

**SAINT MARY'S HALL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2025-2026**

**CURRICULUM GUIDE**

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# SAINT MARY'S HALL MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

## FORM 6

English/Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Earth Science  
Social Science  
World Language Rotation  
Art Rotation | Art Selection  
Total Health Rotation

## FORM 7

English/Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Life Science  
Social Science  
World Language  
Fine Art  
Total Health Rotation

## FORM 8

English/Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Chemistry/Physics  
Social Science  
World Language  
Fine Art  
Total Health Rotation



# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

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## *ARTS*

### *Chorale, Music, Theatre, Speech, Debate, and Visual Arts*

Most Fine Arts classes have additional costs for the purchase of materials and/or to participate in special class-related events. For example, the costs of instruments, dance attire, camera equipment and supplies, tournament registration/participation, music, costumes, and drawing materials are often the responsibility of the student. Please contact the Director of Fine Arts or the instructor of the course for more information. Cost should never serve as a barrier to participation, and additional funds are available to support families. To learn more about this financial assistance, please contact Associate Director of Admission Joe Muller at [jmuller@smhall.org](mailto:jmuller@smhall.org).

### **FORM 6 ART ROTATION**

#### **Form 6 Art Rotation**

Course #    ART663    Form    6

Length    1 Semester    Texts: Provided by instructor

Students will explore each of the arts choices in Middle School through a 3 1/2-week deep dive into each course. Students will meet the faculty teaching the course and learn what the class is about! Classes will include: art, theatre, band, chorale, speech and debate. Form 6 students will then have the option of choosing one to focus on during the spring semester. Please note that robotics will also be a choice during the arts block in the spring semester.

### **FORM 6 ART ROTATION – SPRING SEMESTER OPTIONS**

#### **Beginning Band & Strings**

Course #    ART661    Form    6

Length    1 Semester    Texts: Provided by Instructor

Students learn to perform on traditional wind, percussion or strings instruments in a large ensemble and within sections, while developing individual musical skills. Students are required to supply their own instruments. No prior musical training is necessary.

#### **Chorale**

Course #    ART664    Form    6

Length    1 Semester    Texts: Texts: Provided by Instructor

Chorale is designed to develop students' vocal abilities and musical knowledge through a diverse repertoire of choral music. In addition to cultivating a lifelong appreciation for

music, chorale provides an introduction to proper vocal technique, music theory, and performance skills

***Intro to Theatre***

Course # ART665 Form 6

Length 1 Semester Texts: Provided by Instructor

Intro to Theatre is a one-semester course that covers basic acting techniques and introduces students to theatre history, vocabulary, and script reading. Using a hands-on approach to learning about acting, students are introduced to the basics of performing through various group and individual performances.

***Form 6 Art***

Course # ART669 Form 6

Length 1 Semester Texts:

Form 6 Art students will draw, paint and sculpt their way into the Middle School art experience. The semester long class will leave the students wanting more while setting a strong foundation in art appreciation and artistic expression. Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of design while building their art vocabulary and discovering new technical skills through a wide range of mediums. There is a materials fee.

***Intro to Debate***

Course # ART667 Form 6

Length 1 Semester Texts: Texts: Provided by Instructor

This course serves as an introduction to the world of competitive argumentation and debate. Students will be introduced to the central concepts of academic debate - we will determine effective argumentation strategies, we will dissect logical fallacies, compare evidence, and begin crafting persuasive strategies for argumentation and advocacy. Students will be introduced to Public Forum debate and will build the necessary skills to be successful debaters.

***Intro to Speech***

Course # ART668 Form 6

Length 1 Semester Texts: Provided by Instructor

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of speech communication, including verbal and non-verbal communication, public speaking, listening, and interpersonal interactions. Students will develop skills to effectively communicate in various contexts, focusing on clarity, persuasion, and audience engagement. The course includes theoretical concepts and practical exercises, with an emphasis on developing confidence in speaking.

***Foundations of STEM***

Course # SCI463 Form 6

Length 1 Semester Texts: Software: Lego Mindstorms EV3 Classroom

Exploring Technology: Foundations of STEM introduces students to the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through hands-on, project-

based learning. This course provides a strong foundation in problem-solving, design thinking, and collaboration as students engage in engineering challenges, introductory coding, and real-world technology applications.

Students will explore fundamental STEM concepts such as mechanical systems, electricity, computer programming, and digital design while developing critical thinking and teamwork skills. Through creative projects and interactive activities, students will learn how technology shapes our world and how they can become future innovators. This class encourages curiosity, experimentation, and collaboration.

## **FORMS 7 & 8 FINE ARTS COURSES**

### **MUSIC**

#### **Concert Band & Strings**

Course # ART673 Form 7 & 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Recommendation Required: Yes

Students continue their individual musical development while performing traditional band and strings repertoire. Opportunities for solo, small and large ensemble and group performances throughout the year exist for all members. Students are required to supply their own instruments.

### **THEATRE**

#### **Beginning Theatre**

Course # ART672 Form 7 & 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

The course will explore how theatre goes from page to stage. Students will learn about the technical elements of a production by designing sets, building props, and selecting costumes. Students will then bring the show to life by performing an in class play performance.

#### **Advanced Theatre**

Course # ART684 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

The course will cover more advanced topics in theatre. Topics include, Careers in Theatre, Shakespeare, Theatre History, and Directing. The semester will conclude with students presenting short directing scenes with their fellow classmates as the performers.

