

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is there a fitness room/gym that I can use?**
 - YES. You will have access to the Kress Events Center, which has all the facilities (including a pool) you could want. You must be 16 or older to use the weights at the Kress.
- **How much free time will we have during the day?**
 - During the day, you'll be busy taking classes (and eating meals). After dinner on Mondays & Tuesdays, you'll have about 4 hours of free time that you can use to study or participate in activities the SMTs will plan. On Thursdays, because of field trips, you might get a bit less free time in the evening, but on Fridays you'll get about 2 hours. On weekends, you'll usually have a couple of hours in the mornings and a couple in the evenings, depending on our field trip schedule.
- **How much spending money should I bring?**
 - We always recommend that you don't bring a LOT of money, as it may get misplaced. Your parents can send you money periodically, or there's an ATM on campus / at many of the places we travel to. You may want a souvenir, or some money for shopping at the mall, but you should definitely have some extra money for our trips to Walmart so you can buy necessities.
- **Do I get to pick my roommate? / How are roommates chosen?**
 - NO, you don't get to pick your roommates. We try to pair returning students and new students together whenever possible. Then we try to pair people from larger cities with people from smaller cities. Then we try to mix up people from different states. It doesn't always work out perfectly in those categories, but we try to get as much diversity as possible into each pairing, while still making sure you'd get along by using what we know about each of you.
- **Are the dorms nice?**
 - They're modern buildings with updated furniture and decor. The dorm we're staying in for summer 2019 (Cletus Vanderperren Hall) The lounges have gotten makeovers, and have brand new furniture and kitchen appliances.

- **Is there a nightly curfew?**
 - YES. Everyone has to be in their rooms by 10:30pm. Between 10:00pm and 10:30pm, you have take nightly medications and turn in your cell phones. Between 10:30pm and 11:00pm is settling in time, and 11:00pm is lights out. SMTs check rooms shortly after 11:00pm for lights, and overnight staff check throughout the night.

- **Should I bring my musical instrument?**
 - YES! We encourage you to bring any instrument you have! Just remember to take good care of it while you're here and keep it in your sight or in your locked room at all times.

- **Do we get to choose the classes we take? What types of classes are available? Will we know the class descriptions ahead of time?**
 - You get to choose your elective classes and your Graduate Mentor class. We send out a list of classes with their descriptions before everyone arrives so that you can make your top 3 choices--then we place you into (hopefully) your top choices. The elective and Graduate Mentor classes vary greatly from year to year, but we always offer math, biological sciences, academic skills, and college readiness as our core classes. You will also have a study hall during the day.

- **How big are the class sizes?**
 - Core classes have about 25 students each, while your elective classes will probably have 10-15 students (or fewer). Graduate Mentor classes are usually capped at 10 students—some only have 5 or 6 students.

- **What electives and Graduate Mentor class should I sign up for?**
 - Whatever you'd like! ☺ You can take classes that are fun and interesting to you, or you could take classes that might help prepare you for your future high school classes, like our Intro to Trigonometry class. Or you could do a mix of fun and future class preparation.

- **What exactly is the cell phone policy?**
 - In a nutshell, we collect your phones every night before you go to bed. They're stored in the dorm office in a bag with your name on it. The

office is always locked or has an SMT/staff person in it. You'll get your phones back the following morning before class; you bring them to your room and charge them during the day (if needed). Phones need to be kept visible on the bathroom sink so staff doing room checks can easily see them. If we're going on a field trip, you'll be allowed to have your phone during the trip. You're also allowed to keep your phone on Friday night, all day Saturday, Saturday night, and all day Sunday.

- **If I use RCMS-provided transportation, how does that work?**

- **Will I take a bus? Where will I be picked up?**

- It all depends on where you live. If you're close to Green Bay, we might send a minivan and a couple of SMTs. If you live farther away, we'll send a bus and make multiple stops along the way to pick up other students. SMTs always accompany vans/buses, and we always pick you up at your high school. Information on timing will come to you well in advance of arrival day.

- **Is there a church nearby? How can I attend mass/service on Sundays?**

- There are lots of churches in the area, and we try to take students to a church every Sunday our schedule allows. We gauge interest and denominational preference, and plan from there. If there's enough interest, a small group could also meet in the evenings for prayers/Bible study, etc.

