



St. Mary Magdalene School

2019—2020

Elective Course Descriptions

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Course Requests completed *in ParentsWeb*

Course Request dates: June 10 - 23

Course requests are time-stamped.

8th graders will be scheduled first.

Requests received after June 23 will be placed in
classes as available.

Schedules will be available Aug 18.

Full Year	Photography / Yearbook (8th only) Band Strings
-----------	--

First Semester	Simple Machines Drama Handbells Marine Science - The Living Ocean French Experience Art 1 Serve StMM (8th) Strong Bodies, Strong Minds World Cultures
----------------	---

Second Semester	Bricks Beyond Books Conversational Spanish (8th) French Experience Drama Strings Marine Science - The Physical Ocean Movie Making Strong Bodies, Strong Minds Serve StMM (8th) Tech 4 Success
-----------------	--

Elective Expectations

Homework: Some electives have homework. Others have expectations of participation outside of class time.

Participation: Students are expected to fully and respectfully participate in their assigned elective classes.

Performance: Some electives have required performances. Those dates will be communicated early in the semester. Conflicts with required performance dates must be communicated immediately. The Christmas Pageant is on Dec 11, 2019.

Scheduling: Eighth graders are scheduled first. Our primary objective is to fill the listed classes because there is no opportunity to add courses or sections. The only courses that may be taken more than once are Band and Drama. Except for these two classes, eighth graders must choose classes that they didn't take in seventh grade. All students must list different classes as second options, otherwise **we** will have to choose the alternate course if the primary choice is full.

Grades 3-8 Grading Scale (From the StMM Parent Handbook)

Numeric grades are used for all academic subjects. Tests, class participation, class work, projects, and homework are all considered when assigning a grade. The weight of each grade may vary from teacher to teacher. The following scale is used to evaluate students. Electives and specials will use the same grading scale. The classes are weighted in RenWeb so that a class that meets three times a week is not weighted the same as a class that meets five days a week.

Numerical Grade	Letter Equivalent	Points
94-100	A	4.0
90-93	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.67
65-69	D	1.0
50-64	F	0

Photography / Yearbook

Preferred class size: 10—8th grade only

Course Objectives: Learn and develop photography, lay-out and copywriting concepts and skills, as well as understand and utilize graphic art techniques in an online yearbook program to produce the StMM yearbook, *The Monarch*.

Prerequisites: None, but strong computer knowledge is helpful. Students need continual access to a camera with *rechargeable* battery with at least 12 megapixels.

Application: Students must complete an application, which is available [here on the StMM website](#). Completed applications (in the student's handwriting) must be received at school by June 25. Applications may be scanned/mailed to Klavon@stmm.net or mailed to the school to Ms. Klavon's attention.

Homework: Students must take photographs outside of elective class, for example sporting events, Santa's Village, and the Christmas pageant. Students may choose which outside events they wish to photograph. Yearbook homework is given very infrequently, but will be graded as a 0 if not completed.

Participation: Yearbook completion follows several production deadlines. Students are responsible for their deadlines and pages. If a student misses class they are responsible for completing the assignment, in order to meet deadline schedule. Most yearbook production is done online, so a student has access to their pages whenever they have access to a computer.

Performance: Must be able to work independently, use time well and conduct oneself appropriately while unsupervised outside of class.

String Orchestra Elective

Students will be engaged in music through the instruction of violin, viola, cello and double bass! Every student who signs up for the 7th and 8th grade string orchestra elective will have an instrument to use in class. Strings students will be expected to have an instrument at home to use for practice. Students have the opportunity to join the Strings elective for the full year or just for the second semester and do not need to have any strings experience for either class. The students are expected to participate in the Christmas Pageant (12/11/2019) and the Spring Orchestra Concert.

7/8 Band

Preferred class size: 20

Course Objectives: Students will further develop their skills/technique for performing on brass, wind and percussion instruments in an ensemble setting. 7/8 band offers performance opportunities at both our Christmas Pageant and Spring concert.

Prerequisites: Students must have been previously been enrolled in band in 6th grade. A student that wishes to join band either as a new student to StMM or after the school year has started, are advised to meet with Mr. Davis over the summer. He can be reached at davis@stmm.net. This is to help ensure the student learns the basic techniques associated with assembling the instrument, breathing, producing a quality tone as well as reading music notation.

Homework: Students are expected to practice a minimum of **50-60 minutes each week**. Students are expected to keep a record of their practice time for each week and are assessed on both rehearsal participation as well as at-home practice.

