

# Upper School

MARYVALE

LEARN. LEAD. SUCCEED.

Educating Young Women for Life





# Upper School 2017-18 Events

Tuesday, Sept. 19  
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

St. Julie Billiard  
Program Presentation

Wednesday, Oct. 4  
7:45 a.m.

Mornings @ Maryvale

Saturday, Oct. 7  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
*Session I: 10 a.m. – Noon*  
*Lunch (provided):*  
*Noon – 1 p.m.*  
*Session II: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.*

Sports Clinic  
• Basketball  
• Field Hockey  
• Lacrosse  
• Soccer  
• Volleyball

Wednesday, Oct. 11  
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meet the Coaches

Saturday, Oct. 21  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Open House

Saturday, Nov. 4  
10 a.m. – Noon

Track & Field Clinic

Saturday, Nov. 4  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Theater Workshop

Wednesday, Nov. 15  
7:45 a.m.

Mornings @ Maryvale

Friday, Nov. 17 –  
Sunday, Nov. 19

Fall Play:  
"Radium Girls"

Saturday, Dec. 2  
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Christmas Crafts  
and Cocoa

Saturday, Dec. 2  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Shops @ Maryvale  
Santa in the Castle

Saturday, Dec. 9  
8:30 a.m.

High School Placement  
Test (HSPT) at Maryvale

Wednesday, Dec. 13  
7:45 a.m.

Mornings @ Maryvale

Friday, Dec. 15

Admission and Financial  
Aid Applications Due

Wednesday, Jan. 17  
7:45 a.m.

Mornings @ Maryvale

For more information, please go to

[www.maryvale.com/visit](http://www.maryvale.com/visit)



# The Upper School Model

## Customized Learning Experience

In the Upper School, our talented team of teachers and administrators gets to know every girl. We take the time to understand her hopes and dreams, which allows us to map out a personalized path to grow her confidence and ensure her success in the classroom, on the field and in the theater. We recognize that each Upper Schooler is different and develops at her own pace, which is why many areas of our Upper School curriculum feature four levels of learning — **College Preparatory, Accelerated, Honors and Advanced Placement**. Our faculty and staff are trained to recognize when a girl may need more support, more independence or more rigor.

**STEM** Hands-on STEM opportunities are infused within the Upper School curriculum at every grade level through course offerings and partnerships with prominent corporations such as AAI/Textron Systems. From constructing roller coasters and hovercrafts to programming robots and using a 3-D printer, exciting experiential learning comes to life at every corner of the campus. Further, our **two advanced Mac Labs** and **“bring your own device” program** allow teachers to blend traditional learning tools with the latest trends in technology and professional software to produce innovative digital projects.

Students also continue to reach new heights in a variety of Advanced Placement courses, including **AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Computer Science, AP Physics** and **AP Statistics**. Recently, Maryvale students boasted an impressive cumulative average of a 4 out of 5 on the AP Calculus exam, while others earned a 4.5 on the AP Statistics exam – surpassing the averages at many of our peer independent schools.

Whether the girls are shining at the SeaPerch Underwater Robotics State Championships as part of the **Engineering**

**Through Robotics** class or designing and building structures through Maryvale’s ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentoring Club, the possibilities for success are endless. While many of our girls receive leadership awards and scholarships to college for their excellence in STEM-related fields, others are accepted into competitive **internship programs**, including Google’s coveted Computer Science Summer Institute (CSSI).

Through firsthand experiences on campus and in the community, students are afforded the opportunity to pursue careers as engineers, computer programmers and health care professionals, just like many of our accomplished alumnae.

**Tyler P. Fick Writing Center** Named in honor of Tyler P. Fick ‘99, Maryvale’s Writing Center is dedicated to providing students with the tools and support needed for developing exceptional writing skills in school and in life. At Maryvale, we believe that learning how to **write effectively and clearly** is the **cornerstone of any successful education**.

Regardless of a girl’s future ambitions, the ability to master various kinds of writing — expository, narrative, persuasive, descriptive and creative — is essential for achieving academic and career success. In the age of the 140-character tweet, Maryvale is as committed as ever to producing excellent writers and communicators.

## Career-Specific Opportunities

Thanks to the interest of our passionate, forward-thinking students, Maryvale proudly offers numerous courses that align with many career paths. These classes add a valuable element to the Maryvale educational experience and prepare girls for their next steps.

Students who are intrigued with the legal field may opt for our **Introduction to Law** or **Forensics** classes. Students



with an insatiable appetite for storytelling and cinematography may take a variety of classes, including **Journalism, Computer-Assisted Drawing and Web Design**, that feature our new **AVID** software, the same technology used to make **Star Trek** and **Star Wars**. And, students with a love of Broadway may discover a different side of the arts by electing **Theatrical Technical Production**, made possible by our state-of-the-art sound booth inside the Erinn McCarthy Humanities Hall Theater. Further, partnerships with Towson University and Anne Arundel Community College allow students with very specific career interests to pursue their passions through **tailor-made independent studies** during their junior and senior years at Maryvale. Girls who participate in these exciting and unique partnerships often receive **college credit**, giving them a head start on the next phase of their academic journey.

**Leadership Lessons** At Maryvale, we believe every student can be an extraordinary leader. Under the umbrella of our signature **Leadership Institute**, we offer Upper School leadership classes, Advisory lessons, career afternoons and all-school assemblies, where the girls begin to develop confidence that will serve them for a lifetime.

