Dear New Boarding Students,

A new school year is underway; and for many of you, that means it’s time to pack up your bags and move out of the nest you call home. Living in a dorm is a fantastic experience, but there are some changes you will have to accept. This piece should provide advice on what to expect and will help you adapt to a new environment.

For starters, the most obvious difference in attending a boarding school is being away from your family. Some of you may feel a bit homesick at first, but once you get settled in, it is likely that you won’t want to leave. Thankfully, there are several ways to adjust to living more independently. Proctors and dorm parents are great people to approach if you are having troubles with boarding life. This community is about as close to a family as you can get, so learn to love it like a home away home.

Something to keep in mind as you adjust to a different lifestyle, is that regardless of how much fun you’re having, or how busy you are, your parents still exist. Call them regularly, because this is a change for them, just as much as it is for you.

The thought of living with a roommate may be a bit worrisome for some of you who are used to having a room to yourself. If you are having these concerns, remember what you learned back in kindergarten: sharing is caring. You and your roommate will probably share almost everything from food to late night pillow talk. It is important to find a compatible roommate, which means a few things. First, keep your room clean! Nobody likes looking at a room with clothes and trash all over the floor, so try and keep your side reasonably tidy. Having a small trash can in your room will definitely help uphold this task. Another thing to keep in mind: your roommate doesn’t have to be your best friend. As long as you two get along well and can live harmoniously, you will have a much happier life in the dorm.

Here are a few more tips to help with boarding life:

• A few necessities to have in your room include: a fan, water bottles, a desk lamp, snacks, a trash can, even more snacks, a laundry basket, enough food to get you through the winter, a power strip, and finally, yep, you guessed it, snacks.
• Keep a stash of signout sheets in your desk.
• Important numbers to have on speed dial: Mom/Dad, OD phone, on-call taxi, the Cottage, Main House, and Dominos.
• Start your homework before study hall. As the year gets going, two hours is often not enough time to complete your workload.

Hopefully, after reading this, you are a bit more at ease with the transition you have made. Good luck with the upcoming year and enjoy your new home.

Ethan Sorkin ’16

— A 1980s graduate

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— A 1980s graduate
Phil Blood, Director of Admissions
by Connor Melvin '15

On June 28, the Blood family came to Lawrence Academy. No, I’m not talking about some new teen vampire movie. I’m talking about LA’s new director of admissions, Phil Blood. Mr. Blood comes to us from The Grammar School in Putney, Vermont, where he was director of admissions, secondary school placement, marketing, and financial aid. Before that, he worked at Deerfield Academy for several years. Mr. Blood comes to campus with his wife, Cynthia Blood, who will be a learning coach on campus, and their daughter, Molly, who starts kindergarten this fall. They currently live in an apartment in the Shedy Residence.

I had a chance to interview Mr. Blood late this summer (audio to be posted soon at lacademy.edu), and it was clear that he is very excited for school to be underway. When asked about his view of the tour guide program, Mr. Blood said that he is looking for tour guides who are good storytellers. One of his goals is to improve the selection process in order to find tour guides who are truly interested in the position. He believes that the most important part of a prospective family’s application process is their campus tour, and that families love to hear stories while walking around campus. As he said, “personal stories are what prospective families and candidates come just craving for.” Mr. Blood also talked about the Elm Tree Society, LA’s new tour guide leadership program. He hopes to give them more responsibility when it comes to choosing tour guides for visiting families. His vision for the group is to see them on the same level as dorm proctors, peer counselors, and varsity captains.

I spoke with Mr. Blood about prospective students, and what he will look for when choosing the class of 2019. If you have a younger sibling or friend who is considering LA, you may want to take notes. Mr. Blood started off by explaining his baseline for applicants. He is looking for good kids who want to be a part of an intimate and engaging community. He’s also looking to see if they have good character, particularly when he or another member of the admissions staff meets the prospective student on their visit. He told me about how the teacher recommendations play a big role as well, as they help him to understand what the student is like in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, and in general. Mr. Blood also noted that the admissions office is looking to travel more this year, and reach out to more students around the world, domestically and internationally. If you see the Blood family on campus, be sure to stop and say hello!

NGP Survival Guide
by Ethan Sorkin ’16

By now, you have probably heard several different opinions on the Ninth Grade Program at Lawrence. Some of them may have made you excited for your freshman year, while others might have made you want to switch schools. If you’re reading this, it’s too late to run, so you might as well take the NGP head-on. Here are some tips to keep in mind while tackling the notorious NGP.

• Put the date on everything and don’t throw anything away!
• Treat your coach as your best friend. Go to him or her with any question or problems you have.
• Never read anything without a pen in your hand.
• Good reading notes pay off more than you would ever think.
• NGP Format/ Heading…learn it, live it, love it.
• Have at least three different colored highlighters with you at all times.
• When it comes time for Mastery in the spring, pick a topic you have a genuine interest in, not just one that sounds easy.
• Even a straight black line can be considered art.
• Master the format of a lab report. It’s not going anywhere.
• Cite every resource you use while you have it in front of you. Nothing is worse than having to scrounge together a bibliography at the last minute.

Hopefully this advice will help you settle in during the first few weeks of school. There are very few places that have a curriculum quite like the NGP, so make the most of the opportunity you have been given. Although it may seem intimidating at first, if you work hard and follow these principles, freshman year will be over before you can say “active reading notes!” And who knows? You might actually learn something in the process.

From the Editors
Welcome back everyone!

We hope you’ve all had a great start to September. And what better way to start a new school year than a supplement from the Spectrum? This year, the editors of the Spectrum are (drum roll please) Ethan Sorkin ’16 and Renee Perkins ’16. We are very excited to take over the student newspaper and will strive to provide a top notch publication.

With the two years we have been given to lead the Spectrum, we hope to further build up the high standard left in our hands. However, all this starts with you! Anyone interested in joining our team as a writer, photographer, or with any other form of contribution please let us know. We promise we are friendly! Good luck this year, and enjoy this issue.

Ethan Sorkin ajsporkin16@lacademy.edu
Renee Perkins raperkins16@lacademy.edu

Spectrum will publish regularly throughout the year, and WRLA will continue to operate as it has in the past. However, L.A.M.P. hopes to publish more content online throughout the coming year. In addition, L.A.M.P. hopes to establish a third club, which will add video to the list of media sources found on campus.

The current leaders of L.A.M.P. are the two editors of Spectrum, Ethan Sorkin ’16 and Renee Perkins ’16, and WRLA Station Manager Connor Melvin ’15. For more information about L.A.M.P., or if you would like to participate, please contact Connor at cjmelvin15@lacademy.edu about working for WRLA, Ethan at ajsporkin16@lacademy.edu or Renee at raperkins16@lacademy.edu about working for Spectrum.