

# Marshall School

March 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The planning process for the 2019-2020 school year is well underway, and it is time for your child to select courses. We appreciate the guidance you provide your child in navigating the registration process, and we see you as a partner in helping your child plan for the next steps in their education. Your child's registration information includes the following:

- **Four-Year Planning Sheet** to help guide your conversation and ensure your child is on track for graduation.
- **Course Request Form** that must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to your child's advisor by Tuesday, March 26.
- **Course Recommendations** from your child's current teachers. Teachers have spoken with students about their course recommendations. Students should know their standing in regard to recommendations, but if there are any questions, please contact your child's current teacher.

There are two *departmental curriculum sequence changes* we'd like to bring to your attention:

- The Social, Religious, and Ethical Studies Department underwent a year-long curriculum review which resulted in a resequencing of courses shifting United States History from the senior year to the sophomore year of a student's experience at Marshall. Rising sophomores and seniors will both take grade-level courses in U.S. History next year, while rising juniors will continue to take European History.
- The Math Department will re-sequence math courses beginning in the 2019-2020 school year to Algebra 1 → Geometry → Algebra 2. This sequence is intended to support students' developmental needs and help them to be better prepared to tackle Algebra 2 topics after doing more visual problem solving and logical reasoning in Geometry. Due to this change in sequence, we will not offer courses in Algebra 2 during the 2019-2020 school year, since all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking either Algebra 1 or Geometry.

We will continue the rotation of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade elective courses in the Science Department. Good planning will help ensure students are able to take the courses they prefer before graduation. Courses offered include:

Offered Every Year	Electives Offered in 2019-20	Electives Offered in 2020-21
Biology/Honors Biology	AP Biology	AP Chemistry
Chemistry/Honors Chemistry	Engineering Design	Human Anatomy & Physiology
Physics/AP Physics C	Environmental Science	

Course descriptions can be found in the Upper School Course Book at [marshallschool.org/parent](http://marshallschool.org/parent).

We are excited to announce the *Global Studies Certificate Program*, which is open to rising juniors and seniors. This program allows student to declare a special interest in global studies alongside their Marshall diploma and is designed to enable students to become compassionate and engaged global citizens; independent and self-directed learners; and creative, discerning, and critical thinkers. Applications are now being accepted. The application and detailed information about the program are available by contacting Director of International Programs, Christa Knudsen, by email: [cknudsen@marshallschool.org](mailto:cknudsen@marshallschool.org) or at [marshallschool.org/globalstudiescertificate](http://marshallschool.org/globalstudiescertificate).

Upon return from Spring Break in April, students presently in grades 9-11 will have individual meetings to review their course requests as follows:

- Rising 12<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with Director of College Counseling Katie Voller-Berdan.
- Rising 11<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with Upper School Principal for Student Life Heather Fishel.
- Rising 10<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with Upper School Principal for Academics Brandon Neblett.

Registering for classes is an important step toward preparing for next year. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the team listed above.

Sincerely,

Heather Fishel  
Upper School Principal for Student Life

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