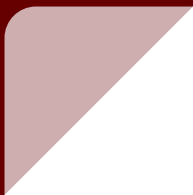


Welcome Meeting

with Rosanne Simeone,
Humanities Department Chair and Faculty Advisor to the Honor Council



Transition into St. Anne's-Belfield School

- Individual Transition Conferences
 - Course requests
 - Overview of our community
- Upcoming Advisory placements
 - You will stay in your advisory all four years
 - Your advisor is your advocate
 - In most cases, your advisory is the first person to ask
- Good people to keep in mind:
 - David Smith, Dean of Students: dsmith@stab.org
 - Sandra Sohne-Johnston, Director of College Counseling: ssohnejohnston@stab.org

Summer Expectations

- [Summer Reading, Mathematics, and Course Preparation](#)

Note: The Humanities teachers will expect your child to have read the assigned books before arriving to school in the Fall. I recommend students read with a pen in hand, marking up the books with ideas and questions--engage!

- Read widely
- Consider community service and jobs
- Rest and rejuvenate

Signature Programs: Humanities

The Humanities Department reflects a belief that the most significant way to prepare students for the demands of an increasingly global and complex world lies in interdisciplinary study. Consequently, Humanities integrates English, History, and Religion into a program emphasizing inquiry in these disciplines as well as in Art, Architecture, and Philosophy.

We are caretakers of a tradition that involves both understanding the past and preparing for the future.

Humanities emphasizes the fundamental skills of reading, writing, analysis, interpretation, problem solving, collaboration, and persuasive communication as students interact with foundational “texts” in the broadest sense, works that include literature, history, art, architecture, philosophy, and the wisdom traditions. As students explore a rich cultural canon of words and images, they should develop an appreciation for how the Humanities can enrich and deepen their sense of themselves, their community, and their world.

Signature Programs: Humanities: Earned Honors

- Opportunities in Humanities 10 and American Studies (similar programs in Adv. Physics and Biology)
- No prerequisite grades from previous course
- Honors designation will appear on the final transcript

The Honors Experience

To preserve a core experience for all students in a given grade, Humanities courses will continue to be heterogeneously mixed. Students choosing to pursue Honors Humanities will study some additional readings*, complete more challenging assignments, engage in deeper Harkness-style discussions, and assume leadership opportunities in discussion. Indeed, Honors Humanities demands intense student participation. We will hold you to a high standard of academic rigor.

Signature Programs: Integrated Math

The Mathematics Department believes that *all* students can learn mathematics to high levels and appreciate the beauty and connectedness inherent in this subject. To that end, the department guides students in their development as mathematical thinkers by teaching necessary skills and concepts, instilling a growth mindset, demonstrating and practicing sound processes, and imparting habits of metacognition. Students will be equipped with the habits and attitudes needed to continue their investigation of mathematics and connect mathematics to the world around them.

Overview of courses is available in our [curriculum guide](#).

Signature Programs: Renaissance Reader and Verified Viewer

The St. Anne's-Belfield School Renaissance Reading program is an extra-curricular opportunity that matches students with faculty, staff, and student sponsors to read and discuss literature outside of the classroom and curriculum.

The program motivates students to develop reading habits that produce intellectual growth, as well as rewards those whose reading has generated exceptional insight and understanding. It also allows faculty to set an example of reading for pleasure, and encourages a broadly informed faculty and student body. Through meetings and discussions, the program is another means by which School teachers and students connect in significant ways.

Verified Viewer does the same with significant cinematic experiences.

Signature Programs: The Capstone Thesis Project

The Capstone Thesis is a serious, year-long commitment on the part of a senior and faculty mentor. Indeed, it is a graded course. The program exists for students in good academic standing who wish to pursue a particular idea or topic in significant depth. A Capstone Thesis must encompass a full year of independent, extracurricular study. Students are expected to lead the entire experience. Presentations are made to the Upper School community at the annual Capstone Symposium in January. In the spring, Capstone students give another formal, oral presentation and submit a 10-15 page academic paper to the Capstone Committee. Capstone Thesis proposals must be submitted the spring before the senior year and approved by the Capstone Thesis Committee (proposals must be turned in to the Chair of the Capstone Thesis Program, currently Dr. Isabelle Reeves).

The Honor System

A student is not to lie, cheat , or steal.

- Honor Council is comprised of elected representatives and faculty advisor
 - Two representatives for each grade, 9-12
 - Two representatives for the residential life program
- Senior class representatives investigate alleged violations
- Entire Honor Council evaluates cases
- Potential sanctions: Acquittal, Honor Warning, Honor Probation, Dismissal from school

Tips for Success

- Ask questions
- Avoid procrastination
- Get enough sleep
- Visit your teachers early and often
- Read the feedback on your assignments
- Try something new
- Get involved
- Make friends

Any further questions?