

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
2026-27 Elective Course Descriptions
8th Grade
Due Wednesday, March 18, 2026



Please review the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Elective Course Descriptions and discuss which options your child would like to select for next year. Students will have two electives (or one if placed in math enrichment).

Choices are as follows:

- **Band, Spanish 1, Spanish II, Physical Education, Art, STEM I, STEM II**
 - **All electives are for a full year.**
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Band

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.

Spanish I

Course Description: 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. *Note: This course is for students ready for high school class rigor. Students who pass the proficiency exam with an 85% or higher will earn one high school world language credit required for high school graduation.*

Intro to Spanish II (Prerequisite: Spanish I)

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. Instruction will occur in Spanish most of the time, and students will be expected to interact in Spanish as much as possible.

Note: Students who took Spanish I in 7th grade and did not pass the proficiency exam, will have another opportunity at the end of the year to take the exam and earn the high school credit if they score 85% or higher earning them 1 of the 2 high school credits needed for graduation.

Physical Education

Course Description: Pickleball! Curling! Spike ball! Basketball! Mission Impossible! Ultimate! 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

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-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. You do not have to be a “natural” to succeed in art!

STEM I

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 II (Prerequisite: STEM I)

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 and build on skills learned in STEM I.

*Math Enrichment: : Half or Full Year (based on teacher recommendation)

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. 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.

Directions for completing elective form:

Step One: Please an “X” in each based on the order of your top four preferences.

Step Two: Return this form on or before March 18 to your first hour teacher or drop off at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton office. Forms may also be emailed to SEASoffice@gtacs.org

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Course Name	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice
Art				
Band				
Physical Education				
Spanish I				
Spanish II (Spanish I pre-requisite)				
STEM I				
STEM II (STEM I pre-requisite)				

*Math enrichment will be assigned based on teacher recommendation and will replace an elective choice.

- Student schedules will be available at the Back to School Night in August.
- Due to capacity limitations in each class, we are only able to enter student elective choices into FACTS if student is re-enrolled.
- If a class is reaching capacity, consideration given first to the date the form was submitted.

For office use only:

Date form was returned: