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## Tackling the Troubles of Housing

By Antonia Calamas

*The idea of housing in your summer before school can seem terrifying. It can cause stress; but, really, de-stress and relax! Loyola will help take care of it for you.*

There I stood, late April of my senior year, adrenaline pulsing through my veins: a feeling of thrilling excitement overwhelmed me. I re-viewed my options of schools for the last time: considering all factors of price, campus living and academic reputation. I was thrilled. The answer appeared right in front of me: Loyola. A glorious feeling of delight accompanied the life-changing decision. I was ready to take on Houndtown.

As the weeks followed, I began to consider the logistics of living in an entirely new place without knowing anyone. I became a ball of nerves, constantly stressing over the factors of the new life I was about to immerse myself in. One factor quickly became predominant above the rest: housing. The importance of housing paired with how many things can go wrong with housing terrified me. Dorm life appeared as the key to social success. How would I figure out with who I would live with? Or where I would room? These components felt like absolutely crucial details in making Loyola my home. Little did I know, Loyola had my back.





Campion Towers

West Side:  
Campion Towers  
Hopkins Court



Hopkins Court

## The Who

Many people's main concern is deciding on a who. Who is my roommate going to be next year? It seems imperative to know when entering college. Everyone feels more confident when they have a friend by their side. Some get lucky and know someone to be their roommate; as for the rest of us, we take on the challenge of the Facebook page—a daunting activity filled with vague descriptions of people giving little insight as to who they really are. Here you are handed a catalog of perspective students to choose from and message in order to deter-

mine the person you are going to live with for the next year. The idea of dorming with someone primarily based off a text message conversation seems ridiculous; however, it seems slightly better than going completely random. Random roommate selection consists of being placed through the school based on a twelve question test. What do you choose, text or test? Neither seems appealing. Tiesha Miles, a housing representative, reveals past students' statistics: about twenty-five percent of students choose their roommate, while a

majority of students choose the test. Ironically, both methods have the same living success rate of about 50/50 at Loyola. So, really, stressing about which to choose is pointless, but we do it anyway.

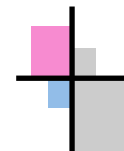
Don't get discouraged by these statistics. Many students have success in both forms of rooming. Sam Kolb, class of 2018, states, "I'm actually still best friends with my freshman roommate and we were randomly placed together." Four years of being best friends with your freshmen random roommate proves it was a successful match.

## Move Week!

Even if you are not like Sam and get placed in a less than ideal situation, Loyola never makes you feel stuck! We have the glorious time period called move-week! In the second and third week of each semester, move-week occurs and allows you to switch rooms with no questions asked. Say things are going completely wrong with your roommate and you need to

get out of there asap: move-week! Or say you are like me and want to move in with a close friend instead of more of a stranger: move-week! I, personally, moved for the second of the two reasons. My close friend Kelsey constantly clashed with her roommate and I never really made a connection with mine. Once she asked me to move in with her I agreed

without hesitation. Move-week allows great flexibility in reasons to move. It reduces the stress of being stuck if you have an incompatible roommate. Even if you miss move-week you can still move at any time—it is just a longer process. Loyola always provide generous flexibility with first-year rooming.



## Messina Living

Loyola also places people you are familiar with in the same building as you. Sounds weird, right? But true! Your Messina group (a selected group of first-years whom you take two linked courses with and partake in out-of-class experiences with over the school year) is placed in the same building as you so you have familiar faces around your dorm.

Michael Puma, the Student Development Co-Director of Messina, explains the theory behind this: "The intention behind the housing for Messina is to offer students the opportunity to see some familiar faces in their residence hall. Hopefully, they get to know their Messina classmates in a residential setting, while also meeting

their classmates' friends and roommates to create a larger circle of friends and support." While you become more comfortable with your classmates because you now know them residentially, Messina also creates a waterfall effect where you meet friends of friends of friends. This is actually really com-

## The Where: Apartment

After the who, we think about the where. Initially, housing locations can feel like a nightmare. Most people have an ideal building they hope to live in, whether it is in an apartment in Campion or classic dorm life in Hillside (the East side of campus that contains most freshman double dorms). The stress of getting your ideal arrangement can be nerve-racking. But don't stress, all of Loyola's housing have their perks. A universal perk all buildings provide is

a strong sense of community.

Once you are at Loyola you will not feel alone. Whether it is apartment living or living in a double, the variety of living arrangements all have their pros in helping you connect with other students. Campion is the apartment-style housing available for first years: housing places you in a room of four, six or eight. This living arrangement immediately surrounds you

with a plethora of people. Not only in your room but around you. "Campion was cool because when you walked over to see your neighbors for the first time you weren't just meeting two people, you were meeting four, six or eight new friends at once, so the familiar faces added up quickly," exclaims Loyola sophomore Lindsey McGovern. The general layout of Campion quickly creates a community.

## The Where: Double Dorming

The second option is to choose living in a double. All freshman who choose partner dorming roll their eyes at the idea of living in Butler, Hammerman or Hopkins because of the dread of sharing a bathroom. Many first-years hope to get the adored housing of Flannery O'Conner: the only dorm containing private bathrooms. However, a true blessing in disguise is the communal bathroom! Having to wear uncomfortable shower shoes that squeak with every step, or waiting for the toilet because someone else is using it does not sound appealing, but, truly, the communal bathroom has its perks. It is a social draw. Getting ready for your 8am you might feel disgustingly drowsy but seeing your nookmate in the bathroom may give you the perfect wake up call. When you're showering you can be having a conversation with your friend in the next

shower over (not as weird as you think). The communal bathroom also creates a lot of hallway traffic. Caitlin, a Butler resident, describes the atmosphere surrounding her room, "Our doors are always open. I don't know if it's because we're always going to the bathroom, but it creates a like friendly, welcoming vibe." Caitlin further elaborated that just about her whole nook are friends and feel comfortable walking into each other's rooms. Another class of 2021 Butler resident, James Burke, further elaborated: "The communal bathroom basically forces you to bond with people near you—not in a bad way. It's just taking the place that is supposed to be most private and making it public really breaks down barriers quickly." The communal forms the community.

Another highly useful space—the common room! Each floor has one and each floor uses it. The common room makes it so easy to find common interests. Are you an Eagles fan and want to watch the game on Sunday? Go in the common room! I can guarantee there will be another person wanting to share that TV with you. Now there is an instant connection between the Eagles fans in the third floor of Flannery. Emily Manzo, a current student in the class of 2021 and fan of *The Bachelor*, describes her Monday evenings from 8-10 pm, "A group of us who don't know each other always just gather around. It's really fun. Although we haven't ever really met we gossip about the contestants and how ridiculous they always are." Common rooms form bonds for you.

**As someone who has just gone through first-year dorming, I know it can feel overwhelming. But don't worry! Loyola helps everything fall into place.**



**Hammerman House**

## East Side:

**Flannery O'Conner**

**Butler**

**Hammerman**



**Butler**



**Flannery O'Conner**