

# Pertinent Information for Parents

**PAPERWORK:** Back in October, your student filled out a number of important forms. A few of them did require your signature. Each is crucial to the successful implementation of our Program and allows us to help keep your student safe. Please take note of what they have signed and do not hesitate to contact the Program Director, Roxane Adler Hickey, if you have any questions. (If you are interested, we can also provide you with copies of signed forms.)

**SAFETY IN DC:** Safety is our #1 concern. Our approach to safety is a multidimensional programmatic system, and we will spend a large part of Orientation week talking with your student about safety in the DC area. As you know, life in the DC metro area is tremendously different from that in Williamsburg and while we will certainly make every effort to help keep students safe, it is ultimately up to students to make the right decisions. To help students make the transition, we will work closely with students to inform them and keep them aware of their surroundings. Specifically:

- Students have 24/7 access to local Program administrators
- Students will have keys to their apartments and the apartment building (the Buchanan has controlled access so only those with keys may enter on their own)
- Students have access to 24-hour Resident Concierge for emergencies at the Buchanan
- Students have Program-specific ID cards with their local address and emergency numbers listed
- The Program's student Community Advisor will live in the student housing and will be available to all residents
- The Community Advisor will be trained in emergency protocols
- Students will have staff emergency contact information and police numbers
- Students will receive training on DC Emergency Preparedness and staff will review emergency protocols with all students (emergency meeting locations will be provided)
- Students can access the Metro from their apartment by walking through a lit shopping mall tunnel, staffed with security guards

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:**

- We offer an Emergency Voicemail Box that will contain relevant information for students and parents in the event of an emergency. You may call this line 24 hours/day at **202-939-4010**.

**APARTMENT RENTAL INSURANCE:** It is a requirement that your student obtain renter's insurance while living in The Buchanan this Fall. Please find the enclosed form regarding the options for renter's insurance; if you have questions please contact the Program Director, Roxane Adler Hickey, at 202-939-4001.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** It is required that all participants in the W&M in Washington Program have health insurance that provides coverage in the Washington, DC area. We have asked for proof of this insurance on the *Health Information Release* form previously distributed to your student.

If you do not already have coverage, W&M does offer a policy that would cover students while in DC. You may read more information online at: <http://www.wm.edu/offices/healthcenter/studentinsurance/index.php>.