

Trimester 2 Electives 7th and 8th Grades, 2025-2026

November 2, 2025

Dear StMM Grade 7 and Grade 8 Students and Parents/Guardians,

A description of each elective is provided below to help you learn more about the courses being offered during Trimester 2. Electives will meet twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays.

Middle school students in Grades 7 and 8 will select their elective class on **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**. Absent students will have the opportunity to complete the selection form online via a link in their Religion Google Classroom. Students who do not complete the form by Wednesday will be randomly placed in an elective.

Individual student schedules, including elective assignments, will be updated and available in **FACTS** beginning **Monday, November 10th. Homeroom teachers will have a complete list of the electives students have been assigned to.**

Thank you for taking the time to review your child's Trimester 2 options with them.

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTION

- **7/8 Band:** Students currently enrolled in Band, a year-long course, will be automatically re-enrolled in Band for Trimester 2.

TRIMESTER TWO ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GRADES 7 & 8

- **7th/8th GRADE CHORUS:** The Chorus is best suited for students with some vocal experience, but newcomers are also welcome. Performing more challenging pieces requires dedication and practice outside of class, as well as a willingness to work as an ensemble. Students will be expected to put in the necessary work to meet the standards we have set for our program. Opportunities to perform in class and outside of class will happen throughout the year.
- **CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS:** In this Elective, students will gain an understanding of different cultures around the world through projects. Each Trimester, we will explore a different set of cultures. Trimester 2 topics: African American, Women's History Month
- **ADVANCED ART:** This art elective is for the experienced artist who wants to gain a deeper understanding of the principles of design and work on building projects that show individual skill in different mediums of art.

- **YEARBOOK:** Yearbook is a course for 7th- and 8th-grade students that supports their development as writers, photographers, editors, independent users of technology, and responsible, contributing members of the St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School community. Students will learn the basic principles of publication and develop skills in writing copy, captions, and headlines; digital photography; and desktop publishing while producing the school's yearbook. This course requires enthusiasm, creativity, a strong sense of responsibility, and dedication. Students must also be willing to complete assigned activities, meet publication deadlines, and attend various events before and after school.
- **GARDENING & SUSTAINABILITY:** Ready to get your hands dirty and make a difference? In this class, you'll grow plants using both traditional and hydroponic systems, help create a community seed library, and keep a garden journal to tell the story of our StMM garden. You'll learn every step of the gardening process—from preparing the soil and planting seeds to caring for your crops and celebrating the harvest. Inspired by Pope Francis's *Laudato Si*, we'll work together to make our campus more environmentally friendly and sustainable. Become a gardener, creator, and steward of the earth as you help our StMM garden—and your green thumb—grow!
- **MONARCH ENTERTAINMENT: NOW CASTING** for Season 4 of Monarch Entertainment. This course is tailored to emphasize the unique talents and goals of the participating students. Our mission is to bring joy to all members of the StMM community through the presence of our beloved mascot, Moe the Monarch. Together, we will create memorable MOE-ments for all. This trimester, we will be participating in a televised parade. Monarch Entertainment is a class full of unique opportunities, special guests, and perks that only come with having behind-the-scenes access to all the action!
- **TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATIONS:** Get ready to take your tech skills to the next level! In this class, you will go beyond the basics and dive into cool tools like photogrammetry (turning photos into 3D models!) and digital mapping. You'll learn how to format text like a pro, find and cite reliable research sources, and create professional-looking presentations that impress. Along the way, you will explore the art, symbols, and international roots of the StMM church and chapel through hands-on tech projects. If you are curious, creative, and ready to explore how technology connects us to history and the world, this class is for you!
- **ADVANCED PE:** Love being physically active? Dig deeper into the realm of sports as a Monarch? Take a trimester of Advanced PE with Coach Bessler. The focus of this elective will be on the sports that are offered at StMM.