



# NEW STUDENT INFORMATION PACKET

## Arrival at Blue Ridge School

If you are participating in the following, you will need to arrive by these dates:

ELL Summer Camp - August 20, 2018 (please email Krystle Gee if you have any questions about the camp at [kgee@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:kgee@blueridgeschool.com))

Football Preseason Camp – August 20, 2018 (please email Coach Jimmy Wills if you have any questions about the camp at [jwills@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:jwills@blueridgeschool.com))

Soccer Preseason Camp – August 27, 2018 (please email Coach Matt Bennett if you have any questions about the camp at [mbennett@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:mbennett@blueridgeschool.com))

New students not participating in the preseason camps need to arrive at school on September 4, 2018. We will provide bus transportation for all new students who arrive on September 4.

\*For students arriving for Soccer Camp and for all-student registration, please follow directions on the check off list provided in order for us to help set up transportation. For any questions, please email Mrs. Gee at [kgee@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:kgee@blueridgeschool.com).

## Hotel Information

If your parents will be accompanying you to campus, they may want to take advantage of our discounted room rate at The Holiday Inn Express & Suites located at 5920 Seminole Trail in Ruckersville, Virginia, 22968. The link for the hotel is: <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/ruckersville/rukvl/hoteldetail> Please mention Blue Ridge School to secure the discount.

Other options, within 10 minutes of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Airport and 30 minutes from campus, include:

Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlottesville North, 577 Branchlands Boulevard, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22901 - <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chofi-fairfield-inn-and-suites-charlottesville-north/?pid=-corptbta&scid=b661a3c4-9c47-48c8-9e13-75b66089dd79>

DoubleTree by Hilton, 990 Hilton Heights Road, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22901 - [http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/hotel/CHOSHDT-DoubleTree-by-Hilton-Hotel-Charlottesville-Virginia/index.do](http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/CHOSHDT-DoubleTree-by-Hilton-Hotel-Charlottesville-Virginia/index.do)

## Banking and Money

Students are strongly discouraged from keeping more than \$100 in cash in their dorm rooms. If students must bring cash, we advise them to store it in our Business Office safe where it will be readily accessible during business hours. Students should have a form of payment other than cash.

## Transportation

Please note that students are expected to adhere to the designated break schedule when departing and returning to campus. It is best to book travel on the posted leave dates early in order to get the best price.

Please see the following regarding excessive absences from our 2017-18 Student/Parent Handbook:

### “Excessive Absences from School

i. Extending a leave for any of the following reasons is not permitted:

1. SAT classes or other academic preparation outside the Blue Ridge School campus. Such preparation should be carefully scheduled to coincide with school leave dates. Help is available for SAT and ACT preparation on the School campus while we are in session.
2. Physical or other examinations for national service.
3. Visits with relatives.
4. Leaving two or three days early or returning two or three days to save money on a flight is not permitted. It is best to book travel on the posted leave dates early in order to get the best price.

ii. The School understands that both foreseeable and unforeseeable circumstances may arise that necessitate a student’s absence from school beyond the published leave dates, but given the short academic year and intense nature of a boarding school curriculum, excessive absences from school are detrimental to the student and cause an undue burden on faculty. Rather than negotiate the validity of each individual circumstance, the School has adopted the policy below for any school days missed beyond those already marked in the academic calendar:

1. For any days of school missed, students must understand that the faculty are under no obligation whatsoever to make an extra effort to provide the students with material in advance of the days missed or to make time beyond that provided in the daily schedule to help them catch up after the absence.
2. Any quizzes or tests missed due to an absence will be expected to be taken the next day unless the faculty member in question determines otherwise.
3. Once a student has missed four days of school for any reason, whether approved by the School or not, each and every day missed will result in one (1) point taken off the final trimester average in all courses missed that day.
4. The School reserves the right to impose immediate academic and disciplinary penalties if in the School’s judgment a student departs early or returns late from a leave for reasons that could and should have been avoided, such as those listed in section c.i. above.

iii. In certain cases, disciplinary consequences in the form of weekend work crews may also be assigned, at the discretion of the Dean of Students and the Associate Headmaster for Academics.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is the school closed for breaks and vacations?

Our dorms are closed for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks. For each of these breaks, all students must leave campus. For each required break, parents must submit a leave form for their student online under the “Parent Resources” tab. Leaves are submitted through a program called Boardingware. More information regarding Boardingware will be provided by the Residence Life Coordinator, Hans Hermanson, [hhermanson@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:hhermanson@blueridgeschool.com).

Blue Ridge School does provide transportation to Dulles and Charlottesville airports on designated break days. Please be sure to check the school calendar before making any travel plans.

