



### Waiver Guidelines and Considerations

St. Mary's Ryken has a longstanding practice that "changing lanes" from College Prep to Honors/AP level courses requires that students have received an A average for the prior school year in the CP level course. Therefore, incoming freshmen who wish to seek a waiver to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade SMR placement for English and/or History must have an A average in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade in the subject for which they are requesting the waiver. Also, please understand that continuing along the path of Honors/AP coursework at SMR requires that students maintain a grade of A or B for the prior school year. While it is laudable for students to challenge themselves academically, several problems may arise when students seek waivers to SMR course placement for incoming freshmen:

1. A student who does poorly in a more advanced class weakens his/her academic record.
2. Sometimes the difficulties incurred in one course will then generate difficulties in other courses.
3. To keep up with the more advanced class, the student may require more individual help than the teacher can reasonably be expected to provide.
4. The demands of an advanced curriculum do not allow teachers to accommodate the pace of a student who is misplaced.
5. The pace, level, and expectations of the course may simply be too difficult.
6. A student may not acquire the learning and grade that they consider satisfactory despite his/her best efforts.
7. If a change back to a lower level course is needed, the actual change may not be possible given the constraints of schedule and spacelimitations.
8. Such a change might also disrupt the timing of the other courses in the student's schedule.
9. If a change is possible, the grade from the original course will transfer to the new class.
10. There may be concepts and summer assignments the student will be held responsible for despite not yet having been introduced to these expectations.

### Additional Waiver Requirements and Instructions

Students requesting a waiver to SMR course placement must submit a one-page statement in support of the request, which should thoughtfully include the student's understanding of the aforementioned issues as well as the student's specific plans to acquire and utilize additional academic support. Additionally, supporting evidence that demonstrates a **high degree** of content-specific mastery (such as writing samples, graded project rubrics, and graded tests) must be attached to the statement. It is the student's responsibility to return this form, along with his/her personal statement and supporting evidence, via mail to St. Mary's Ryken Attn: Mr. Brad Chamberlain, Dean of Academics, no later than May 15, 2022. This form will be considered incomplete without the signature of the current subject area teacher.

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

Requesting Waiver for: English: \_\_\_\_\_ History: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Current Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing below, we acknowledge that we have reviewed and understand the waiver considerations detailed above. We have attached a supporting statement and additional documentation as described above.**

Signature of Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_