



St. Anthony of Padua

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

INCOMING 6TH - 8TH GRADE ELECTIVES

2023-2024 Academic Year

Dear Incoming Middle School Students and Parents,

It's time to select the electives that you would like to take in the 2023-2024 academic year. In addition to the state requirement for PE, students can select from the electives described on the Descriptions of Middle School Electives document. We require that all 6th graders take "Life of a Dolphin" during the fall semester of 6th grade. Additionally, we require that all 6th graders take at least one Performing Arts course (Instrumental Music Ensemble, Choir or Theatre I)

In middle school, students must also take at least one year of Spanish. Some courses offered are yearlong and others are semester-long. All classes meet a minimum of 2-3 times per week. As you rank your choices, please keep in mind that Band, Theatre Production, PE Martial Arts, and PE - Angels have a financial commitment involved. If you are serious about taking one of these courses, please rank them as a high choice.

We continue to work with Conroe ISD so that we can offer Spanish as a high school courses. Spanish I and Spanish II will be yearlong courses which will cover the high school Spanish TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). Spanish I and Spanish II can be taken in 7th and/or 8th grade for high school credit. Spanish I may be taken in 6th grade. Spanish classes will follow the high school TEKS and utilize a high school level textbook. To meet high school requirements, homework, tests, quizzes, and semester exams may be given. Upon satisfactory completion of courses, students will receive a letter of completion from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School and CISD will have the option to issue the high school credit upon review. Parents are encouraged to reach out to prospective high schools to confirm specific policies.

Offering several choices will allow students to sample various electives that spark their interest. We ask students to rank their preferences. However, due to scheduling constraints, a tentative budget, and staffing requirements, students are not guaranteed all top ten choices. We will do our best to schedule students into those courses that they rank highest. If not enough students sign up for a course, the course may be cancelled. Students will be notified on the first day of school in August of their elective schedule. Please take your time in filling out and ranking your courses as it may not be possible to change your schedule in the fall.

Please submit elective choices for the 2023-2024 year no later than May 25th. If elective choices are not submitted by the due date students will be placed in electives where spots are available. Changes are not made after the first day of school except in rare circumstances.

Sincerely,

Ken Wetzel

Assistant Principal, Middle School & Auxiliaries

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DESCRIPTIONS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE CLASSES 2023-2024

Note: All 6th graders must take a Performing Art (Music, Choir or Theatre) and Life of a Dolphin

Studio Art: Students will be challenged to explore new medias in various studio centers (drawing, painting, collage, 3-D, clay and fiber) using studio habits as they learn to envision their ideas and develop their craft. One project in the fall will focus on western art and rodeo art as we prepare for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art competition (students wishing to participate should indicate Fall on their selection list). This class may be repeated.

Instrumental Music Ensemble: The St. Anthony Instrumental Music Ensemble will study and perform original arrangements of standard rock, pop, jazz, contemporary worship, and orchestral repertoire. Under the guidance of the band director, the ensemble will collectively create approaches to these arrangements through an exploration of harmonization, rhythms, meters, instrumentation, and melodic interpretation. Students will gain experience in ensemble performance through learning and performing these arrangements. Students will experience critical listening, learning, and performing music for the purpose of understanding the role of instrumentalists within a band. Emphasis will be given to hearing and expressing musical ideas with stylistic integrity, as well as melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic accuracy.

All levels of players are encouraged to join, including absolute beginners and advanced students. Curriculum and instruction will be differentiated and tailored to the individual needs of each student.

Broadcast Media: The production of a weekly news show is the focus of this course. Students will have the opportunity to develop writing, speaking, and production skills. Students will learn to operate sound and video systems. Students will learn how to use digital and video equipment along with photo and video editing tools. Students will produce short movies/commercials using a variety of hardware and software tools. Students will be responsible for preparing interview questions and conducting interviews. Students will research and create multimedia projects for a variety of purposes, including animation, news reporting, marketing and entertainment. Requirements: Technology I is a prerequisite for this class. Students are required to arrive at school 45 minutes early on days that the news show is broadcast, typically on Fridays, but may change to accommodate schedule changes and exams. Students may be asked to video various after school productions/activities. Class size is limited. This course requires responsible students who can work independently. Previous grades and discipline will be taken into consideration.

Catholic and Private High School Preparatory Class: This course is only offered in the Fall and is designed to help eighth graders prepare for entrance into Catholic and private high schools in the surrounding area. The students will learn test taking strategies for the High School Placement Test (HSPT) or the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE). The students will practice taking the HSPT and the ISEE in class. The students will also learn about the importance of high school recommendation letters. In addition, the students will practice interviewing for high school entrance.

Catholic Art: Learn about how Catholics of the past expressed their faith in God through art and how the church uses art to teach the faith. Early Christian Art to painters of the Italian Renaissance and beyond will inspire projects that may include: fresco, mosaic, illumination, repousse, stained glass and gothic architecture.

