

We are providing the following information to parents at this time to facilitate their planning for the next school year. In July all students will receive the Student Handbook, which will provide detailed information regarding school rules, the Honor Code, extracurricular organizations and general information. If you requested preliminary calendars from my office earlier in the year, you should have been aware that the dates were not necessarily final, so please check to be sure you have current information. Faculty or staff mentioned in this document can be reached at school by calling 860-945-7777, by dialing their office numbers directly, or by e-mailing them at the addresses shown in the text.

Opening of School

As you will see from the enclosed calendar, students are asked to arrive at Taft at various times between September 2 and September 7. If for some reason it is necessary for you to arrive on a day other than the day you are expected, please call the Dean's Office to discuss your plans.

Early Athletic Practice

Coaches will contact students to invite them to return early for preseason workouts. Preseason practices are only for invited varsity candidates. New students may return for early practices only if the coach of their sport has invited them. Otherwise, new students should arrive on Wednesday, September 7. Questions about early practices should be directed to the coaches listed below. All athletes should note, as described in the next section, that they must have health forms completed before they can practice.

Return Date	Sport	Coach
Friday, September 2	Football	Mr. Panos Voulgaris PanosVoulgaris@TaftSchool.org 860 945-2937
	Girls' Varsity Soccer	Ms. Winnie Adrien EdwinaAdrien@TaftSchool.org 860 945-7828
	Girls' Varsity Field Hockey	Ms. Rachael Ryan RachaelRyan@TaftSchool.org 860 417-3458
	Boys' Varsity Soccer	Mr. William Orben WillOrben@TaftSchool.org 860 945-7987
	Girls' Varsity Volleyball	Mrs. Ginger O'Shea GingerOShea@TaftSchool.org 860 945-7840
Saturday, September 3	Boys' Cross Country	Steve Palmer Palmers@TaftSchool.org 603 446-9436 (preferred during summer)
	Girls' Cross Country	Ms. Laura Monti LauraMonti@TaftSchool.org 860 945-7832

Physical Examination

All students are required to have a complete physical examination at home before coming to school. Results of this examination together with the Health Questionnaire must be returned to the School Health Center by **July 1**. State Health Officials have the right to bar a student from attending Taft if the Health Center does not have on file the health questionnaire and a complete immunization record. Please be certain to complete and sign all forms. All students are required to have health insurance. A copy of a current health insurance card should be returned with the Health Questionnaire. Students will not be able to participate in athletics unless they have a record of a current physical and consent form filed in the Health Center.

Health Requirements

If possible, medical and dental appointments should not be made while school is in session. In the case of urgent medical matters requiring absence from school, parents should arrange appointments with the Health Center.

It is essential that the Health Center be notified of any illness or of any exposure to contagious or infectious disease that a student may have experienced during vacations. In addition, if your son or daughter has been under recent care for emotional or psychological issues, please indicate this on the medical form. Students may not keep medications in their rooms. Medications should be mailed directly to the Health Center or brought over by a parent/guardian on the day of arrival at school.

Student Register or "Facebook"

Taft publishes a "Facebook," which is printed over the summer. This printed Facebook is our school directory and is not to be confused with the ubiquitous online service that so many students use. Our facebook includes all students (with a photograph) and appropriate contact information, as well as a listing of faculty and staff. We also include birthdays (no year) and a regional index. The facebook is very useful in identifying people, and their roles and in facilitating communication. We fully understand that you may want to limit what information you include, and our privacy standards protect that right. We will send you a letter confirming your information in early June.

Current students were photographed at Taft in May. New students will need to submit a photo by June 30. Please email a recent school or passport type photo to Julie Reiff at reiffj@taftschool.org. The pictures need not be formal, but we do ask that no hats or sunglasses be worn in the pictures as they make identification difficult.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Rooming

The Directors of Residential Life, Dana Bertuglia (DanaBertuglia@TaftSchool.org) and Dan Murphy (DanielMurphy@tTaftSchool.org) handle room assignments. Rooming lists are not usually finalized until the last week of August due to late changes. We hope to send students email confirmation of their room assignments; you should receive notification by August 25. If you do not hear from us by that date, you may call the Dean's Office 860-945-7800 to find out if your child has a roommate. This office can also provide roommate contact information.

