



April 13, 2016

Dear Upper School Families,

With 3rd quarter behind us and the promise of summer ahead, it's once again time for students to begin planning for next year's courses. This presents a wonderful opportunity to do some serious reflection about what has gone well, what strengths and areas of deep interest are emerging for students, and what enticing options for growth and engagement sit on the near horizon.

On Thursday, April 14th, you and your student will have online access to their personalized course request form using the same online portal families use to review their students' grade reports. To access the portal, both student and parent passwords will be sent to your e-mail. Students and parents can enter course requests until the end of the day on Wednesday, April 20th.

Here are a few important informational resources for the course request process: the AFS Curriculum Guide, a general timeline, a list of proposed courses for 2016-2017, the typical academic course sequence, and graduation requirements.

As you review and discuss current grades and comments, we invite you to start a conversation at home about what the right course load might look like next year. Some of the questions your student(s) may want to consider are:

- How busy has this school year been? What have been the greatest demands on my time?
- What have been my most rewarding classes and co-curricular experiences?
- What does next year look like in terms of both curricular and co-curricular commitments?
- How much free time do I have and how do I use that time?
- Are there elective classes I absolutely want to take next year or before I graduate? Why?
- Are there new opportunities I hope to explore next year (a second language, an acting class, additional history course, etc.)?
- How do my course decisions connect with/support my goals for college?

Choosing classes is a wonderful planning exercise. By asking reflective questions, students are able to see and name some of the intention behind choices that they make

about their time, as well as important evidence of growing areas of strength and interest in their coursework and co-curricular activities.

We invite you to contact us with any questions, and we look forward to acting as a layer of support in this important process.

Sincerely,

Ryan Keaton and Kristen Miller
Directors of Studies for 10th, 11th and 12th Grades