



# River View

features Stephanie Teal '11

"I wish we lived in a world where there wouldn't be a need for an honor council —everyone would take responsibility for the mistakes that they have made or even try to refrain from making them in the first place. But we don't— we live in the real world, where everyone makes mistakes.



I have had a fair share of mistakes myself, and I know what it feels like to be the one who messed up. But I also know what it feels like to take responsibility for my actions and learn from the choices I have made in the past."

I ran for Head of Honor Council when St. Margaret's was nearing the end of last school year, and this passage was taken directly from my election speech. Arriving last fall as a new student, I did not immediately grasp the importance of this thing called Honor. One school year and an election later, I found that I had learned

that honor is more than just having people looking up to or being proud of you. It's knowing that every single thing you do is representative of something larger. We want to represent ourselves and our school in the best way possible. When you make mistakes, its ok! It's all about how you handle them and what you take from the situation afterwards that really matters.

Personally I feel the honor code is the core of

St. Margaret's. I wish every school had an honor code, to teach the students how important it is to hold each other and themselves accountable.

I walk around campus with my head held high, knowing that so much trust is instilled in us, the students. Living by an honor code helps the community to be a trusting and safe environment for us to live in.

The Honor Code is "I will not lie, cheat, or steal. In addition, I will take responsibility for those in my community who do so."

I try to emphasis the second part, even though it is a struggle for any teenager. I think we feel guilty for "telling on" or "turning in" our friends, roommates, and classmates. But in reality, it teaches us that sometimes, there are some things we just can't help people with. If someone comes to me with a



problem, and I know I cannot give them as much help as they need, then I should let someone know who can help them. Getting someone the help that they need is all you can do, it's their

choice on whether they take it or not. I think we all just want to see each other succeed, and having an honor code nurtures our ability to do so.

**Stephanie Teal '11 is the Head of Honor Council, a two-year boarder and a peer leader.**



# River Views

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## A Day in the Life of a St. Margaret's Student

*"What did you do at school today?" takes on a whole new meaning for boarding families.*



Since their daughters do not spend their evenings at home, many parents find themselves wondering how their they fill their time. For students, its not a matter of nothing to report, but rather too little time and too much to report. From the time they wake to the last light goes out in the dorm, St. Margaret's students have a myriad of responsibilities and activities to fill their days.

When their alarms begin to buzz around 7 a.m., St. Margaret's girls rise from their slumber and begin their day. Since their rooms are inspected by a dorm counselor every day during the school week, each girl makes a conscious effort to keep her room tidy and neat.



Every morning, boarding students must attend breakfast sign-in, dressed in their uniform and ready for the academic day. On Monday and Wednesday mornings students attend a chapel service with their advisors and the rest of the student population. Most girls

are particularly fond of Wednesday mornings, when the "late start" day affords them an extra 20 minutes.

After chapel, the regular academic day begins. Depending on schedule, students will have a 3-, 4- or 7-period day.

During lunch, students have assigned seating on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Monday and Wednesday, all students sit with their advisor. On Friday, eighth and ninth graders sit with student peer leaders, who provide weekly check-ins and guidance.

At the end of the academic day,



students have access to their teachers during Teacher Available, or TA. Students can seek guidance on projects, clarify concepts or complete course work.

After TA, students take off for after-school activities. Many students are members of sports teams, but some opt to take art, dance, yoga or general physical education classes.

Once sports practices and activities are complete, students return to the dining hall to sign in for dinner. On Monday nights, boarders attend residential life meetings before study hall. These meetings cover a wide range of topics from the very practical (dorm rules) to the educational. The residential program is designed



with particular age groups in mind, in order to share information with students that is developmentally appropriate.

After the residential meeting, students prepare for study hall. All new students and students not on Honor or Merit Rolls or "B" List attend proctored study halls in the dining hall or library. Honor and Merit Roll students have in-room study privileges. Seniors have quiet hours in the dorm.

Once study hall ends, between 9:15 and 9:45 p.m., students check in at their respective dorms. Though they have a few minutes to hang out with friends, shower or make a snack, students must be in their rooms at 10:30 for room bell.



The day ends for all boarders at "lights out." Seniors have lights out at midnight, while all others must be in bed by 11 p.m., resting up for a busy day ahead.

*St. Margaret's School actively seeks and admits qualified students of any race, color, religious affiliation, national or ethnic origin.*

www.sms.org/riverviews  
River Views on the web in color at:

www.sms.org

Phone | 804-443-3357 | Fax 804-443-1832

Photos | Ines Weichers, Yeon Kim, Sheri Gross, Joe Wood, Sunny Sun

Editor | Joanna Schilling | jschilling@sms.org

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Address Correction Requested

P.O. Box 158  
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St. Margaret's School

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## Captain's Corner



Dear St. Margaret's families and friends,

As we have moved through the first two weeks of school, I've wished so often that you could have been standing or sitting where I've been. While so much of my day is built around the multi-faceted business of leading St. Margaret's from the heart of St. Margaret's Hall, my inspiration comes in the spaces in between when I can catch the spirit

of this very full life we share together here. My most cherished encounters are the informal exchanges of ideas and insights, here are just a few to let you take a look inside:

I'm always in my office before the 8:30 beginning of the students' school days. One morning a new Mexican student paused at the door to chat on her way to art class, enthusiastic about her new friends and opportunities. Another morning another new girl much farther from home came in, eyes filled with tears over her academic schedule, prompting me to help her figure out a path to addressing her concerns herself and seeing a way to the successful shift she and Mrs. Farmer made by the end of the week.