## **SPEECH & DEBATE**

### **Advanced Debate**

Course # ART685 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Students in this course will continue their forensics journey by delving into competitive argumentation. Students will learn concepts in Debate through preparation for and participation in Texas Forensic League and National Speech and Debate competitions and performances. Students will train to compete in tournaments in the events of Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, and Congressional Debate. Debate students are taught public speaking, argumentation, case writing, effective rebuttal strategies, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Speech and Debate students are given the opportunity to compete in a minimum of two high school level tournaments over the course of the season.

### **Advanced Speech**

Course # ART686 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Throughout this course, students will hone their public speaking, writing and performance skills by crafting events in either Original Oratory, Informative Speaking and Program Oral Interpretation. Students will gain confidence standing in front of a crowd and articulating their own thoughts and feelings about various social, political or historical topics that impact our society. Competitions will also be offered to those who wish to compete at least twice (2) a year.

## **VISUAL ART**

### **Art 7**

Course # ART671 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Students in this course will focus on making art using a variety of materials. Assignments will address technical skills using both 2 and 3-dimensional media. Through class discussions, projects, and critiques, students will begin to see how the materials and processes of art can be used to make concepts and ideas real. There is a materials fee.

### **Art 8**

Course # ART681 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Students will further explore the elements and principles of art and how to apply them to create works of art in a variety of media. Projects will include instruction in drawing, painting, design, printmaking, book arts, sculpture, and art history. Students will develop their visual creative problem solving skills and hone their perceptual abilities to create their own unique visual statements. The course focuses on expanding technical and problem

solving skills, while requiring students to think conceptually and relate their work to the contemporary world. There is a material fee.

### **FINE ARTS ADDITIONAL FEES**

*Some Fine Arts classes have additional costs (beyond fees stated above) for the purchase of materials and/or to participate in special class-related events. For example, the costs of instruments, dance attire, tournament registration/participation are the responsibility of the student.*

## ***ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS***

### ***English/Language Arts 6***

Course # ENG162 Form 6

Length Academic Year Texts: Core texts & selected paperbacks

This course is designed to help students become critical readers who can recognize recurrent themes and structures in literature and expressive writers who can write effectively about those structures. To facilitate this learning, English 6 explores the essential question, “How does your view of the world around you shape your understanding of what you read and what you write?” In Form 6 English, students study a wide range of fiction and nonfiction to make those connections. Students learn the meaning and significance of narrative elements, literary devices and strategies as they work to comprehend more complex reading material. Using mentor texts to guide them in the writing process, students begin the refinement of the many skills involved in effective writing. The course emphasizes the following key concepts in written language: prewriting strategies, writing processes, audience awareness, idea development, topic sentence and paragraph development, use of concrete details, organizational strategies, revising strategies, voice, diction, syntax, and language conventions. Students practice these concepts in a variety of assignments that include keeping a writer’s notebook, descriptive writing, personal narratives, journal entries, compare-contrast essays, opinion essays, creative writing, imitation exercises, and other expository writing pieces that help them gain experience in distinguishing “showing from telling.”

### ***English/Language Arts 7***

Course # ENG173 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Core texts & selected paperbacks

The goal of this course is to help students become critical readers who become passionate about literature, as well as expressive writers who can write effectively about literature and life. To facilitate this learning, this course utilizes a variety of literature (fiction and nonfiction) to explore the essential question: How do your social connections and relationships affect how you read and how you write? Students continue to develop their understanding of the meaning and the significance of narrative elements, literary devices, sentence structures, paragraph structures, essay structures, and reading strategies in both reading and writing assignments. A variety of assessments are used to determine each student’s level of proficiency and achievement in light of these concepts and skills. The incorporation of all aspects of the writing process, as well as substantive instructional practice in grammar, sentence structures, and paragraphing, is designed to move students along a continuum of more sophisticated writing skills. The content features a combination of selected works of fiction and nonfiction used both as literary achievements and as models for the student’s own writing. Regular writing assignments are designed to develop the student’s command of various modes and methods of writing. The following key concepts in the writing craft and process are emphasized: rhetorical form, syntax, sentence styles, word usage, structural elements, mechanics (including punctuation), idea development, topic sentence and paragraph development, revision strategies, and tone. Students practice these concepts in a variety of assignments, including: descriptive-

narrative writing, creative writing, extended definition writing, argumentative writing, imitation exercises, and other rich activities of writing engagement that help them gain experience in distinguishing showing from telling.

### ***English/Language Arts 8***

Course # ENG181 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Texts: Core texts & selected paperbacks

The study of literature develops the student’s ability to understand and use the English language—its various forms and conventions—and exposes the student to a variety of historical, cultural, social and moral dilemmas, the study and discussion of which forms the foundation for character and emotional intelligence. The linguistic and emotional intelligence exemplified in great works of literature is an invaluable aid for furthering student understanding of both language and the world around them. To facilitate this learning, Form 8 English explores the essential question, “How does the knowledge of historical, cultural, social and moral contexts shape your understanding of what you read and how you write?” Students in Form 8 English read a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry through two lenses, the sympathetic and the critical, expanding their understanding of the significance of narrative elements and literary devices, as well as sentence, paragraph, and essay structure. The students employ a variety of reading comprehension strategies to increase their ownership of their reading, and thus foster comprehension success, even with difficult texts. Students also learn to develop more stylistically complex sentences and paragraphs, using literary models to foster growth. Students use the writing process to develop mentor text-based compositions in a variety of creative and expository modes—division & classification, cause & effect, personal memoirs, short stories, and poetry. Lessons in grammar usage and mechanics provide practice with the building blocks of language—words, phrases, clauses—to enable students to convey meaning clearly, correctly and stylistically.

