



## **FAQs for Incoming Families**

### **General Questions**

<b>Where can I locate important information for incoming freshmen?</b>	A <a href="#">Welcome and Registration page</a> was created for all incoming freshmen. It includes: what you need to do before school starts, important dates, required physical forms and graduation requirements for students' four-year progression at Serra.
<b>What type of summer communications can I expect?</b>	<p>Serra uses PCR Educator - a web-based school information management system that manages student data and securely shares academic records with students, teachers and parents. Families will receive an email from Keith Strange with directions on how to create an account in PCR before June 1st. If you do not receive this email by June 1st, please contact <a href="mailto:admissions@serrahs.com">admissions@serrahs.com</a></p> <p>Near the end of June, all families will receive an electronic summer mailing that includes information about logistics, policies and procedures (student handbook), medical info, carpooling, orientation, photos, mothers' auxiliary, father's club.</p> <p>Once school starts, you will receive a weekly e-newsletter called "Spotlight" that is sent to all parents.</p>
<b>When will we receive information about carpools?</b>	Carpool information comes out with the summer mailing (July). All families will receive a survey requesting interest in carpool formation. We encourage you to complete the carpool interest form. Serra will then group families in the same area and send out the lists in late July.

<p><b>What is the uniform/dress code?</b></p>	<p>This is a basic overview of the dress code. Parents should refer to the JSHS Student-Parent Handbook for the complete policy.</p> <p>Students may wear Serra t-shirts, polo shirts or dress shirts. Students may wear jeans, long pants, and regular shorts that are in good condition, hemmed, and fit at the waist. Formal, casual and tennis shoes that are neat, clean and unaltered can be worn. No athletic shorts, athletic pants (sweats) or open-toe shoes/slippers are allowed. Serra sweatshirts or sweatshirts with a small logo (no larger than a fist) are also allowed.</p> <p>Certain masses will be designated as “dress up” where students are required to wear dress shirts, ties, slacks, and dress shoes.</p> <p>All students must be clean-shaven and keep their hair clean and neatly combed and/or styled. Hair should not extend beyond their eyes or their shoulders. Students must maintain natural hair color. Any highlights must appear appropriate to a student’s natural hair color. Extreme or faddish hairstyles are not permitted.</p> <p>Questions about dress code and/or hair policy can be directed to the Dean of Students, Mr. Ray Baldanado - <a href="mailto:rbaldanado@serrahs.com">rbaldanado@serrahs.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>When are the Physical forms due? Where do we send it?</b></p>	<p>Every incoming freshman must submit a <a href="#">medical form</a> that documents a physical exam within the last year. These are due on Friday, July 1.</p> <p><b>Incoming freshmen not planning to participate in athletics during freshman year:</b> Please scan and email the completed form to <a href="mailto:admissions@serrahs.com">admissions@serrahs.com</a>. You also can bring a hard copy into our main office or mail it to us.</p> <p><b>Incoming freshmen who plan to participate in a Serra team sport anytime during freshman year:</b> Starting May 15, you can go to <a href="http://www.athleticclearance.com">www.athleticclearance.com</a> to create an account (make sure to click on <b>2022-23</b> school year and</p>

	click on the correct school: <b>Junipero Serra/San Mateo</b> ) and complete the online clearance process. You will upload your completed form to your online account or email your physical form to Serra Athletic Director Justin Ferdinand at <a href="mailto:jferdinand@serrahs.com">jferdinand@serrahs.com</a> .
<b>Is there a roadmap/schedule of upcoming communications (what and from whom)? There are a lot of communications coming from different people and it is somewhat challenging to keep track of what to expect when.</b>	While we appreciate that you are receiving communication from different constituents right now, you will see a slow down in communication in the coming weeks. You will receive emails regarding technology orientation in June, course schedules and orientation in the beginning of August, and a weekly Wednesday Serra Spotlight to keep you abreast of the happenings of Serra. You may see additional departmental communications as it relates to COVID-19 or the beginning of the school year. We have created a <a href="#">Class of 2026</a> webpage where you can find important dates, key information, and frequently asked questions.
<b>Will there be any additional Zoom calls with current and incoming freshmen?</b>	We will offer a virtual “Gearing up for Serra” information and student panel meeting in late July or early August. Our students will break down the “need to know ” as you head into your freshman year. Learn from those who came before you by joining our student lead information night.
<b>What are the dates for the technology orientation?</b>	Dates will be announced and sign ups open beginning in June. Look for an email around June 1 with instructions about how to log in to PCR (the parent/student portal). Once you are in PCR, you will be able to sign up for a tech orientation and access your summer math assignments.
<b>When will freshmen be connected with their “Big Brothers”?</b>	Big Brothers meet their freshmen during frosh orientation, which will be held on August 18, 2022. Orientation is an opportunity to meet their Big Brothers, current Serra juniors who connect with freshmen to answer questions. Orientation is for incoming freshmen to get better acquainted with Serra, to meet lots of new friends, and to find their way around campus.
<b>Will older siblings be paired with younger siblings in the big brother program?</b>	No, siblings from the same family will not be paired together in the big brother program.
<b>Incoming freshmen parents were asked to consider making</b>	We will be looking to the parents of incoming freshmen (class of 2026) to start contributing to the Padre Fund in

<b>a contribution pledge in their welcome packets. When are those pledges due?</b>	the new fiscal year (Fall 2022). However, contributions are gratefully received anytime and any donation received by June 30, 2023 will be acknowledged in the annual report and be considered for the President's Circle.
<b>How can I order Serra attire?</b>	Families can order Serra gear through <a href="#">Serra's Padre Store</a> . This is a print on demand company. We recommend ordering at least 4 weeks in advance.

