

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

See below to find answers to the questions most frequently asked by parents. They are organized into these categories: New Families, Academic Dean, Active Program, Student Life, and the Business Office.

NEW FAMILIES

Is there anything I can do in advance to help prepare my student for the CRMS experience?

CRMS is an environment where growth mindset is both required and celebrated. Carol Dweck's Mindset is an interesting and quick read which could be a springboard for you to discuss mindset with your student.

Where can I stay and eat when I take my child to CRMS or visit the school?

What is there to do?

The Carbondale and Redstone Chambers of Commerce have listings of lodging, dining, and recreational opportunities in the Roaring Fork Valley. For a list of lodgings, click here. For restaurants and activities, go to www.carbondale.com.

Can I move my student into his or her dorm prior to Wilderness?

No; all new students are assigned to their dorm rooms when they return to campus after Wilderness.

Where can my student store possessions while he or she is on Wilderness?

Students will store all of their items in the CRMS gym when they arrive. Students can access their items until their departure on Wilderness, when the gym will be locked.

Do all students have to spend Friday night on campus?

Yes, all students - both boarding and day - will stay on campus Friday night.

When is the last time I will have a chance to see my student before he or she departs for Wilderness?

Parents are welcome to eat breakfast in the Bar Fork with their student Saturday morning prior to their student's departure.

What is my student's address at CRMS?

You may send mail/packages to Colorado Rocky Mountain School, name of your student, 500 Holden Way, Carbondale, CO 81623, and the bookstore staff will make sure your student receives it.

What size bed will my student have in the dorm?

All dorms have regular twin size beds; you may purchase posters and a dorm refrigerator if you would like. If you put posters on the walls you must use poster putty (no tacks or nails).

How can students buy the items they need?

CRMS provides bus transportation to Glenwood Springs where students can shop at Target; Walmart; Bed, Bath, and Beyond; and other nearby stores.

We forgot a few items my student needs for Wilderness; where should we go?

In Carbondale, Independence Run & Hike has great boots and small items, and Ragged Mountain Sports carries second-hand equipment. For the larger items we suggest Summit Canyon Mountaineering and Factory Surplus in Glenwood Springs or Bristlecone Sport in Basalt.

Where can my student receive regular and/or emergency medical care?

CRMS students in need of routine medical care can be seen at Roaring Fork Family Physicians in Carbondale. This is our local, long-standing family practice located less than 1 mile away from campus. We have a strong relationship with all the physicians and staff here. They are quick to respond to us and almost always see our students within 1 day. For emergencies, students can be taken to Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs. Valley View is an award-winning, community-owned hospital that provides a full complement of outpatient, inpatient and emergency services. Valley view meets stringent criteria for providing quality patient-centered care in a healing environment and has been named a Planetree Designated Hospital.

ACADEMIC DEAN**When do I get to see my child's schedule and what teachers he or she has?**

A list of student schedules can be viewed at the registration table, but specific class/teacher sections are finalized after registration is completed for all new students. Students will find a schedule in their mailbox when they return from Wilderness.

What if my child doesn't get into a class he or she really wants to take?

We make every effort to give students their first or second choice, but this isn't always possible. In addition to considering schedule compatibility, it is important for us to balance sections and student numbers with course demand.

Is there an opportunity for my child to drop a course and add something else?

Students may drop or add academic courses, with approval, until the second Friday of classes. Requests for a late drop must be made at least two weeks prior to the end of the first quarter.

What is the typical academic load for CRMS students?

Freshmen and sophomores take 6 academic classes. Juniors and seniors have 5 academic classes, although many elect to take a 6th course. Students can expect 1-2

hours of homework most nights. Juniors and seniors are engaged in Test Prep/College Counseling once a week.

What courses should my student take?

Students must earn at least 20 credits to graduate from CRMS. These credits include four years of English and three years of math through Algebra II. For the remaining four departments (history, lab science, modern language, and fine arts), three years in three departments and two years in one department are required. For the purpose of college admission, we recommend students take four years of math and at least three years of modern language. It is important that students choose a course load that will demonstrate their strengths while providing an appropriate level of challenge. If you have questions about course choices, see your child's advisor or the Academic Dean.