### ***Academic Success Seminar***

Course # ENG163 Form 6

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

The goal of the Academic Success Seminar is to enhance the reading skills of Form 6 students who exhibit characteristics of dyslexia and/or learning challenges in reading. To facilitate this improvement, students will meet with the middle school learning specialist during WIN study hall. Phonics instruction will be used to improve spelling, comprehension, and fluency, and will be integrated with reading comprehension lessons. Executive functioning counseling and support will be provided to help students become independent thinkers capable of self-advocating for their academic needs. Instruction in prefixes and suffixes, note-taking skills, and organization strategies will be incorporated into assignments to improve comprehension of the reading material. Vocabulary instruction will be introduced and reinforced throughout the school year using a variety of supplemental fiction and non-fiction literary works. Students will be able to apply the strategies learned in Academic Success Seminar to their other content area classes. Academic Success Seminar also offers opportunities for one-on-one, content-specific support for students struggling with consistently late or missing assignments.

**Academic Reading & Writing**

Course # ENG174 Form 7, 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

The goal of this course is to enhance the reading and writing skills of middle school students who exhibit characteristics of dyslexia and/or learning challenges in these areas. Students in Forms 7 and 8 will address their academic challenges through small group instruction with a middle school learning specialist. Phonics instruction will emphasize spelling, fluency, and writing. Writing assignments will focus on supporting struggling writers with organization, revision, and elaboration. Strategies from *Patterns of Power: Inviting Your Writers into the Conventions of Language* will aid students in becoming independent readers, writers, and thinkers across various subjects. Greek and Latin root instruction, note-taking skills, and organizational strategies will be woven into assignments to enhance comprehension of reading material. Vocabulary instruction will be introduced and reinforced through weekly lessons throughout the school year. Strategies learned in Academic Reading and Writing will be applied to other core content areas to demonstrate the student's overall improvement in content literacy.

## ***MATHEMATICS***

### ***Mathematics 6***

Course # MAT361 Form 6

Length Academic Year Texts: Basic College Mathematics, MyMathLab, the online component and

Mathematics 6 focuses on the mastery of those arithmetic concepts introduced in the Forms 4 and 5. Computation skills used in operating with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, percents, ratio, and proportions are polished and reinforced through problem solving with real world applications. Additional units include work with metric and customary measures, probability, integers and geometry.

### ***Pre-Algebra 6***

Course # MAT362 Form 6

Length Academic Year Texts: Pre-Algebra, MyMathLab, the online component and electronic textbook

Pre-Algebra 6 is a fast-paced class as students skip the review of Math 6. This course seeks to prepare students for Algebra in Form 7 by investigating essential mathematical topics with an emphasis on process and problem solving. Students have extensive practice using fractions, decimals, percents, integers, and variables. In addition, they solve proportions and multiple step equations and inequalities. Geometric concepts including surface area and volume are covered, and the students begin graphing lines on a coordinate plane. Students are expected to maintain an 85 average to remain in the course.

### ***Algebra 7***

Course # MAT371 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Texts: Algebra I, MyMathLab, the online component and electronic textbook

Algebra 7 is a fast-paced class that begins with an in-depth study of linear functions. Key topics also include solutions of linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, graphs of linear equations, and operations on rational and radical expressions. Students are exposed to a higher degree of abstraction and problem solving. The TI 84 Plus graphing calculator is required. Students are expected to maintain an 85 average to remain in the course.

### ***Mathematics 7***

Course # MAT374 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Pre-Algebra, MyMathLab, the online component and electronic textbook

Mathematics 7 builds on foundational arithmetic skills and introduces key algebraic concepts to prepare students for Math 8. Students master computation with fractions, decimals, integers, and percents while developing problem-solving skills through real-world applications. Emphasis is placed on proportional reasoning, percent applications, and introductory equation solving. Additional units include geometry concepts such as perimeter, area, volume, and surface area, as well as an introduction to probability and data analysis.

**Pre-Algebra 7**

Course # MAT372 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Pre-Algebra, MyMathLab, the online component and electronic textbook

Pre-Algebra seeks to prepare students for Algebra in Form 8 by investigating essential mathematical topics with an emphasis on process and problem solving. Students will have extensive practice using fractions, decimals, percents, integers, and variables. In addition, they will solve proportions and multiple step equations and inequalities. Geometric concepts including surface area and volume are covered, and the students begin graphing on a coordinate plane.

**Algebra 8**

Course # MAT381 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Texts: Algebra I, MyMathLab (the online component and electronic textbook)

Algebra 8 begins with the study of the structure of the real number system. Key topics include solutions of linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, graphs of linear equations, and operations on rational and radical expressions. Problem solving is emphasized throughout the year, with a special focus on the mathematical modeling of real-world situations. The TI 84 Plus graphing calculator is required.

**Geometry 8**

Course # MAT382 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Geometry, MyMathLab (the online component and electronic textbook)

Geometry 8 is a fast-paced class. After a unit on symbolic logic, the postulates and theorems of plane and solid geometry are used to illustrate the deductive method in mathematics. The focus of the first semester is on two-column proofs related to parallelism, congruence, and similarity. Second semester topics include areas, volumes, and a brief introduction to trigonometry and analytic geometry. The TI 84 Plus graphing calculator is required. Students are expected to maintain an 85 average to remain in the course.

