



## **Guiding Principles for the Course Selection Process**

### **Important Guiding Principle #1**

Students should take the most rigorous set of courses in which he or she can be successful in light of interests and commitments beyond the classroom. This represents an important reminder about balance and the building of an appropriately strong profile for colleges. It is also important to be comfortable with a definition of success that includes a B in an Advanced or AP course. Classroom teachers are best equipped to assess a student's readiness for advanced courses.

### **Important Guiding Principle #2**

Students should err on the side of caution when it comes to the intensity and rigor of their schedule. Colleges would much prefer to see equal or increasing rigor from year to year than an intense schedule one year followed by a less rigorous schedule. This applies within a discipline as well as with respect to the overall course load.

### **Important Guiding Principle #3**

Students should avoid choosing classes based on anticipated teachers. For three reasons: First, staffing will depend on many factors and will not be determined until later in the process. Secondly, all too often students realize unanticipated enjoyment and benefit from teachers they might have initially been anxious about having. Thirdly, a diverse set of experiences with respect to teaching styles and personalities helps students develop strategies for dealing with the varied people they will encounter throughout their lives.

### **Important Guiding Principle #4**

The process is set up to put students at the center of the responsibility and positions them to have a dialogue with their teachers, advisor, parents, and college counselor. Required signatures should be preceded by discussions to ensure students are properly weighing requirements, commitments, balance, and challenge. Should questions arise, students should discuss them with his or her teacher, the relevant Department Chair, or his or her advisor.

### **Important Guiding Principle #5**

Students and parents should be mindful of the multiple and nuanced requirements for graduation. Please refer to the Course of Study or the Community Handbook for a complete listing of graduation requirements.