Do CRMS students have study halls?

All new students are required to attend one study hall per week until Thanksgiving break. Students will be exempt from study hall after that unless they have been placed on Academic Warning. All boarding students have study halls nightly and may go to the library for quiet study, research, or extra help.

How often should I check ParentsWeb?

This varies from family to family. Gradebooks posted on ParentsWeb give a limited view of a student's performance. Conversations with your child and his or her teachers and advisor will be much more informative. We encourage parents to look at RenWeb's Gradebook about twice each quarter, and we include a "mid-quarter check-in" reminder in the parent e-mail to notify parents that the Gradebooks are updated.

How do we purchase textbooks?

Students will receive a list of the textbooks they need on the syllabus they receive the first day of class. Generally, teachers will expect students to have textbooks by the Monday after school starts. Students should have ample time to visit the bookstore during a free period or lunch. The bookstore will have extended hours during the first week of classes. Most books can be purchased either new or used. Bookstore purchases are charged to the student's account.

STUDENT LIFE (DAY AND BOARDING STUDENTS)

Who do I contact if I have a question about the school program?

The student's advisor is the first person to contact regarding any academic or active questions. If the advisor does not have the information, he or she will be able to direct you to the appropriate person.

Is campus open for students to come and go during the day?

Part of what attracts many students to our area is the opportunity to take advantage of the trails in the surrounding area that are ideal for hiking and biking. Since we want students to be active, the campus is open until 7:15 p.m. when all visitors are expected to depart. Students are permitted to leave campus during the day provided that they sign out (outside Bar Fork A) and their departure does not conflict with a school obligation. Boarding students are not allowed to drive off campus in a day student's car.

Can day-student drivers come and go as they please throughout the day?

Day-student drivers are only permitted to leave campus before their last obligation if they have a note from a parent. The expectation is that the day-student driver will leave campus only after this note has been cleared by the Dean of Students, and the student has signed out (outside Bar Fork A). Once a student's obligations have been completed, he or she is free to depart campus in a vehicle.

Are students permitted to have cell phones?

Cell phones are a great way to keep in touch with your child. Please be sensitive that conversations do not encroach upon evening study halls and other programmatic obligations.

What is the purpose of "Class Meetings"?

Class Meetings are when the students gather according to their grade level. These meetings are part of a curriculum that teaches students life skills and one that emphasizes the connection to community.

Has hazing been an issue at CRMS?

The school takes hazing very seriously and does not tolerate any form of disrespect that physically or emotionally demeans a member of our student body. While extreme cases of hazing would in all likelihood result in a student's immediate separation from the school, hazing has not been an issue at CRMS because this is a small and intimate community where the students reside in dorms with classmates of the same age.

Can day students spend the night on campus on weekends?

Yes, day students may pick up the request form from Holden House, fill it out, and submit Lolli White, Receptionist, by noon on Thursday.

Who do I contact if I have a question or concern about dorm life?

The Director of Residential Life, BJ Sbarra, can help with any programmatic questions. If the question is better suited for a dorm faculty member or advisor, he or she will be able to direct your question to the appropriate party.

Does anyone wake boarding students up in the morning to get them to breakfast and classes?

Students are solely responsible for attending their obligations. Faculty will not be waking them up in the morning. An alarm clock is a good investment for those who find it difficult to get started in the morning.

When is the best time to call my child? When shouldn't I call?

It is not appropriate to call any time the students have a programmatic obligation. Resist the temptation to call during the 7:45-9:45 p.m. study hall, as this time has been set aside for academic focus. During the academic week, there may be a free period or afternoon when there is time to speak. Weekends might afford the most consistent opportunities.

What are "closed weekends" and why does the school have them?

"Closed weekends" are when the school does not permit boarding students to sign out for the weekend. With the exception of the first weekend back, all "closed weekends" do allow local boarding students to sign out to their parents' home. We have "closed weekends" because we feel that they promote a sense of community and they encourage attendance in some great outdoor activities.

Can boarding students spend the first weekend at home after Wilderness?