**Mathematics 8**

Course # MAT384 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Pre-Algebra, MyMathLab, the online component and electronic textbook

Mathematics 8 builds on prior knowledge and prepares students for high school-level Algebra. Students solve multi-step equations and inequalities, analyze linear relationships using graphs and tables, and explore concepts such as slope and functions. Geometry topics include angle relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, and finding surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures. Real-world problem solving and mathematical reasoning are emphasized throughout the course.

## ***SCIENCE & EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY***

### ***Earth & Space Systems***

Course # SCI461 Form 6

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Earth and Space Systems Science is an inquiry-based approach to the study of Earth and Space System science.. The geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and exosphere, and the interactions between them including the universe, galaxies and stars, Earth-Moon-Sun system, components of the atmosphere, the water cycle and groundwater, oceans, weather and climate, and changes to the surface of the earth will be covered. Students learn science and engineering by designing and conducting investigations in a collaborative learning environment. Laboratory work consists of investigations and activities that cover the concepts of earth system science. Emphasis is placed on improvement of problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and scientific practices, including experimental design.

### ***Life Science***

Course # SCI472 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Life science is a foundational biology course focusing on seeking knowledge about life and its interconnectedness. The course explores the study of living organisms, their characteristics and classification, basic life functions, physiology, including human biology, and ecology, along with cell biology, genetics and evolution. Students learn science by conducting projects and investigations, including laboratory work, in a collaborative learning environment. Emphasis is placed on making connections and on developing problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills and scientific practices, including experimental design.

### ***Introduction to Chemistry & Physics***

Course # SCI484 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Texts: Provided by Instructor

Introduction to Chemistry and Physics is an inquiry-based, preparatory chemistry and physics course covering beginning concepts in chemistry and physics. The fall semester is an introduction to chemistry and includes properties and classification of matter, the structure of atoms, the development and trends of the periodic table, chemical reactions, and solutions. In the spring semester, the focus shifts to physics and includes motion, forces, work and energy transformations, electricity and magnetism, harmonic motion, heat and temperature and nuclear energy. Students learn science and engineering by designing and conducting investigations in a collaborative learning environment. Laboratory work consists of investigations and activities that cover the concepts of chemistry and physics. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and scientific practices, including experimental design.

## **EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY**

### ***Innovations in STEM & Engineering***

Course # SCI473 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Recommendation Required: Yes

Exploring Technology: Innovation in STEM & Engineering builds upon the foundational skills developed in Exploring Technology: Foundations of STEM, challenging students to apply their knowledge in more advanced and innovative ways. This year-long course deepens students' understanding of engineering design, emerging technologies, and computational thinking through hands-on projects and real-world problem-solving.

Students will explore key STEM concepts such as mechanical engineering, automation, digital fabrication, and advanced coding while working through collaborative challenges that emphasize creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork. Through engaging projects in robotics, electronics, and design-based thinking, students will develop essential skills for future STEM careers and innovation.

This course encourages students to design, prototype, and test their ideas using engineering principles while fostering leadership and collaboration. By the end of the course, students will have a stronger grasp of how technology and engineering impact the world and how they can contribute to advancements in STEM fields.

### ***Applied STEM & Competitive Engineering***

Course # SCI481 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Provided by Instructor

Recommendation Required: Yes

Exploring Technology: Applied STEM & Competitive Engineering is the culmination of the Exploring Technology sequence, challenging students to apply their STEM, engineering, and programming knowledge in real-world problem-solving and competitive robotics. This course builds on concepts from Foundations of STEM and Innovation in STEM & Engineering, introducing advanced design principles, systems engineering, automation, and computational thinking.

Students will engage in complex engineering challenges, prototype development, and team-based innovation, while also preparing for and competing in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC). Each student will take on a specialized team role—such as engineer, programmer, designer, researcher, or strategist—developing leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving skills essential for future STEM careers.

Through hands-on projects, iterative design, and competition-based learning, students will deepen their understanding of engineering principles, robotics, coding, and project management. This course not only strengthens technical skills but also fosters creativity, teamwork, and perseverance as students tackle real-world challenges through FTC and beyond.

## ***SOCIAL SCIENCES***

### ***Form 6 Social Sciences:***

Course # SOC261

Form 6

#### ***The Power of Perspective***

Length Academic Year

Texts: *Boxers and Saints* by Gene Yang

Students in Form 6 Social Studies focus on the geography, history and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere, through an examination of the themes of narrative and perspectives. Utilizing interactive learning strategies, students investigate the development of ancient civilizations in river valleys with a focus on China, the development and beliefs of major world religions and philosophies, and the Middle Ages in Europe. Students conclude the year by learning about case studies of the Boxer Rebellion in China, the Indian Independence Movement in India and resistance to apartheid in South Africa. Throughout the content, special attention will be given to how historical narratives are shaped by the perspective of the story-teller and vice-versa. Our supplementary reading enriches our instruction on perspectives by examining China's Boxer Rebellion in Gene Yang's graphic novel, *Boxers and Saints* from two opposing viewpoints, complicating the narrative of good vs evil. This emphasis on studying the past and twentieth and twenty-first-century topics concurrently through a thematic lens prepares students for similar thematic studies in the Form 9 Global Studies curriculum. Specific case studies, analysis of how the past informs our present and the examination of primary sources engage Form 6 students in active learning.

### ***Form 7 Social Sciences:***

Course # SOC271

Form 7

#### ***The Power of Technology***

Length Academic Year

Texts: Provided by Instructor

This course will explore the theme of *The Power of Technology*. Class lead discussions, group work, journal reflections, research projects, videos, and current events work will be the methods used to explore technology's history, economic impact, and social impact on humanity from the past to the present. The year will open with the focus of defining technology and understanding that it has a wide-reaching impact. Surveying the Silk Road, Columbian Exchange, and the Scientific Revolution will help build a foundation to explore modern day health and environment technology. The class focus will shift to the great inventions of the world and their impact globally and especially on our lives presently. The year will conclude with a study of war and technology.