Weekends

Students are not permitted to miss classes to take a weekend. Students in good standing may sign out for Saturday Weekends--weekends which begin after Saturday classes or athletic commitments and end at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday evening. Certain weekends during the year are closed; these weekends are listed at the bottom of the calendar later in this booklet.

Each term there is one Long Weekend as indicated on the enclosed calendar. Students are not permitted to miss class to leave early for weekends or vacations. Seniors are permitted to miss three days of classes during their senior year to visit colleges. Seniors are responsible for all academic work on these College Days and may use the days only to visit colleges.

Reports

The scholastic year is divided into two semesters, each concluding with major examinations (in December and late May/early June). Parents will receive grades at mid-semester (late October/early November and March) and at the end of each semester. At the end of the semester, in addition to the student's grades, parents will also receive a letter from the student's advisor as well as a cover letter from the Class Dean. Class comments from all teachers will be sent to parents in December, March, and June. Finally, teachers report grades to Class Deans approximately every three weeks on students who, in the opinion of their teachers, are not doing satisfactory work. Though these grades will not be mailed home, Class Deans use them to monitor students' work. Class Deans will report to parents periodically on students about whom they have concerns.

Clothing

While more specific information about dress requirements will be forthcoming in the Student Handbook, the following guidelines should suffice as you prepare for the year. For sit-down dinners, concerts, and certain other occasions, boys must wear a jacket, dress trousers, collared shirt and tie, socks, and dress shoes. Collared shirts, long trousers, and shoes, sneakers, or sandals are required for class.

Girls wear dresses--long or short--or skirts with blouses or sweaters and dress shoes for sit-down dinner, concerts, and other similar events. Girls' dresses should not expose the midriff, and skirts cannot be shorter than two inches below where fingertips hang when standing naturally. For class, girls wear skirts or slacks, blouses or sweaters, and shoes, sneakers, or sandals. Skirt and top requirements mentioned above apply to class dress as well as formal dress. In a school setting, provocative attire is never appropriate.

Patched or torn pants or skirts; denim jeans, skirts, or jackets of any color; fatigue or camouflage clothing; overalls; shorts; T-shirts; and sweatshirts, hoodies, or athletic clothing are not allowed for class dress.

Laundry

Laundry takes one week if done by the School's contract vendor, E&R Laundry. Every article of clothing must be distinctly marked with the owner's name. Further information on laundry service will be provided by the Business Office later in the summer. Coin-operated washers and dryers are available in both the boys' and girls' dormitories.

Furniture

It is our intention that students' rooms should be simply, but comfortably, furnished. Students' rooms are adequately furnished by the School with bed, bureau, desk, desk chair, and curtains. Students must supply their own bed linen: four sheets, two pillowcases, four towels, blankets, and bedspread. Fire regulations prohibit the use of beanbag chairs. Student rooms that are large enough to fit additional pieces of furniture are allowed a maximum of one loveseat (the fire marshal does not permit larger sofas) and one recliner or upholstered chair. No substitutions for the school-provided furnishings will be allowed. The mattress is a standard single size.

Desk lamps are available at a reasonable price from the School Store. Fire regulations prohibit the use of halogen lamps in the dormitories. All students may have computers, stereos, and radios, but television sets are not permitted. Because of the limitations of the wiring and the fire hazard involved, no other types of electrical appliances are allowed except electric clocks, electric blankets, and hair dryers. Extension cords must be UL approved. If you are purchasing an alarm clock, we recommend one with a battery backup so that power failures will not result in missed classes. Students will not be excused from class because of alarm clock malfunctions.

Packing List

Parents and students often have questions about what to bring to school, so we have developed a packing list. This list is more of a guideline than a list of required items, but we hope it will be helpful. You can find this list at <http://www.TaftSchool.org/students/deans.aspx>.

