

Dear USNA Class of 2024 Parents,

Welcome Aboard to the incredible journey that is USNA! Thank you also for supporting my book. I think that you will find it helpful as you navigate the four years at the Naval Academy.

As you know, things are fluid and constantly changing for everyone at this time and that includes USNA. As Navy parents, and as you will see in my book, the motto we live by is “Semper Gumby” - Always Flexible. Things always change and we need to be especially flexible at this time as the world navigates the Coronavirus situation. I have learned to always look directly to the Naval Academy or the USNA Alumni Association for official guidance, correspondence, updates, and information pertaining to I-Day, reporting dates and times, and other information for the USNA Class of 2024. Once the ACYear (or Academic Year) begins, your Plebe will be the best source of information, but you may have to ask them!

There are many options and web-based resources for up to date information including social media that can provide good information as you navigate the four years in the “Boat School”, “By the Bay”, and “on the Yard.” I have listed the main USNA pages below that may help as your Incoming Plebe and your family prepare for I-Day and the journey that awaits!

The most important thing to realize is that you are not alone. There are many parents that have walked in your shoes before you and we are here to help you navigate the journey. Find the spaces where you feel most comfortable and I suggest being an observer, seeing if you feel comfortable with the dialogue in each particular group, and jumping in slowly. I discuss this in my book and have additional pages you can follow there as well.

- ★ My website and Blog - www.usnamidmomsandmore.org
- ★ [Midmoms and More](#) - is my open page that ties in with my book. It offers insight and up -to-date information. Since it is an open age it does not require membership - just “Like” to follow the page in your feed and check for new information periodically. www.facebook.com/midmomsandmore, Instagram @MidMomsandmore
- ★ [MidMoms and More Group](#) - is a closed group exclusively for parents of USNA Midshipmen from all classes that is related to my book. I am an Admin and have gathered seasoned USNA parents that offer great insight and have current ties to the Academy. www.facebook.com/groups/MidMomsandMoreGroup/
- ★ [United States Naval Academy](#) - USNA’s official page on Facebook. It is full of up-to-date announcements, information, and news about the Academy and our

Midshipmen. It is open and does not require membership - just “Like” to follow the page in your feed and do check it periodically. www.facebook.com/USNavalAcademy/

- ★ [Your class page](#) - a closed FB group exclusively for parents and legal guardians of your class only. The page for Class of 2024 is “BLB USNA 2024 Parents.” It is Administered by parents. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/631261834032145/>
- ★ [USNA Parent Community](#) - is a closed group exclusively for parents of USNA Midshipmen from all classes. I highly recommend this group for new parents to get your bearings. This group is administered by very well informed USNA Alumni and Reservists who are also USNA parents and are very familiar with the military perspective on all things USNA. www.facebook.com/groups/USNAPARENTS/
- ★ [USNA Parents and Families \(Non-Political\)](#) - is a closed group created for political free dialogue and extends its membership to Midshipmen parents and families, as well as Sponsors. www.facebook.com/groups/476128816346711/
- ★ [USNA Parents Prayer Ministry](#) - exclusively for parents of USNA Midshipmen and Alumni , this closed group is a close knit group of parents of faith who support and pray for each other and for their Midshipmen. www.facebook.com/USNApray/
- ★ [USNA Lucky Bag](#) - The official USNA Yearbook Facebook page. You can find lots of great pictures! <https://www.facebook.com/LuckyBagUSNA/>
- ★ [USNA Alumni Association and Foundation](#) - official site of the USNA Alumni Association with pertinent and up to date information about current happenings at USNA. Also offers the USNA Photo Program and USNA Parents Clubs information and membership benefits. www.usna.com
- ★ For more sites and resources please visit my website: usnamidmomsnadmore.org

Once you know which company your son or daughter will be assigned to, you can also look for the company’s public page and company-specific parent page that you can follow and/or join. Eventually during Plebe Summer, an industrious parent will create a new company class page as well - I discuss this topic in my book! Note that closed groups may ask you to provide an image of your incoming Plebe with their appointment certificate where the name is legible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me on Facebook Messenger or via Instagram IM. I am here to help! Also, watch my “MidMoms and More” page and closed group for my live Q&A coming soon! Welcome Aboard and look forward to sharing this journey with you!

Sincerely,

AN Shine

AN Shine, USNA '59, '17, '20

Author, *A USNA Mom's Journal*