### ***Form 8 Social Sciences:***

Course # SOC281

Form 8

#### ***The Power of Community***

Length Academic Year

Texts: *Exploring Civics & Economics* McGraw Hill and *Night* by Elie Wiesel

First semester, students embark on a study of the origins of the American government, including the Constitution, the three branches of government, and the electoral process.

Additionally, a current events element ensures that students analyze contemporary issues within the context of the historical principles they are studying, fostering a real-world understanding of civic engagement.

Second semester, focus is shifted to action and resistance with a study of World War II, the Holocaust, and a literary connection with Elie Wiesel's *Night*. A focus on current events will continue, allowing students to connect historical lessons with present-day challenges. The exploration of citizenship, civic participation, state and local governments, and a capstone project in the fourth quarter encourage students to apply their understanding of civics to the complexities of the contemporary world. Through this course, students will not only learn about the historical origins of civic principles but also develop the skills to critically analyze and respond to the pressing issues of today.

## ***TOTAL HEALTH***

A rotation of Health, Wellness, and Fitness and/or Movement classes prepare students for a healthy lifestyle. All students will participate in one quarter of Health and one quarter of Wellness. For the two quarters of movement classes, students may choose from fitness or movement class. Students may request one quarter of Fitness and one quarter of Movement or they may choose two quarters of Fitness or 2 quarters of Movement.

### ***Fitness***

Course # HW961 Form 6, 7 & 8

Length 1 Quarter

Fitness for strength, flexibility, and conditioning will enable students to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and maintain a health-enhancing level of health & fitness and to increase physical competence, self esteem and the motivation to pursue lifelong physical activity and wellness. Students will gain an understanding of the components of health-related fitness, training principles, and the understanding of the need for physical wellbeing. Students will spend time in the weight room and work on HIIT activities. Students will participate in activities that will increase physical fitness levels and develop health practices that value physical activity. They understand injury prevention and safety.

### ***Health***

Course # HW962 Form 6, 7 & 8

Length 1 Quarter

Middle School health classes focus primarily on physical health and the interplay between physical, social, emotional, and occupational dimensions of wellness. All content is approached from a scientific perspective, with an emphasis on medically-based terminology, critical consumption of health information, and self-reflection. Some topics are repeated each year while others are unique to one particular form level. Throughout the quarter, students engage in hands-on projects, activities, and discussions to explore key topics. Most graded assignments include a self-assessment component, where students rate and justify with evidence their learning and participation during a unit of study. All form levels learn about healthy academic habits as well as identifying and responding to mistreatment. Additionally, in Form 6 students begin to engage in the goal-setting cycle and learn strategies for keeping the body healthy and safe. In Form 7, students continue to practice with the goal-setting cycle and complete a unit of study on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. In Form 8, students continue working through the goal-setting cycle and learn about nutrition.

The Form 6 sexual health unit focuses on the body, identity, and safety, with specific topics such as: media analysis and internet safety, reproductive anatomy and physiology, body image, and gender and sexual orientation. The Form 7 sexual health unit focuses on healthy and unhealthy relationships, with specific topics such as components of healthy relationships, communication skills, teen dating violence, consent, sexual harassment and assault, and navigating heartbreak. The Form 8 sexual health unit focuses on safety and

prevention, with specific topics such as contraception, STI prevention, phone and internet safety, and a series of reflective exercises to consider their own values related to sexual health.

### ***Movement***

Course # HW963 Form 6, 7 & 8

Length 1 Quarter

Movement class will be moving their body through dance, yoga, walking and other activities to keep them moving. The class will increase physical competence, self esteem and the motivation to pursue lifelong physical activity and wellness while developing healthy practices that value physical activity.

### ***Wellness***

Course # HW964 Form 6, 7 & 8

Length 1 Quarter Texts: Provided by Instructor; DBT Skills in Schools,  
[www.chrisintheclassroom.com](http://www.chrisintheclassroom.com),

Welcome to Wellness, a dynamic, engaging, and interactive course tailored for middle school students eager to explore their self-identity and develop essential life skills. In this dynamic class, students will embark on a journey of self-discovery, delving into their values, interests, beliefs, and character strengths. Through a blend of mindfulness practices, emotional regulation techniques, and interpersonal skills development, participants will equip themselves with practical strategies to navigate stress, overcome emotional challenges, and cultivate meaningful relationships with family, friends, and peers.

Think of this course as your personal toolkit for life. It's designed to empower you to make thoughtful decisions and gain a deeper understanding of your feelings and how they connect to the world around you. Expect a hands-on experience filled with personal reflection and collaborative project-based work, allowing you to practice leadership and teamwork while also encouraging self-exploration.

By the end of this course, you will sharpen your critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, gaining valuable insights into both yourself and your environment. You'll leave with a toolkit of skills that not only help you manage challenges but also foster authentic connections and help you find balance in your life. Join us on this exciting adventure of self-discovery and growth—your journey to wellness starts here!

## ***WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES***

### ***Saint Mary's Hall World Languages and Cultures Mission Statement:***

Language and communication are at the heart of human experience. Humans live in culture generated by language and to learn another language is an opportunity to gain profound insight into who we are. The Saint Mary's Hall World Languages and Cultures Department is dedicated to the education of students who communicate with intellect and compassion in our multicultural society.

