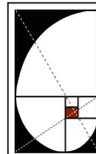


THOMAS  
MACLAREN  
SCHOOL

## Our Mission

From the seminar to the science lab, from the music room to the playing field, we begin with the conviction that *all human beings can know truth, create beauty and practice goodness*. To that end, we expect students to develop basic tools of learning, ordered basic knowledge, moral seriousness, breadth and depth of imagination, artistic ability and sensitivity, and a sense of wonder.

We believe all students can be active and useful participants in the ongoing and enduring conversation that is a vibrant civilization. Jacques Maritain, the French philosopher, described education as a human awakening. The goal of Thomas MaClaren School is to develop young men and women who are fully human and fully awake to the world.



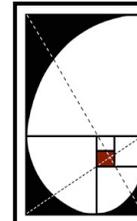
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## AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

### Savoring the High School Experience

The higher education blogosphere is saturated with discussion of accumulating college credit in high school, and some colleges are now offering a three-year bachelor's degree. This is a valid pathway for some students. The trend, however, has resulted in many students racing to reach the end of their academic journey, whether it's high school, college or both, as fast as possible and ahead of schedule.

The race to get ahead has also fueled the notion that students need to present themselves as masterpieces and demonstrate to colleges that they have already reached their full potential.

The reality is that high school students are just beginning to discover their potential, and we are, in fact, reviewing applications not for the masterpieces but rather for the works in progress.

These are students who love being at school—learning, debating, conversing, investigating, leading, participating and contributing. The classroom, the playing field, the performance hall, the school community: all are better for this kind of student having been there. To these students the question has always been more intriguing than the answer, and school the place to try it all out.

They may not know what they want to major in or what profession they want to pursue. They may even want to take a gap year to explore, experience and gain self-knowledge as part of their educational journey.

The student who is a work in progress knows the intellectual journey has only just begun and that savoring high school is the best kind of beginning for what lies ahead.

Richard Shaw  
Dean of Admission and Financial Aid  
Stanford University

**Whether students continue their education immediately after graduation or after taking time for some life experiences, all MacLaren students grades 9-12 will complete activities to aid them in achieving their postsecondary goals.**

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Throughout the year, students will

### Develop:

- ◆ Goals (Academic and Personal)
- ◆ A 4 year Academic Plan

### Explore:

- ◆ Learning styles
- ◆ Career Clusters
- ◆ The world of scholarships
- ◆ Extracurricular and summer opportunities

### Be introduced to:

- ◆ The different types of colleges and requirements for admission
- ◆ General financial aid concepts

### And experience:

- ◆ Taking an Interest Survey as a part of learning about the relationship between interests and possible careers.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Building on the previous year's curriculum, students will **update their goals, Academic Plan** and **revisit their Career Cluster choices**. Students will **explore** in greater depth **scholarship opportunities** and be encouraged to continue **participation** in **extracurricular and summer experiences**. **Leadership opportunities** will be shared for students to consider. Students will

### Explore:

- ◆ Careers
- ◆ Personality traits
- ◆ College related resources

### Be introduced to:

- ◆ College Terminology
- ◆ Opportunities related to ROTC scholarships; the Military Academies; and NCAA requirements

### And experience:

- ◆ Taking the PSAT assessments
- ◆ Learning from the PSAT results to begin creating possible pathways for post-graduation

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Looking back while looking forward, students will reassess their goals and update their academic plan. Student will have the opportunity to apply for Leadership experiences and

### Explore:

- ◆ Majors and related careers
- ◆ All postsecondary options of interest
- ◆ Specific scholarship requirements

### Be introduced to:

- ◆ The intricacies of identifying potential college matches; the college application process; college admissions tests; and financial aid through a series of workshops

### And experience:

- ◆ Retaking the PSAT and using the results for college planning
- ◆ Taking the Colorado ACT
- ◆ Interactions with college representatives as well as attending college fairs and special events
- ◆ Multiple one on one college conferences with the college counselor that will include parents

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

The time has finally come for the previous 3 years of hard work to lead to an exciting future. Students will

### Experience:

- ◆ Ongoing college counseling
- ◆ Interactions with college representatives and opportunities to attend special college related events
- ◆ An essay workshop
- ◆ A workshop on transitioning to college
- ◆ An alumni panel to learn from their experiences

### Complete:

- ◆ A postsecondary plan
- ◆ Applications to colleges
- ◆ Applications for financial aid and for the College Opportunity Fund
- ◆ Applications for scholarships

## Parent Presentations

- ◆ College and Career Counseling at MacLaren
- ◆ PSAT Result Interpretations
- ◆ College Planning Night/Juniors
- ◆ College Application Process/Seniors
- ◆ Financial Aid Night
- ◆ Letting Go

Additional resources can be found on the MacLaren website.

