

2026 FALL SEMESTER



WELCOME GUIDE

FOR ACADEMY
FAMILIES AND
STUDENTS

Dear Families and Students,

We're looking forward to seeing you on campus very soon! This guide will help you complete the steps necessary before you arrive on campus for the 2026 Academy fall semester.

You can find additional information, such as [what to bring](#), tips for parents/guardians, and more about our programs on our website: [Student Life at Idyllwild Arts](#).

If you have any questions about the information in this guide or need help with any steps, please contact Academy@idyllwildarts.org.

I'm looking forward to welcoming you to Idyllwild Arts Academy!

Sincerely,

Jason Hallowbard
Head of School

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STUDENT/FAMILY ORIENTATION AND ARRIVAL

Wednesday, August 19th - **Prefects and New English Language Learning (ELL) students and New 12th Grade/Post-Grad Students** arrive. New English Language Learning (ELL) **parent / guardian orientation.**

Wednesday, August 19 - Friday, August 21 - **College and Career Workshop for New 12th Grade/Post-Grad Students**

Wednesday, August 19th - Sunday, August 23rd - **New English Language Learning (ELL) student orientation**

Saturday, August 22nd - **New boarding students (international and domestic)** arrive.

Sunday, August 23rd - **Returning boarding students (international and domestic), and all day students** arrive.

Monday, August 24th & Tuesday, August 25th - Student orientation for all students, including day students.

Wednesday, August 26th - **First day of academic classes, art classes, and art auditions.** Returning students with an assigned major begin their full course schedule. New students begin academic classes and complete art auditions for placement.

Please see the travel information section later in this document for more information on school transportation, times, and costs.

College counselors, department chairs, and administrators will be available.

STUDENT/FAMILY HANDBOOK AND OUR VALUES

By enrolling at Idyllwild Arts, every student agrees to abide by the expectations and honor the values in our Student/Family Handbook. Please read the Handbook before arriving - you can find it on our website here: [Student/Family Handbook](#).

OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS: CHANGING LIVES THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART.

Idyllwild Arts Academy (IAA) students know “who they are and what they stand for.” They are young artists and scholars who strive for excellence and aspire to the highest standards of artistry.

COMMUNITY OF RESPECT

The guiding philosophy behind our interactions within the IAA community are best embodied in the [Community of Respect Guidelines](#) adopted in all classes and coursework. These principles also guide our interactions outside of the classroom and are especially important for situations in which conflict may arise.

The following are Schoolwide norms and expectations for all members of the IAA community (students, employees, and families).

- Assume positive intent on the part of fellow participants.
- It is OK to disagree, but not OK to shame, attack, or falsely accuse another person.
- Speak personal concerns directly with that person, and not about them.
- Avoid generalizing your personal view as being a universal truth.
- Practice “both/and” thinking instead of “either/or” thinking.
- Practice “calling in” rather than “calling out.” Ask for clarification and use an “I” statement, rather than accusing the other person of harmful intent. Example: “Can you please clarify what you mean? Because when I hear you say _____, I feel offended or belittled.”

CHECKLIST



Here is a checklist to help track everything that needs to happen before arriving in August. All requirements are detailed in this document.

- For international students - apply for a visa, if needed, immediately
- Parents/Guardians and students read the Student/Family Handbook
- Students log in to their school Gmail account and check it regularly
- Parents/Guardians log in to their Idyllwild Arts Account and check it regularly
- Students log in to their Idyllwild Arts Account and check it regularly
- Parents/Guardians of new students request an official final transcript from their student's transfer school be sent directly from that school to the Registrar at registrar@idyllwildarts.org. A NACES-certified evaluation is also required for international transcripts.
- Parents/Guardians complete their child's Magnus medical information account. This includes making sure their child is up to date on all immunizations. **Completing your Magnus account should be one of your top priorities, as students can't participate in our programs / stay in the dorms until they have satisfied all medical requirements.**
- Parents/Guardians set up their child's Campus Card incidental account.
- Parents/Guardians or students send a current picture to academy@idyllwildarts.org for their ID badge.
- Students who know their travel plans or need school transportation from the airports should email awaypermissions@idyllwildarts.org by July 19th. We service LAX, PSP, ONT, SAN, and CBX airports. All families must submit their travel plans, even if they are not using school transportation so we know how and when each student will be arriving to campus.
- Parents/Guardians should review their child's academic schedule (can be viewed in their Idyllwild Arts Accounts in mid-August) and purchase books and necessary supplies.
- Parents/Guardians and students should review the student life section of our website. Boarding students should look at our lists of items to bring and not to bring.
- All students should have a guardian on file that can pick them up from campus within 48 hours in case of an emergency.
- All students are required to have a cell phone with service in the United States and their own laptop.