Transportation

Please realize that we do not allow students to miss classes to leave early for vacations and weekends. It is not possible to alter class schedules to allow students to depart before the end of their last class for any vacation or weekend. If making weekend or vacation reservations from Bradley Airport in Hartford, allow two and a half hours from the end of classes--times are listed on the enclosed calendar--until departure. If scheduling out of Kennedy or LaGuardia Airports in New York, please allow four hours. As you know, airlines are getting particularly sticky about asking travelers to arrive well before flight time. Special transportation problems should be discussed with the Dean's Office at least three weeks in advance of vacations.

If there is sufficient need, the School runs school vans at students' expense directly from Taft to Kennedy and LaGuardia Airports, and chartered busses to Bradley Airport and Pennsylvania and Grand Central Stations at the beginning of Thanksgiving, winter recess, and spring recess, but not at the opening of school in September. If there is demand, busses and vans will also be run at the beginning and end of long weekends. At the end of these breaks, the School also provides transportation back to School from New York City and Bradley Airport.

Any questions about transportation can be directed to Michael Blomberg, 860-945-7721 MikeBlomberg@TaftSchool.org. This office will also arrange transportation to Taft from Bradley Airport at the opening of School if requested to do so by parents.

A more detailed explanation of transportation services will be sent to all parents in October.

Calling the School

The Taft School's telephone number in Watertown is 860-945-7777. The direct line to the Dean's Office is 860-945-7800 and the fax number to this office for permissions and other business is 860-945-7720.

The School's switchboard is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. When the switchboard is closed, a recording will ask you to call the School Duty Office 860-945-7800 or the Security Office 860-945-7789, where emergency messages can be taken 24 hours a day.



Rusty Davis
Assistant Headmaster
860 945-7718
RustyDavis@TaftSchool.org

Taft School Calendar 2011-12

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Friday	September	2	Boys' varsity football, boys' & girls' varsity soccer, girls' varsity field hockey & volleyball arrive
Saturday	September	3	Boys' & Girls' cross country arrive
Sunday	September	4	All monitors arrive for training
Monday	September	5	Monitor training continues
Tuesday	September	6	International Students & Student Sponsors orientation
Wednesday	September	7	New and returning students arrive
Thursday	September	8	Classes begin
Monday	September	26	Free Day
Saturday	October	1	College Board examinations for seniors
Saturday	October	8	Fall long weekend begins after last class (11:45) or game
Tuesday	October	11	Fall long weekend ends at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	October	12	PSAT examinations for middlers & upper middlers
Saturday	October	22	ACT tests
Monday	October	24	Community Service Day
Saturday	October	29	Fall Parents' Day
Wednesday	November	2	Grandparents' Day
Saturday	November	5	College Board examinations for seniors
Saturday	November	19	Thanksgiving vacation begins after last class (11:00)
Monday	November	28	Thanksgiving vacation ends at 7:30 p.m.
Friday	December	9	First semester examinations begin
Tuesday	December	13	Exams end, Christmas service this evening
Wednesday	December	14	Holiday recess begins at noon

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Monday	January	2	Vacation ends at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	January	3	Second semester begins
Saturday	January	14	College program for parents of upper middlers
Monday	January	16	Martin Luther King celebration
Saturday	January	28	College board examinations for upper middlers
Thursday	February	2	Winter long weekend begins after last class (3:05)
Monday	February	6	Winter long weekend ends at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	February	18	Winter Parents' Day
Monday	February	20	Free day--the formal will be Sunday night
Wednesday	March	7	Spring vacation begins after last class (11:00)
Monday	March	26	Spring vacation ends at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	March	27	Second semester continues
Monday	April	9	Free Day
Saturday	April	14	ACT tests for upper middlers
Friday	May	4	Spring long weekend begins after last class (1:45) or game
Saturday	May	5	College board examinations for upper middlers
Monday	May	7	Spring long weekend ends at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	May	19	Alumni Day
Sunday	May	27	Graduation
Monday	May	28	Second semester examinations begin
Friday	June	1	Second semester examinations end at noon
Saturday	June	2	College board examinations for upper middlers

Also, make note of the closed weekends which will be on the following dates: September 10-11, September 17-18, October 15-16, November 12-13, December 3-4, December 10-11, January 7-8, February 11-12, March 31-April 1, April 28-29, May 19-20, and graduation weekend, May 26-27. No weekends are closed for seniors after spring vacation.