ST PAUL'S
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

2026–2027

ELECTIVE TITLE	TEACHER(S)	ELECTIVE DESCRIPTION
BROADCAST MEDIA	Mr. Byars	"Broadcast Journalism" is basically a complicated way of saying, "making videos and audio recordings for other people to see." We have three broadcast journalism outlets here at St. Paul's: SPSN (the St. Paul's Sports Network), SPS Radio (our student-run radio station), and the SPS Voice (our online newspaper). The Broadcast Journalism elective won't really be a traditional class, but more of a chance to work in a professional setting by being a staff member at any or all these three broadcast journalism outlets, and to learn the skills involved by doing real work that will be seen and heard by others. You'll be able to have your own sports-themed show on SPSN or SPS Radio, write news stories about events happening in the SPS community, or basically anything you can think of that you'd be interested in writing or talking about.
BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART	Ms. Downs	Building Community Through Art is perfect for students who thrive in a team setting and want to see their art make a real-world difference. It's a hands-on, collaborative visual arts elective designed for curious and motivated students who are passionate about using creativity to make a difference. This course emphasizes teamwork, imagination, and the power of art to bring people together. Students will engage in the full creative process—from brainstorming and designing to building and showcasing—with the shared goal of creating at least one large-scale artwork that will have a lasting, positive impact on our school or local community. Along the way, you'll build artistic skills, strengthen your voice as a visual communicator, and experience the rewarding challenge of creating something bigger than yourself. (8 students max.)
ENTREPRENEURSHIP 101	Mr. McCloskey	In our middle school entrepreneurship elective, students will embark on an exciting journey of creativity and innovation. They'll learn essential entrepreneurial skill sets by cultivating creativity, resilience, and adaptability alongside problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. Through understanding value proposition, they'll discover how to craft design features meet the needs of their target market. Moreover, they'll delve into market research to analyze trends, gather insights, and make informed decisions. Finally, students will engage in hands-on learning by designing a product and navigating the prototyping process, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset that transcends the classroom.

ST PAUL'S
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

FINANCIAL LITERACY	Mr. Ford / Ms. Roberts	St. Paul's is excited to introduce an engaging and practical financial literacy course designed specifically for 7–8th graders! We will explore the fascinating world of personal finance and the real-world applications. Students will be empowered to learn essential skills like budgeting, saving, understanding financial interest, managing debt, and even delving into the stock market. Through interactive lessons and relatable examples, students will gain the knowledge and confidence to navigate their own personal finances. With this basic financial understanding, students can successfully enter the ever-evolving world of personal financial accountability and planning.
HISTORY MAKERS	Mr. Jameson	History Makers is an investigative research course. Students will select, read and analyze articles from local, regional, and international news outlets that peak their interests. After reading articles, students will practice interviewing skills by interviewing someone in our school community about the topic they chose. Finally, boys will practice public speaking skills by creating presentations about their findings to present to their peers who will evaluate the presentations and provide feedback
HONORS CHOIR	Mr. Warren **May require "audition" process*	The Honors Choir elective allows students to participate in a more in-depth music opportunity than the standard grade-level music class. Students will develop strong music literacy, ear training, and performance skills while performing a wide variety of music from different time periods and cultures. Students will perform in both the December and May concerts and will travel as a group for other events. They will also represent the school in multiple performances throughout the school year. Honors choir is a full-year commitment. Students are enrolled in honors choir during their "arts" block in the fall semester and during their "electives" block in the spring semester. This way, students still experience another art and another elective. Interested students should be good team players, diligent workers, and excited about music. Auditions are generally not required for students with a prior music background. New students, students who have not taken a prior music class, or students that received a grade lower than A in their most recent prior music class MAY be asked to schedule an interview/audition to ensure they are ready for the accelerated pace of rehearsal required for this course.
LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SPEAKING	Ms. Moore & Ms. Weinstein	Leadership does not consist merely in formal roles and titles. There are different approaches to leadership that are appropriate in different contexts. Leadership is a life skill that should be considered central to education. It is a practice with essential elements that can be understood, articulated, and learned. Effective leaders are also effective communicators; students will learn the fundamentals of effective public speaking, analyze historic speeches, and practice presenting on a variety of topics. Students will develop a personal definition of leadership and identify opportunities to demonstrate leadership, work with others on a team, recognizing and valuing the diversity of individuals on the team and how they can contribute, identify productive approaches to problem solving and conflict resolution, and act confidently as a leader in everyday situations.

ST PAUL'S
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MARINE SCIENCE	Mr. Colton	Dive into the wonders of the ocean in this engaging elective focused on the marine systems of the Southern Hemisphere, with a special emphasis on Australia. Students will explore key topics in oceanography, including ocean currents, tides, and the physical and chemical properties of seawater. Discover the diversity of marine life, from microscopic plankton to majestic whales, and examine how these species interact within complex ocean ecosystems. The course also tackles critical environmental issues such as sustainability, the impact of plastic pollution, and the importance of marine conservation. Through hands-on investigations, multimedia resources, and local case studies, students will gain a deeper understanding of the ocean's role in Earth's systems and the urgent need to protect it.
MODEL UN	Mr. Linz	Have you ever wanted to debate big world issues, represent another country, and think like a real diplomat? In the Model United Nations (MUN) elective, 7th and 8th graders explore current events and global challenges in an interactive and dynamic way. Students take on the role of UN delegates, researching countries, building strong arguments, and working together to address real world international problems. Through discussions, simulations, and debates, participants sharpen their writing, speaking, reading, and critical thinking skills—while also learning how their ideas and voices matter in an increasingly connected world.
PLAYWRITING & PERFORMANCE	Ms. Boynton	In this fast-paced course, students will be given the thrilling opportunity to create original plays of increasing size and intensity. Pieces will range from original monologues to partner and trio scenes, to 20-minute play productions as well as cover various subject matters and genres. The first quarter will serve as the brainstorming and writing process. The next quarter will be designated for production in which students take on all disciplines within the theatre making process (ex. Acting, Directing, Stage Managing, Lighting Design, Sound Design, Costuming, Props, Set, etc.). The course culminates in a full evening performance festival of various scenes and plays for a live audience.
ROCK BAND ENSEMBLE	Mr. Moss	The Middle School Rock Band Ensemble is an introduction to the world of popular music. In this course we will explore instrumentation used in Rock, Blues, Country, Hip-Hop, and Jazz music. Studying an instrument or voice is a prerequisite to joining the class. The band will build a repertoire and perform in concert.
THE SCIENCE OF COOKING	Ms. Culbertson **Requires "application" process*	In The Science of Cooking, you will examine scientific concepts essential for everyday cooking and learn how biology and chemistry affect the final product of a recipe. Why do you use sour milk in a recipe? What proportion of spices make the perfect rub? How long can you cream butter and sugar before it breaks? Can dyes affect taste? Students will have the chance to use what we learn in class to develop their own recipes and have a Chopped competition. If you are interested, you must write a paragraph telling me why you want to be in this class and what you can bring to the group. Please realize you will need to put in time for clean-up and prep at times outside of class.