

The Parent's
SURVIVAL GUIDE
to Boarding School



Are you considering a boarding school education for your son? Is he already enrolled? What are your concerns?

Boarding school is a big decision emotionally, academically, and financially. That's why we understand your urgency to assemble all the facts and navigate this new way of life. We're here to make sure your family breathes certainty and ease about what's to come.

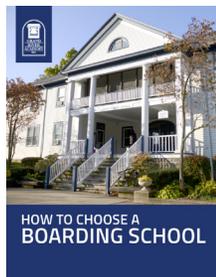
Let's step inside the world of boarding schools and maneuver this exciting commitment together.



ACADEMY

The first and most important step in your boarding school journey is selecting the right school for your son and family. Parents and siblings are an integral part of the entire boarding school journey, so it's important the decision is made with everyone in mind.

If you and your family are currently at this stage, make sure to review our [guide to choosing a boarding school](#).



SURVIVAL TIP #1

DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING UNDISCUSSED.

Consider a school's atmosphere, reputation, academic structure, learning support, student population, distance from home, and your overall motivation to attend.

SURVIVAL
TIP #2

TAKE TIME TO CONNECT



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Take time to connect with at least one other parent at your son's school. Share your uncertainties and tips as you navigate this new world.

COMMUNITY

Boarding schools foster a sense of community all their own, made evident the moment you step on campus. Students live in dorms together, study and attend classes collectively, socialize over meals, and build camaraderie through athletics and extracurricular activities.

Parents also build camaraderie, casting a circle of support across borders. The rich school spirit that boarding schools emanate places you and your child among friends, regardless of the distance.

SURVIVAL
TIP #3

MEET WITH YOUR SON'S TEACHERS



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Whether you're concerned your son will be over-challenged or not challenged enough, meet with a few of your son's teachers – preferably the ones who matter most to him. Discover how your son's education will be tailored to meet his needs and capabilities.

ACADEMICS

Small class sizes, challenging core and artistic curriculum, and talented educators push students to a level that far exceeds a private or public high school education.

Your student will be held accountable to pursue academics with purpose, collaboration, and excellence. Student-faculty relationships flourish in this realm, building bonds that drive students to chase intellectual challenges.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Boarding schools offer a diverse scope of athletic, creative, and social opportunities that motivate students to grow outside the classroom and beyond themselves. This enrichment establishes the importance of healthy living, personal discipline, teamwork, friendship, and creative expression in your child's life.



SURVIVAL TIP #4

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

If the school doesn't already do so, require your son to try a new activity or sport. Students are amazed at how this small act helps them build strong friendships, learn new skills, increase self-confidence, and discover unknown passions.

SURVIVAL
TIP #4

ENCOURAGE
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SURVIVAL
TIP #5

GIVE YOUR SON SPACE TO GROW



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As a hands-on parent, it's tough to relinquish supervision of your son to his teachers, counselors, and administrators. But autonomy and trust are a critical part of the boarding school experience. Allow your son to grow by limiting check-in phone calls to a few times a week and campus visits to once a month.

INDEPENDENCE

The challenges and responsibilities of college and adulthood are bestowed on boarding school students. It's expected that students take care of themselves, own their actions, complete their obligations, and respect campus and residential rules. Living away from home inspires maturity within your son at a pivotal age.

TRANSFORMATION

Adolescent years are about learning who you are and defining a direction for your life. A boarding school experience embodies the right resources and stimulation to activate your son's true potential. Your son will become friends with students from all over the world, grow as a confident, resourceful leader, and take an active role in achieving personal goals.



SURVIVAL TIP #6

CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT

You will be amazed at your child's growth. During phone calls and breaks at home, initiate scholarly conversations, ask about friends and activities, and discuss your son's current goals.



Enrolling your son at a boarding school isn't about sending him away or forfeiting your influence on his life. It's about empowering him to seize control of his education and make a mark on the world.

It's time to discover how far your son can soar.



Established in 1831, Grand River Academy is a college preparatory boarding and day school located one hour east of Cleveland in Austinburg, Ohio. The academy serves over 100 young men in grades 8-12, with a post-graduate option. The faculty and staff continue to make strides in the school's mission to educate the total young man – academically, socially and emotionally to prepare them for lifelong success. The school offers small and intimate class sizes, individualized instruction and supportive faculty. Grand River Academy serves a unique and important niche - helping young men unlock and activate their full potential. We invite you to experience a distinguished all-boys college preparatory school at Grand River Academy. Learn more about our 360-degree approach and 100% college placement rate at [grandriver.org](https://www.grandriver.org).