On chapel days, each class gathers in a different corner of St. Margaret's Hall before filing into chapel to join their advisors, seniors first, eighth graders at the end of the line. Standing at the top of the stairs, I look in each one's eyes, greeting each girl by name with a smile and a warm good morning. We laugh together when we have two Sarahs or two Elizabeths in a row! You can learn a lot from their eyes and their responses, often prompting a longer conversation later in the day.

Four days a week, I share the honor of participating in leadership class with George McDowell and our 12 senior peer leaders. Recently, they talked openly about how well they feel our community is coming together and then provided a perspective on peer leader lunch days that I'd never heard before. The special Friday lunches for peer leaders with eighth and ninth graders have always been a success, but they pointed out that the older new students really needed the support of the faculty member and returning students with whom they'd been randomly assigned to sit to deliberately help them meet new people and feel more a part of the community – a suggestion I could then pass along.

On River Day, sharing the morning with the tenth graders aboard the Captain Thomas for the 2 ½ tide up the narrowing Rappahannock; returning students reaching out to new girls, an international student describing her home and family and encouraging her new friend to start saving for a trip to the other side of the world, spotting eagles in the trees, taking pictures with the sea gulls following behind the boat, capturing themselves under the wind blown American flag, stepping off the boat onto a plantation home ferry dock, one of the originals from the days when the best way to reach Tappahannock was by boat, wonder, laughter, a sense of excitement, exploration, and peace as they spread out to pitch their tents.

Every day through every conversation and experience we change and grow, and that is the joy of living in community. Another new year launched in the spirit that is St. Margaret's.

With appreciation to each member of our community, near and far,

*Margaret R. Broad*

## Fall Family Weekend

Every fall, St. Margaret's welcomes families back to campus with our annual fall family weekend. A mix of experiencing the day-to-day magic of St. Margaret's and spending quality time with their daughters on the river, Fall Family Weekend provides parents with the time they need



to become further involved with our community. For students, it's a time for them to introduce their parents to the people and activities that are important to them on a daily basis.

The event is kicked off on Friday morning by the

Alumnae Association Craft Fair, an annual event where vendors bring their unique gifts, home decor, clothing and jewelry to river lawn.

That afternoon, parents are treated to mini-classes, where they recreate their daughter's academic day, even sitting in her seat. Following classes, parents have more access to their daughters' teachers and can arrange parent-teacher conferences in advance.

Friday evening, parent receptions with class advisors are held all over campus by grade level. After the receptions, a seafood buffet



will be served in the dining room. After dinner, the entire community unites again at an all school meeting in the gym.

Saturday morning starts off bright and early with the 12th Annual Rappahannock River Run/Walk. After the 5K race, runners attend a reward ceremony. If running the race is not on the agenda, parents can also use the extra time to meet with their daughters' teachers, during another round of parent/teacher conferences.



After brunch, parents and students can sit back and enjoy sporting events, including varsity and junior varsity volleyball and varsity field hockey.

At noon, all students may depart campus and must return by 7 p.m. on Monday, October 18th.

For more information about Fall Family Weekend or to register for events, go to [www.sms.org/ffw](http://www.sms.org/ffw)

To register for the Rappahannock River Run/Walk, become a vendor at the craft fair or sponsor an event, go to [www.sms.org/run](http://www.sms.org/run) or contact Sarah Weakley at [sweakley@sms.org](mailto:sweakley@sms.org)

## All Along the Rappahannock: River Days 2010



*"Once we got to the top of the mountain, the view was phenomenal. You could see for miles and miles. You could say you have witnessed something truly majestic, and that is what river days are all about."*

-Grace Ellis '15

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*"Since our class is so much bigger this year, I thought it would be hard to meet new people, but the ninth grade class is a lot closer now. It was a really great experience to have as a class."*

-Meghann Dintino '14



*"River days were a wonderful way to get to know my grade better and to take a break from the hectic first week of school. I learned so much about the people in my grade and we are all so much closer now. It was a wonderful experience."*

-Lindsay Longest '13

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*"As we were finishing our night hike, we could not take our eyes off the stars. It was the most beautiful thing ever."*

-Mia Kingg '12



*"River Days are all about coming together as a class and finding just how much you can do together, while enjoying the river around you."*

-Rebecca Parker '11

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## River Views Forecast

October

- 8.....End of Interim Assessment
- 9.....SAT's
- 10.....Admission Visit Day
- 13.....PSAT's
- 15.....Rappahannock River Crafts Festival
- 15-16.Fall Family Weekend
- 18.....Faculty Professional Day/ Boarding Students return by 7:00 p.m./ Athletes by 3:00 p.m.
- 19.....Classes Begin
- 23-24.Leadership Retreat

November

- 3.....Career Day
- 6.....SAT's
- 12-14.Closed Weekend/ Exam Review
- 14.....St. Margaret's Day Service and Lunch
- 15-19.First Trimester Exams
- 19.....Morning exams/ Thanksgiving travel after 2:00 p.m.
- 19-29.Thanksgiving Break
- 29.....Faculty Professional Day, Boarding Students return by 7:00 p.m., Athletes by 3:00 p.m.
- 30.....Classes Begin

Check the online calendar for latest school and sports events:  
[www.sms.org/calendar](http://www.sms.org/calendar)

## Did you know...

- 🌐 From end to end, the Rappahannock River is over 180 miles long.
- 🌐 Over 70,000 people depend upon the river for drinking water.
- 🌐 The tidal Rappahannock has more pairs of nesting bald eagles than any other river in the state.
- 🌐 The earliest printed record of gold found in Virginia was by Thomas Jefferson in 1782. A 4-pound rock was found a few miles below the falls of the Rappahannock River.