



## Residential Learning Tips

### WHC: What's Happening on Campus?



Living on our campus is a smart move! You will find our dorm buildings convenient, safe, and friendly.

Is there anything to do while on campus? Are you kidding me? ***This campus is alive!*** Our *Office of Student Life* organizes a plethora of activities during the daytime, evening, and weekend. We will be sending you an email with the details of the *Student Life* calendar for August/September. Is there really anything to do on campus? The problem you will have is selecting from a schedule that offers so many activities that you will not be able to attend all of them. (The mother of a student actually complained that there are too many choices! Really?)

What to expect: Over 30 student organizations that offer activities all week. The Office of Student Life also offers outdoor movies, a free coffee house, live entertainment, camp fires (with s'mores!), midnight breakfasts (wake up, eat, and go to sleep!), trips to NYC, DC, outlet shopping, and more.

***Valuable Tip:** Download the Student Life calendar onto your tablet. Watch the TV monitors around campus, displaying info on activities. Select your favorite activities, sign up when required, and convince your friends to join in. You will also receive email notices.*

# Safe is more than a feeling



We want you to learn, expand yourself, and have fun. But safety first! Our security and safety program will see to that. With your cooperation, we will continue our nearly stellar record of having one of the safest campuses in Philadelphia.

How do we do it? Consider this:

- 24/7 security guards
- Nightly inspections of security guards by a manager
- *Residential Learning Coordinators* on duty seven nights a week and all day Sunday
- Computer-operated door controls that let us know who is arriving and when
- 4-digit code entry for rooms
- 220 closed-circuit TV security cameras that cover the campus
- Fire drills in the classrooms and dorm buildings
- Fire equipment that exceeds the city's requirements
- ID cards that are door "keys"
- Extra lighting, not only in our buildings but on the sidewalks
- A director of facilities who routinely inspects all utilities
- *Residential Learning Coordinators* and facilities team inspections of rooms
- Cell phones and radios connecting staff and security
- Of course, you need to add your own cooperation to the list to keep us safe, sound, and ready for fun.

***Valuable Tip: Don't bring excessive jewelry, sentimental items, or excessive money to campus. Consider purchasing a small briefcase-style, fire-resistant safe.***

# Mise en Place: Putting Everything in Its Place



What does “*mise en place*” (pronounced “*meese ann plaace*”) mean? It’s a French culinary term that means “putting everything in its place,” such as all the ingredients that you need before you start cooking a recipe. Impress your chef and say “*I have my mise en place ready, Chef.*” Don’t tell him or her where you learned the phrase. It will be our little secret!

You definitely want to put everything in its place in your room. It’s easy to do. Everything will fit, provided that you did not pack the kitchen sink!

We suggest that you review what you want to bring, take a deep breath, look at that huge pile and reduce it. After all, you do not need to bring your complete wardrobe. A zoo of stuffed animals? Pick your favorite and say “*see you soon*” to the others. A hundred shoes? Really? You know the answer to this one.

The most difficult aspect of packing for your dorm move-in is not what to bring; it’s how much you are willing to leave home. We supply the TV, bed, desk, chair, and appropriate furniture. You should supply some stuff ... and a lot of adventure!

***Valuable Tip: Purchase a small caddy for your toiletries. Grab that container on the way to the bathroom, and you will have everything you need at hand.***



# Space Management: Go Digital



It seems to be the classic freshman-dorm-student conundrum: Where do I put all my stuff? Okay, problem number one might be that you brought ALL your stuff!

Need more space? In some cases, you can find it in outer space; well, in digital space. Are you an avid reader? Download free books as well as new purchases onto the tablet that you will soon receive. If you already have an Amazon Kindle or other book account, you can easily access them from your new tablet. So, heavy hardcover books be gone!

Video games, movies, and music? You can download these as well.

