April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your support during the first few weeks of eLearning. Our successful transition has been because of our supportive community and strong partnerships with parents/guardians. We thank you for that, and we look forward to continuing this partnership during this time away and long after we return to school.

This is an exciting time of year for 8th graders and their families as they prepare for the transition to high school. We all hope for a smooth transition and are here to help make it as smooth as possible. In that spirit, I would like to invite you to a 9th Grade Registration Webinar on Tuesday, April 21 at 5:00 pm where Assistant Principal Matt Whittaker and I will provide information about the upper school program and give families a chance to ask questions. Login information will be sent by email as we get closer to the date.

Enclosed in this mailing are registration materials for the 2020-21 school year.

* The **9th Grade Course Request Form** includes pre-filled information with the required courses for ninth grade. As you can see, the 9th grade curriculum is fairly prescribed and leaves room for the selection of one elective class per semester. These blanks should be filled with elective course options or study halls. A list of the elective courses available to 9th graders is on the back of this form.
* **Students** have received course recommendations for core class placement for next year. Please contact your child’s current teacher if you have questions about the recommendation.
* Students are required to complete two credits of the same ***world language*** while in the upper school. Eighth grade students who have successfully completed a level one language in Spanish or French at Marshall may continue their study in upper school. Students who did not begin a language or who would like to switch languages should register for a level one course to be taken during ninth grade. Please note that Spanish I and German I are the only level one language course offerings next year.
* A **four-year planning sheet** accompanies the registration packet. This document provides you and your child an opportunity to look ahead and preliminarily map out courses for the next four years.

A highlight in our course offerings for freshmen includes the **honors option** within our English 9 and Biology courses. Students following the college prep curriculum, as well as students taking the honors option, will be in the same class, meeting at the same time. However, those students electing the honors option will be expected to master additional content and will be asked to demonstrate a higher level of skill, knowledge, understanding, creativity, and application.

Offering both the regular college prep and honors options within a single class provides all students the opportunity to challenge themselves at this higher level. However, for many reasons, a student may select the honors option in Biology, for example, but not English 9.  A heavy course load and/or a demanding schedule outside of the school day are valid reasons for choosing one over the other.

Students will have until the end of first quarter to choose between the honors and college preparatory curricula in both English 9 and Biology. Teachers will differentiate assignments and course expectations. The honors designation will be recorded on the report card and transcript, as usual. Additional information about College Prep vs. Honors can be found at www.marshallschool.org/9thGrade**.**

More detailed information, including a Course Description Book and other important handouts, can be found at www.marshallschool.org/9thgrade. Please look over this information and contact us if you should have any questions.

In order to register your child for classes for the 2020-21 school year, please follow the steps below:

1. Attend the 9th Grade Registration Webinar with your child on Tuesday, April 21.
2. Complete the Course Request Form, considering course recommendations made by teachers in cooperation with your child. Also, be sure to include alternate course requests in case of scheduling conflicts.
3. Enter course requests into PowerSchool. Instructions for the registration process are included in this mailing and will be demonstrated during the 9th Grade Registration Webinar.

The close of one chapter opens the beginning of the next exciting one. We are pleased to offer many rich courses for your soon-to-be freshman. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2024 in the fall! If you have any questions, please call me at (218) 727-7266 ext. 114 or e-mail heather.fishel@marshallschool.org.

Best,

Heather Fishel

Upper School Principal