SCHOOL GOOGLE / EMAIL ACCOUNT

Every student is given a school Gmail account when they enroll and is expected to check their email daily during the school year. Please make sure your child logs in to their account over the summer. Student IA Gmail sign-in credentials and instructions will be sent out by our Information Technology (IT) department.

For your child to log in, have them go to mail.google.com and enter the email address and temporary password in our welcome email. They will be prompted to change the password after logging in.

All faculty and staff use email as their primary means of communication with the students. Student services send information at the beginning and end of every week, and the school also uses email to communicate with students in case of emergencies. Students will need to plan to check their school email 3x/day.

Any questions about your school Google / email account, or technology on campus in general should be sent to ithelp@idyllwildarts.org.



IDYLLWILD ARTS ACCOUNT

Parents/Guardians were given an Idyllwild Arts Account during the application process, which can be accessed at <https://portals.veracross.com/idyllwildarts/parent>. If you were not issued an Idyllwild Arts Account, you can email a request for one to ithelp@idyllwildarts.org.

Students use their school email address to sign into their Idyllwild Arts Account. Student IA Account sign-in instructions will be emailed out.

Parents/Guardians - When you log in and click on your student, you can see their schedule, attendance, and grades throughout the year. Here is a short video for parents/guardians on getting logged in for the first time with their account: [Logging in for the first time](#).

Students - students will primarily use Google Classroom for their classes.

Both parents/guardians and students will have portal logins in Veracross.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS - MAGNUS HEALTH RECORDS

Idyllwild Arts has partnered with Magnus Student Medical Records, an electronic system for tracking and storing student medical information. Parents/Guardians use Magnus to upload proof of insurance, medical history, immunization records, physical exams, and medications. Parents/Guardians must access their Magnus account through the Veracross Parent Portal at portals.veracross.com/idyllwildarts/parent.

Log into your Idyllwild Arts Account at <https://portals.veracross.com/idyllwildarts/parents>

- Click the Magnus link in the right side column menu
- This will log you directly into your child's Magnus account.

Every student must have a complete Magnus account before participating in our programs or moving into the dorms. This includes proof of all immunizations required by the school, including [those required by California Senate Bill No. 277 \(SB 277\)](#). Since we are a boarding school, we also require vaccines for Meningococcal (ACWY) and Hepatitis A. The immunization form with requirements can be downloaded [here](#) for your convenience.

Students missing any required immunizations upon arrival will have them done within 30 days of arrival at a local clinic and the student's insurance/account will be charged for those expenses.

All New and Returning International Students: The Health Center will enroll your child in the school's insurance and upload the insurance card into your child's Magnus account.

New Domestic Students Insurance: You must provide your insurance that will be accepted at the local clinic.

Returning Domestic Students Insurance: If your insurance is still active and current for the 2026-2027 school year, you may email us, and we will re-approve it. If it is not current, please update Magnus with your new insurance, or you can send the Health Center a picture of the front and back and it will be added to Magnus. Please reach out if you have any questions.

All Returning Families: All returning families must log into Magnus and update forms for the current 2026-2027 year. **Vital Health Record:** All your information is stored in the Magnus VHR section. Please click in each section and update any new information then click submit.

If you have any questions, please contact the Health Center team at healthcenter@idyllwildarts.org.

CAMPUS CARD ACCOUNT

Incidentals - Campus Card Account: The following information will enable you to set up an “Idyllwild Bucks” incidental spending account for your child to use while they are attending Idyllwild Arts. Incidental accounts are separate from tuition accounts and are managed through our Idyllwild Arts “Campus Cardholder” website at ia.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html.

An incidental deposit has been included in your enrollment agreement and will be applied to your student’s incidental account. During the school year, if your child uses their deposit, you will be able to add funds as necessary. Accounts that have a \$0 balance will remain deactivated until funds are added. Any unused portion of the incidental deposit will be rolled over or refunded to families at the end of the year.

Once set up the Idyllwild Bucks incidental account can be used to pay for things on campus like books, supplies, transportation, field trips, postage, SAT exams, etc. Families can log in into their account at any time to see real-time charges that your child is making, as well as credits or payments made to the account. To set up your account, go to ia.campuscardcenter.com/ch/login.html, and on the right-hand side of the webpage, click the “Register Now” button to start the registration process.

