

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

PARENT INFORMATION  
EVENING

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Evening

1. Our Mission
2. What You Can Expect
3. Student Support Systems
4. Service Learning Overview
5. Academic choices of 07-08
6. Q & A

- **Mission Statement**

Our mission at St. Margaret's Episcopal School is to educate the hearts and minds of young people for lives of learning, leadership and service.

**Core Values:**

**Character** - In the Episcopal tradition, we emphasize moral integrity, spiritual growth, compassion, and responsibility.

**Community** –We seek diversity and acknowledge the dignity of each individual within a community framework that emphasizes teamwork, mutual respect, service and commitment to the common good.

**Balance and Breadth**– We believe that personal growth and awareness are best fostered through the pursuit of a broad range of academic, artistic, athletic and co-curricular opportunities.

**High Expectations** – We guide and nurture our students as they discover and cultivate their unique gifts and talents, challenging each individual to achieve his or her full potential.

# What can you expect?

Our focus and mission in the Upper School include:

- Nurturing spirituality through a religious center (Christianity in the Anglican Tradition)
- Building community (creating a social environment where honor, character, hard work, and excellence are valued)
- Maintaining small class sizes that promote learning and student-teacher connections

# What can you expect?

- Balancing college preparatory with the needs of the whole child (challenging scholars and nurturing children)
- Raising good children with wise hearts who care about learning and serving (Community Service in each year)
- Providing opportunities for student choices and multiple support systems for those students

# Some Parenting Tips

- Partner with us in helping to develop your child's sense of autonomy
- Allow your child to be his/her own advocate
- Partner with us in helping to develop resilience in your children

# Student Support Systems

- Faculty – first & foremost
- Advising and counseling
- Class Deans
- Honor Committee
- Chaplains and School Psychologists
- School nurses
- Academic counseling and scheduling
- Learning specialist
- College admissions counseling
- Core Team
- Peer Counselors

# Service Learning Requirement

- Service is an integral part of our mission as a school.
- Required hours begins in ninth grade with 15 hours of service on campus.
- Students will receive a list of over 30 options from which they will rank their top four choices. You will need to sign with your student a service agreement and the four choices they have selected.
- They will receive their final assignment when they begin classes next year (unless they chose summer school). They should try to complete their hours within one semester or sports season.

# *Service Starts at Home*

- Required service
- Fifteen (15) hours of service within the St. Margaret's school community which are completed by the beginning of 10th grade.
  - Service examples:
    - ❖ On campus events
    - ❖ Tutoring lower or middle school students
    - ❖ Teaching assistants
    - ❖ Other
  - Rationale: Ninth Grade Service
    - ❖ Gives students an opportunity to work in other parts of the school;
    - ❖ Allows students to see themselves as contributing members of the school community;
    - ❖ Encourages a sense of responsibility for the school environment;
    - ❖ Interconnects the school more completely.

# Administrative Structure

- Teacher
- Advisor
- Dean and /or Department Chair
- Academic Dean
- Assist. Principal or Principal
- Student Activities Director
- Registrar
- College Counselors
- Secretaries

# Freshman Year Schedule at a Glance

Freshmen must enroll in 5 academic courses each semester as a minimum. Most take 6 + PE.

Typical courses for enrollment:

- **English:** English I
- **Math:** Algebra IB, Geometry/Honors
- **Science:** Conceptual Physics, Biology

# Freshman Year Schedule at a Glance

- **History:** World History
- **Language:** 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Level
- **Religion:** Typically, at least one course towards fulfilling the three semester requirement.  
Select from: Bible as Literature  
I Old Testament or  
II New Testament

# Freshman Year

## Schedule at a Glance

- **Fine Arts Elective:** One year course in  
Choir, Dance, Studio Art,  
Clay Hand Building,  
Musicianship,  
**\*Photography\***
- **PE I/Human Dev:** PE/Human Development  
4 quarters
- **Computer Science:** Test proficient or take  
Computer Applications

English	English I	English I	English I
Math	Algebra I B	Geometry	Algebra II Honors
Science	Conceptual Physics	Conceptual Physics	Biology
History	World History	World History	World History
Language	Latin II	Japanese I	Chinese
Fine Art or	Bible I	Theatre	Study Block
Religion	Bible II	Theatre	Bible I
PE	Dance for PE	Study Block	Human Development /Athletics

# Looking Ahead

- Enrollment in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses
- Confirmation of courses
- Continued Communication
- Summer Reading Project
- Summer Mailings
- Book Purchase – on line
- Retreat / Orientation first week
- Athletics – Fall Sports , summer programs

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast blue ocean meeting a blue sky with wispy white clouds. The sun is visible on the left side, creating a bright glow and a shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The overall scene is serene and expansive.

# Keeping the Right Focus

# Questions to consider when your student is planning his/her schedule

- What requirements should a 9<sup>th</sup> grader be fulfilling?
- I've heard that SS is necessary in order to complete the graduation requirements?
- Is it possible to take two languages?
- Should my child have a study block?
- Can they begin courses during the summer before Freshman year?



**Q & A**