Choir: (Year-Long) Choir is open to all students interested in singing and learning the basics of singing. Emphasis is placed on fundamentals of choral singing, sight-reading, vocal health, and performing many different types of music, from popular to traditional to faith-filled. Students will participate in two to three public concerts during the year, which requires some extra rehearsals before or after school, and parents may be asked to furnish performance apparel. *Students enrolled in Choir will be invited to sing The National Anthem at a Houston Astros game in the fall.

Debate: Debate is a semester long course that can be taken by 7th-8th grade students in the Fall and 6th – 8th grade students in the Spring. Students develop critical thinking and analytical skills along with logic and impromptu speaking techniques to defend opposing sides of relevant issues. Debate will encourage students to speak out in an informed way. Students are expected to develop expertise on an issue and then be able to debate either side of that issue developing the ability to share perspectives.

Tech Media: This course is intended to engage student learning in the field of Digital Media with hands-on projects and “real world” activities. This course is based upon the development of a specific set of skills: graphic design, animation, web design, and computer programming and coding. Digital Media integrates new technology with time honored communication skills. It prepares students for the emerging digital world.

Introduction to Computer Science and Programming: This course will challenge students to think algorithmically and rationally to solve seemingly simple, but complex problems. Students will be introduced to how computers think and leverage that information to program applications. Topics include data types, variables, data structures and algorithms while utilizing JavaScript.

Fashion Design: This computer simulation/project-based course is designed to teach you all about fashion. From trend research, to clothing design, to merchandising, this breakthrough visual simulation will give the students a complete introduction to business, marketing, and the exciting world of FASHION.

Life of a Dolphin: Offered in the Fall semester, this class is **MANDATORY for all 6th graders**. It will be an introduction to the Middle School. Topics covered will include Middle School traditions, behavior expectations, technology, work/study skills and team-building activities.

Newspaper: In this class, you will be part of *The Wave* newspaper staff and actively take part in each production of our school's quarterly newspaper. You will learn how to write great headlines and captions, along with important characteristics of informational news and article writing. Each quarter, you will oversee a section of *The Wave*, including feature stories, sports, community and parish, and culture and entertainment. There are also many opportunities to cover and report on school wide events and classroom news.

Personal Finance: This computer simulation/project-based course is designed to teach you about money. From giving, saving, spending, and everything in between we will examine how money works in the real world. Students will be given a basic working knowledge of everyday concepts pertaining to financial matters.

Physical Education: Students in middle school are required to take PE in 6th through 8th grades. PE is designed to teach and promote physical activity through skills, drills, and games. In middle school, the focus is on individual fitness activities, team sports, and finding a healthy relationship between mind and body. Students are expected to fully participate in stretching, warmups, team games, agility drills, and running events. They are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the game, mastery of a skill and endurance. Some of the units covered may include, but are not limited to, floor hockey, soccer, basketball, racquet sports, Frisbee sports, kickball games, disc golf, four square and Kin-ball. Students are expected to dress out for PE and wear appropriate athletic shoes in order to fully participate. PE uniforms are required and sold year-round (t-shirts are \$10, shorts are \$15, both are billed to your FACTS account).

Physical Education – Angels: Come and join the Angel's 2023-2024 Cheer team! All skill levels are welcome. No tryouts are necessary! Though there is a cap on the number of students who can be enrolled in this class This class takes the place of a mandatory PE credit and also serves as an extracurricular athletic activity. In this class you be learning cheer jumps, motions, cheers, chants and spirit dances. Angels are **REQUIRED** to participate and cheer at several home varsity games such as volleyball, soccer, football and basketball as well as pep rallies, Homecoming events, cheer clinic and Big Deal Birthday's. There is a \$250 fee for this program. (More details in the Angel's parent info packet.) By signing up for Angels you are also invited and highly recommended to attend the UCA cheer camp this summer in July. This is where we will get a jump start on learning our cheers, chants and dances for the upcoming season as well as some fun team bonding alongside the Frassati Catholic High School Cheerleaders!!! This class is taught by Mrs. Tracy Rinando, who works closely with Mrs. Misty Twellman, the cheerleading coach at Frassati. Mrs. Koett sponsors this class and is available for any additional information at hkoett@staopcs.org.

Physical Education – by Master Cho’s TaeKwonDo Academy: This class counts for a Physical Education class. TaeKwonDo offers an opportunity for students to improve their ability to deal with pressures, through improved focus, self-confidence and motivation. Martial Arts training has demonstrable effect in preparing students to positively respond to stressful situations, improving school performance, and increasing comfort and self confidence in social environments. This class intends to motivate students to participate in exercise, enhance strength, flexibility, and speed. This class is high energy, students will learn respect, self-discipline, and the power of goal setting. This class is taught by Master Alberto Borjas. Master Borjas has been teaching Tae Kwon Do since 1080 and is a 7th Degree Black Belt. He served as a coach on Cuba’s national team in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. Master Isaac Cho, a 9th Degree Black Belt with 43 years of teaching experience will also teach this class on occasion. PE uniforms are required and sold year-round (t-shirts are \$10, shorts are \$15, both are billed to your FACTS account). Appropriate athletic shoes are also required. There is a \$150.00 fee per semester which will be billed to your FACTS account.