***Valuable Tip: We are going to give you a tablet on the first day of school, and it's yours to keep if you graduate.***

# Honey, don't forget to pack your ...

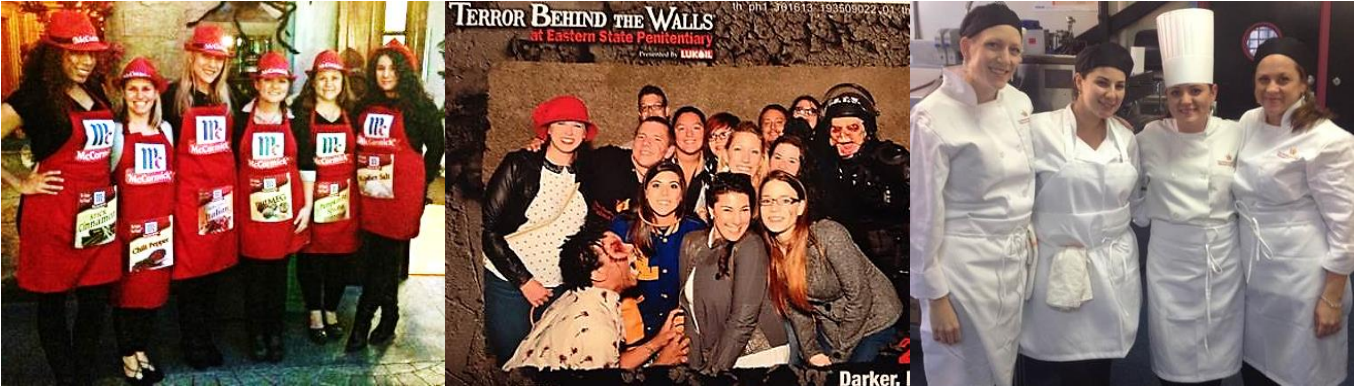


Favorite jeans? Yes, bring them. That giant, five-foot Tweety Bird that you won at the boardwalk or carnival? NO. There is no room for that!

Planning and packing is easy—IF you know what to leave home. Remember, there are laundry machines in each building as well as a larger laundry center in McManus Hall. There are eight machines, and while your wardrobe tosses and turns, you can shoot a game of pool, watch a film, or just relax with friends in the adjoining student lounges. And guess what? The laundry machines are FREE to use. (We can hear your parents cheering “Do your own laundry!”)

***Valuable Tip: This is a good one! Consider packing only the items that you truly need between your move-in day and the next time you plan to go home. For most students, that means a late summer and early fall wardrobe. But don't go home just yet! We have a September full of non-stop activities. Make your high school friends jealous of what you did, rather than going home to perhaps do nothing. Once you do go home, you will be more the expert to decide what you may (or may not) need.***

# Mom? Dad? Is that You?



Okay, you just moved out for the first time in your life, and who is in your dorm building to visit? Your mom and dad?!

Can this be? Well, let us explain. In addition to our committed *Residential Learning Coordinators*, who manage all aspects of the dorms, we also have an “adoption” program in which caring staff members choose a dorm building to adopt. Our students have decided to call these wonderful “parents” *Mom and Dad*.

Your dorm parents will be available to you at any time, and you can talk with them about anything. They requested to be dorm parents because they truly do care. You and your dorm parents will meet from time to time to plan activities. Sometimes, the activities will be exclusively for students in your building. Other times, the activities will be open to the full Residential Learning community.

***Valuable Tip: Add all of the important contacts that matter to you to your cell phone ASAP. They should include the Residential Learning Coordinators and your dorm “parent”.***

# There is no place like home. Both of them.



Okay, we call it “*Welcome Home*” instead of the dreaded dorm move-in. We promise you will LOVE our dorm move-in experience. We refer to it as your home away from home, but is it? YES!

There is more that you can do to make it a little more personal, like your home. Pick two or three items that will make your room connect to your home. For instance, you can bring a favorite blanket. That will benefit you in two ways: you'll be reminded of home and will be warm! A photo collage of family and friends is also a great idea. You can find collage frames at home goods stores, Target, Walmart, etc. And perhaps your favorite mug will relax you each morning while you sip tea or hot chocolate.

***Valuable Tip: Most rooms feature a cork board, on which you can hang posters and décor using push pins. Also, use some removable wall putty to hang items. Please do not pin, nail, or tape anything to the walls, wood, doors, or furniture. Oh, and don't duct tape your roommate!***