The first weekend is a "closed weekend." This is an opportunity for the school to create a sense of community and for new students to get to know other people at the school. While we have a number of closed weekends each year, this is the only one where we really ask parents to give us exclusive time with the students.

What is the sign-out policy for weekends?

Students must fill out a "weekend form" and get a signature from their advisor. The parent should give the student's advisor either verbal or email notice stating that weekend permission has been granted. The parent should also give permission for the student to get into a car driven by a teenager, if this is applicable. The form then needs to be signed by a dorm parent and finally turned in to Dee Gwin's open mailbox by noon on Thursday. She will call all host families to make sure that there will be sufficient adult supervision. However, we highly suggest that the parent call the host family to make sure that everyone is comfortable with the weekend plans.

Can a boarding student return to campus after he/she has signed out for the weekend?

Boarding students are always welcome to return to campus, but if they do so after they have departed for a weekend, then they will be expected to check in with the weekend team and forfeit the remainder of their weekend. The only exception would be if the student is participating in a school activity; in this instance we would expect the student to depart for the weekend after this event has taken place.

What type of supervision takes place during weekends?

Teams of six faculty members are assigned to work weekends. Their duties include frequent roves around campus and checks in the dormitory as well as providing compelling weekend activities which are emailed weekly in the parent e-newsletter. In addition to regular dorm checks in the evening, the weekend teams are asked to check in on the students at some time between 1:00-4:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday to account for everyone and to make sure everyone is safe. In addition, the school has a security officer who maintains a presence around campus in the evenings throughout the weekend.

ACTIVE PROGRAM

What happens on “solo”?

Students are placed on a one-day solo near the end of the Wilderness experience. This solo is a great opportunity for personal reflection as each student embarks on his or her career at CRMS. Each student is given a small area for the solo, which he/she may not leave, and a system to check in with students is employed. The leader's camp is located in the vicinity of all solo sites.

What happens if there is an emergency out in the field?

Each Wilderness group carries an extensive first-aid kit in the field. CRMS strives for Wilderness leaders to be trained as Wilderness First Responders. At CRMS, there is a set protocol for handling emergencies, and there is always an on-call person on duty back on campus who can handle evacuations if needed. All Wilderness trip leaders carry a satellite phone, which is only used in an emergency. In most cases, our Wilderness groups remain within a half-day hike of a road or trailhead.

Are bears a concern?

Bears are attracted to garbage, food, and other scented items so we take extra care to collect, isolate, and store these items away from camp by either hanging the food in trees or off of rock faces.

Does my son or daughter have to participate in a work crew?

Yes. Work crews are a required part of the CRMS program. Students have the opportunity to pick new work crews each quarter. If a student participates in team sports throughout the year, he or she must still participate in a work crew for a minimum of one quarter.

What is the purpose of work crews?

Historically, much of the campus was built and maintained by student work crews. The founders of CRMS, John and Anne Holden, believed that physical work was essential in the personal development of each and every student. Today, students and faculty maintain the campus buildings and grounds. The ethic that is born of doing physical labor is essential to the experience at CRMS. The focus of the work program is on developing specific skills as well as personal character, valuing

physical labor, working collaboratively in small groups, and providing service to both the school and the surrounding community.

What about other sport opportunities?

Because of our location, many sport offerings at CRMS take advantage of our natural surroundings. If students are interested, they can participate on some of the local public school teams. If this happens, it is critical that team commitments do not conflict with CRMS commitments, including full participation in outdoor program trips. The student/family must make transportation arrangements for practices and competitions that are acceptable to school policies.

What happens during the winter quarter?

During the 3rd quarter, CRMS switches to our winter schedule, which allows the entire student body the opportunity to participate in snow sports during the week. At CRMS, both instructional and competitive snow sports create opportunities for students to ski (Nordic, Alpine, Telemark) or snowboard at Spring Gulch, Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk, and Snowmass ski areas.

Are all outdoor trips required?

Yes, absolutely. Our outdoor trips are an integral part of a CRMS education. Outdoor trips are considered a very important and valuable co-curricular requirement for all students.

BUSINESS OFFICE

What is the incidentals deposit?

