

Fall 2025 Welcome Back Households

Households! Welcome back!!

What a gift to have the liveliness back on campus. Just like a family unit, households provide support, community, accountability, recreation, growth, and more.

As AMU continues to shape and form, please do not hesitate brainstorming and sharing your ideas to enhance the household program as a whole.

When entering into this year, we're hoping to provide for you all clarity regarding common spaces so you can focus on what is most important: directing our eyes upon Christ alongside peers.

Looking at sister Newman Guide Schools, we see two different schools of thought:

- **Franciscan University:** Households have a designated room that is for their specific household. They aren't used as much for the common student, rather, for the household to meet & flourish.
- **Benedictine College:** Households' meeting spaces are their actual dorms & homes (BC has on-campus apartments & houses for students to live in). Households literally invite students into their home to engage in the Christian life.

At Ave, we unfortunately don't have the resources or space to commit to either of these models. Therefore, let's work with what we've got, adopt a blend of the models for now, and pray for more funding to build more residence halls!

You have all been given a common space to share with fellow students (and perhaps, with fellow households). Use this as an opportunity to attract students to your household by keeping up the space like you would a home. This *is* your home! You, along with all of your peers, pay big bucks to utilize the amenities here. The common rooms are first common to all, then shared specifically with those requesting use.

That being said, keep the following in mind:

RESERVATIONS

- Once you learn what common room you've been assigned to this year, put in a request for a reoccurring "event" to specifically reserve the space:

[Residence Life Request Form](#)

CLEANLINESS

- The common room should always be clean. Even if your household didn't make the mess, between RAs & HH members, we're hoping to keep the space welcoming. If you see the room left a mess, take a photo and email the RD of the hall ASAP with any helpful details you may have.
- It is encouraged to have 1 household member complete a quick walkthrough & tidy of their common room once a day. For small households (6 or less members), common rooms should be inspected and cleaned by members at least three times a week.
- Cleaning materials can be provided by Residence Life should you need it.
- Households are responsible for deep cleaning their common room at the end of each semester. More details will be shared nearing finals week.

STORAGE

- Declutter: Please take a couple hours to assess the belongings of your household. Do not hold onto unnecessary items. Sentimental things can be lovely, but if they've been collecting dust, buried away in storage, or unappreciated for a couple years, it might be time to discard it. Allow yourself to be free from clutter.
- If you need to store anything in the common rooms, it must not be done in a sightly manner. i.e. find a lovely wardrobe (no dorm furniture) or ottoman that can neatly fit your belongings. If you have a bookshelf, it must be presentable & not appear cluttered.
 - If you store items in the common room, please note that Residence Life & Campus Ministry is not responsible for any lost or damaged items that belong to the household.
- No cardboard or storage boxes should be stored in the common room; think "living room. Does my formal living room at home have storage boxes as an accent piece?" If you have boxes filled with necessary HH materials, recruit one member to store the boxes in their dorm room or suite for the duration of the school year.
 - We are in communication about summer 2026 HH storage.

FURNITURE

- Similar to what's stated above, ensure your furniture is welcoming and clean. Remember that parents & perspective students walk through this space.
- It's OK to have a neat space representing your HH, but if furniture is overcrowded, broken, grimy, tattered, etc., it must be disposed of.
- If the Residence Director has established that the common room isn't to have any additional furniture or furniture removed, please take note of this direction.

DECOR & PAINT

- Remember that households may change rooms, so when putting up decoration, think, "is this easily transferrable?" If not, it likely shouldn't be pursued.
- If a room is in need of new paint, it needs to be painted with the new Ave dorm color: Veil White, per a new goal set out by multiple departments. You may certainly spruce up the room with decorations, frames, etc., but please refrain from painting the walls or painting murals.
 - For all rooms that currently have members' names or murals painted on the walls, they will stay as is for this year. Nothing has been decided as of Fall 2025.
 - Moving forward, we suggest getting large canvas or large picture frames, painting murals / HH member names on these, and hanging the transferable items on the walls. Great thing about this: you can easily move it should your household change in size, and you need to migrate to a different common room for the year.

Kerry Estes, Hannah Baalman, and each Residence Director (RD) may provide discretionary redirection as needed.

We are genuinely grateful for your yes to Christ's mission and for intentionally being open to the formation of the Spirit during your college years. Together, we will fight the good spiritual battle and ask God for the grace to know Him and serve Him.

Peace in Christ,

Campus Ministry & Residence Life