

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
2022-2023 Elective Course Descriptions
7th & 8th Grade



Please review the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Elective Course Descriptions and discuss which options your child would like to select for next year.

- **Band, Spanish I, Spanish II, and Math Enrichment** are all **full year courses**.
- The Math Enrichment course is only available for students who are placed by their math teacher.
- **Art, STEM I, STEM Challenge, STEM Advanced, and Physical Education** are offered for **one semester**.
- Art, STEM I, STEM Challenge, STEM Advanced, and Physical Education may be selected both semesters if students choose to take it for a full year.

Band

Length: Full Year

Course Description: This course studies and seeks to master aspects of music such as note identification, proper fingering/sticking, rhythm identification, posture/hand position, knowledge of musical terms, articulations, phrasing, musical interpretation, and proper application of time and key signatures. An emphasis is placed on each student being able to play the 12 major sales. In addition, percussionist are to be able to perform snare rudiments specified by the director, and exhibit proficiency on the timpani and mallet instruments. All students are expected to practice on a regular basis and Participate in all performances.

Math Enrichment

Length: Full Year

Course Description: This class is designed to give students an opportunity to work on their assignments with the guidance of a math teacher. Concepts are reviewed and reinforced. The extra time may also allow for enrichment activities to deepen the understanding of math concepts. Participation in this class has led to less time and frustration with homework, better test scores and overall grades. The overall goal is to give students a solid foundation of math concepts before entering Algebra 1 in high school. The grade is based primarily on participation with a report card grade of credit or no-credit.

Spanish I

Length: full year

Course Description: This particular course is intended for 7th and 8th graders who are ready for the rigor of a high school class. In this year long course, students study the fundamental of the Spanish language, including vocabulary, verbs, and other grammatical structures. Through listening, speaking, reading, and writing, students will learn to communicate in Spanish about topics such as school, family and friends, sports and hobbies, and other activities in their daily life. Students will also study aspects of various Hispanic cultures and compare/contrast them to American culture. This is a highly interactive class, and daily participation is expected. It will be taught in Spanish as often as possible. Students will be expected to study and practice at home regularly. Upon completion of the course, students have the opportunity to earn on high school credit by scoring an 80% or higher on the Spanish I Placement Exam.

Beginning Spanish II (Prerequisite: Spanish I)

Length: full year

Course Description: Building on language skills learned in Spanish I, this course will strengthen and extend students' Spanish in all four modes of communication, with an emphasis on reading. Through a context of new thematic vocabulary units, students will practice foundational language skills as well as be introduced to more complex verb tenses and grammar that they will encounter in Spanish II at St. Francis High School. Please note that students are not expected to earn a second language credit due to significant content and less instructional time in the middle school class period compared to that of the high school. Serious language students may be able to earn a second credit by passing the Spanish II test out option given at the end of the year. Instruction will occur in Spanish the majority of the time, and students will be expected to interact in Spanish as much as possible.

Physical Education

Length: Semester

Course Description: Pickleball! Curling! Spikeball! Basketball! Mission Impossible! Ultimate! Lax! Soccer! Flickerball! Bowling! Tennis! What are some of these games? Find out and experience a variety of activities that focus on new ways to be active and have a blast while doing them. Physical education provides unique learning opportunities for students to acquire knowledge, skills, fitness, and the confidence needed to enjoy a lifetime of healthy physical activity. This course is geared to all students, including those with little or no athletic experience. Health-related fitness testing will be completed twice a year. Developing an understanding and appreciation for the human body, as well as how to stay healthy and fit for a lifetime, are the overall goals of the physical education curriculum.

Art

Length: Semester

Course Description: Art allows students to explore their individuality and creativity, while developing skills in a variety of media. Students will learn skills and techniques in drawing, painting, clay, paper-mache, printmaking and more. Assignments are based on theme or media, and then skills are applied to create original artwork that is personally relevant. Creative problem-solving art history and connecting art to the world around us are integral parts of the class. Art is offered as a semester class or can be taken two semesters. Students electing to take Art a full year will be expected to build on their skills from first semester and have the ability to work independently. You do not have to be a "natural" to succeed in art!

STEM Exploration

Length: Semester

Course Description: Attention future engineers or any student interested in design! This fun, hands-on course teaches all students about the processes of design. Students are exposed to several different technologies structural design, problem solving projects, robotics using VEX IQ, and much more.

STEM Challenge

Length: Semester

Course Description: This course is offered to students who desire a high-level learning experience class that is based on the engineering and design process. Students will take project ideas through each step of the design process until completion. Examples of projects include robot design & programming using VEX IQ robots, load bearing structures, advanced electronics, mousetrap mechanics vehicles, and more. Students will also learn the basics of design sketching, computer aided design (CAD), prototyping, and 3D printing. This is a project-centered, concept-based class.

STEM Advanced

Length: Semester

Course Description: This is a more advanced course and builds on the coding skills learned in STEM Challenge. Students will continue to explore complex programming, using FTC robotic platforms Block coding. The course will involve team-based design and problem-solving strategies. Students will be asked to showcase their robots and programming skills during STEM events. Students will maintain an Engineering notebook that will be used to then move into robotic concepts and will be used at the STEM event toward awards. This course will include STEM related lessons, as well as continuing CS Discoveries Units 4-6 which includes Circuit Playground. This is primarily a hands-on class that promotes critical thinking skills.

Course selections will be done online through the Renweb Family Portal.

Instructions to choose Elective Courses

1. Log into your Renweb **Family Portal**
2. Select the **Student** tab, if you have more than one child in GTACS you will need to select the child's name for whom you are scheduling.
3. Select **Course Request**
4. A Course Request page will appear, and you will select courses using a drop-down menu.
5. Select **Save**

Please select Elective Courses before June 13th.

The Course Selection tab will not be available after this date.