



Spring 2025

**WINDERMERE PREP
BOARDING
WELCOME PACKET**



**WINDERMERE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



Mr. Mike Foley
Director of Residential Life

Dear Laker Family,

WELCOME! We are so very excited for you to join our Residential Life (ResLife) program here at Windermere Preparatory School. I just want to take a moment to share about our community and also introduce the ResLife Administrative team.

Our goal is to help your student have an amazing time and truly enjoy their experience. Our ResLife program has the great fortune of having students from all over the country and world. We are hopeful you will share your customs and culture with us!

The ResLife team strives to help your student feel safe and comfortable, while creating a home-like environment. We will work to help your student grow academically, socially, and personally. While here, we strongly encourage students to get involved with the life of the school. Participation will contribute greatly to their adjustment and experience in our ResLife program.



Mrs. Anna Miranda
Assistant Director of ResLife

Mrs. Anna Miranda - Assistant Director of Residential Life

“My professional career has been dedicated to supporting international and domestic students in Residential Life/Boarding environments in colleges and high schools for nine years. I started as a dorm parent and quickly promoted into leadership roles. I smiled as I typed 'Professional Career' in the first sentence, because this 'Career' is more of a lifestyle since I live on campus where I get to know and experience the students daily. I have lived full-time on campus in all my residential roles the past nine years, which has been crucial for care and support of students and staff. I will be starting my third school year at WPS Boarding, and I can't wait to help your child through their personal and academic triumphs and challenges as they navigate this amazing opportunity of Boarding Like a Laker!”

Ms. Lisa Cruz - Residential Life Manager

“I have dedicated thirteen years to educating students as a middle school science teacher and nine years as a middle school volleyball coach winning five district championships. I started in the Residential Life program at Windermere Preparatory School as a Dorm parent which gave me a true understanding of this program. I have a son and daughter of my own, which are both in college. My motto is "Learn to walk in others' shoes.”



Ms. Lisa Cruz
Residential Life Manager

Ms. Ashley Barnes - Residential Duty Administrator and Lower School Guidance Counselor

“I am a passionate individual who finds comfort in pages of books, cherishes my family and friends, and I lose myself in the thrill of movies! Beyond leisure, I advocate for the wellbeing of young minds and set ambitious goals for my own future—aiming to inspire my students along the way. My commitment to my own personal growth and love for my community shines through everything I do.”

This is my first year at WPS, bringing over 20 years of ResLife director experience. My wife is a teacher and we have two children; our son attends West Liberty University where he plays baseball and our daughter will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall. I am very excited to round out the team here at WPS and continue building our outstanding program.



Ms. Ashley Barnes
Residential Duty Administrator

In addition to these team members, we have seven Heads of House and several Dorm Parents who will be introduced in more detail closer to the opening of campus.

Thank you for trusting us with your child. We look forward to meeting you in person and welcoming you to campus. Please be sure to complete and submit all required documents, this will assist greatly with a seamless transition into the ResLife program.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you very soon! Please feel free to contact me with questions, I'm happy to help.

Sincerely,
Mr. Mike Foley



IMPORTANT ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION INFORMATION

New Student Orientation will begin on January 3, 2025 for you to learn about living and learning at Windermere Preparatory School. During New Student Orientation, you will take part in the following activities:

- Tour the school and learn about school procedures
- Take academic placement tests, if needed
- Finalize or request changes to your schedule for the first semester after submitting all required enrollment documents and speaking with your academic advisor
- Participate in organized activities to help you get to know the ResLife staff, fellow students and become familiar with your dorm
- Learn residential rules and procedures
- Obtain school uniforms (5 tops, 5 bottoms, Oxford shirt, blazer, tie (boys only), outerwear and physical education uniform (P.E.)
- Visit local retail store to purchase necessary personal items
- Open a U.S. bank account, if needed (student must be accompanied by a parent)
- Receive a physical and/or medical exam administered by a medical professional certified in Florida. The State of Florida requires physicals for all students. The student is responsible for the physical fee (up to \$125) which is due at the time of service.

More specific information about orientation will be provided in future correspondence. Please be sure to check your emails regularly!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Will I have roommates?

Students should expect to share a room with one other student. Private rooms are subject to availability and will incur an additional fee.