The Middle School World Languages and Cultures Program develops confident communicators with a strong understanding of language and a deep appreciation for culture. In Form 6, the World Languages program fosters and develops citizens of the world with a breadth of knowledge of a variety of different languages and cultures. Students are introduced to the three languages offered at Saint Mary's Hall; French, Latin and Spanish and to a computer language in a quarterly rotation. The courses are designed to give students an introduction to the language and its culture so they can make an informed decision when selecting the language they will study for the next two years.

### ***FORM 6 WORLD LANGUAGES & COMPUTER LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS***

***Discovery Coding Language Rotation***      Course #      SCI462      Form      6  
Length      1 Quarter      Texts: Software: Scratch

Discovery Coding Language introduces students to the fundamentals of coding using Scratch, a visual programming language. In this hands-on course, students will explore the basics of programming through the visual coding platform Scratch. By designing and creating interactive stories, animations, games, and projects, students will strengthen their critical thinking, creativity, and logic skills. Each activity is designed to encourage curiosity, experimentation, and collaboration, laying a strong foundation for future technology learning and innovation.

***Discovery French Language & Culture Rotation***      Course #      LAN561      Form      6  
Length      Academic Year      Texts: Provided by Instructor

The Discovery French Language and Culture rotation provides students with a basic introduction to the French language and Francophone cultures. The aim is to build students' listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities in French, while also learning about French-speaking countries and cultures around the globe. The students will begin to develop French conversational skills including the development of correct pronunciation, colloquial speech, and vocabulary inherent to everyday situations. A variety of methods

and strategies will be used to engage, inspire, and challenge students. Students are introduced to basic grammatical structures, vocabulary for everyday conversations, and an exploration of cultural celebrations, geography, cuisine, and music. In addition to the French curriculum, students will explore a variety of video clips, songs, and interactive games. Upon completion of this rotation, students may choose to continue on to French IA in Form 7.

***Discovery Latin Language & Roman Culture Rotation***                      Course #    LAN561                      Form    6

Length    Academic Year    Texts: Texts: Provided by Instructor

Discovery Latin Language and Culture is a general introduction to the language, people, culture, and religion of the ancient Roman world. Largely, the course emphasizes vocabulary building - both Latin and, consequently, derived English vocabulary. Students will develop a better understanding of relationships between Latin words and their many English derivatives. Students will also engage in discussions, games, and projects on Greek mythology, Roman culture and historical figures. As part of the Discovery syllabus students learn a variety of categorized vocabulary including: animals, art/architecture, body parts, cardinal/ordinal numbers, colors, commands, family, oral Latin, mottoes/expressions/idioms, nature, and Roman items (clothing, entertainment, housing, meals). These vocabulary topics are reinforced through a variety of media, including games, videos, and Certamen, the quiz-bowl style buzzer game.

Upon completion of this rotation, students may choose to continue on to Latin IA in Form 7.

***Discovery Spanish Language & Culture Rotation***                      Course #    LAN563                      Form    6

Length    Academic Year    Texts: Provided by Instructor

The Discovery Spanish rotation aims to enhance students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities in the language, while also introducing them to the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. To achieve this, a variety of methods and strategies will be employed to engage, inspire, and challenge each student. Songs, videos, and interactive games will enhance the student's learning experience and cultural awareness. The curriculum covers key elements of Spanish vocabulary, grammatical structures, and conversational development on everyday topics. Upon completion of this rotation, students may choose to continue on to Spanish IA in Form 7 or may be recommended to take the placement evaluation for the Accelerated Spanish Language and Culture class.

## FORM 7 & 8 WORLD LANGUAGES

### FRENCH

#### **French Language & Culture 1A**

Course # LAN572 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: D'Accord Level I, text and Cahier de l'élève (first half of the text) 2024 edition, Supersite Plus access

French IA is the first half of a Middle School program that is the equivalent of Upper School level French I. This course reviews and recycles vocabulary and grammar seen in the Discovery French exploratory course and then moves to the more complex content materials presented in the textbook, D'Accord I. Students also practice skills in a student workbook and online website that accompany the text, developing their proficiency in more complex grammatical structures. French is spoken in the classroom, strengthening students' aural comprehension, oral proficiency, and the basic skills necessary to function in a French-speaking environment. Through a variety of guided activities that appeal to different learning styles and encourage active participation, students develop conversational skills to prepare them for everyday situations. Students also become acquainted with the many different aspects of French culture and the Francophone world, thus leading them to a greater understanding of people and places with which they may not be familiar. A variety of activities encourage students to use simple conversation in everyday situations, and students are expected to master the application of the models of correct colloquial speech. Audio-visual materials include DVD's, video clips, online activities through the supersite, and interactive games. Students will have the option to take the National French Exam in the spring. Upon completion, students will continue to French IB.

#### **French Language & Culture 1B**

Course # LAN582 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: D'Accord Level I, text and Cahier de l'élève (second half of the text) 2024 edition, Supersite Plus access

Recommendation Required: Yes

French IB is the second half of a Middle School program begun in form 7. It completes the course study of the textbook started in Form 7. With successful completion of the course, students should be eligible for French II in the Upper School. The French language is used exclusively in the classroom, thus strengthening the students' oral/aural comprehension and encouraging interaction among classroom peers. Developing a higher level of proficiency in the basic language skills is the focus of this year's French classes. An appreciation of the target cultures continues through cultural lessons that help to enhance global awareness. There is an emphasis on vocabulary building and using the target language in a variety of contexts. Grammar concepts studied become more complex and students are expected to use those concepts in both oral and written work. Audio-visual materials include DVD's, video clips, online activities through the supersite, and interactive games. Emphasis is placed on the ability to use the language in a logical, thoughtful manner and to function effectively in a French-speaking environment. Additionally,

students are expected to express themselves in writing, using proper grammar and spelling. Students will have the option to take the National French Exam in the spring.

