

## **Campus Update – Weds., 7:20 a.m., Sept. 16**

Though we are grateful that Hurricane Sally shifted east and avoided Mobile, our thoughts are with those in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Pensacola, and the other areas being hammered by the storm.

Sally, a storm that has defied forecasters for days, made landfall this morning near Orange Beach, Alabama, at around 5 a.m. as a category 2 hurricane.

Here on the ASMS campus, we are still experiencing 50-60 mph wind gusts and sideways rain. The worst weather passed through at around 5:30 a.m., but conditions are still rough outside. There is a reasonably large tree down near the boys' dorm, two wooden fences are down, debris is everywhere, and a few roof leaks in the Administration Building. Besides those issues, our campus is in good shape, and our students and staff are safe.

Although we should still experience severe weather for the next few hours, we're grateful for our old-but-solid buildings and the campus generator, which has been keeping the power on since late yesterday evening.

It's too windy for the students to leave their dorms anytime soon, so they will have to hunker down for a few more hours. Hopefully, many are sleeping, though the wind is whipping pretty loud.

The last point I will make is essential. We will probably never weather a storm with students on campus again. Notwithstanding, 2020 is an exceptional year, and by keeping 100 students on campus during Sally, we hopefully salvaged our Fall Term. No one wants to shut the campus down because we know how vital this fantastic school's residential component is.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for entrusting us with your precious students during a major hurricane. They approached the storm with maturity and calmness. The hall staff has also done an outstanding job of remaining calm and vigilant during the past three days.

Looking forward to sleeping in my own bed soon,

John Hoyle, Ph.D.  
President