How are roommates assigned?

Roommates are assigned based on multiple factors, such as gender, grade level, age and nationality. We will also take into consideration the results of your Roommate Questionnaire. One of our goals is to provide as much of a culturally diverse living environment as possible.

Where will I eat my meals?

SCHOOL DAYS:

Students can have a hot breakfast buffet at the School Cafe before school. Lunch is served in the high school cafeteria during assigned lunch hour. Dinner is served at Marcy Hall located at the dorms. Students may choose to purchase additional food and beverage items for sale at the cafe or campus store and charge the cost to their student accounts. The account balance will be billed to the family on a monthly basis.

NON-SCHOOL DAYS (HOLIDAYS/WEEKENDS):

Brunch and dinner are served at the dorms. Students may go to the local store to purchase food items they may store in their assigned kitchen cabinet.

How will I stay healthy?

Our menu is created by a team of dedicated chefs who are able to meet any special dietary needs due to allergies or religious beliefs. A meeting will be scheduled upon request in order to discuss options and specific needs. Students can stay fit by joining a school athletic team, participating in after school sporting activities, or other pre-approved off-campus extracurricular interests.

How will I clean my clothing?

Each dorm unit is equipped with a washer and dryer and laundry supplies. Prefects (student mentors) will teach you how to do your own laundry and properly operate the machines.

May I leave campus on the weekend?

Students may leave campus under the direct supervision of family members or friends with the permission of their parents. Special documentation and completed check-out procedures are required prior to departure. More information about student check-out policies, and any additional requirements will be provided in the Pre-Arrival Packet and during Orientation.

What do we do during school holidays?

Windermere Preparatory School offers chaperoned trips for boarding students during Thanksgiving (November) and Spring (March) breaks. Please note the cost for these trips are part of the Student Fees. Additional information regarding the trips will be sent to families at a later date. During winter break, students must vacate the dorms to go home or visit an approved friend or family member. Be sure to check the calendar for those dates.

Is there anyone I can talk to if I am having problems?

Students are encouraged to speak with any residential staff member, teacher, academic advisor, guidance counselor or school nurse about any questions or problems they might encounter. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to supporting our students and helping them to succeed. In addition, Windermere Prep has partnered with local mental health professionals who provide regularly scheduled group sessions as part of the ResLife programming as well as offer individual sessions at an additional cost.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

What should I bring with me?

- Appropriate clothing for after school and weekend activities
- Clothing in good condition with no profanity, drug/alcohol references or inappropriate images
- A jacket for cooler weeks of the year
- Formal closed-toe dress shoes in black or brown for school formal dress days (ex. oxfords, loafers, ballet flats)
- Storage in each room is limited so please pack accordingly

What should I NOT bring?

Do not bring items that are offensive, prohibited or illegal including but not limited to cigarettes, lighters, drugs or drug paraphernalia, weapons, knives or alcohol. Students who bring items deemed to be illegal or dangerous into the dorms or onto the school campus will face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Do not bring any medicine unless it is prescription medication accompanied by the Authorization for Administration of Prescription Medication Form. This form must be completed in English by a physician and a copy of the prescription must be attached. The school nurse will determine if the medication is approved for use in the US. If approved, all medicine must be administered by the School Nurse or Residential Staff Member. Students can only keep medication that has been approved by the school nurse.

What should I buy once on campus?

Once students arrive on campus, there will be trips to local stores to buy essentials such as toiletries, towels, snacks, notebooks and pencils, etc. Residential staff members can help recommend the items students might need and teachers will provide a list of supplies needed during orientation. Weekly trips are offered to stores throughout the year to purchase additional supplies.

What will be provided for me?

- One set of school uniforms, including: 5 tops, 5 bottoms, Oxford shirt, blazer, tie (boys only), outerwear and physical education uniform
- Bed linens - one set will be provided
- Bedroom furniture: bed, clothing storage, desk and chair



What kind of mobile phone should I bring?

All students should have a mobile phone with a US number. Students will be provided with a SIM card if needed. Students are required to maintain an active US phone number on their phone while enrolled at WPS.

What type of computer should I bring?

