Fort Hays State University Newsletter for Incoming Students

The school year is quickly approaching and there are many questions an incoming student may have like yourself. Over the next few weeks Residential Life Staff will provide newsletters to help answer those questions and give you tips for your experience at Fort Hays State University. By the time you arrive on campus you will feel more prepared and ready to start a journey that will be remembered for a life time. As you read further into this issue just know that Fort Hays State University is ready to do whatever it takes to make you feel welcomed and prepare you for success!

Topics for this issue:

• Contacting Your Roommate
• Packing Tips
• What Not to bring

Contact Your Roommate:

Majority of students go straight to social media sites to see what they are like. This can be a good way to find out what are some of their interest such as: music, movies, hobbies, etc. Just remember not everyone is the same as their Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram accounts portray. Go ahead and check out their profile, but don’t let ideas form in your head about who they are just from that.

Some initial contacts are done via the Internet, making email a great option for a quick introduction, and to get the first conversation started. When you decide to contact them, try something simple like, “Hey, I’m (your name), your new roommate, and I just wanted to introduce myself before we moved in together!” You can add in a few facts like your major and where you are from, and then just let the conversation flow from there.

Be sure to discuss some key topics such as:

• How neat or messy you are?
• What time you like to go to bed?
• What time you like to be up in the morning?
• If you like to listen to music when you do work?
• How each of you feel about having friends in the room?
• How hot or cold do you like the room?
• Who is bringing what? (microwave, fridge, etc.)

Make sure you evaluate your living style honestly. There is no use to lie about how neat you are, or how late you stay up, because your roommate will find out the truth eventually. When
you first start talking with your roommate, if you’re honest, you can compromise on things and set schedules if you find that there are certain things that you do differently. For example, if you need absolute quiet when you study, you can set up times when your roommate will be out, like if she has practice or a club meeting. This will help to avoid conflicts later on because you both will have a better notion of what to expect.

Something to keep in mind is don’t expect that you and your roommate will be best friends. Getting along with your roommate is important to having an enjoyable first year, but that doesn’t mean that you are going to be inseparable. While this does sometimes happen; it doesn’t hurt to branch out and meet new people and just be friendly with your roommate. Meeting a new roommate for the first time is never an easy thing to do, but just follow these few tips and you should have no problem! Overall your roommate may be just as nervous as you are. So just take some babies steps and remember that Communication is key!

Packing Tips:

Remember when moving to college you now have a roommate and bring everything from home may not be the best idea. Think seasonal, if you know you will go back home every once in a while bring warmer clothes for summer and fall. Once winter hits bring some heavier clothes. Below are some items ideal items to bring for the Fall semester:

**What to bring**

- 3M Command Strips (we find that these tend to hang stuff better on the walls and not cause damages when taking them off. You don’t want damages on walls because those are pricy. If moving into Tiger Place I would not use these on the walls, but only on the doors.)
- Alarm Clock- Don’t want to be late for your first classes.
- Backpack
- Bedspread/Blankets- the beds are extra-long twins.
- Hangers- it helps the organization of your closet.
- Debit card- to make purchase around the town off campus.
- Shower caddy- helps keep everything together when using the community bathrooms
- Dishes, cups, utensils- each hall has fully equipped kitchens and making a home cooked meal is always satisfying.
- Health Insurance Card
- Laundry Baskets
- Detergent/softener- I mean you could just use water, but soap is always a good option.
- Towels
- Notepad & Calendar- this to help you stay organized
- Pens, Pencils, Paper
• Pillows
• Wastebasket- The University does supplies small ones, but if you want something bigger this could be a good idea.

**Things you might want to bring:**

• Bicycle- All bikes have to stay outside to be sure to bring a lock!
• Cleaning supplies- remember that the front desk do provide a variety of cleaning supplies.
• Cable TV Cord
• laptop- Our Library also offers laptops for checkout!
• Mattress pad- a good night sleep is always key
• Mini Fridge- (less than 5 cubic feet though)
• Microwave (less than 700 watts)
• Posters- decorations are awesome!
• Stereo/speakers- Just remember that quiet hours start every night at 10pm.
• TV- stay caught up with all the coolest shows.

**Things to not bring, but you could substitute it with:**

• NO Candles ↦ Candle warmers/ air fresheners are okay though
• NO Extension ↦ Surge protectors
• NO multi-head plastic lamps ↦ Desk lamps are good!
• NO nails/screws/tape ↦ 3M Command Strips
• NO pets ↦ Fish (tank under 10 gal.)
• NO weapons/firearms/ammo ↦ Playing cards, or maybe a good book
• NO Window Air conditioner ↦ Electric fan
• NO Wireless router ↦ Ethernet cable cord

On Issue #3

➤ **Loft kits**
➤ **Meal Change**
➤ **Involvement Opportunities**

On June 30th Roommate assignments go out!!!

Thank you,

Residential Life Staff