The incidentals deposit opens an account to which all bookstore, pharmacy, airport transportation, and school activities (e.g. kayaking, ski pass, etc.) charges are applied. The Incidentals Account must maintain a credit (positive) balance throughout the year. The incidentals deposit (\$900 for boarders, \$800 for day students) is billed per semester in July and December.

How often do I receive statements?

You will receive separate statements for tuition and the Incidentals Account. These statements are processed and e-mailed (unless a paper copy is requested) at the end of every month.

When is my payment due?

Full payment of tuition and fees is due by July 1. The Incidentals Account balance is due upon receipt of the monthly statement, unless you have a credit balance. An 18% finance charge will be applied to the account for any balance over 30 days past due.

Can I pay my bill with a credit card?

Credit card payments are allowed towards the Incidental Account only.

Can I set up a payment plan?

The school offers two payment plan options for tuition only. The first option available is to pay 60% of the tuition due by July 1 and the remaining 40% by November 1. The second option is a ten-month payment plan commencing May 1st with the last payment due February 1st. Both of these plans carry a 10% tuition loan interest. A signed promissory note is required in order to set up a payment plan. Payment plans are at the discretion of the Business Office.

Who do I contact if I have a question regarding billing charges on my statement?

You can reach the Business Office by calling (970) 963-2562 or emailing billing@crms.org. The primary contact person in the Business Office is Marlin Rhodes.

How is allowance handled, when is it disbursed, what amount is recommended?

There are two options for allowance disbursement. The first option is to write predated checks made out to your child; the Business Office will store these checks and cash one per week for your child. Allowance checks are cashed in the Business Office on Thursday and Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The amount of the weekly allowance is up to the discretion of each parent; however, the recommended amount is between \$20 and \$30. The second option is to set up a checking account for your child at one of our local banks, and your child can cash a check (up to \$50) on the same days and times that allowance checks are cashed.

Can money be withdrawn from the Incidentals Account and given to my child?

Emergency cash advances can be given to a student as long as there is a credit (positive) balance in the student's Incidentals Account and the parent has notified the Business Office with approval to release the funds to the student.

TECHNOLOGY**Will my child need a laptop?**

CRMS requires that students have a laptop.

Does the laptop need to be Microsoft or Apple (or other)?

CRMS is a platform friendly school so the operating system of your student's computer will not matter or hinder their performance.

What software does the school require/recommend?

We require anti-virus software with a current subscription that will take the student through the school year for all devices.

CRMS also requires some type of office application. CRMS does provide an @crms.org email address for all student which comes with all the Google applications for free. Microsoft Office or Apple's office suite may be a better option for your child. Free applications such as OpenOffice can provide all that is needed to perform schoolwork task.

CRMS recommends the use of anti-theft software for all devices.

Will my child need a printer?

No, CRMS provides several network printers that are accessible to all via the wireless network. CRMS will provide all the needed information to set up a school printer or they are welcome to visit the IT department for assistance.

What is the Internet policy for Dormitories?

CRMS provides Internet access in all the dorms during specific times. The hours for most dorms are 5:30pm to 10:30pm on school nights, the exception being freshman dorms and senior dorms, which are allowed access until 9:00 PM and 12:00 AM respectively. Student access begins at 9:00am on weekends.

I would like to buy a cellular hotspot for my child, is this acceptable?

The use of cellular hotspots in the dorms counteracts the schools internet policies and the abilities for our staff to maintain a viable learning environment for the student(s). We strongly discourage the use of these devices and they may be confiscated if they are used outside our allowed hours.

What if my child's laptop breaks?

Students often come to the CRMS IT department with their laptop issues. In most cases we are able to correct/fix or point them in the right direction to correct the issue. Some issues are beyond the scope of support that CRMS can or should provide. CRMS will not perform any work that will void a current warranty and will direct the student to the manufacturer and parent for service. CRMS will not provide replace hardware beyond assisting a student with replacing a hard drive.

What is the most common laptop issue?

Student laptops are heavily used and live a hard life. The most common issue and sometimes the most heartbreaking is a hard drive that is broken. We strongly recommend that all students have an external hard drive and back up their data/music/pictures regularly. There are online services that can provide backup support as well.