

2019-2020 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art

High School Art 1/Intro to Arts (8th period: M, Tu, W, & F) Students interested in pursuing art at a more advanced level and for high school credit must meet with Ms. Roe for permission to take this class. Selection into this class is a two year commitment in 7th and 8th grade. Successful completion of both years will permit the student to acquire an Art 1 high school credit in our local public schools. There is a \$50.00 fee for the class per year.

Visual Arts (9th period: M/W) is a **semester-long** course for middle school students. It is designed as an activity-based course where students receive hands-on experience in the domains of visual arts. This course is an introduction to the principles and elements of design, draftsmanship, painting, three-dimensional art and art history. Students may take one semester of Visual Arts.

Beginning & Advanced Band

Mr. Frock, Round Rock Academy of Music

The joy of music making is an awesome thing and band is a means to achieve that end. Music is a form of entertainment like no other because it communicates feelings and emotions. There are numerous studies of the effects of music on the neurological system in humans and animals alike found on line. Band is also fun because the student gets to "play" an instrument alongside their friends. That is a very fun thing to be a part of and experience.

Band is a full year class as well as a cumulative process... All first year students must start in the beginning band class. All students as beginners must begin learning the fundamentals and then continue into the advanced band. Though the student activities offered differ from year to year the events can include the Christmas Concert, Solo and Ensemble Contest, a trip to the Soundwaves Festival held at Schlitterbahn Water Park and the Spring Concert.

Drama

Speech: (Fall: 9th period-M/W) Speaking in front of people doesn't have to be scary. In fact, it can be quite fun! In this class you will learn the basics of effective communication, telling stories, and speaking in social situations. There will be plenty of opportunities to practice in small groups as well as the whole class. Have some fun and get better at this important life skill.

Debate: (Spring: 9th period-M/W) Speech is not required but recommended prior to taking this class. Students will be learning the more formal structures of speaking to inform, speaking to persuade, and developing and refuting arguments in a variety of debate formats. Your words can change the world!

Extreme Math, The Elective

Extreme Math: (Year round: 9th period- Tu/F) Extreme Math prepares 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to participate in mathematics competitions and provides enrichment and challenge for talented Math students in a fun and exciting way. We do practice and contest tests, learn mathematics tricks and practice them while playing a game. In this course we will also take one day a week to work on group problems. ***There is a \$25.00 fee to help cover the costs of contest entry fees.***

Music

St. Cecilia Choir: (Year round: 9th period - Tu/F) The St. Theresa's Catholic School choir will provide music for the weekly school masses. This group will also be able to learn musical and liturgical skills. The musical repertoire of the choir will be tailored to the voice characteristics and developing skills for middle school choirs.

Musical Theater Fundamentals: (Fall: 8th period - Tu/F)

This elective will introduce the foundational elements of musical theater. Students will learn the fundamentals of vocal structure and technique as well as physical and vocal presence in front of an audience within the context of musical theater. Fundamental acting techniques will be cultivated in the context of musical theater practice by implementing regular warm-ups, theater games, improvisation, and study of song texts.

Musical Theater Performance: (Spring: 8th period - Tu/F)

Musical Theater Fundamentals is recommended (but not required) before taking Musical Theater Performance. This course will begin with a short review of fundamentals. It will mainly focus on preparing a small production for the end of the spring semester. The Musical Theater Performance course will cover all aspects of producing, acting, directing, and marketing a unique musical revue. The course will culminate with a student-led production in May.

Popular Music: (9th period - Tu/F)

Popular music is an over-arching genre that is constantly undergoing change. This course will explore what defines music as 'popular' and will focus on popular music from antiquity to modern day. Popular Music class will focus on the interdependency between historical events and popular music and will discuss the influence that religion, politics, and industrialization have on popular music.

Physical Education

Physical Education (PE - students may only take one class of PE: 8th period- M/W and 8th period- Tu/F)

In Physical Education, students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan. In addition, students will understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement.

Fitness and Conditioning (8th period - M/W)

There's no better time than now to try a variety of fitness and conditioning workouts to start feeling fit and fabulous! Results come quick, but you won't know unless you try. Get your workout in two days a week. Workouts are 50/50 cardio & strength and different every time. (It's fun too!)

