



April 2021

Dear New Shady Side Boarding students,

It is a genuine pleasure to welcome you to the Shady Side residential community for the 2021-2022 school year. In choosing to board and live at Shady Side, we will engage together in an important shared enterprise – that of living and learning together in a unique educational community.

What a year this has been! Just over a year ago, our entire boarding community headed home as we closed our physical campus for a spring of “remote learning” with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, we have all negotiated extraordinary challenges, whether quarantining at home, negotiating some version of hybrid school or - perhaps like all of us at SSA - coming to terms with the new norms of in-person school during a pandemic. I am so grateful that we have been able to open, and keep open, our residential life program throughout this school year. While boarding during a global pandemic has looked quite different than our pre-COVID-19 lives, this year has demonstrated the importance of our Guiding Principles and the powerful growth born of communal living experience. I am grateful every day to witness the resilience of our students and the bonds of friendship and kinship that are the bedrock of our boarding community and I am very excited to welcome you to campus next fall.

At Shady Side, we strive to create and nurture an environment where each individual is free to be and become their most authentic self, led by our school’s Guiding Principles of honesty, kindness, responsibility, respect and safety. Our campus is a place where boarding students can maximize the results of their efforts in the classroom and in co-curricular activities, all the while sharing their lives with peers and the adults who help make up the Residential Life team. On weekends, our 5-day boarders will go home to be with family and friends, while our 7-day group will share time together exploring all that the greater Pittsburgh area has to offer.

Please stay tuned for more information regarding the opening of school, and summer opportunities to get to know SSA better. If you have any questions at all - about student or residential life - do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. On behalf of the entire Residential Life team, I wish you a safe, healthy, and restorative summer and I look forward to meeting you all in person in the fall!

Most sincerely,

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