

8.14.26



Dear Students and Families,

I hope you are having a wonderful August and are looking forward to the start of school! I'm sharing with you today several announcements and reminders. I look forward to seeing you soon!

IMPORTANT TO-DOS:

1. Complete your Health Forms ([Education Community](#))
2. Read your Program Letter ([Education Community](#))
3. Read [Where Wolves Don't Die](#) by Anton Treuer (our Community-wide read)
4. Review the [Student Handbook](#) (Families, also review the [IAA Family Guide](#))
5. *Get excited about fall!*

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Opening Weekend Schedule](#)
- [Preparing for Academy](#): Calendars, checklists, FAQs, and more.
- [Packing Lists](#): Required items and packing suggestions.
- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Academy Family Guide](#)
- [Course Catalog](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Performance & Ticketing Guide for Families](#)

Reminders

HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS

Housing assignments are now available in the Education Community. You'll find your roommate/suitemates' email address(es) listed, and I encourage you to reach out to them and say hello. In the **Your Info** section, you will find a button labeled **Residence Life Info**. When you click on this, you will have access to your residence hall and room number, as well as your roommate and suitemates' names. If you have any questions, please reach out to studenthousing@interlochen.org.

INTERLOCHEN CAMPUS EMAIL ADDRESS

Please begin regularly checking your interlochen.org campus email address. We will begin communicating with you using this address. New students, if you have not received your email login information or need assistance, please contact our Help Desk at wecanhelp@interlochen.org

THE INTERLOCHEN EDUCATION COMMUNITY: YOUR "GO-TO" PLACE FOR INFORMATION

Interlochen's [Education Community](#) is where students and families submit applications, register for courses, submit travel plans, complete required forms, and receive important information such as housing assignments and program details. We also offer a mobile app for the Education Community: In your device's app store, search for "Interlochen Edu Community" and download the app to get started. When you initially log in, you can save your credentials for easy access on the go.

Student Arrivals & Orientation

Opening weekend schedule highlights are included below.

- Please see the [full schedule](#) for more details.

Our arrival week starts with a **Family Information Session over Zoom on Monday, August 31**. All international students and those students selected as Student Leaders, Peer Mentors, and Welcome Wagon participants will arrive on Wednesday, September 2. All 9th-grade students, and new 10th-grade students will arrive on Thursday, September 3. **All other students should arrive on Friday, September 4.**

Families are invited to a series of receptions and events on Friday, September 4 and Saturday, September 5. Families depart campus on Saturday evening after our 7 p.m. opening Convocation. The week's schedule is outlined below, and a detailed schedule will be shared in August.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31 (ZOOM)

7 - 8:30 p.m. ET | Virtual Family Onboarding

[Zoom Link](#)

Families are invited to join us on Zoom for a discussion about family communication, parenting from a distance, and first-week expectations.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 12 - 4 p.m. | Registration & Move-In for:
 - All international students
 - Welcome Wagon students
 - Student Leaders and Peer Mentors

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Registration & Move-In for:
 - 9th-grade students and all NEW 10th-grade students
- Orientation for NEW international students

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Registration & Move-In for:
 - All returning students
 - NEW 11th, 12th & postgraduate students
- Orientation for 9th-grade students and all NEW 10th-grade students

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Parent/Family Meetings & Receptions
- 7 - 8:30 p.m. | Opening Convocation (Kresge Auditorium)
- Families depart after Convocation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Families have departed - No programming for families on Sunday
- Student orientation & recreation

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- Classes begin!

Health & Wellness Reminders

HEALTH FORMS & HEALTH CHECKLIST

Please review the [Health Services checklist](#) to ensure you are ready for fall.

Student Health Profiles are open and ready for families to complete in the [Education Community](#). Please complete your health profile as soon as possible so that our team has time to review it before the start of school.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Families of students who will be using prescription medications at IAA should be aware of the following:

- Our preferred pharmacy, [Omnicare](#) (a CVS Health company), must be used for all medication needs.
- The student's health profile in SchoolDoc must be completed in full in order to start this process.
- If the health profile indicates the student will be using prescription medications during the school year, the student will be automatically enrolled in the Omnicare prescription system.
- **Please allow for one week of processing time after completing the IAA health forms before submitting your prescription(s) to Omnicare.**

Please [read more about submitting prescriptions](#). (For returning families: While the partnership with a CVS company is new this year, we are hopeful you will find this more convenient.)

Important Note:

If medications are dropped off directly at Health Services instead of being filled through Omnicare (or provided in pre-approved compliant packaging), families will be charged a **medication administration fee of \$750 per semester**. This fee is due to the extra labor involved in the processing required by our nursing team.

Exceptions:

The following medication types are exempt from this fee and may be dropped off at Health Services:

- Injectable medications (e.g., insulin, hormone therapy)
- Emergency inhalers and rescue medications (e.g., EpiPens, albuterol)

- Specialty medications (Compounded or non-formulary, etc.)
- Topical medications (ointments, creams)
- Eye drops
- Diabetic medication & supplies

Alternative Option to Avoid the Fee – Blister Packaging

If families are unable to use **Omnicare**, they may still avoid the fee by providing all daily medications in **unit-dose compliant packaging**, such as **blister packs clearly labeled by day and time**.

