September 2014

To Parents of St. Mary’s Academy students interested in the PSU Challenge Program,

Welcome to PSU Challenge-- Oregon’s longest-running and only nationally accredited concurrent-enrollment program. Challenge offers PSU courses at St. Mary’s, taught by high school instructors who meet PSU requirements for adjunct faculty. Close partnerships with PSU faculty and Departments ensure that the courses are the same as their campus counterparts and that learning outcomes are met. This community of faculty and instructors is the foundation of Challenge’s success. It provides a venue for support and shared information that reinforces the connection between the campus and the classroom.

To be eligible to take Challenge courses, students must have a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA and have met any course prerequisites. A strong academic track record helps ensure readiness for the rigor of our courses. We encourage our teachers to bring their classes to campus for library training and research workshops as well as special events such as the Young Historians Conference (St. Mary’s has participated in this for many years). Upon successful completion of their courses, Challenge students earn PSU credit. This credit is recorded on a PSU transcript and has a high transferability rate nationally.

Our program is distinct as an accelerated learning option in the following ways:

- We build a community of faculty and instructors that is the foundation of Challenge's success. It provides a venue for support and shared information that reinforces the connection between the campus and the classroom.
- We encourage and support class visits to campus to help familiarize students with Oregon’s largest university and to use student resources such as our library online databases and computer accounts as well as attend special events.
- Our instructors have the academic freedom to determine how to meet PSU standards and are not restricted by having to focus on teaching a high-stakes final exam; nor are our students sidelined by weeks of test taking preparation.
- We strive for both an academic and cultural college experience and hold our students to college-level expectations, smoothing the transition to college.
- It’s a great deal. Our program fee is $230 for a 4-credit class—a 70% reduction of campus tuition ($768).

For information on St. Mary’s PSU courses and important Fall registration, payment, and deadline information, please see the back of this letter.

There is more information about Challenge on our website at www.pdx.edu/challenge-program, including a Student/Parent Handbook I encourage you to download. And of course, I am available to answer questions or help in whatever way I can.

Thank you for your interest in Challenge,

Sally Hudson
Director
St. Mary’s Academy

Below are the courses offered at St. Mary’s for the 2014-15 academic year and when registration and payment occur. Calculus is offered as a 2-part sequence, requiring registration and payment 2x per year. History maps a PSU quarter class to the entire academic year; History students register and pay just once, at the start of the year. The instructor provides all the registration material for registration periods as they occur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Term/1st semester (Sept.)</th>
<th>Winter Term/2nd sem (early Feb.)</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calculus II (MTH 252) 4 credits/$230</td>
<td>Calculus III (MTH 253) 4 credits/$230</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor: Ellen Tevik</td>
<td>Instructor: Matthew Vannelli</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FALL APPLICATION:** Completed registration applications are due to the instructor **SEPT. 19, 2014 (blue registration form, payment, any other required documentation noted below).** Students may use one blue form for more than one class, turning this in to one of their instructors.

**FALL PAYMENT:** We require payment with registration. A discounted cost of $50 per class is available to students eligible for, or participating in, the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program; **must attach a copy of the eligibility letter with the registration form.**

**GPA WAIVER:** Students with GPAs from 2.8-2.99 are eligible to request a waiver by attaching their high school transcripts to their registration. More information is available from their instructors or on our website.

**Important Drop & Withdrawal deadlines for Fall:**
These dates also vary depending on the class timeline. Any student wanting to drop or withdraw from a class needs to alert both the instructor AND the Challenge Office by emailing us at cplink@pdx.edu. There are no refunds.

| Drop MTH 252 (no record at PSU) | Oct. 31, 2014 |
| Withdraw from MTH 252 (W on record) | Dec. 5, 2014 |
| Drop HST 102 (no record at PSU) | Dec. 19, 2014 |
| Withdraw from HST 102 (W on record) | March 27, 2015 |