



River Views

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St. Margaret's Academic Program Adds New Features

In the spirit of growth that our mission mandates, the academic program at St. Margaret's has recently added two new features. Starting next fall, students will have the opportunity to participate in dual enrollment and online courses.

Classes Receive College Credit

For years, St. Margaret's graduates have been returning to the river, extolling the virtues of the education they received here. Many have said that the course work they've done for their higher level courses at St. Margaret's was comparable or even harder than the courses they encountered during their freshman year of college.

"I have had many students say, in retrospect, that the work they did at St. Margaret's was worthy of college credit," Sheri Gross, director of college counseling says.

With that tradition in mind, St. Margaret's has partnered with Rappahannock Community College to offer dual enrollment courses, giving St. Margaret's students the opportunity to receive high school and college credit simultaneously.

Beginning next fall, students taking AP U.S. History, AP European History, U.S. History, AP Biology, Honor Physics, Biology, AP English, Honors English, British Literature, B.C. Calculus, Latin IV, V or Honors Latin will have the opportunity to earn college credit from Rappahannock Community College.

In order to receive dual enrollment status, the courses and St. Margaret's faculty had to meet rigorous standards.

"The dual credit adds some legitimacy to the fact that these classes are taught at a level higher than a typical high school class," Academic Dean ViAnn Farmer says.

While other high schools offer dual enrollment, the courses offered at St. Margaret's present a wide variety of options for St. Margaret's students.



Rappahannock Community College President Elizabeth "Sissy" Crowther '75 poses with Head Margaret Broad.

"Dual enrollment classes are common at many public schools, but often they are for electives," Gross says. "Most of the St. Margaret's classes being considered for this program are required college classes."

Aside from the added benefit to St. Margaret's students, the partnership is special, because of the unique relationship Rappahannock Community College's President Elizabeth "Sissy" Crowther '75 has with St. Margaret's. Not only is she an alumna, she is also a long-time board member and friend of the school.

"Dr. Crowther and I see this new relationship between our educational institutions as a rich professional growth opportunity for our students and our faculty," Head Margaret Broad says. "We appreciate this collaboration that our alumna and board member has inspired us to pursue."

While there is no guarantee that credits earned in these classes will be accepted by every college, the opportunity to get a head start on college courses is certainly an advantage.

"This jumpstart in earning college credit may allow for lightened freshman class loads, and, sometimes, early graduation," Gross says.

Online Courses Offer Variety

While some students can receive college credit for classes already available at St. Margaret's, others will have the opportunity to take online classes through the Online School for Girls.

Classes taken online can count as electives, not required classes needed for graduation.

Students interested in online classes must have a recommendation from St. Margaret's, meet the prerequisite requirements and submit an application to the Online School for Girls. For those who qualify, there are approved courses in science, math, history and art.

These courses carry an additional charge. Academic Dean ViAnn Farmer will provide detailed information to eligible students in their summer scheduling letters.

Captain's Corner



Dear St. Margaret's friends and families,

Now, in the midst of our two-week Minimester session, it sounds different at St. Margaret's.

With all of our students engaged in intense learning experiences beyond our classrooms, St. Margaret's Hall no longer rings with the laughter of girls between classes. Yet, when I think about February, my strongest memories are of listening to all of the voices in our community.

Recent surveys completed by all of our students, faculty, and board and many of our alumnae and parents as part of the school review process for our VAIS accreditation report expressed overwhelming support for our school's mission. What did they say about this holistic mission that elicited such enthusiasm from those who know us best?

The Mission of St. Margaret's School
"As we grow in age, may we grow in grace."

St. Margaret's School's motto reflects our commitment to the growth of young women in every area of their lives: growth in intellectual ability, spiritual maturity, social responsibility, and physical well-being. We offer a diverse student body, a sound college preparatory curriculum, challenging to each individual. In a Christian environment, founded on the Episcopal tradition, both honor and character are developed. St. Margaret's seeks to inspire each student to make the best of herself and in so doing, make a better world.

As you can imagine, each group referred to a slightly different element of this mission in their responses, yet all appreciated the unique focus on girls and our carefully considered integration of experiences that allow girls to understand themselves while gaining the skills, values, and knowledge that prepare them to continue their growth beyond their St. Margaret's years.