1. Cardholder Registration Page
 - a. Enter your student ID number. (found in your Idyllwild Arts account, under student contact information)
 - b. Last Name - Enter the student’s last name
2. Create a User Profile Page
 - a. Create your username
 - b. Create your password
 - c. Re-enter your password to confirm
 - d. Select a secret question from the drop-down list and provide your answer.
 - e. Enter your email address.
3. Cardholder Terms & Conditions Page: Upon review:
 - a. Click “Yes.”
 - b. Enter Initials
 - c. Click “Accept Terms”

To add funds with a credit card to your “Idyllwild Bucks” account, login and click on “Add Value” and you will be prompted for credit card information.

If you cannot register successfully, please contact the Idyllwild Arts ID Card Service Center by phone at (951) 659-2171 Ext. 2209 or email studentbilling@idyllwildarts.org for assistance.

ID BADGE

Every student is required to wear an ID badge while they are on campus. Please send an unedited close-up photo of your head and shoulders against a light or neutral background to academy@idyllwildarts.org

Here is an example of an acceptable ID badge photo:



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Student Services manages all student travel. Any time a student leaves campus, they must obtain away permission. Every away permission request is submitted through REACH and reviewed by the student's art department chair, parents/guardians, and Student Services.

REACH is a comprehensive student management system designed specifically for boarding schools. Families do not have direct accounts with REACH. If families would like to request permission for their student to leave campus, they may email awaypermissions@idyllwildarts.org or ateeguarden@idyllwildarts.org with all necessary information, and Student Services can submit the request on their behalf.

Every student will receive their REACH welcome email closer to the start of the school year.

If your student needs school transportation from the airport on arrival day, please email awaypermissions@idyllwildarts.org to arrange for a school van pickup.

We provide transportation service, for a fee, to and from the following airports:

- Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) – approximately 1 hour 15 minutes from campus
- Ontario International Airport (ONT) – approximately 1 hour 45 minutes from campus
- Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) – approximately 3 hours from campus
- Cross Border Xpress (CBX) – approximately 3 hours from campus
- San Diego International Airport (SAN) – approximately 3 hours from campus

Travel Day transportation (the designated arrival and departure day for students) costs \$175 per student. Due to travel time, we are unable to accommodate departing flights before 10:00 AM. We also ask that flights arriving on Travel Day land no later than 8:00 PM. Students with flights outside of these time frames will not be eligible for school transportation services.

Please let us know if your child will be traveling as an unaccompanied minor. In these cases, our drivers will accompany the student to the airline check-in desk and airport security. Please note that this service may require an additional fee. We also request that unaccompanied minors use either Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) or Ontario International Airport (ONT) whenever possible.

Our drivers will accompany your child to the check-in desk and airport security in such cases. However, please note that this service may have an additional fee. Also, we request that you use either Palm Springs or Ontario Airport for this service.

CHINESE / INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LIAISON

Maggie Lam, mlam@idyllwildarts.org, serves as our Chinese / International Family Liaison. A message from Maggie:

亲爱的家长,

您好。我是 Maggie Lam, 我们在学校担任行政辅助的工作。我是香港人, 我会说中文。如果您有任何问题, 请随时与我联系。我的微信ID是: MaggieLamIAA

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Maggie Lam. I am in Academy administration. I am from Hong Kong, and I can speak Chinese. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. My WeChat ID is: MaggieLamIAA.

VISAS

New international students should apply for a visa, if needed, as soon as they sign their enrollment agreement. All international students should ensure their passport/visa is current and will not expire during the school year.

Please contact Matthew Walker (mwalker@idyllwildarts.org), our Manager of International Student Relations, with any visa questions or assistance you need.

DORM, ROOMMATE, AND ADVISOR ASSIGNMENTS

All boarding students will receive a Housing Questionnaire over the summer, where they can tell us about their housing preferences. The Director of Residence Life and dorm heads will do their best to pair students based on their questionnaire responses. Students will find out their dorm and roommate assignments on arrival day.

Boarding students can find a list of what to bring and what not to bring [here](#).

Every student is assigned a faculty or staff advisor who acts as a liaison between the student, parent/guardian, and the school. Advisors meet regularly with students and are an excellent resource for families and students navigating school requirements. Advisors are assigned each year and may or may not change based on enrollment needs.