January, 2019

To: New students in grades 9-12
From: Erin Pratt, Associate Director of Upper School

In preparation for scheduling courses for next year, we would like to get a sense of your anticipated enrollment in mathematics and world language courses. Please read through the information below, discuss the options with your student, and fill out the Language and Math Choices form by March 18, 2019. This form can be found on our website on the Admission page under Enrollment Material-Upper School Forms (https://www.friends-select.org/admission/admission-forms).

World Languages
Offerings in Mandarin, Spanish, and Latin are available through level 5; 2 credits and completion of level 3 is necessary to meet graduation requirements. Students who have studied a language at another school are required to complete a placement test; those who are choosing a level 1 of a language will not be tested.

Selecting a world language is an important decision and one that should be made carefully. Below is some information to help guide this selection:

**Spanish** is taught in the oral/aural method. Students who are auditory learners will do well in Spanish.

**Latin** is a good choice for students who are comfortable with abstract and analytic thought processes; now speaking and listening, as well as reading and writing, are emphasized.

**Mandarin** is a tonal language with an alphabet completely distinct from English. It is also taught using the oral/aural approach, and will introduce students to a new writing system. Due to the complexity of the language, students who select Mandarin should be strong visual as well as auditory learners.

**Mathematics:** Our sequence of math courses is: Algebra 1 – Geometry – Algebra 2 – Higher Level course; 3 credits and completion of one course beyond Algebra 2 is necessary to meet graduation requirements. Students who wish to take a math beyond Algebra 1 are required to take a placement test. After Algebra 2, the choices are determined by placement test and by a student’s success in previous courses.

You may direct questions about world languages to Anne Wentling: annej@friends-select.org or about math to Sarah Kelly: sarahk@friends-select.org. For general questions, contact Erin Pratt: erinp@friends-select.org.