Students are required to use a personal laptop computer at school. It needs to be able to connect to WiFi and have the ability to download or upload programs needed for school. Please review the WPS policy on Laptop specifications:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11quWJy2gVwsT7ELT4nrLtmO5mLQ1rNIOFCTuYoNAtbc/edit?usp=sharing>

In the ResLife Village, desktop or gaming computers are not allowed in bedrooms but can be brought to use in common areas. Monitors cannot exceed 21 inches.

Should I bring money?

It is recommended that students keep only small amounts of cash on hand. For safety and security, students should not keep large amounts of money in their rooms. Windermere Prep is not responsible nor liable for any loss or theft or damage of any personal items. A locked drawer is available for each student in his/her room for storage of valuables. During orientation, it is highly recommended that students open a U.S. bank account to safely store their money. Parents must be present for students under the age of 18 to open a U.S. bank account.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)



ATHLETICS

What are the requirements to join an athletic team?

The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) has attendance requirements for participation in team sports. Students must be in attendance at school within the first twenty (20) days of the school year and must be enrolled in a full-year program. Therefore, students enrolled for one semester only are not eligible to compete in a team sport. All students interested in participating must try out and be selected to join a team. Before a student is eligible to try out for a sport they must have received a sports physical from a doctor's office in Florida. Physicals must be completed on a yearly basis and are required before participation is granted.

HEALTH

How will I know if I have all the necessary immunizations to attend school?

It is important to submit the Immunization Form as early as possible in the process so that Florida medical professionals may review it in time to let you know what is still missing. Florida has very specific rules about what is needed for students to attend school, and no student may go to school without having an up-to-date record. Therefore, any student arriving to school without the needed immunizations will be taken to the doctor during Orientation to receive these vaccines at a direct cost to parents (not covered by school insurance). Please be sure to view the Immunization information provided in this packet.

Is the health insurance policy included in tuition a full coverage policy?

No. It is not a full coverage but a deductible plan with out of pocket expenses. Students will be responsible for a portion of the cost to be determined at the time of service by the doctor's office. Students will also need to pay at the time of service. You will receive more details about the coverage in future correspondence as well as details about an upgraded option. Health insurance is for international students only and does not apply to US citizens.

ACADEMICS

When will I choose my classes?

Your designated academic counselor will meet with all students to create a tentative schedule of classes and electives. Students will take placement exams after arrival to confirm the appropriate course level before finalizing student schedules for the Spring semester.

What kind of academic support is provided?

The Residential Life Program provides students with multiple opportunities for additional academic support. Head of House staff will be in communication with parents regarding academic progress. If any students show the need for a more structured study environment, they will be required to attend a Structured Study Hall from 8 PM - 9:30 PM in the evening outside of their assigned house in Marcy Hall Student Center. Students who may need additional help or tutoring are encouraged to meet with teachers first. If there is additional support needed, students may request a peer tutor at school at no additional cost, or parents can request a private tutor through school for an additional cost.

How will I prepare for my college/ university applications?

College advising begins as soon as the student begins high school at WPS. This process is based on a comprehensive guidance curriculum and builds over four years. Our counselors help students identify their learning styles, academic areas of interest, explore career options, and encourage students in extracurricular and volunteering involvement, test prep, college identification, resume building, essay writing, and their applications. The advising process helps students learn about their college options so they can confidently submit applications to their best-fit colleges and universities. Standardized test preparation for university applications begins with the PSAT. The PSAT test will be administered yearly. In addition, students will also start taking Mock Exams for the SAT and ACT. Students will take their official SAT and ACT in the 11th grade as well as the TOEFL or Dual Lingo to ensure they are prepared for the actual applications. As further preparation for the college application process, each year Windermere Prep has over 160 college representatives from all over the world to visit with our students on campus.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE CONTACT INFORMATION



We look forward to your joining the Windermere Preparatory School Residential Life program for the Spring 2025 semester. If you have any questions prior to your arrival, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Residential Life Team at Windermere Preparatory School.

Residential Life Contact Information:

General Email for ResLife Administration:

residentiallife@windermereprep.com

Duty Administrator Phone for Arrival to Dorms:

+1 (407) 461-8998

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Anna Miranda, Assistant Director of ResLife:

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Main School Address:

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Student Mailing Address:

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