You may:

- **Ask your home pharmacy** if they offer compliant unit-dose blister packaging
- **Order blister packaging supplies** from online retailers like Amazon, and ask your pharmacist to fill prescriptions into them (note: we cannot accept daily pill organizers or loose bottles)

AGAIN: Medications that are not processed through [Omnicare](#) OR received in proper unit-dose compliant packaging will be subject to the \$750 per semester administration fee.

REQUIRED PHYSICAL

As a reminder, a medical physical is required before the start of the school year. This examination plays a crucial role in assessing student health and fitness for participation in various activities. Please be sure to get this appointment scheduled with your physician early so you can complete this requirement. In order for the physical examination to be considered valid for the upcoming school year, it must be conducted on or after April 15, 2026. Please [use this form](#) to complete this requirement. This document will be uploaded and available in your student health profile.

IMMUNIZATIONS

As part of the Health Profiles, families must provide immunization records showing that their student has received all immunizations listed in the [Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan School Settings chart](#). Records must show that immunizations are up to date prior to arrival at school. Additional details about immunization requirements may be found [here](#).

Opportunities

THE GATES SCHOLARSHIP

The Gates Scholarship is a highly selective college scholarship for outstanding BIPOC high school seniors from low-income households. Selected Scholars receive funding for the full cost of attendance to earn a bachelor's degree, that is not already covered by other financial aid. Costs covered include tuition, fees, books, housing and food, and may include additional personal costs. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

College Corner

Updates from the Academic & College Counseling office.

Please see the [ACC Canvas Page](#) for additional college resources!

REMINDERS FOR SENIORS:

- **Make sure you request your letters of recommendation for your college applications early!**
Please request your letters of recommendation early for your college applications. We use [Scoir](#) to request Interlochen faculty letters. For external recommenders, please contact your Academic and College Counselor (ACC) for instructions.
- **New Seniors:** A Scoir account has been created for you. You should have received an email with instructions. Please check your Interlochen email account. If you have questions about accessing your account, please contact your academic and college counselor.
- **In Scoir, remember to add all the colleges you are interested in.**
Why now? We frequently receive scholarship nominations or student fly-in program offers from specific institutions. Our office will use the information in Scoir to determine interest in these opportunities. This list can be modified at any time!
- **Get started on the [Common Application](#)!**
We encourage everyone to work through as much of the application as possible prior to arrival to the Academy. Also, arriving with a solid draft of the Common App essay is highly recommended. The more you do prior to arrival the less you'll have to do once here, which will allow you to focus on other priorities!

Would you like more information on Collegiate Scholarships opportunities? Sign up for [Fast Web](#) to receive regular updates.

For Families

PARENT GIVING

The new Academy year is almost here, and we can't wait to welcome you to campus! Please contact [Emily Culler](#) or visit the Parent Philanthropy table at Registration during Move-In to learn about the many ways you can lean in and support this amazing community through [giving](#) and giving back as a parent volunteer.

FAMILY INFO SESSIONS

Families, please mark your calendars for our upcoming Family Information Sessions. These sessions, held via Zoom, are a chance to hear from Interlochen leadership, get updates from campus, and discuss special topics. All sessions are recorded and will be available for future viewing on your own time. [View the full schedule.](#)

- *First Family Information Session:*
Family Communication, Parenting From A Distance, What To Expect In The First Week
Monday, August 31 | 7 p.m. ET | [Zoom Link](#)
Join us for a pre-arrival family meeting where we'll discuss effective family communication, remote parenting strategies, and what to anticipate during the first week.

PERFORMANCE TICKETING FOR FAMILIES

Academy families are welcome to attend student performances! Tickets for most Academy events are free and available through Interlochen's online box office. [Please see the Academy Performance & Ticketing Guide](#) for details. Many performances are also available [via webcast](#), so families can enjoy from home.

INTERLOCHEN HOMESTAY PROGRAM - HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

We are seeking school break host families for international students over fall break, winter break, and spring break. Families and members of the Interlochen community interested in hosting a student are encouraged to [apply here](#). This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know a student from another country and show them your local area. New to hosting? [Read these tips for a great hosting experience](#). All adults in the home will be required to be signed up as Interlochen volunteers and complete the background check process. Host families may live anywhere within the continental

United States. Please send any questions to International Student Services Manager [Kalyn Rabuse](#).

EXPLORING NORTHERN MICHIGAN

From unique restaurants to vintage clothing and indie bookstores, here are the [top weekend destinations](#) for Arts Academy students and visiting families!

FAMILY WEEKEND

Thursday, October 8 - Sunday, October 11

Our Family Weekend will officially begin with a special presentation by guest speaker [Ethan Kross](#) at 4 p.m., on Thursday, October 8. Most other family weekend events will start on Friday morning, October 9.

Class visits are all day Friday; faculty conferences and a special “Collage” performance are on Saturday; and the College Fair is on Sunday.

- If you plan to attend the Ethan Kross presentation, we recommend arriving in the evening on Wednesday, October 7, or in the morning on Thursday, October 8.
- If you are not able to attend the presentation, we suggest arriving in the evening on Thursday, October 8, in time for the events on Friday.

Planning Ahead

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please remember to review the [Academic Calendar](#) for important dates and school breaks.

Have a great week.



Camille Colatosti, PhD (she/her)
Provost
Interlochen Center for the Arts

