

# MCLA



## Dear Trailblazer Team Members:

Greetings and welcome! We are so pleased you and your student have chosen MCLA. We're excited to have you join our community.

For many students the anxiety and anticipation of the college admissions process is fading, and the focus is forward to begin a new journey at MCLA this fall. We're here to help support you and your student through this transition. This email contains information and tips to assist you and your student as you prepare for MCLA.

Your student has been enrolled in an online Orientation course. This course contains a wealth of information to help them get ready for the fall semester and begin the progression to college life. The course covers academic and social aspects of a student's first year, so we recommend you encourage your student to make frequent visits and see what's new. The course also contains important forms related to housing, dining, and healthcare.

Orientation and the Greylock L.E.A.D. program which run from August 26th through September 5th, mark the beginning of your student's MCLA journey. We will also provide sessions for Trailblazer Team Members, which we strongly advise parents, guardians, and supporters to attend. You will learn about MCLA, meet faculty, staff, other Trailblazer Team members, and learn more about your student's MCLA journey. A schedule will follow shortly but we will provide lunch after move-in as well as sessions for families in the afternoon followed by a reception hosted by President Birge.

Over the next few weeks, you and your student may experience a roller coaster of emotions and experiences. This is completely normal!

## What your student may experience:

The euphoria of starting a new journey may not have fully kicked in yet, they may seem blasé. They may not want to think too far ahead to the fall just yet.

Summer plans - travel, family vacation, camp, summer jobs - are important. Students often view this as the "last summer of freedom," anticipating that summers in college may be consumed with work, internships, and other activities in preparation for eventual entry into the workforce or graduate school

As the end of August approaches, apprehension may set in. Will I get along with my classmate or roommates? Do I have the right clothes? Will I find it hard to make new friends?

## What you can do to help:

First, talk with your student and listen to any concerns they have. Support is a critical component of a happy and fulfilling college experience, no different than the support needed through all the previous years of your student's life.

Gently encourage their engagement with the Online Orientation Course. They will likely need your assistance with financial and medical questions. Resist the impulse to complete the forms for them. This is a good opportunity to let them take on the responsibility for their college experience, which will include many decisions they will need to make on their own.

## A few other ways to stay informed and be involved:



Join the Family



Visit the College



Visit the Trailblazer

## Facebook Group

This is a great way to connect with other Trailblazer Team members and learn about MCLA events and information.

Family  
Facebook

## Home Page

You can always visit the College's home page for high priority information. In times of emergency or inclement weather, the home page will be updated frequently.

MCLA  
Homepage

## Team Page

The college also has a web page for Trailblazer Team members. It offers a great deal of information about campus departments and resources and tips on how to support your student.

Trailblazer Team

As you're planning for the fall, here are some

## Important Dates

to remember:

Fall Athlete Move-In | **August 18**

TriO Student Move-In | **August 24**

New & Transfer Student Move-In | **August 26**

Greylock LEAD & Orientation Starts | **August 26**

Family Weekend | **October 20-22**

Finals End | **December 16**

" You are an  
**important partner** "

You are an important partner in your student's education. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to prepare them to pursue their educational journey at MCLA. We welcome you to the larger MCLA family, and we hope Orientation this August will be the first of many times you will visit us. If you have questions, please email us at [TrailblazerTeam@mcla.edu](mailto:TrailblazerTeam@mcla.edu). We're happy to answer your questions or connect you to campus resources.

Warm regards,

Patrick E. Connelly  
Dean for Title IX, Equal Opportunity & Student  
Wellness



Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts | 375 Church Street, North Adams, MA 01247

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