



Freshman Welcome Registration ~ Class of 2025

Important Information for Parents and Students

Welcome to Serra! We will be sharing a lot of information with you this evening. Some key topics are addressed in this overview, with information on how to get additional details or answers to your questions. Please note that, in some cases, additional information will be sent to you by traditional mail or through email. Watch for these communications, and be sure your email is set to recognize Junípero Serra High School.

Physical Examination and Immunization Requirements In order to have your son begin classes in August, he must have on file at Serra the appropriate verified documentation for his completed physical examination and immunization record. Immunization records should be uploaded into Ravenna using the Immunization step located on your preliminary application page.

Physical Exam: Serra uses a web-based provider to collect and maintain each student's medical history, contact information and release forms. You will receive an email from the Admissions Office in early June, which will provide a link to access and download the *Preparticipation Physical Evaluation* form, which includes a medical history to be completed by parents and a physician's evaluation to be completed, signed and stamped by a licensed medical physician.

- **Incoming freshmen not planning to participate in athletics during freshman year:** Please scan and email the completed form to admissions@serrahs.com. You also can bring a hard copy into our main office or mail it to us.
- **Incoming freshmen who plan to participate in a Serra team sport anytime during freshman year:** Go to www.athleticclearance.com to create an account (make sure to click on **2021-22** school year and click on the correct school: **Junipero Serra/San Mateo**) and complete the online clearance process. You will upload your completed form to your online account or email your physical form to AD Justin Ferdinand at jferdinand@serrahs.com.

Important Note: The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), the governing body for high school sports in California, requires that student-athletes have a current annual physical examination, or statement by a medical practitioner, certifying they are physically fit to participate in athletics before they are eligible to try out, practice or participate in interscholastic athletic competition. The date of the certification must be

within 365 days of the *completion* of the sports season.

Serra must receive the completed *Preparticipation Physical Evaluation* form no later than Friday, July 23, 2021.

Immunization Records: You are required to provide us with a copy of your son's most current official immunization record. It must include proof of the Tdap booster shot required of all California students. Immunization records should be uploaded into Ravenna using the Immunization step located on your preliminary application page.

Serra complies with the immunization regulations of the State of California and the Archdiocese of San Francisco, for all freshmen and transfer students. California School Immunization Law (Health and Safety Code Sections 120335-120375) and the Archdiocese of San Francisco require that no registering pupil shall be admitted to school unless and until the parents (a) have established the required record of immunizations received by the student, (b) presented a statement of medical exemption, or (c) have filed an affidavit, prior to January 1, 2016, stating beliefs opposed to immunizations. (Visit the National Vaccine Information Center's website for more information on California SB 277, which disallows personal and religious belief exemptions.) You can find more information at www.shotsforschool.org.

Questions: Contact Linda Cuddy at 650.345.8207 ext. 6115 or lcuddy@serrahs.com.

Required Freshman Summer Reading Program Summer reading helps students maintain their literacy over the summer and prepare to tackle challenging critical thinking and writing tasks as soon as they enter Serra High School. Incoming freshmen are required to read two books over the summer. Students placed in Honors Freshman English are assigned two specific novels to read. All other freshman students are assigned one required memoir and one additional book that they choose from a list of books of various categories. It is expected that students will have completed the required summer reading prior to the first day of classes in August.

The summer reading book lists and additional information about summer reading are available online at our website, serrahs.com. Click the "Academics" tab on the website's homepage, then select "Summer Reading" from the pull-down menu. Information also is included in the PCR Parent and Student Portal. From the home page, click "Summer Work."

Required Summer Technology Orientation Incoming students are required to complete a technology orientation program in the summer before they begin at Serra. The purpose of this program is for students to:

- set up the necessary accounts and passwords for the various technology applications they will be using as Serra students.
- familiarize and practice technology skills required of all Serra students.
- review and discuss the school's expectations as they relate to technology usage and online behavior.

You will need to sign up your son for Technology Orientation online through the PCR Parent Portal, which can be accessed from the Serra website, serrahs.com. 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. We will send you an email reminder prior to this date, which will also include detailed information on how to log into the PCR Parent Portal and sign up for the Technology Orientation date that works best for your family. Depending on the state and county health regulations, the orientations may be held either in person or online. We will notify you as soon as we know.