## **LATIN**

### **Latin Language & Roman Culture 1A** Course # LAN573 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Texts: Suburani Book I and digital account, Hands-Up Education

Latin IA is the first half of the Middle School Latin program, which, when completed (after Latin 1B), is equivalent to completing Upper School Latin I. Students will use the Suburani (NA edition) Book 1, which teaches Latin and Roman culture through the eyes of the diverse residents of the Subura, a neighborhood in ancient Rome. Students will continue with the same book in the 1B course in Form 8. Culture and language acquisition is reinforced by the extensive use of multimedia resources and interactive activities to aid, consolidate and assess understanding. Key grammatical structures covered this year are: present, imperfect, and perfect verb tenses; noun and adjective agreement; and personal pronouns. Depending on the JCL syllabus, students will learn Roman history with an emphasis on either the Empire, or the Monarchy/Republic periods. Keen students may also begin to prepare for competitive Certamen, a classical quiz-bowl game, and play against local teams. Students participate in up to four online specialized-content contests: national exams in Latin/Greek roots, Roman civilization, Latin vocabulary, and mythology. Participation in one Junior Classical League event (either the February Area Convention or the State Convention in March) is a course requirement.

### **Latin Language & Roman Culture 1B** Course # LAN583 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Suburani Book I, Hands-Up Education (keep from Latin 1A), Suburani Book I digital account

Recommendation Required: Yes

Latin IB is the second half of the Middle School Latin program, which, when completed is equivalent to completing Upper School Latin I. Students will increase their efficiency in reading and translating Latin. As in Latin IA, course book material is reinforced with multimedia resources and interactive activities. Building on the IA course, key grammatical structures include: pluperfect tense; all noun cases in five declensions; irregular verbs; 1st, 2nd and 3rd declension adjectives; demonstrative, personal, reflexive, intensive and possessive pronouns. Students may participate in one to four online, specialized-content contests, which are national exams in Latin/Greek roots, Roman civilization, Latin vocabulary, and mythology. They will also prepare for Level I of the National Latin Exam. Participation in one Junior Classical League event (either the February Area Convention or the State Convention in March) is a course requirement.

## **SPANISH**

### **Spanish Language & Culture 1A**

Course # LAN574 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Descubre Nivel 1 with Prime online resources 2022 Edition (first half)

During this course, students will develop a level of proficiency in all four basic language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) with the goal of producing language in meaningful ways. Cultural lessons enable the students to attain a heightened appreciation of the target cultures and greater global awareness. Students study more complex grammatical structures and concepts, learning to express themselves in the present and in the near future tenses. More than simply enhancing their recognition of language, students will work to incorporate the new linguistic material into their active speech and written work. Throughout the year, students will also work on developing their ability to respond spontaneously and creatively to questions, situations, and visual prompts orally and in writing. The course is taught in Spanish; daily conversations and dialogues, structured pair and small group activities, computer-based exercises, and audiovisual materials provide students with ample opportunities for oral practice and listening. Supplementary reading selections will expand the students' passive vocabulary. Students will have the option to take the National Spanish Exam in the spring.

### **Spanish Language & Culture 1B**

Course # LAN584 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Descubre Nivel 1 with Prime online resources 2022 Edition (second half)

Recommendation Required: Yes

The Spanish Language and Culture IB course builds upon the foundation established in Spanish Language and Culture IA. The primary focus is to enhance students' Spanish language proficiency through interactive activities, including conversations, writing assignments, and reading comprehension. The course follows a communicative and task-based approach to language learning, designed to develop students' competency in all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In addition to language acquisition, the course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures and societies. By exploring cultural norms, values, and traditions, students will be better equipped to interact socially and professionally with native Spanish speakers. To achieve this, students will review and improve their mastery of Spanish grammar structures, particularly the present tense, and broaden their vocabulary with the introduction of new structures such as the present progressive and preterit tense, as well as direct and indirect object pronouns. Furthermore, the class will delve into Hispanic culture and society through textbook materials and real-life experiences of the Hispanic community in and around San Antonio, as well as explore the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will have the option to take the National Spanish Exam in the spring.

## **ACCELERATED SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE PROGRAM**

### **CONTINUING SAINT MARY'S HALL STUDENTS:**

Criteria for acceptance into the Accelerated Spanish Language and Culture Program:

- Strong recommendation from the Form 5 and Form 6 Spanish teachers based on student progress, participation, attitude in class, and enthusiasm for the language.
- A strong ability to understand spoken Spanish and to be able to produce the language. This is evaluated through review of student work and during an oral interview by the Middle School Curriculum Coordinator and Spanish teachers.
- A strong ability to write in Spanish, demonstrated through review of student work and the writing task on the placement assessment.
- An ideal ASLC student is highly motivated, possesses strong study skills and embodies a true passion for the language and culture

### **NEW SAINT MARY'S HALL STUDENTS:**

Criteria for acceptance into the Accelerated Spanish Language and Culture Program:

- A strong performance on the placement assessment given by the ASLC teacher, the Curriculum Coordinator and/or one of our MS Spanish teachers.
- A solid record as a student who is highly motivated, possesses strong study skills and embodies a true passion for the Spanish language and culture.
- A strong ability to understand spoken Spanish and to be able to produce the language. This will be evaluated by an oral interview.

