

WHAT YOU WILL NEED AT MIDDLESEX

Each year we recommend a list of items in various categories that new students should bring with them to school in the fall. Current students have made suggestions for what they believe you will find necessary and useful, and their advice is included in what follows.

MONEY

It is NOT a good idea for students to keep large amounts of cash around school. However, students will need cash for drinks and snacks sold in vending machines and for food purchased in town or delivered to campus. There are three ways we recommend that students safeguard monies. First, the School maintains a "Student Bank." This bank is similar to a commercial bank: money can be deposited and withdrawn by filling out and signing a bank slip. Each student has an individual account, and students are expected to "manage" their own money. Personal checks can be cashed at the Student Bank. Second, there is an ATM machine on campus from which any student with a debit account can withdraw money. The machine pertains to First Republic Bank and students are welcome to open a checking account with First Republic Bank. ATM fees will vary depending on a student's home bank. Third, small amounts of cash that students have on hand should be kept locked in the in-room safe that each student is given.

DRESS AND LAUNDRY

There are three levels of dress at Middlesex: formal, classroom and casual. Please refer to the STUDENT HANDBOOK, which will be sent to you in August, for more specific guidelines regarding the dress code. Basically, students are expected to be dressed appropriately for whatever activity they will undertake. Clothing must be neat, clean and tasteful, while being free of rips, holes, tears, drug / alcohol references or overly suggestive material.

Weather in New England is, as many of you know, unpredictable. We urge you to come prepared for the variety of weather conditions that give this region of the country much of its character. You should definitely bring the following:

- a warm parka and/or rain jacket
- waterproof boots
- hats/gloves/mittens
- warm socks

For occasions that call for more formal dress, boys should have a jacket, tie and dress slacks, while girls should have appropriately dressy attire. Girls, please don't bring clothing that is too tight or revealing.

Laundry and dry cleaning services are available – clothing is picked up every Tuesday and returned every Friday. The dormitories are also equipped with washing machines and dryers for a nominal fee per load. Bring laundry detergent and a hamper or laundry bag so that dirty clothing is not strewn about the room between washes.

ROOMS

A Middlesex room contains basic furniture (bed, desk, chair, bureau, bookcase, closet), and a lockable safe for small valuables, but you should bring a desk lamp, a rug if you wish (probably not over 4 x 7 ft.), an alarm clock, and some wall decorations. Rooms are supplied with shades. If you wish to have curtains, they should be purchased locally because window sizes vary. A night table sometimes proves useful. Some students bring an easy chair with them; sometimes second-hand furniture is available for purchase from other students. Rooms are small, so don't be too ambitious in your interior decorating and furnishing before you have seen where you will be living!

Many students arrive with speakers for playing music. Speakers, or any other music-playing device, should be accompanied by headphones because loud music in the dormitories is not permitted. Also, there are times when music may be listened to only with headphones. Both the relatively small size of the rooms and the close proximity we all live to each other favor simple and inexpensive equipment. In addition, large speakers encourage violation of the right of all students to a quiet place to live and study. We recommend that any expensive equipment be covered by insurance and that you keep a record of serial numbers. In fact, all student belongings should be labeled somehow with the student's name.

BEDDING AND LINEN

We suggest you bring, as a minimum, two sets of sheets, four sets of towels/washcloths, blankets or a duvet. **Please note that the mattresses are not the standard size, but are 36" x 80" (extra-long).**

COMPUTERS

The School has a number of computers for student use in the Technology Center and the Library. The School does encourage students to learn typing and word-processing to facilitate the extensive writing that students are asked to do throughout the curriculum.

Students SHOULD NOT bring their own wireless internet routers. The School is fully wireless and access to our network will be provided once students enter campus.

BICYCLES

Some students bring bicycles to campus. All cyclists should come equipped with a helmet and a strong lock. **Bikes are sometimes stolen from our campus, so students must take due care in locking up their bikes.** Bicycles may not be stored in passageways or near Exit doors. **Helmets** are required when cycling on Lowell Road or any public road. It is a good idea for expensive bicycles to be insured; serial numbers for bikes and all valuables should be noted and registered with parents and insurance companies.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Students have found it useful to have some or all of the following:

- a sewing kit
- hangers (which can be purchased at the School Store)
- change (quarters especially) for coin operated vending machines
- a thermal mug with a lid (so we can save on paper cups and unnecessarily washing glasses in the Dining Hall)
- a book bag or backpack (since there will be about 300 of these here, you will want to find a way to make yours distinctive so that you end up with the right books at the end of the day!)
- a clock radio with a **loud** alarm/battery backup in case of power outage (phone alarms **not** recommended)
- a wastebasket
- a desk or reading lamp (but not one with a halogen bulb since they produce an unsafe amount of heat in addition to the light and hence are not permitted in dorm rooms)

The Student Store, located in Ware Hall and run a Middlesex staff member, has a range of school and personal supplies, including soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, batteries, extension cords approved by the Fire Department, FunTac for hanging pictures and posters, laundry markers and multi-outlet strips. The Store also sells T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other Middlesex merchandise.

Also, don't forget to submit change-of-address forms to magazines or newspapers so that you can receive them here at School.

THINGS NOT TO BRING:

- cooking equipment of any kind
- televisions , VCR / DVD players, video gaming systems, and refrigerators (except seniors)
- subwoofers
- electric blankets
- large flags or tapestries
- pets of any kind
- halogen lamps.
- any clothing that advertises any kind of drug or alcohol
- space heaters and air conditioners

Note: We discourage bringing extra large monitors and video projection systems.

We hope that some or all of these suggestions will assist you in preparing for the fall when we look forward to greeting you. If you have any questions about what to bring or leave behind please email us at deans@mxxschool.edu.