

Enrichment Week Frequently Asked Questions

How are students chosen for each course/trip?

Priority numbers are used to place students in their courses. Priority numbers are created in a student's freshman year and will alternate each year, giving the student a better chance of getting their first or second choice. Over 98% of the students in the past few years have gotten one of their 3 choices each year. The optimal number of students is 16 - 4 students from each grade level.

Important: A student's conduct at school will be considered when determining selection for overnight trips as well as off-campus courses. The Administration, Directors and Counselors will review rosters before being published, and if a student has a record of violating the guidelines/boundaries at school then we will not take them on an overnight trip or off campus. This includes students who are repeatedly out of dress code and have attendance and tardy issues.

Do seniors get priority?

Not necessarily. The purpose of Enrichment Week is to blend the classes together and to give students the opportunity to meet new students and adults. However, almost all seniors & juniors get their 1st choice of courses. In the case of travel opportunities, priority may be given to the senior who has not yet had the chance to travel during Enrichment Week during their time at Saint Mary's.

How are the group sizes determined?

It depends on the number of students who sign up for the course. We consider the transportation needs for each course and make decisions based on that. If 20 students sign up for a course but our school vans can only accommodate 8 then we will either choose 8 students for 1 van or increase the course size to 16 and add a van and driver/chaperone. For travel groups, transportation and available housing often determines group size.

For example, a few years ago one of the trips was limited to 14 students because of the vans they were able to rent.

How is the gender balance determined for courses?

Seeing how many male and female applications will determine the makeup of the course. If only 1 male or female has chosen the course or trip OR only one student from a specific grade level signs up for a course or trip, then we talk with the student to find out their comfort level. When traveling they would need their own room; therefore, there may be an additional cost for that student.

For example: On a recent trip, only 1 freshman girl applied. She would have to room with 3 junior girls. She was fine with it as well as the juniors. The freshman girl had a great experience, and it was the only time she travelled in her 4 years.

Another example: A senior registers for a course that will be mostly freshman and sophomores; we would meet talk rosters are published to see if they are comfortable with that choice. Sometimes, they choose a different course and sometimes they stay with the course because they really want to have that experience.

FAQ for Enrichment Week Travel

Where do the groups stay while they are traveling?

Some of our groups stay in hotels and homes rented through Airbnb or VRBO. Students will share rooms or sleep on a rollaway bed or sofa. They will also share chores and other responsibilities.

Can I use my accumulated miles to purchase my child's airline ticket?

No, we do all airline bookings through our tour company, TSA Tours.

Is there financial assistance available for Immersion Programs?

Yes, there is limited financial assistance available for the **Immersion Programs only**. If you are requesting financial assistance please contact Calvin Deng, Director of Finance via email at cdeng@stmchs.org.

Is there financial assistance available for all other Enrichment Week trips?

No, trips must be fully funded by the family. There are times that the Business Office will bill over additional months making the monthly payments more manageable.

How will families be billed for the trips?

Once the rosters are finalized in January, the Business Office will bill each family for their child's course. All questions for billing should be directed to Ms. Beth Fisher – bfisher@stmchs.org.