to check Google Classroom for their assignments and check-in instructions from each of their teachers. SOG K-2nd grade students will bring a “snow day packet” home in the fall. Please save this in a secure spot for snow days. After teachers go through those packets, a new packet will be issued.

- **What academic award ceremonies do we have?**

- SOG students celebrate A or A/B honor roll students each quarter. The dates and times for these ceremonies will be posted in our newsletter that you will receive



each weekend, as well as on our school calendar listed on our home page:

Merit.Academy We also post on our Family Facebook page. Parents must check Infinite Campus to see if their students have all A's or A's and B's to be eligible for this award.

- Upper School students celebrate by GPA each semester. Grades included in this calculation are Monday -Thursday grades only, as they are the academic/core courses, and do include the M-Thurs enhancement. The ceremony is during advisory (end of day) at the end of each semester, following the close of semester grades.
- **What if I have questions about classes, grades, missing assignments, etc?**
 - Please reach out to your respective teacher after you have checked with your student and you have reviewed your student's grades on Infinite Campus for any missing assignments, or checked on Google Classroom for the respective assignments.
- **Where can I find information on the uniform, dress code, discipline (behavior) matrix, or other such information?**
 - Please check our website for information. You can find our school calendar of activities on the home page, and on the Families page, you can find access to handbooks, uniform/dress code, and behavior (discipline) matrix:
<https://www.merit.academy/families>
- **Where can I be a part of fun posts and updates about school events and such?**
 - While we do not have a strong social media presence, we do have a private Facebook account meant for families and proven community supporters only:
<https://fb.me/g/6O9nt29HF/loDD5VAz> Merit Academy Family
- **How is information communicated to families?**
 - Every week we send out a newsletter with dates, summaries, and upcoming events. Please make sure your emails are correct in your Infinite Campus portal AND you have selected that it is OK to send "general" information to that email.
 - SOG teachers email newsletters with summaries and upcoming activities
 - SOL/R teachers post assignments and information to Google Classroom and often send summaries home to parents, at least monthly
 - Student's grades are posted and updated weekly in Infinite Campus
 - News and updates and announcements are posted on the Merit Academy Family Facebook page
 - Event dates are listed on the Merit Academy website homepage calendar
 - Teachers will reach out if they notice students are failing or struggling, usually by email to start.



- At times, there may be hardcopies of upcoming events sent home with students.
- **I'd love to help coordinate events or fundraisers for our school. Does MA have a booster club or parent committee?**
 - We are looking for a few parents to help start a booster club, which is important for fundraising, concession stands, etc. If you are interested in helping to form this committee, please reach out to Mary Sekowski, our Board Member: msekowski@merit.academy
 - If you would like to join our parent committee, we are also interested in a small group of parents to join Papa Bears group to help with volunteer events. See Katie Illingworth for this committee: killingworth@merit.academy
 - One of our first big events that could use parent volunteer assistance is our fundraiser Bear Crawl on Sept. 26.
- **How will we pay for any school fees (i.e. field trips, yearbook, PK tuition, extra lunch money for seconds/add-ons, etc)**
 - Fees will be available for payment this year on your Infinite Campus portal. This will make for a much easier and smoother payment process. Please visit your parent portal to make payments for your students.
- **My child is interested in MA sports, what do you offer and how do I find out more?**
 - We have teams for our students who are interested in MS (SOL) girls or boys basketball or girls volleyball. We also have MS (SOL) and HS (SOR) girls/boys track and cross country, as well as HS (SOR) boys basketball, varsity shooting team for SOR, and shooting club for SOG/SOL. Our SOL/SOR teams are competitive and often require tryouts, open gym, and expectations to participate at a competitive level.
 - We also have Landsharks (SOG) cross country and track. As we continue to grow, we will add more sports and more sport levels for our school.
 - For questions on try outs, requirements, rules, etc, please see our Athletic Director: Sean Pekron spekron@merit.academy
 - We will continue to post updates, game schedules, and more via email, activities on our school calendar, and on our Family Facebook page.
- **What if I have more questions?**
 - Please call us at 719 686 2274, or email your respective Dean (Rosie Hendrickson rhendrickson@merit.academy or Mel Bucher mbucher@merit.academy for SOG, or Chad Cosner ccosner@merit.academy for Upper School (SOL/R)) or teacher, depending on the questions.