Course Progression and Graduation Requirements Serra's college preparatory curriculum is a rigorous course of study that provides our students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in college. Serra's academic requirements for graduation meet UC and CSU requirements for admission (this is not the case for all high schools). Extensive class offerings and a consistent focus on college readiness allow Serra students to exceed those requirements.

All students will take a minimum of six classes during their freshman year. These include English, math, world history, biology, theology and a world language. The level of English, history, science and math will depend on placement. Students also will select an elective class or an independent study period; a small group of students will be placed in a Directed Study class.

You can review the four-year course progression, UC/CSU course requirements, and Serra's graduation requirements in the PCR Parent Portal. Click "Student Information" and then "Scheduling Next Year" to locate the information. You can also find the Junípero Serra High School Graduation Requirements/UC Admissions/CSU Admissions document on the [Welcome and Registration page](#) under "Graduation Plan".

Ordering Textbooks Serra contracts with an online textbook purchasing service, MBS Direct, to provide students with textbooks and/or digital versions of textbooks. You will receive information by mail in late June that includes the list of courses your son will take next year. In early July you can use this course list to select books for purchase. When you place your order, you will be given the option to purchase either new books or used books, depending on availability. When ordering books, please pay special attention to the "Messaging" for each book in each course. This will indicate if a book is required or optional and/or if a student needs to purchase the actual textbook or may purchase an EText. It's important that you place orders well in advance of the start of school as teachers will expect every student to bring all required materials on the first day of class.

Questions: Contact Raquel Camacho by email - rcamacho@serrahs.com - or by phone - 650.345.8207, ext. 6126.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program Students are *required* to bring a portable internet access device (e.g. Mac or PC laptop, newer Chromebook) to school daily. The program allows students to access internet resources as needed on campus and in classroom curriculum. The BYOD model holds particular advantages for Serra students. Not only does the program respond to personal device preferences of students and their families, but it also replicates the environment students will encounter in college classrooms.

Minimum device requirements and examples of acceptable portable devices can be found on the Serra website - serrahs.com. Click the "Academics" tab on the website's homepage, then select "Technology" from the pulldown menu.

Freshman Athletics Fall sports--cross country, water polo and football-- will begin for incoming freshmen on Wednesday, August 11. Nothing takes place before that time. You will receive an email during the summer that provides details about fall sports meetings and activities, which will include dates and times.

Questions: Contact Director of Athletics Justin Ferdinand at jferdinand@serrahs.com.

Pledge Campaign for the Class of 2025 Each Serra family is asked to make a separate financial commitment in the form of an annual parent pledge for each child attending Serra. This annual parent pledge supports our mission and helps to enhance the current programs that are offered to your son(s). All families are invited to consider participating at the President's Circle level of \$2,021. All donations are 100% tax deductible and assure that all students will receive the very best educational experience possible.

Our most important goal is 100% *participation* from all families, including recipients of financial aid, at a level that is comfortable and meaningful for each family. Participation and support of the annual parent pledge campaign further validates our mission and enables us to secure additional funding from foundations and alumni who are asked to participate in our annual fund as well.

We know from experience that our alumni, foundations and other benefactors look to the commitment of parents in deciding their own levels of support, particularly as we ask them for larger gifts for program enhancements.

Questions: You can find more information on our website, serrahs.com; just click on the "Support Serra" tab on the home page and then select "The Padre Fund: Current Parents" from the pulldown menu. Or, contact Lisa Callagy, Serra's Annual Fund Director, at 650.573.9935 or lcallagy@serrahs.com

Parent Volunteer Opportunities Find more information about these parent organizations on our website, serrahs.com:

- **Class of 2025 Pledge Campaign Volunteer Team:** Please contact Annual Fund Director Lisa Callagy at 650.573.9935 or lcallagy@serrahs.com.
- **Mothers' Auxiliary:** Select the "Parents" tab on the homepage, then select "Welcome Parents" from the pulldown menu.
- **Fathers' Club:** Select the "Parents" tab on the homepage, then select "Welcome Parents" from the pulldown menu.
- **Booster Club:** Select the "Athletics" tab on the homepage, then select "Serra Booster Club" from the pulldown menu.
- **TRISTARS** (Tri-School Theater Arts Recognition and Support): Visit trischoolproductions.com, select the "Get Involved" tab on the homepage, then select "Join TRISTARS" on the pulldown menu.

Updated: 3-25-2021