March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The planning process for the 2020-2021 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 Monday, March 30. Students will enter their course requests into PowerSchool during advisory that week. Without a signed course request form, students will be unable to register for courses.
* **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 a few departmental curriculum changes we’d like to bring to your attention:

* The **English Department** is excited to announce that it will offer semester-length elective courses, in addition to Honors British Literature and AP English, for students in grades 11 and 12. The electives aim to offer students more curricular choice than they have had in the recent past, while also working to master research, writing, speaking, interpretation, and discussion skills. Juniors and seniors who are not taking Honors British Literature and/or AP English will need to take 2 credits over the course of two years to meet their English graduation requirement. Students may choose to take additional English elective courses as their interests warrant. English electives will be offered in alternating years, with six choices per semester:

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| --- | --- |
| **Electives Offered in 2020-21** | **Electives Offered in 2021-22** |
| Literature of War | Poetry |
| Mystery Fiction and True Crime | Drama & The Bard |
| Film Studies | Mythology, Fairy Tales, & Fantasy |
| Science Fiction | Contemporary Writing and Persuasion |
| Horror | World Literature |
| Contemporary Fiction | The Teenage Experience |

* The **Social, Religious, and Ethical Studies Department** continues their curriculum resequencing transition. Rising sophomores and seniors will both take grade-level courses in U.S. History next year, while rising juniors will take new offerings in World History or AP World History.
* The **Computer Science Department** will offer a new AP-level course: AP Computer Science A. This course is an advanced level course in programming with the Java language. Students who take this course should have done some programming in another language prior to taking this course.

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

|  |  |  |
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| **Offered Every Year** | **Electives Offered in 2020-21** | **Electives Offered in 2021-22** |
| Biology/Honors Biology | AP Chemistry | AP Biology |
| Chemistry/Honors Chemistry | Human Anatomy & Physiology | Engineering Design |
| Physics/AP Physics C |  | Environmental Science |

Course descriptions can be found in the Course Description Book at *marshallschool.org/parent*.

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 12th graders will meet with Director of College Counseling Katie Voller-Berdan.
* Rising 11th graders will meet with Upper School Principal Heather Fishel.
* Rising 10th graders will meet with Upper School Counselor Jessica Saxton.

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 or your child’s advisor or current teachers.

Sincerely,

Heather Fishel

Upper School Principal