GIRLS Only! Fall Seasonal Sports (Coach Sprinkle 9th period - TU/F)

Volleyball (Term 1) and Basketball (Term 2): Students will learn rules, practice skills, explore game strategies, and participate in game scrimmages or competitions related to the sport specific to each term. **Only students participating in STCS extracurricular school sports should apply.**

BOYS Only! Fall Seasonal Sports (Coach Franco: 9th period - TU/F)

Flag Football (Term 1) and Basketball (Term 2) Students will focus and learn rules, practice skills, explore game strategies, and participate in game scrimmages or competitions related to the sport specific to each term. **Only students participating in STCS extracurricular sports should apply.**

Technology

Applied Digital Skills (Fall semester: 8th period-M/W) Practice creativity, digital literacy and problem solving in this class. This is a project based course that teaches the digital skills needed for high school. Examples of projects may include projects on technology's role in current events, using data and statistics to identify movie trends, building a budget and financial plan, identifying credible sources and planning and managing an event.

Computer Science Discoveries: (9th Period: Tu/F) *NEW!* The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, problem solving, and HTML/CSS. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they build their own websites and games.

Maker Lab / Passion Project (Fall Semester: 9th Period: M/W) This course will provide an introduction to the tools, materials, and maker culture associated with the STCS Makerspace/Robotics Lab. Students will learn design thinking and will complete a passion project using the tools/materials in the Makerspace. ***Limited enrollment***

MultiMedia / Digital Arts / Yearbook (Year long: 8th period: Tu/F) Students gain skills in the following areas: digital photography, videography, page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing and editing while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. ***Limited enrollment.***

Robotics (Year long: 9th period- Tu/F) Robotics is a course for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students which provides an introduction to programming and building robots using the LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 kits. The curriculum module is designed to teach core computer programming logic and reasoning skills using a robotics engineering context. Students will complete a sequence of projects organized around key robotics and programming concepts. Additional robotics, including MicroBits, sphero, Cozmo, etc. will be utilized depending on student interest. Students who took Robotics last year will have the opportunity to work on independent exploration of intermediate and advanced robotics concepts. **Limited enrollment.**

STCS Graduate Profile

A graduate of St. Theresa Catholic School has engaged in academic, service, and faith experiences that have cultivated his/her intellectual talents and spiritual gifts provided by God for the purposes of personal fulfillment, contributing to the well-being of others, and fulfilling his/her personal calling ordained by God.

Students graduating from STCS will satisfy core class criteria incorporating guidelines provided by TCCED and STCS.

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| • Religion | 3 years | • Language Arts | 3 years |
| • Math | 3 years | • Social Studies | 3 years |
| • Science | 3 years | | |
| • Foreign Language | 3 years | | |

Students graduating from STCS will satisfy elective criteria incorporating guidelines provided by TCCED EB. We utilize an alternate scheduling matrix to fulfill PE requirements over the course of 7th and 8th grade.

ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS: Middle school elective requirements are 2 PE credits and 4 credits from other elective areas including Art, Band, Drama, Music, Robotics and Technology. Students satisfy 1 ART, 1 DRAMA, 1 MUSIC and 1 TECHNOLOGY credits. One semester of an elective class is equal to .5 credit in the subject area.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FLEX CLUBS – Thursday, 9th period

Flex clubs are to encourage the exploration of topics of interest to students.

Mrs. Kasunic: Book Club

Come and enjoy time in our Informational Hub discussing books of your choice! Flex Time is a great time to relax and immerse yourself in a book of your choosing. We will share titles, plots, and opinions about the books we read.

Dr. Neal: The Life of a Musician

Do you think a career in music means only performing classical music in a quiet hall? Think again! Imagine editing music for the next Star Wars film, or promoting different bands at South by Southwest, or even traveling the world performing on a cruise ship! The music industry is growing in diversity every day and has a total reported revenue of \$43 billion for 2018 and is continually growing. This club will talk about the most successful careers in the music industry and check out some of the more exciting music career fields.

Mrs. Roe: Textile Arts

Students will learn to crochet, tie dye, latch hook and basketry in this course. There is a \$40 fee to cover the cost of supplies.

Mrs. Warren: Genealogy Club

Who do you think you are? Explore the fascinating world of your family history. Utilize research techniques and technology to explore your family's unique story.

Mr. Franco: Basketball Ball-Handling (Fall Semester)

Are you interested in becoming a better ball handler in basketball? This course will contain drills that will help you become a better dribbler. Open to beginners and experienced basketball players.

Mrs. Sprinkle: Current Sports Events (Fall Semester)

Catch up and keep up with all the latest scores, division standings, tournament seeds, and championships for many different sports at the college and professional levels including but not limited to Volleyball, Football, and Basketball. We will review games from the week before and preview games to come. There will also be discussions regarding controversies that may develop along the way.

Mrs. Tuerff: Tiger Cheer! (Year Long)

This is a mandatory weekly class for all those students on the STCS Cheer Squad. We meet weekly to practice for performances plus work on cheers, stunting and tumbling. Tiger Cheer is a year long commitment. There are additional fees for Tiger Cheer that are arranged with our Cheer Coach, Jana Tuerff. Go Tigers!