### Which airport is closest to Blue Ridge School?

The closest airport is Charlottesville Albemarle (CHO) airport. Students may also fly into Washington Dulles (IAD) airport which is about 2 hours from campus. For school vacations, we do have a school bus that will take students to Washington Dulles airport for an additional cost. Keep in mind that students are not allowed to travel on any dates other than the official school breaks. Please DO NOT book travel outside of the designated dates without receiving permission first from our Assistant Headmaster, Vinton Bruton. Failure to obtain permission may result in academic consequences. Please also note that we recommend that students arrive at the airport 3 hours early for an international flight and 2 hours early for a domestic flight when making travel plans.

### What should I pack?

Please refer to our packing list located on the interactive check-off list. Note that we will provide transportation into nearby stores for any additional clothing, school supplies, toiletries or dorm room items a student may need. If you will be traveling to campus with your parents and would like a list of recommended stores, please email the Director of International Admissions & Parent Relations, [kgee@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:kgee@blueridgeschool.com). For all new students, we do require an original copy of your previous transcripts with a seal and signature. Please be sure to bring your transcript(s) with you and give them to our Registrar upon arrival at Blue Ridge School.

### May I bring my cell phone?

Yes. Cell phones are not to be used during school hours. For more information about our cell phone use policy, please refer to our Student Handbook.

### What address should I use to receive mail?

All of our mail comes to our central mail room where it is sorted. A mailbox key will be assigned to you when you arrive on campus. To receive mail, you will use your name followed by our school address:

Student’s Name  
c/o Blue Ridge School  
273 Mayo Drive  
St. George, Virginia 22935

## Who should be my parent's first point of contact at the School?

When school begins, a student will be assigned an advisor who will communicate routinely with his parents about his progress. For any specific concerns about a student, parents should first contact the advisor by email or phone. Please also utilize the support from our Director of Parent Relations, Krystle Gee, email [kgee@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:kgee@blueridgeschool.com).

## Where do my parents access important forms?

Important forms can be located in three locations:

1. The Blue Ridge website [www.blueridgeschool.com](http://www.blueridgeschool.com)  
Once you access the website, locate "Quick Links" on the top right. Click on "Parent Resources". Under "Parent Resources" there is a number of important documents.
2. The Blue Ridge website [www.blueridgeschool.com](http://www.blueridgeschool.com)  
Once you access the website, locate the "Parents" tab. Click on "Parents". Under "Parents", click on "Parent Resources".
3. RenWeb  
Your parents will be set-up with a RenWeb account where they will be able to see announcements for important documents on the main page. They are also able to access your grades from this website.
4. Magnus  
ALL of the Blue Ridge health forms are located within the Magnus system. Your parents will gain access to this by receiving an email once their account has been activated. They are able to add and remove documents at any time.

## How else will my parents know what is going on at Blue Ridge?

There are a number of ways for your parents to stay connected throughout the school year:

weekly newsletters, Blue Ridge Facebook Page and Parent Page, the School's Twitter account. Videos can be watched on YouTube and Facebook. The following is how you are able to access these means of communication:

1. Weekly e-newsletters are sent every weekend to all parents.  
These emails are sent through Constant Contact and may, at first, go directly to your spam or junk folders. If you don't receive the newsletter (the first issue will be sent in early August) please check these folders for an email from [hkeldermans@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:hkeldermans@blueridgeschool.com). If you find a parent newsletter there, please mark it as "not spam" or "safe". If more than two or three emails go directly to spam, Constant Contact will no longer send an email to that address so it's important to check your spam folders. Here's the link to the parent e-newsletter archive. <http://www.blueridgeschool.com/parents/parent-ewsletter-archive>
2. Blue Ridge School Facebook Page  
(<https://business.facebook.com/blueridgeschool/>) This page posts news, photos and videos throughout the day. Please "like" our page so that these items will appear on your own Facebook feed.
3. We have set up a private Facebook page just for parents on which you can post your questions, share ideas, and more with other parents and School administrators. We send all new parents an

invitation to join this group. Please check your spam folders as this is often where the invitation may be delivered.

4. The School's Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/blueridgeschool>) is another good source for news about the school and students.

5. Most videos taken during the year are posted to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/BRSH-Keldermans>) and Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/blueridgeschool>). You can click "follow" on Vimeo and "subscribe" on YouTube to receive a notice when we upload new videos.

## Will I have Wi-Fi access?

Yes. All students will be given a "@blueridgeschool.com" email address and a wireless password. Wireless Internet is available in the dormitories and the academic buildings on campus. Please note that wireless Internet will be shut off at lights-out in the dormitories. Students will be expected to use the Internet responsibly. Please see our Parent & Student Handbook for more information about the Blue Ridge School technology policies.