## **Courses & Academics**

<b>What about language placement?</b>	Language placement tests, tests that would allow your son to advance to a higher language placement, will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 or Thursday, May, 5, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Placement results will be emailed to parents.
<b>How will math placement work this year?</b>	<p>Parents will be notified by April 30 of their son's math placement. Math placement will be made based on the following criteria: HSPT scores, 8th grade math level, 8th grade math grades and teacher recommendation for placement. Freshman will be placed in one of the following classes: Algebra, Honors Algebra, Honors Geometry, or another advanced math class.</p> <p>Students placed in Algebra who wish to appeal the placement can take the Algebra challenge test on either Monday, May 2, 2022 or Wednesday, May 4, 2022 from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p>
<b>When will we receive the class schedules?</b>	<p>Near the end of June, students will receive, via email, a list of the courses they are registered for. This list of courses can be used to order books but does not include the class schedule.</p> <p>In early August, students will receive via email their class schedule. The class schedule gives the days and times for class meetings as well as the teachers for those classes.</p>
<b>When should we order books and technology devices?</b>	Books can be ordered online through <a href="#">MBS direct</a> beginning in July. Books should not be ordered until you receive your

	<p>class list (end of June). MBS direct often has used books available for sale (if a physical book is required) but they sometimes go quickly so if you are interested in used books, order early.</p> <p>Some courses use online textbooks, some use physical textbooks and some use a combination or let students decide. Each teacher makes independent decisions about what material best supports his/her class.</p>
<b>What type of device should we have for school?</b>	Serra is a Bring Your Own Device school. While Serra doesn't dictate the device a student uses, we do require that it meets minimum system requirements. Requirements are located at <a href="http://serrahs.com">serrahs.com</a> under academics and technology or found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>What type of summer homework will there be and is it required?</b>	<p>Summer homework is an important way for students to retain the skills and knowledge developed over the school year and help with the smooth transition into a new school. Students should expect to be evaluated on their summer work at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>Math - all students will have math homework over the summer (regardless of what level math they are placed in). Math homework will be available by logging on to PCR (after June 1).</p> <p>English - all students are expected to read two books over the summer, one chosen by the English department and the other from a list of summer reading options. Summer reading is located <i>now</i> on the Serra website under academics or <a href="#">here</a>. It will also be available through PCR (after June 1).</p>
<b>How does a student join the concert choir?</b>	There are no auditions for chorus. If you want to participate, you can. If you sign up for the course, Mr. Murphy will contact you to procure a recording of your voice so he knows where to place you.
<b>Who can play in the symphonic band?</b>	This performance-based course is offered to students with experience in music ensemble playing and at least an intermediate playing ability (one year minimum) on one or more instruments. Once you sign up, Mr. Murphy will contact you for recordings of your playing.

<b>Does Jazz Ensemble require an audition?</b>	Yes. If you are interested in participating in Jazz Ensemble, email Mr. Murphy - <a href="mailto:jmurphy@serrahs.com">jmurphy@serrahs.com</a> - to discuss auditions.
<b>Is there a program for students who want to learn to play an instrument?</b>	The Concert Band is for students wishing to learn the basics of a band instrument such as the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. This course is specifically designed to inspire students who have never played a band instrument to learn here at Serra. After a year of this band, students will most likely be invited to join the Symphonic Band. Students will supply their own instruments (rent or buy) or will use a school instrument on occasion. Once a student signs up for this class, he'll receive a notice of an Instrument Selection Day where students will be invited to try all the instruments to pick one that they like.
<b>Are different types of devices or supplementary software (laptops, etc) recommended for ARC students?</b>	ARC students do not need specific devices or software that differs from the standard requirements for everyone. The ARC office does have additional tools available for students to borrow to help support their learning plans. For example, this could be a computer in a quiet space to take an exam or recording pens for note-taking (student must get teacher's permission to record), silencing headphones, etc.
<b>Can ARC students take an art class freshman year (and subsequent years)?</b>	ARC students can begin to take courses to fulfill their VPA requirement (Visual and Performing Arts) beginning in their sophomore year.
<b>Where should parents/students be directed for ARC-specific questions?</b>	General questions regarding ARC can be directed to the admissions office at <a href="mailto:admissions@serrahs.com">admissions@serrahs.com</a> . Specific questions related to your son should be directed to Gayle Rosenberg at <a href="mailto:grosenberg@serrahs.com">grosenberg@serrahs.com</a> . Please note that all incoming ARC families will be required to attend an ARC meeting at the beginning of the year.

## **Extracurricular Offerings**

<b>How do students sign up for extracurricular activities?</b>	Club day takes place in the fall soon after school starts. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the wide variety of clubs offered at Serra and to sign up for what interests them.
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	<p>There will be info about how to sign up for fall sports in the summer mailing.</p> <p>Student government elections for freshmen will take place in October.</p> <p>Look for information in the summer mailing about auditions for the fall play.</p> <p>Student Ambassadors: We are seeking passionate, driven, and committed freshmen to join our student ambassador program. Student ambassadors host 8th graders when they visit campus, participate in admission events, and answer prospective students' questions when needed. Please email <a href="mailto:iferrando@serrahs.com">iferrando@serrahs.com</a> with interest.</p>
<p><b>If our son wants to play a fall sport, does he try out in the summer? When will we hear information about fall sports?</b></p>	<p>There will be info about how to sign up for fall sports in the summer mailing. You can also email Athletic Director Justin Ferdinand at <a href="mailto:jferdinand@serrahs.com">jferdinand@serrahs.com</a> if you have questions.</p>