

## **Freshman Course Selection: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When do we choose classes for freshman year?**

In your packet you will find a sample course selection sheet for freshman students. Please begin reviewing the world language and elective choices. Descriptions can be found on the IWA website. Before arriving for freshman registration, please discuss your daughter's preferred world language and electives. On the day of freshman registration, you and your daughter will meet with a counselor or teacher to discuss your daughter's freshman courses and make final selections.

### **Can we make changes to her schedule at a later date?**

You will receive your daughter's schedule via email in late May. At that time, you will have a specified and limited amount of time to request changes. After that specified date, there will be no schedule changes.

### **How are students placed in honors classes or on-level classes?**

Prior to freshman registration, the academic advisors place each student in either an honors or on-level section of core classes. These placements are made based on HSPT or ISEE scores, middle school grades, middle school teacher recommendations, and the student's writing samples. If a student wants to enroll in Honors Algebra I, Honors Geometry or Spanish II, French II, or Latin II, she will sign up for a placement exam at registration.

### **Can a student change levels of courses after the year starts?**

In most cases, schedule changes are not granted during the year because so much attention is given to the best possible placement at the time of registration. While there is often a time of transition from middle school to high school academics, most students are placed in the course in which they will be most successful.

### **Can a student change levels of classes after freshman year?**

Yes, starting as sophomores, students are placed in honors or AP classes based on each department's guidelines which typically include averages of quarter grades and class participation. If she meets the requirement as a sophomore, she can take an honors class whether she took it as a freshman or not.

### **What is the difference between an honors and an on-level course?**

During the freshman year, honors classes tend to move more quickly than on-level classes, expect a higher level of critical thinking from the beginning of the year, and often include more intensive writing assignments and projects. Because of these factors, honors courses are given a 1.0 weight to the student's GPA. For example, an A in an honors class factors as 5 points into the GPA rather than 4 points for an A in an on-level class.

### **Can sports and/or IWA dance class count as PE credit?**

One full season of IWA athletics, St. Thomas or Strake cheerleading, a year of IWA dance team, or one semester of dance class at IWA can count as one semester of PE credit. The remaining required semester must be taken as a PE course. Non-IWA sports/dance cannot count toward course credit.

### **Does IWA offer accommodations for students with learning differences?**

IWA offers 50% extended time, preferential seating, note taking assistance, use of a four function calculator, and testing without Scantrons for students with current (within the last three years) psycho-educational evaluations indicating the need for these accommodations in the regular classroom. Applicable students should submit this documentation to the counseling office as soon as possible.