**Please note:** Once accepted into the ASLC program, the student must maintain an 85% average to remain in the class and/or have teacher recommendation and approval. If not, the student will be moved into the regular Spanish program either at semester or the following academic year.

***Accelerated Spanish  
Language & Culture I***

Course # LAN564 Form 7

Length Academic Year Texts: Senderos 1, 2023 Edition with Prime digital access

Recommendation Required: Yes

ASLC I is the first part of the full immersion program that continues in Form 8. This course will help develop a higher level of proficiency by continuing to build students' knowledge of Spanish structure through exercises that reinforce and expand all four areas of language acquisition. Particular emphasis continues to be placed on grammar, writing, expanding vocabulary, and listening and reading comprehension. The ASLC I course provides authentic material from the student text and a variety of supplemental resources that include art, music, cuisine, film and literature. The course offers a strong reading and writing program; through literary study, the students will learn about different countries and cultures and the people that live in them, thus leading the students to a better understanding of the Spanish speaking world. ASLC I uses Senderos 1 as the textbook to provide the students with grammar lessons, structure usage and to teach them the essentials of both the Spanish and Latin American civilizations.

***Accelerated Spanish  
Language & Culture II***

Course # LAN571 Form 8

Length Academic Year Texts: Senderos 2, 2023 Edition with Prime digital access

Recommendation Required: Yes

ASLC II serves as the last course of the full immersion Accelerated Spanish program in Middle School. During this course, students will achieve a higher level of proficiency in reading, writing, listening and reading comprehension. More complex grammatical structures and concepts will allow students to effectively communicate in Spanish in realistic situations, elaborating dialogue covering a wide variety of subjects. The course also helps prepare them to interact socially with native Spanish speakers by helping them understand the cultural assumptions and norms of the Spanish-speaking world. A large variety of activities, such as research projects, oral presentations, and writing assignments, continue to develop language acquisition and perfection. Additionally, the students will learn about different countries, cultures and the people that live in them through literary study. Authentic materials will also give them ample opportunities to compare and contrast various Spanish speaking cultures and provide them with the strategies and knowledge necessary to develop an understanding of the Spanish and the Hispanic culture. ASLC II uses Senderos 2 as the textbook to provide the students with grammar lessons, structure usage and to continue to teach them the essentials of both the Spanish and Latin American civilizations.

## ***AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY BLOCK***

The After School Activity Block offerings are on a seasonal basis- Fall, Winter, and Spring. Intensive dance classes and music lessons are based on the instructor.

### ***DANCE***

#### ***Dance: Ballet Production***

Form 6, 7 & 8

Season: Fall & Winter

Students will have daily study in proper ballet and modern dance, as well as choreography. Fall semester dancers will perform in the Middle and Upper School Contemporary Dance Production Kaleidoscope. Winter/Spring dancers will perform in the Middle and Upper School Ballet Production. Students may elect to take a full year of dance, fall semester only, or Winter and Spring dance. Students may also register for Afternoon Dance classes.

#### ***Dance: Kaleidoscope***

Form 6, 7 & 8

Season: Spring

Students will have daily study in ballet and modern dance, as well as choreography. Fall semester dancers will perform in the Middle and Upper School Contemporary Dance Production Kaleidoscope. Winter/Spring dancers will perform in the Middle and Upper School Ballet Production. Students may elect to take a full year of dance, fall semester only, or Winter and Spring dance. Students may also register for Afternoon Dance classes.

#### ***Afternoon Intensive Dance***

Form 6, 7 & 8

Season: Year Round

Afternoon classes in ballet, jazz, modern, folklorico, hip-hop, and more for beginners and serious students alike. Dance classes are featured in the fall and spring productions. Classes typically begin at 5:00pm or later. Classes are fee-based. See the SMH Dance Website for more information.

### ***THEATRE***

#### ***Musical Production***

Form 8

Season: Fall

Students will have the opportunity to actively participate in the upper school fall musical production. Students will attend auditions and be assigned roles onstage or backstage. The production will be presented to an audience at the conclusion of the season. Only Form 8 students who are registered for the Upper School Musical Production are eligible to participate in the production.

**Theatre Production**

Form 6, 7 & 8

Season: Winter

Students will have the opportunity to actively participate in play production. Students will be assigned roles onstage or backstage. The production will be presented to an audience at the conclusion of the season. Only students who are registered for the Winter Season Theatre Production are eligible to participate in the Middle School Drama Production.

**MUSIC**

**Private Music Instruction**

Form 6, 7 & 8

Season: Year Round

Lessons are available to Middle School students in guitar, piano, violin/viola, and voice. Lessons are offered after school or during lunch. Lessons are fee based.

**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY BLOCK OPTIONS**

<b>Fall Season</b>	Girls' Field Hockey
	2-Season Dance Production
	Girls' Volleyball
	6-Man Football
	Flag Football (Form 6)
	Cross Country
<b>Winter Season</b>	Boy's & Girls' Basketball
	Boys' & Girls' Soccer
	2-Season Dance Production
	Middle School Theatre Production
<b>Spring Season</b>	Girls' Softball
	Boys' Baseball
	Kaleidoscope – Dance Production
	Boys' & Girls' Lacrosse
	Golf
	Track and Field
	Tennis

**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY BLOCK FEE**

**A one-time \$250 fee will be charged to your book bill for enrolling/participating.**