- **What are the weekends like?**

- FUN and BUSY! Friday evenings, we go off campus for dinner before heading to Walmart so you can pick up necessary supplies (toiletries, snacks, clothes). Saturdays and Sundays are fairly busy, with multiple field trips planned each day. We try to plan "Sleep In Sundays", and typically leave the dorms right before lunch time on Saturdays and Sundays.

- **I'm injured/have restrictions on the activities I can do. Is that OK?**

- YES. We make accommodations for injured students all the time, or for students who can't do certain activities for other medical reasons. This can include allowing students to use elevators, getting wheelchairs

when we're on campus tours, providing crutches, and making sure to include them however possible in everything we do. 😊

- **Am I allowed to leave RCMS for the weekend/for a day?**
 - YES, although we much prefer it if you stay with us as much as possible. We prefer it if your absences from the program don't overlap with your classes, and any absences will affect your bonding time with the group. A parent or guardian (or an approved adult) has to sign you out of the program when you leave and sign you back in when you return. Let us know if you need to miss any part of the program ahead of time so that we can plan accordingly.

- **Are there washers and dryers available so I can do my laundry?**
 - YES, of course! The dorms have several of each in the laundry rooms on the first floor. You'll use your ID card to pay for laundry (we put some money on it to get you started, but after that it's your responsibility to add money to it each week). We try to build in laundry time each week/weekend, but you can do it whenever you like. You label your washer and dryer so your clothes don't get mixed up with anyone else's. It costs \$1.25 to wash a load of clothes, and \$1.00 to dry a load. If you do your laundry once a week for the 6 weeks, that's a total of \$13.50. I would plan on spending more than that, as there may be weeks when you have to do more than one load. Remember that you'll get a \$10/week stipend from RCMS that you use in part to load money onto your card for laundry.

- **Can I send and receive mail while I'm there?**
 - YES. If you write a letter, put it in an envelope, and put a stamp on it, we mail it for you from our main office. Your family and friends can send you packages and letters as well! We post our address in each dorm, so you'll be able to give it to people who'd like to mail you things.

- **Can I bring my laptop/tablet?**
 - We strongly discourage students from bringing laptops. We give you several hours of computer lab time almost every day, so you won't lack for access to the internet. We MAY allow certain students to bring their own laptops IF they need them for school purposes (online classes, summer course work for AP classes, etc.). We restrict your use of your

laptop to the evenings, and you'd have to turn it in before bed (it would be subject to the same rules as cell phones). We much prefer that you bring any important documents with you via jump drive (or store them in Google Drive/in your e-mail).

- **Do I need to bring my own bedding?**

- YES. You will need to bring sheets, blankets, and pillows. You can rent bedding (including a pillow) from the university for the 6 weeks if you don't have (or don't want to bring) your own. The mattresses are XL twin, so regular twin sheets won't fit--but you can easily wrap a double bed sheet around a couple of times. :)

- **Is there a dress code?**

- YES. It's detailed in our Student Handbook, but the basics are fairly straightforward: no short shorts, no spaghetti straps, no bra straps or underwear showing, no see-through leggings, no offensive slogans/pictures on shirts. Girls can wear spaghetti strap tank tops as long they wear a cardigan/cover up that hides the straps. And remember you need to wear or bring closed-toed shoes to your science labs *every day*.

- **Are there events for which I need to wear special clothes?**

- Yes. There will be one time that we'll ask you to dress nicely: for our end-of-summer banquet. For the banquet, we like everyone to dress UP: dresses/skirts/dress pants; guys--no t-shirts, no jeans! There are also a couple of events that require clothes you don't mind getting dirty/wet, so check the packing lists for both the dorm and Hunt Hill.

- **Should I bring a fan?**

- YES, ABSOLUTELY. The dorms are not air conditioned and it can get very warm. Work it out with your roommate (once you know who they are) so that you have at least one box or rotating fan in your room. A box fan is best as they fit nicely in the windows and can blow hot air out or cool air in. A large rotating fan will work well too. Small desk fans won't have much of an effect on the room's temperature.

- **Should I bring my swimsuit?**

- YES! We have access to the Kress Center pool every day it's open and for which our schedule allows. We have a couple of beach days planned, and while we're at Hunt Hill, you'll be able to swim every day!

Even if swimming isn't your thing, you need to bring one so that you can do the canoe test and take the swim "test" at Hunt Hill (treading water, swimming back and forth a bit). At most places we swim, you do need to wear an actual swim suit, and not just clothes you don't mind getting wet.