

Enrollment in Courses for 2009-10

Dennis L. Calkins
Head of the Upper School

Today (Wed., Mar. 25) marked the beginning of the enrollment process for the 2009-10 school year. During our morning meeting today, all students in grades 9-11 were given new curriculum guides and course enrollment forms. During the next two weeks, students will be seeking help and advice from their teachers, advisors, college counselors and parents about their choice of courses for the coming school year. College admissions officers are consistent in saying the most important consideration in the college admissions process is the Upper School transcript – both the quality of the courses chosen and the grades earned in those courses. I hope you will encourage your sons and daughters to enroll in the most challenging list of courses their ability permits them to handle.

The new curriculum guide for the 2009-10 school year contains a number of changes in course titles and emphases. In addition, there are a few new courses in the History department and a few new senior English electives. There are four other changes of a more substantial nature:

- The elimination of French Level I as a course offering in the Upper School.
- The elimination of Honors Level courses in level II for Latin, Spanish, and French.
- The addition of a one-semester course in Organic Chemistry to replace the electricity and magnetism portion of AP Physics C.
- The replacement of Concert Orchestra with a course entitled Instrumental Solo and Ensemble.

The faculty continues to examine our course offerings every year in an attempt to keep our curriculum relevant and challenging for all students in the Upper School. If you have questions during the enrollment process, I hope you will call your child's advisor. The due date for the submission of course enrollment forms is Thursday, April 9.