Performance: Throughout the year our band will participate in various performances. Our performances include 3-4 Masses each school year, a Christmas and spring concert as well as graduation. **Concert attendance is mandatory.** The Christmas Pageant is 12/11/2019.

Serve StMM (8th grade students only)

Preferred class size: 12

Course Objectives: Students will complete service hours during school. All hours done in school will count for their service requirement. The students will work in the younger grades doing reading, writing, and math activities. Other opportunities will be available as well. This elective is for 8th grade students only. [Students must submit an application](#), completed in the student's handwriting, to Mrs. Klavon by June 25. Applications may be scanned/mailed to Klavon@stmm.net or mailed to the school to the attention of Mrs. Klavon.

Expectations: Students come to class prepared to participate.

Homework: None—minimal

Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all activities.

Strong Bodies, Strong Minds

Course Objectives: This PE elective will focus on creating both a healthy body and a healthy mind. Students will learn various ways to stay physically fit through these four components of fitness: cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, muscular strength and muscular endurance. Movement, reflection, and meditation will also be used in this course to balance emotional, mental, and spiritual health along with physical. Students will need a personal yoga mat to be stored at the school which will be used each class.

Expectations: Students come to class prepared to participate.

Homework: None—minimal

Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all activities.

Simple Machines

Preferred class size: 12 students

Course Objectives: This STEM course will introduce students to six types of simple machines including the lever, inclined plane, wedge, wheel & axle (includes gears and belts), pulley, and screw. The students will learn how to calculate mechanical advantage, gear ratios and velocity. This class uses Lego Simple and Motorized Mechanism sets to build and explore models of simple machines. We will create more complex machines through practical application of the basics we have learned. We will also spend a week studying Leonardo da Vinci and his machines.

Prerequisites: Basic math skills

Homework: minimal only when not finished in class

Participation: Each student will have to participate in building the models with a partner. Group and individual projects will be required and participation is the heaviest weighted part of the course.

Performance: In addition to building with partners, students will take notes on vocabulary and instruction. Several small quizzes throughout the semester along with an end of semester project (done solely in class) will be used to grade their knowledge and understanding.

Bricks Beyond Books

Preferred class size: 12 students

Course Objectives: Students will take what we have learned from Simple Machines and expand upon their skill set. With general concepts and a problem to solve students will learn to create and build without step by step booklet instructions. We will explore Tinkercad to create our own 3D models and make them come to life in bricks as well as a general introduction to coding.

Prerequisites: Simple Machines and teacher approval

Homework: Students may have to on occasion log into their account to finish or catch up on a project we are working on.

Participation: Each student will have to participate in building the models. Group and individual projects will be required and participation will be graded.

Performance: Students will have a classroom tinker account for projects

Drama: Ready, Set, Action!

Preferred class size: 20 maximum

Course Objectives: Improve your improvisation skills, prepare an audition monologue and hone your acting skills with other serious drama students, Participate in a play from beginning to end - read through, casting, costume design, set design, directing and finally grand performances for the younger students.

Students may perform in the Christmas Pageant on December 11, 2019.

Prerequisites: Desire to act and perform in front of live audiences.

Homework: Memorize lines and complete written character development assignments.

Participation: Attend class regularly and not miss any classes the 3 weeks prior to the performance.

Handbells

Preferred class size: 8

Course Objectives: Students will learn to read and mark hand bell music. Students will learn hand bell reading techniques. Students will learn to perform in a small, instrumental ensemble and will play the hand bells for Mass occasionally. Students will perform and participate in the Christmas Pageant which will be 12/11/2019.

Prerequisites: It would be helpful if they can read music but not necessary.

Homework: none

Participation: will be 50% of the overall grade

Performances: School Masses and Christmas Pageant—December 11, 2019.

Marine Science - The Physical Ocean

Preferred class size: 20

Course Objectives: Marine Science - The Physical Ocean will investigate different layers of the oceans, find out what a Dead Zone is, look at wind currents and experiment with Coriolis Effects, and map mountains and rift valleys of the ocean floor. We will try our hand at mapping unknown areas of the ocean floor and will study famous scientists such as Jacques Cousteau and Sylvia Earle.

Prerequisites: None. We offer two different Marine Science courses and they can be taken in any order. For the 2019-2020 school year, Marine Science- The Physical Ocean is offered in the spring.

