

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### ***CHOOSING COURSES FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN***

#### **How should I ensure my child is in the appropriate level for his or her English class next year?**

All of our courses are designed to prepare students for college. If your child can come home, read 20 pages of a freshman-level text (*Of Mice and Men* or *Joy Luck Club*, say) within a reasonable period of time and have a basic understanding of what he or she reads, your child will most likely be prepared to enroll in a Curriculum 1 class. If your child would require some in-class preparation and follow-up to comprehend such a text, a Curriculum 2 class is likely the best option. If you think your child is in between these two options, SAM may be the right choice.

#### **What is SAM?**

SAM stands for Stretch, Aim, Motivate, and it is a program designed to help accelerate the growth of students who are almost ready to take a Curriculum 1 class but might struggle without support. We place up to five SAM students with a group of up to 18 students who have signed up for Curriculum 1 classes. The teachers are part of a cross-disciplinary group that meets regularly to talk about students, and in most cases have had experience and training in meeting the needs of a variety of learners. The students who have enrolled for SAM credit complete all of the same assignments as every other student, but have the option of earning C2 credit for a higher grade if they choose at the end of the year. The curriculum in these courses is exactly the same as any other C1 class.

#### **What is linked?**

If you've determined that the best place for your child is a C1 class, then you have one more decision to make: would your child like to take English and history with two separate teachers and groups of students, or would he or she prefer classes that are linked – in other words, the same group of students would move from English class to history class. The two teachers have common planning time, and can discuss students' progress and when possible plan joint projects. The curriculum for linked English and history is exactly the same as a non-linked English or history class. Students will be studying the same periods of history and reading the same literature.

#### **Is my child guaranteed a spot in linked if he or she opts for that?**

No. In some years, we do have greater demand for linked classes than we have spaces available. In such cases, we run a lottery for what spaces we have. As the core curriculum is exactly the same in linked and non-linked classes, your child should not be at any disadvantage if this situation should arise and he or she were placed in the non-linked class as a result of the lottery.

#### **Is it easier to get a recommendation into sophomore honors from a linked class?**

No.