

Dear Boarding Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

We want to take this opportunity to remind you of our vacation schedule this year, and to ask for your assistance in regard to travel. We are committed to the excellence of our academic program and believe that regular attendance in classes is vital to not only your child's performance but also the productivity and overall morale of all students. Because our [academic calendar](#) resembles that of a college more than that of a public high school, the in-session periods are quite rigorous. Consequently, we ask parents to make an extra effort to respect our beginning and ending dates for vacation periods. It is a great challenge for students to make up missed work and for teachers to plan around additional time away. When a student misses classes by leaving early or returning late from a break, it is treated as an unexcused absence.

Below are the dates and times of student departures and returns for this academic year. It's important that all students leave campus by the time houses close to allow our house faculty to begin their break as well. We advise students to stay with local friends if they are unable to leave or return at the allotted times. If you are unable to pick up your child during this window of time, please be in touch with a member of the Student Life Office at student_life_office@concordacademy.org. For extenuating circumstances, we may be able to accommodate a few students on campus, although since school is closed, accommodations are very limited.

For your convenience, CA organizes transportation to Alewife, Logan Airport, and South Station for trains and bus departures for major school breaks (winter and spring). If your child's flight, train, or bus timing does not coincide with the times of the bus that CA organizes listed below, Renee Coburn can help arrange a cab at a different time. Please be in touch with her at renee_coburn@concordacademy.org.

Thanksgiving Break:

- Vacation begins after a student's last academic AND athletic commitment on **Friday, November 22**. The houses will remain open on Friday night, with the expectation that many will depart on Saturday morning — especially those taking planes, trains, or buses. **Houses will close for break at 12:00 noon on Saturday, November 23 — all students need to depart by this time.** We will arrange a bus to Alewife (the MBTA), Logan Airport, and South Station that will depart at 9:00 a.m.
- Students should plan to return from Thanksgiving break on **Sunday, December 1**, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Depending on transportation needs, a bus arranged by CA will pick up at Logan Airport at 7:00 p.m. and at South Station at 7:15 p.m. No early arrivals, please. Anyone arriving early should arrange accommodations with a local friend, as **houses do not open until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 1.**
- If your child cannot go home or to the house of a friend or family member, there are some local programs that you can look into. Here are a few we have been told about:
 - [Envoys](#)
 - [Student Cultural Exchange: Boston Thanksgiving](#)

Winter Break:

- Departure on **Friday, December 20**, between 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon (when houses close). The bus to Logan Airport and South Station departs at 9:00 a.m.* **All students need to depart by 12:00 noon on Friday, December 20.**
- Return on **Monday, January 6**, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; **houses do not open until 4:00 p.m. on January 6.** Depending on transportation needs, a bus arranged by CA will pick up at Logan Airport at 7:00 p.m. and at South Station at 7:15 p.m.

March Break:

- Departure on **Friday, March 6**, between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. (when houses close). Bus to Logan Airport and South Station departs at 12:00 noon. **All students need to depart by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6.**
- Return on **Sunday, March 22**, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Bus picks up at Logan at 7:00 p.m. and at South Station at 7:15 p.m. **Houses do not open until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22.**

Summer Break:

- Departure on **Friday, May 29**, between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. (when houses close for the summer). **All students need to depart for the summer by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29.**

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in adhering to the precise vacation calendar.

With gratitude,



Sally Zimmerli
Dean of Students



Annie Bailey
Director of Residential Life

*While it might be tempting to schedule a flight on December 19, we ask that you do not do so. On the evening of December 19, the most significant boarding tradition takes place (it's a surprise for new boarders so please do not mention anything to your child). We can arrange a car service as early as 3:00 a.m. on the morning of December 20 to facilitate early morning departures. If your child needs such a service, you should be in contact with Renee Coburn at renee_coburn@concordacademy.org.