Another perspective came from our senior peer leaders in the online portfolios they completed as their final course project. Among other parts of their assignment,

each student was asked to reflect on the aspect of St. Margaret's that inspired her. Look at the diversity of their passions:

- Sports: teamwork, persistence, leadership, confidence, sportsmanship, the opportunity to learn new sports
- Leadership: learning about myself through doing things with and for others, appreciating what it means to be a role model
- Community service: seeing the world with new eyes, knowing what I do can change lives
- Creativity: writing, singing, taking pictures, drawing, connecting with others through my work

And this is St. Margaret's – a school where knowing and respecting the individuality of each girl is at the heart of all we do, where our community lives the meaning of faith, honor, and integrity, and where our young women graduate with a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Consider the power of 90 years of graduates carrying this mission beyond the banks of the Rappahannock!

With sincere appreciation,

Margaret R. Broad

Honor Code Shapes Community

On my honor, I will not lie, cheat or steal. In addition, I will take responsibility for those in our community who do so.

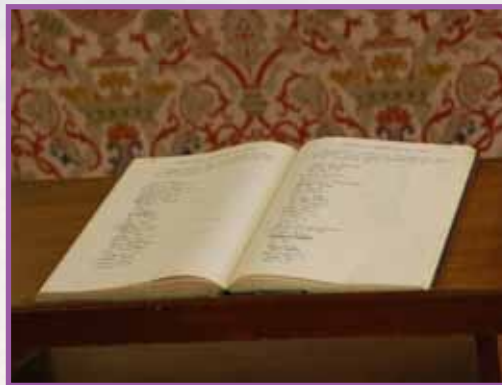
Each year, every new St. Margaret's student symbolically becomes a member of our community when she signs the Honor Book, and in effect agrees to abide by the Honor Code's pledge not to lie, cheat or steal and to take responsibility for community members who do so.

One of the school's longest standing traditions, St. Margaret's School's Honor Code is a key factor in students' academic, social and moral growth.

While the school's Episcopal tradition naturally lent itself to an honorable environment when the school was founded in 1921, it was not until the 1930s that the school's first Honor Code was put into place by former Headmistress Edith Latane.

According to History Department Head Louise Velletri, Latane's brother was studying at the University of Virginia and she was so impressed with the idea of an Honor Code that she instituted one at St. Margaret's.

At St. Margaret's, Honor Code violations are handled by the Honor Council, which is composed of school administrators and elected student representatives.



The St. Margaret's School Honor Book

When she signs the Honor Book, a St. Margaret's student agrees to:

- Report herself to an Honor Council member if she breaks the Honor Code.
- Speak to another person in the community who has broken the Honor Code and ask her to report herself to an Honor Council member.
- Speak to an Honor Council member

about another person who has broken the Honor Code after she has been given every chance to report herself.

As new community members are added throughout the academic year, a chapel service is held to invite each new student into the community.

Dean for School Life and one of the appointed faculty members of the Honor Council Keith Krusz speaks at every Honor Book signing ceremony. This month, he shared some insights into how students should view the Honor Code.

"The Honor Code is something tangible, something to use as a guide for each individual when faced with real world situations," Krusz said.

Perhaps the real value of the Honor Code are its life-long effects.

In his speech, Krusz quoted a recent alumna survey response:

The alumna said, "Students graduate with an understanding of honor, integrity and loyalty. They leave St. Margaret's with a value code that helps drive their success in whatever career field they choose."

Athletes Demonstrate Importance of Sportsmanship

*“For when the One Great Scorer comes
To write against your name,
He marks - not that you won or lost -
But how you played the Game.”*

Whether you played Little League t-ball or were a starting player in this month’s Super Bowl, you’ve no doubt heard some version of Grantland Rice’s famous quote about sportsmanship.

At St. Margaret’s, almost every student will be a part of an athletic team at one point or another, and the sentiment of “how you play the game” is important.

To that end, Athletic Director Sue Haney instills some of Rice’s philosophy into her coaching.

“We always talk about giving our best,” she says. “I tell the girls, whenever you play your best and you lose, you have nothing to be ashamed of.”

The St. Margaret’s athletic program is crafted with a respect for the importance of physical activity, a commitment to the physical well-being of students and an understanding that participation in team sports can have life-long benefits.



Athletic Director Sue Haney encourages varsity basketball players at a recent game.

“We always make sure we uphold our values when we are playing,” Haney says.

That sentiment is echoed by School President and student athlete Heather Chastain.

“Even if we don’t win, we keep a positive attitude toward the other team,” she says.

