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## FOCUS OF THE PLANNING GROUP

Adaptation of Orientation for COVID Conditions

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## SCHEDULE AND ADAPTATIONS FOR ORIENTATION

The orientation team is capitalizing on the summer months prior to orientation to help get the incoming students prepared for their Westmont experience. Faculty will begin engaging with students in mid-August for advising and Orientation small groups will meet each other over ZOOM calls virtually during the summer. Additionally, students will be encouraged to complete Orientation Canvas modules that will include the president's welcome message, an introduction to spiritual formation at Westmont, a welcome from faculty, a video on emotional wellbeing, as well as departmental resources and handouts. Introductions to key departments that would usually occur under the Welcome Tent will be part of a Lunch and Learn Series on Instagram.

New students (first years and transfers) will move in over a two-day period this year, Thursday, August 27 and Friday, August 28. Specific move in times are being provided and each student is asked to bring no more than 2 people with them. These measures will help us manage traffic and maintain social distancing in the residence halls. Typically, Kerrwood Lawn is buzzing with activity during move in. This year, it will have a Welcome Table staffed by the Orientation Team with umbrellas and chairs spread around where students and families may eat their lunch after picking it up in the DC. The Self-Directed Service of Commitment (11am-4pm Thursday and Friday Aug. 27-28) is an interactive, non-scheduled activity that students and families do together anytime on Thursday, August 27 or Friday, August 28. The pathway for the service of commitment begins at Kerrwood Lawn and circles to Magnolia Lawn, Porter Patio and the Arbor in front of the Voskuyl Prayer Chapel. At each station, a short prayer and liturgy can be accessed through the Westmont Community Guide App. At the conclusion, parents receive their license plates and students receive a class T-shirt back on Kerrwood Lawn. Parent Orientation is entirely online this year.

Over the rest of the Orientation weekend, new students will meet in their small groups and in their residence hall sections doing various activities to help them get to know each other and campus a little better. We couldn't leave out a student favorite, so the President and Mrs. Beebe will welcome new students to their home for dessert in groups of 10 or less on Thursday and Friday evenings.

We will host a couple of large group events virtually. The "Best of Westmont" will be pre-recorded and WAC will host snack stations at each residence hall.

Pre-Orientation Adventure Trips have been cancelled for this year and the First Year Retreat may occur in a one-day format rather than an overnight retreat.

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## CONTACT

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