We strategically infuse plenty of chances for our girls to **showcase their leadership skills** before their classmates and the community. Whether they are organizing a service event through the Social Justice Coalition (SoJuCo), campaigning for a position in the Upper School Student Council or making an impact as the captain of a

sports team, we ensure that our **learners of today** will become our **leaders of tomorrow**.

**The Maryvale Way** It's easy to recognize a Maryvale girl by her uniform, but also by her character. The Maryvale Way is both a standard and a mindset where **respect, dignity** and **inclusivity** are at the forefront of each student's educational journey.

Every day, we strive to create a positive, welcoming environment that allows our community to live out the mission created by our founders, the **Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur**. At the heart of that mission are the beliefs in the following hallmarks: the goodness of God; the dignity of each person; an education on behalf of social justice and peace in the world; commitment to community service; the gift of diversity; legacy of friendship rooted in God; and the development of holistic learning communities.



# Meet the Upper School Team

## **Dr. Victor Shin**

### ***Upper School Head and Assistant Head of School***

**Educational Background:** Ed.D., Educational Leadership, University of Pennsylvania; M.P.A., University of Baltimore; B.A., Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park Scholars' Program; M.S.D.E. Administrator Certification, University of Maryland, College Park

**What you may not know:** "After receiving my master's in Public Administration, I left education for nine months to pursue a career in nonprofit organizations. However, God quickly brought me back to Catholic education. This experience opened my eyes to school administration and made me realize that my gifts are best suited to helping the youth. 'Many are the plans of the human heart, but it is the decision of the LORD that endures (Proverbs 19:21).'"

**Student Philosophy:** "As educators, we are here to guide and mold the physical, intellectual and spiritual development of our students. A student-centered classroom that promotes peace and justice is so needed in today's world. We must expose students to various opportunities but also help to build their confidence. Students are often called the leaders of tomorrow, but I believe they are the leaders of today."



## **Jennifer Nicholas**

### ***Academic Dean***

**Educational Background:** M.A., Leadership in Teaching, Notre Dame of Maryland University; B.S., Secondary Education, Villanova University

**What you may not know:** "I have attended and worked in Catholic schools for my entire educational journey."

**Student Philosophy:** "I believe that each student at Maryvale possesses unique talents and attributes. As an educator, it is my goal to tap into these gifts in order to help each girl grow academically, spiritually and emotionally. I strive to help each student reach her potential, both in her academics and extra-curricular activities, and work to create a learning environment where all girls can achieve success. As educators, we have the privilege of helping students achieve their dreams in order for them to better the world around us."



## **Jessica Vitrano Randisi '01**

### ***Dean of Students***

**Educational Background:** M.A., Teaching Secondary English, Notre Dame of Maryland University; B.A., Theatre, Salisbury University; M.S.D.E. Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate in English

**What you may not know:** "Maryvale has been a part of my life since I was born. My father, two aunts, eight uncles, two sisters and five cousins all went to Maryvale. I now have an aunt, a sister and two cousins who work here."

**Student Philosophy:** "I believe that each student is a unique individual who needs a secure, compassionate and stimulating environment to grow and meet her potential. This will allow her to mature socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. It is my desire to help students meet their fullest potential by providing a school that teaches respect, dignity and confidence. I believe that student development begins upon entry into Maryvale and continues until graduation. This includes classroom and extra-curricular activities, both of which are equally important to development."



## **Kalea Selmon**

### ***School Counselor***

**Educational Background:** M.S., Counseling, Johns Hopkins University; B.S., Psychology, Howard University

**What you may not know:** "Outside of Maryvale, I work in theater as a stage manager and event manager."

**Student Philosophy:** "I stand firm in the belief that education of the mind cannot take place without the development of the heart. As collaborators with the students and parents, our job as educators is to help provide the best environment for the students to meet their full potential. Education is the tool that helps students develop not only academically, but also socially and emotionally while discovering who they are. My goal as an educator is to help all students mature with dignity and confidence along their journey to success."



## College Counseling @ Maryvale

**Monica Graham**

**Director of College Counseling**

**Educational Background:** M.B.A., Loyola University Maryland; B.A., Business, Loyola University Maryland

**What you may not know:** "I love to travel. I have visited almost as many foreign countries as I have visited states in the U.S."

**Student Philosophy:** "Working in education was not something I thought I would ever do. I got into this field by accident. The spirit in a school of young women is infectious. The girls are both sweet and sassy — lively and confident. I often say, 'I will never work entirely with adults again. It's not as much fun as this job!'"



The Class of 2017 earned  
**\$9.6 million**  
in academic scholarships  
and awards to  
colleges and universities  
throughout the country.

**SAT/ACT** prep begins in the ninth grade.

Meetings with individual families about the college selection and application process begin in the **10th grade**.

Nearly **100 college representatives** visit Maryvale every fall and speak with interested students.

### ROAD TRIP



Maryvale offers numerous opportunities for Upper School students to experience school-sponsored trips to colleges and universities throughout the region.

*Recent college commitments include:*

Boston College • Bucknell University • Catholic University • College of William & Mary  
Cornell University • Davidson College • Duke University • Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology • Savannah College of Art and Design  
Tulane University • United States Naval Academy • University of Chicago  
University of Maryland (Honor's College) • University of Notre Dame • Villanova University

**MARYVALE**  
LEARN. LEAD. SUCCEED.  
Educating Young Women for Life