Chastain attributes the spirit of good sportsmanship to the athletic program and the school in general.

“They are educating us not only to be good with academics, but in all aspects of our lives,” she says. “We carry a sense of integrity onto the field, a sense of being the best you can be- even when no one is looking.”

River Views Forecast

February

16-18.....2nd Trimester exams

18..... 2nd Trimester ends

24..... Minimester begins

March

4.....Minimester ends

4..... Spring Break begins

20 Boarding students return by 7:00 p.m.; athletes by 3:00 p.m.

21..... Classes begin

25-27..... Closed weekend

27-28..... Admission overnight

Check the online calendar for latest school and sports events:
www.sms.org/calendar

Students Share Culture and Diversity During International Festival



Maria Avila teaches fellow students about the Spanish tradition of “The Running of the Bulls”



Claire Hamilton peruses items at the free trade market.



Students purchased candies and treats from around the world. All proceeds were donated to the Hunger Project.



Catherine Chappell, Marina Mao and Ines Wiechers enjoy international dishes prepared by the dining hall staff.



River View features The Rev. Dr. Candine Johnson

“The sound of one voice praying.”

That’s how a visitor to St. Margaret’s once described our community. I was as equally struck by the beauty of the phrase as by its depth. In this simple observation, our guest captured who we are; she captured the spirit and essence of our Eden by the river. As a community grounded in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, our prayer life is broad and inclusive and it binds us to one another.

Our diverse doctrinal traditions find common ground in our Chapel as our community gathers to undertake its common work which is “to grow in grace.”

As a community that prays together, we find strength and meaning in our common voice.

Building a community is a very deliberate and purposeful undertaking that requires a great deal of work and effort.



At St. Margaret’s we have made a very conscious decision to grow our community by and through God’s grace.

It is this grace that makes our school a home and unites us as a family. This is our mission, this is our prayer....

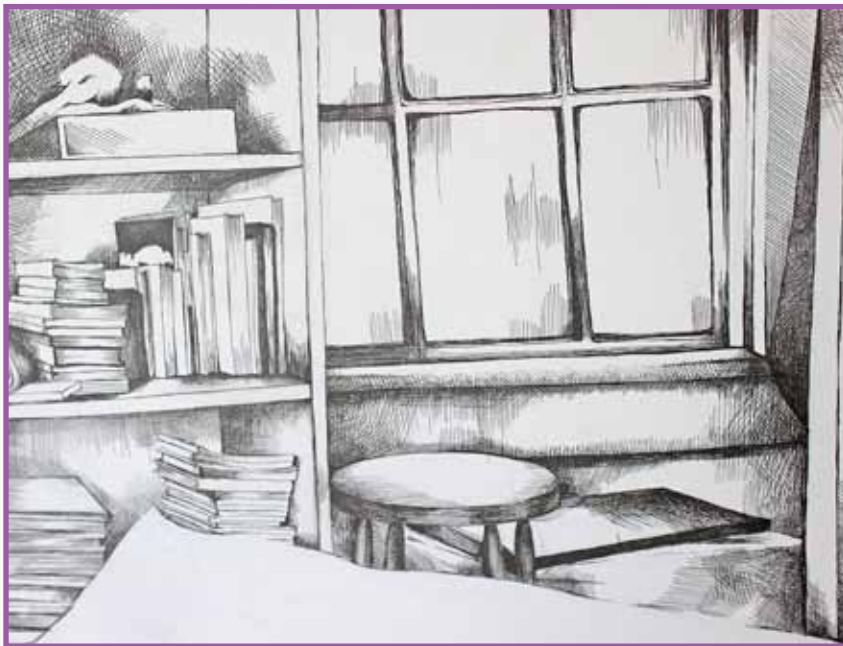


School Seal

And since it is of thy mercy, O gracious Father, that another day is added to our lives; we here dedicate both our souls and our bodies to thee and thy service, in a sober, righteous and godly life; in which resolution, do thou,

O merciful God, confirm and strengthen us; that, as we grow in age, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Candine Johnson has been St. Margaret’s chaplain, Religion teacher and spiritual leader since 2004.



Shaka Hu’s drawing, Interior, won first place in the Women’s Club of Essex County Art and Poetry Competition. The drawing will move on to the next round of competition in Richmond, Virginia.



St. Margaret’s School

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Educating Young Women for Life.

St. Margaret’s School actively seeks and admits qualified students of any race, color, religious affiliation, national or ethnic origin.