

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
2023-2024 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 placed by their math teacher.
- **Art, STEM Challenge, STEM Advanced/Robotics, and Physical Education** are one semester.
- Art, STEM Challenge, STEM Advanced/Robotics, and Physical Education *may be selected for 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 scales. In addition, percussionists 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 regularly 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 a math teacher's guidance.** 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 course is for 7th and 8th graders ready for high school class rigor.** In this yearlong 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 can 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 most of the time, and students will be expected to interact in Spanish as much as possible.

Physical Education

Length: Semester

Course Description: Pickleball! Curling! Spike ball! Basketball! Mission Impossible! Ultimate! Lax! Soccer! Flicker ball! 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, and how to stay healthy and fit for a lifetime, are the 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, *papier-mâché*, 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 for two semesters. Students electing to take Art a full year will be expected to build on their skills from the first semester and can work independently. You do not have to be a "natural" to succeed in art!

STEM Challenge

Length: Semester

Course Description: This is a hands-on, project based, learning experience in a maker space classroom. Students will use the engineering design process to create solutions to the challenges they are given. Students will learn the basics of design sketching, computer-aided design (TinkerCad), prototyping, 3D printing, laser cutting and the safe use of hand tools. Projects may include programming and computer-controlled machines using Arduino kits, aeronautics through designing and building a flying model airplane, structural design, advanced compressed air-powered vehicle design, and various other areas of study.

STEM Advanced/Robotics

Length: Semester

Course Description: In this class students will develop their skills in robot design, construction, and programming. They will apply real world math and science concepts in an approachable and hands-on way. They will also develop problem-solving, collaboration, and team-building skills as they work in a team-like environment where students compete against other teams within the class, the school, Traverse City Area Public Schools, and beyond.

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

Instructions to choose Elective Courses

1. Log into your **FACTS Family Portal**
2. Select the **Student tab**. If you have more than one child in GTACS, you must 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 by May 18th. The Course Selection tab will not be available after this date. If Students do not select Elective Courses, they will be placed in a class that has open spots.

Schedule changes will be made throughout the summer, a student's schedule may not be finalized until school begins. Students may change their schedule only for serious reasons. A schedule change form must be completed with signatures of the student, parents, teachers, and counselor.