



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Director of Community Standards
Dean of Student Affairs Office

October 2017

Dear Parents and Families,

Greetings from Tufts! The last month has been a thrilling start to the new academic year. First-year students have met new friends and are adjusting to being away from home, and returning students have come back with tales of internships and other summer opportunities. The campus is alive with energy again, and we're looking forward to an exciting fall semester.

At Tufts, students get an education beyond the classroom. Participation in the full life of the university is a transformational experience, one that teaches all of us how to situate ourselves in relation to our community, solve conflicts, manage emotions, interact socially, and grow personally. In Student Affairs, one of our most important roles is to facilitate this kind of co-curricular learning by maintaining an environment of mutual care and respect. Together, we work to make Tufts a place known for its ethos of care, as well as its rigorous academic quality.

How Parents and Families Can Help

I invite you to partner with all of us at Tufts in supporting a respectful, caring community. Parents and families can help bring this about in a couple of different ways:

- 1. Encourage your student to review the [Student Handbook](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Academic Integrity Policy](#).** These documents outline the University's core expectations of students. It's important for students to know these policies well so they fully understand their rights and responsibilities.
- 2. Encourage your students to participate in the [Bridging Differences Initiative](#).** This is a new project launched by Tufts over the summer to help students learn how to engage both critically and respectfully with one another, even when a topic generates widely differing opinions and points of view.
- 3. Talk regularly with your student about their social experience and their use of alcohol and other drugs.** Communicate your family's expectations and values, review the

University's [Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy](#), and help your student be thoughtful about their behavior.

Coming Up

October is a month full of exciting events for students. The [Fall Fest Concert](#) is October 6, [Homecoming](#) is October 7, [Parents and Family Weekend](#) is October 13-14, and student organization events and Halloween celebrations will fill the last couple of weekends. Encourage your students to participate in these events safely and responsibly.

Here are a few reminders you might bring up with your student about these upcoming events:

- **Academics are a priority.** October is often when the first wave of midterms occurs and the first substantial papers of the semester are due. Encourage your student to keep up with their work so they can also participate in campus traditions and social experiences.
- **Students who choose to drink alcohol should do so responsibly.** This means not drinking while underage, limiting consumption to one standard drink per hour, having a full meal before drinking, consuming plenty of water, and watching out for friends. More information on alcohol-related safety is available from the [Office of Health Promotion and Prevention](#) at Tufts. You can also find great tips for having a conversation with your student about alcohol [here](#).
- **Students are encouraged to use the [SafeRide service](#) when they are out and about at night.**
- **Students who live off campus are encouraged to be responsible when hosting events.** The neighborhoods in Medford, Somerville, and Boston where many of our off-campus students live have year-round residents with full-time careers and families, and they take great pride in their neighborhood. Encourage your student to be respectful of their neighbors by:
 - Reviewing Tufts' [Noise and Off-Campus Disturbances Policy](#)
 - Observing the detailed noise ordinance for the city in which they live: [Medford](#), [Somerville](#), and [Boston](#).
 - As a general rule, limiting gatherings to 25 people or less.
 - Keeping the house, yard, and surrounding area clean and cared for.

If I can be helpful to you as you plan a conversation with your student about these topics, or if you think it would be helpful for our staff to

connect with your student directly, please feel free to let me know. I hope to see many of you later this month at Parents Weekend events.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kraft
Director of Community Standards
Dean of Student Affairs Office