



# The Gow School

July 2020

Dear Parents,

It is our primary responsibility within the dormitories to ensure that your child's environment is safe. I urge everyone to refer to The Gow School's *Reopening Plan* on the website to see some of the ways we are preparing for students to return to the dormitories in the Fall. The dorm parents have the additional responsibility of directing the residents to maintain a clean and organized dormitory that is conducive to academics and rest. There are a few things that you can do to help us with this sometimes difficult task. I recommend that you help your child set up an organized room on move-in day and remind them of the importance of maintaining cleanliness. Below are a few bullet points regarding residential life. They highlight several important items from the *Student and Parent Handbook*.

**1. Less is more**

It is difficult to organize and maintain a room with too many belongings. Please see the *Handbook* for our recommended packing list.

**2. Prohibited items**

These items include plug-in air fresheners, cooking appliances, extension cords without circuit breakers, decorative lighting, tapestries, and flags. See the *Handbook* for the full list. Only removeable wall mounting tabs that are purchased in the Gow bookstore may be used on the walls. Nothing can be placed on doors, windows, or ceilings.

**3. Rooms must be decorated tastefully**

Offensive or inappropriate items are not allowed, in addition to M-rated video games and R-rated movies.

**4. One 32-inch TV or smaller**

Please communicate with your child's roommate so they can decide which one is bringing a TV.

**5. Athletic gear belongs in a locker in the Gow Center and not in the dorm.**

**6. Students must dress for success**

Instruct your child how to dress, including how to tie and wear a necktie. All clothing and valuables must be labeled with your child's name.

**7. Proper Hygiene**

Make sure your child knows the importance of cleanliness, regularly washing their hands, showering daily, using deodorant, brushing his or her teeth, clipping his or her nails, and wearing clean clothing.

**8. Show your child how to do his or her laundry**

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders send their laundry out, but older students must do their own laundry. Have your child practice this at home.

If your child has difficulty in any of these areas, don't worry, we will help. Feel free to contact me at [jlindahl@gow.org](mailto:jlindahl@gow.org) or 716.687.2013 if you have any questions. I'm looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

John Lindahl  
Dean of Residential Life