June 21, 2006

Dear New Student:

Hello again! Most of you getting this letter will be living on campus in the residence halls this coming semester and have already received your rooming assignment or should sometime soon. Now you’re probably ready to start thinking about packing, so I hope you and your parents find these hints helpful.

It might seem like you have to bring everything from your parents’ house to live on your own for nine months, but please resist that urge! Bring enough clothes for two weeks, and plan on doing laundry about that often. You can always make a Wal-Mart run if you’ve forgotten anything.

Weather on Lookout Mountain varies between seasons. Summers in the South are always hot, so we typically have warm temperatures when you first get here and at the end of the year. However, since all of our buildings are air-conditioned, you may find your residence hall or classroom a little chilly. We have a lot of fog/rain up on the mountain through the winter and early spring, so don’t forget your rain gear. Temperatures are usually in the 30s in the winter and the 60s or 70s in the fall and spring.

Most rooms are pretty neutral in color-off-white walls and usually blue, brown or green carpet. Every room will have one bed, one desk, one chair, and one dresser for each student living in that room. The beds may be double-bunked.

CARTER. Bathrooms are attached to the room, and all fixtures are white. Plain shower curtains are provided, but you can put up one of your own if you want. Carter Hall used to be a hotel (where people would stay for days, not months), so there isn’t much closet space. Plan on storing many of your clothes in your dresser drawers instead of hanging them in your closet. Two-person rooms in Carter average about 10’ x 15’. Four-person rooms are about 20’ x 20’.

FOUNDERS (BELZ, SCHMIDT, RAYBURN HALLS). Bathrooms are located in the center of each hall and are shared by all members of that floor. Schmidt and Rayburn rooms have a sink in each room, and you’ll have more closet space in Founders than in Carter! Two-person rooms are about 12’ by 16’ and four-person rooms are 17’ x 25’.

MACLELLAN/RYMER. These rooms are arranged in suites, with either a two- or three-person room joined to another two-person room or a two- or three-person room joined to a four- or five-person room. There will be either five people or seven people in each suite, and suitemates share a bathroom (green, blue or brown, depending on the floor) and a study room. A two- or three-person room in Mac/Rymer is 12’ x 16’ and a four- or five-person room is 12’ x 20’.

All rooms on campus have a large window, and just about every room on campus (except some on the second floor) has a great view. Won’t it be great to live on a mountain? There are blinds on each window for privacy, so you don’t need to bring curtains unless you just like the way they look. However, you would need to use a spring tension rod so you don’t put holes in our window frames.

The walls in the rooms are block and may not have nails pounded into them. Many rooms have hanging strips for heavier things, but you should plan on attaching posters with white sticky-tac (or my personal favorite, 3-M Command adhesive mounting strips). Remember that if you put up a plastic hook, you’ll have to completely remove it when you check out.

The beds are extra long twin (mattresses are 80” long), so you might want to find some extra long fitted sheets, available at most department stores. Regular fitted sheets will also work if you pull on them, though! Mattress pads will make our flame-retardant mattresses even more comfortable.
There is one phone jack in each room, so you may want to talk with your roommate(s) to see who will bring a phone for everyone to share. If you bring a cordless phone, please do not bring a 2.4 GHz phone because it will interfere with the wireless computer connection. You don't need an answering machine; each student has a private voice mail account provided by the college.

You are welcome to bring a small cube refrigerator or microwave, although there are common areas in Founders and Maclellan/Rymer where those things are available for your use. This is probably something else you should coordinate with your roommate(s).

Some of us have made an alphabetical list of things you may want to bring with you—you can check it out on our website at www.covenant.edu/orientation. We didn’t include the basics, such as clothes and toiletries, and please don’t think you need to bring everything on this list! We're just hoping this list will help you think of something you may have otherwise forgotten. Please take special note of the items in bold, though, as you will definitely need to bring those with you. If you can think of something you are bringing that starts with the letter Y, e-mail me back—the first five students that I hear from will receive a $5 gift certificate for Clumpie's ice cream when they get here in the fall.

Finally, there are a few things that you may not bring to campus that have a significant impact on our safety and security. Generally speaking, the following items (and items like them) are prohibited on all college campuses in Georgia by the state's fire code: halogen lamps, toaster and toaster ovens, candles/incense, fireworks, BBQ grills, and government/municipal signs. Non-aquatic pets should also be left at home. If you have these items when you arrive, we will expect your parents to take them back home. And in accordance with Georgia state law, our campus has a very strict "no weapons" policy, prohibiting any weapons on school property or within 1000 feet of school property. This includes things like swords, knives, paintball guns, air guns, pellet guns, cap guns, any hunting implements, firearms of any sort, and martial arts equipment. State law and fire codes also prohibit students from constructing lofts or raising beds off the floor.

For the sake of developing community, please consider leaving at home your video games, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, large stereo equipment, etc. Remember you are coming to Covenant first to be a student, and these activities may distract you from your academic calling.

I mentioned our website earlier, but I wanted to highlight it one more time, since it has many resources to help you. Look at the list of Things to Bring, or click on the Residence Life section to find out information about your RDs, RAs and the hall where you will be living. Go to www.covenant.edu/orientation to check it out.

If there are other things my staff or I can do to help you plan, please e-mail me at gosselink@covenant.edu or call us at 706.419.1107. We're looking forward to seeing you on August 18!

On behalf of the Residence Life staff,

Emily Gosselink
Associate Dean of Students

Julie Moore, Resident Director, Carter Hall
Jonathan Mobley, Resident Director, Founders Hall
Bekah Tuggy, Resident Director, Maclellan/Rymer Hall
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