A historic strength of The Bryn Mawr School, the Core Program is an ideal fit for the student who wants to explore widely and creatively, discovering an eclectic array of opportunities in the sciences, arts and humanities. The Core Program supports each student as she tries out different disciplines, as she reflects broadly and deeply, as she grows emotionally and intellectually, and as she engages in coursework, extracurriculars and experiential learning opportunities. For example, the Core Program student might combine an internship in Marine Biology with an exchange trip to South Africa and a role in a tri-school production. Her opportunities are endless.

As a college preparatory school grounded in the classical humanistic tradition, Bryn Mawr’s Core Program reaffirms Bryn Mawr’s longstanding belief that our students will learn to:

- Read, write, speak and think with sophistication
- Appreciate nuance, distinguish between the ordinary and the extraordinary, and care about that difference
- See pattern and beauty in art, dance and music
- Grasp and perform scientific inquiry to better understand the world
- Appreciate different cultures and world languages
- Be able to develop, express and defend an opinion
- Commit themselves to spirit and sportsmanship through athletics and physical activity
- Identify and exercise their individual leadership skills

Logistics

Students in Bryn Mawr’s Core Program select appropriate courses as they build their Upper School academic experience.

Students document and reflect on their coursework, athletics, projects, service, internships, travel and leadership experiences.

Students work toward culminating senior year experiences, including convocation and senior project, and may apply to be an Edith Hamilton Scholar.

Program Requirements

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Students take core courses of English, History, Math, Science, World Language, Introduction to Computer Science and an Arts elective. Students have the option of choosing to do a double language track starting in ninth grade (and defer either History 9 or Physics).
- Outside of the classroom, students participate in student clubs, organizations and after-school activities, and begin learning about experiential opportunities such as community service, internships and global trips.
SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Students take core courses of English, History, Math, Science, and World Language (or English, History, Math, Science and two World Languages for double language students; students may also choose to begin double language path in tenth grade). Students take an Arts elective to fill the graduation requirement in one semester and can choose an additional Arts or Computer Science elective, STEM Research Methods or World Perspectives course in the other.
- Students continue to participate in clubs, organizations and activities, and begin to seek out leadership opportunities while also continuing to pursue relevant community service, internship and global trips.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Students take core courses of English, History, Math, Science and World Language, with increasing elective options, as well as Public Speaking to prepare for their senior convocation speech. Students may choose to take AP Computer Science and defer U.S. History or Biology, and can choose from a wide variety of semester electives in Art, Computer Science, History, Science or World Languages and Cultures.
- Students begin planning for various senior culminating experiences, including their senior convocation speech and senior project, and may consider applying to be an Edith Hamilton Scholar.

SENIOR YEAR

- Students choose courses from a variety of over 100 different elective choices available at Bryn Mawr, Gilman, and Roland Park Country School, with the option of maintaining a schedule that includes English, History, Math, Science and World Language or choosing more courses in a particular discipline or area of interest to them.
- Students complete their convocation speech and senior project. Interested students may also apply to be Edith Hamilton Scholars:
  - **Senior Convocation** is a long-standing tradition and graduation requirement at Bryn Mawr. An extension of the 11th grade Public Speaking course, the convocation speech is a 15-minute presentation prepared by each senior and delivered to the Upper School community and invited guests. Although the emphasis should be on speaking, dance, dramatic presentations and musical recitals are acceptable.
  - The **Senior Project** is a graduation requirement that provides seniors with an opportunity to plan and execute a project independently during the last two weeks of senior year. During the project, seniors are encouraged to explore the working world by pursuing a career or personal interest. Through the Senior Project program, seniors play an active role in their education, get a glimpse of the world beyond school, and operate responsibly within the larger community.
  - Inaugurated in 1999, the **Edith Hamilton Scholars Program** affords Bryn Mawr seniors an opportunity to pursue a unique course of study of particular interest to them while working with a mentor who has expertise relevant to the subject matter. Application to the program is open to all rising seniors who desire to undertake a rigorous project, for which they receive neither credit nor grade, in addition to their regular academic courses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CORE PATHWAY, CONTACT:

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