Homework: Assigned as required throughout the year.

Participation: Each student will participate in classroom activities which may include group and individual projects.

Marine Science - The Living Ocean

Preferred class size: 20

Course Objectives: In Marine Science - The Living Ocean we will be investigating the different plants and animals that live in and near the ocean, including how they are specially adapted to the marine environment and what influence humans have on them. We will dissect starfish and squid to look at their special adaptations.

Prerequisites: None. We offer two different Marine Science courses and they can be taken in any order. For the 2019-2020 school year, Marine Science - The Living Ocean is offered in the fall.

Homework: Assigned as required throughout the year.

Participation: Each student will participate in classroom activities which may include group and individual projects.

The French Experience

Preferred class size: 24

Course Objectives: Bienvenue! Through a series of "experiences" you will learn to chat in French and familiarize yourself with a bit of culture. Some of these experiences may include: The French Party, Café Binanay, a French Fashion show, a holiday celebration and a virtual tour of Paris' most famous monuments, locales and art. And yes, we will get a "taste" of France along the way.

Expectations: Students will review vocabulary and class material daily. Students are encouraged to explore and use available materials. The emphasis in this class is speaking, rather than reading and writing. Speaking in French is part of class participation.

Homework: In addition to reviewing vocabulary daily, students will on occasion be asked to use web 2.0 Google Voice, where they will practice speaking.

Participation: Students will be encouraged to practice speaking both in class and out of class. When learning a second language, it is critical to practice daily. Students will NOT be graded on their pronunciation.

Conversational Spanish (8th)

Preferred class size: 12

Course Objectives: Students will have an opportunity to practice their Spanish language speaking and conversation skills.

Expectations: Students come to class prepared to participate.

Homework: None—minimal

Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all activities.

World Cultures

Preferred class size: 20

Course Objectives: Have you ever wondered what it is like to live in another country and experience its culture? The World Cultures elective is designed to provide students with the opportunity to broaden their horizons about how people from around the world live, think and contribute to the world. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the cultures of African and Europe, including geography, language, traditions and past-times. The World Cultures elective is designed to enrich the students' global perspective and enable them to experience various countries. Students are also encouraged to bring in artifacts to share with the class, as relevant regions are discussed.

Expectations: Students are expected to come to class with materials and be prepared to discuss and engage in the day's topic. Informal presentations may be required.

Homework: Assigned as required throughout the semester.

Quiz: Informal and formal assessments will take place on a regular basis throughout the semester.

Tech 4 Success

Preferred Class Size: 24

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to software applications that are necessary to live and work in a technological society. The applications covered include word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation. We will work on mastering the skill of entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic information on a keyboard using the touch method of keystroking. Emphasis will be placed on development of accuracy and speed, proper techniques, and correct fingering. Students will use Google Apps for Education (Docs, Slides, Sheets) to create presentations, papers, and spreadsheets and will work on formatting basic letters, reports, tables, and other business documents. Students will expand upon the basic skills that are being used in the classroom.

Expectations: Students will actively participate, and will follow the guidelines in the StMM student technology policy

Art 1

Preferred class size: 20

Course Objectives: Students will learn about art methods, materials and techniques in this introductory, semester-long studio class. We will continue working with traditional 2-D drawing media (charcoal, pastels, pencils and paint) as we begin to mix in other art forms (printmaking, weaving, and sculpture). Students will spend the first part of each class improving their drawing skills- the foundation of all the visual arts.

Expectations: Students come to class prepared to participate. Students need an art kit, which can be purchased in the school office for \$15.

Homework: None—minimal

Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all activities.

Animation and Movie Making

Preferred class size: 10

Course Objectives: Are you interested in story telling? Animation? Movie-making? If so, consider enrolling on our Introduction to Animation and Movie Making. In this class, you will use available technology to take an idea, create a script, shoot a scene and edit it into a short film. Students will create storyboards, flip books and characters in addition to developing stop motion animation and editing skills. Local game designers, writers and filmmakers will also visit the class. Students will be able to use a variety of media (clay, puppets, actors, etc) so drawing and acting skills are not a prerequisite. Instead, all students must be excited about the possibilities and be willing to work *outside of class* (i.e. homework) in order to realize his or her creative vision. Primary technology will include Apple phones and iPads.

Expectations: Students come to class prepared to participate. Students need an art kit, which can be purchased in the school office for \$15.

Homework: Some work outside of class will be required

Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all activities.