Robotics: Students will apply mathematics, scientific ways of thinking, and current technologies in an engaging adventure for the mind through activities, projects, and engineering while using the Lego Spike Prime robotic kits.

Service: Students will apply for jobs around campus and gain experience working in those positions. They will learn how to fill out job applications and will experience the interview process. They will be placed in, but are not limited to, various positions in the office, library, EDP, early childhood classrooms, elementary classrooms, and middle school classrooms. This class will be limited in size and requires responsible students who can work independently. Previous grades and discipline will be taken into consideration.

Spanish I: This is a high school level course. Using age-appropriate activities, students will develop the ability to perform the tasks of the novice language learner. The student will communicate in Spanish using the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The student will also gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Students will follow a high school textbook and will engage in activities such as TV commercials, weather forecast, cooking shows, etc. Due to the nature of this course, homework, quizzes and tests may be given. This is a yearlong course. **This class is open to 6th graders. (High school credit for Conroe ISD will be given only if a student takes Spanish I and Spanish II in 7th and 8th grade respectively as required by CISD.)**

Spanish II: Spanish I is a prerequisite to Spanish II. Spanish II is a continuation of the Spanish I curriculum. Due to the nature of this course, homework, quizzes and tests may be given. This is a yearlong course.

Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers: Core components of the curriculum are reading, writing, culture and community. It is a fusion of Language Arts and History, with an emphasis on Latino issues, culture, and identity. Students will use their Spanish skills to complete tasks such as authentic writing, free voluntary reading (FVR), and hands-on projects relevant to their life that allow self-expression and student choice. **This course will satisfy the requirement for Spanish I. Open to 7th and 8th graders only.**

Speech: Communicating effectively is one of the most important skills that students can learn. In Speech class, we will learn about the four different styles of communication, how to determine our current style and adjust it to become assertive and effective speakers through group activities, interactive role playing and fun theater games. Topics to be covered include: How to deal with anxiety, verbal and non-verbal communication, creating a personal presence, the do’s and don’ts of social media use, personal branding, receptive listening and much more!

Sports and Entertainment: This computer simulation/project-based course is a sports and entertainment venue and allows students to handle promotion, ticket pricing, stadium operations, staffing, sponsors, concessions, concert booking and promotion, etc. Students will learn about finances, marketing, business/sports management and entrepreneurship.

Stock Market: The Stock Market Game is a Nationally sponsored program by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association that teaches the basics of the Stock Market. Each student group will start with an Investment portfolio account worth \$100,000. The students will research stocks to select for their portfolio. While working within the guidelines established by the Stock Market Game, students will buy and sell stocks to maximize their portfolios based on actual Stock Market data. This course combines cooperative learning, critical analysis, and researching skills. Student's portfolios will be ranked against others in the area.

Technology I: This course provides the opportunities to explore programs in depth through projects aligned with the middle school curriculum and the TEKS. Develop your technology skills using Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and Inspiration 8. Learn about Copyright Laws and Fair Use. Learn how to evaluate websites for authenticity and validity. Continue to demonstrate proper keyboarding skills to master keyboarding speed and accuracy.

Theatre: The theatre department will be performing a production in spring 2024. All theatre production students will participate in the performance as we will be casting from the theatre production class. We invite our students to explore and discover the many areas of theatre arts. Whether your interests are acting, scenic work, make-up, costumes or technical theatre (lighting & sound), we have a role for you!

- **Art and Design in Theatre:** (Spring Semester) Students will learn about the elements of design used in theatre such as set design and props. In this 'hands-on' class, self-motivated, creative students that think out of the box will work with large scale painting to create backdrops, and sculpture techniques to make props, to set the stage and help bring a program to life. This class will be responsible for set dressing needed for the spring theatre production as well as supporting other spring programs. This class may be repeated.
- **Intro to Musical Theatre:** Students will learn the basics of musical theatre as well as the history of musical theatre from the 1900's to today. This is a "hands-on" approach to learning about the different aspects of musical theatre.
- **Theatre Tech:** Students will go "behind the scenes" to get an in-depth understanding of all of the off-stage details necessary to make a theatrical production come to life. Set design, costuming, lighting, sound, staging, and more will be studied.
- **Theatre I:** Theatre I provides a general introduction to theatre. This class is for the student who is exploring theatre arts for the first time. Students will learn about the history of theatre, character development, script analysis, monologues, improvisation and more. Students develop concepts about self, relationships, and environment demonstrated through creative expression as they explore the relationship of theatre to literature, history, society, and culture, and they learn how to analyze and evaluate theatre and theatrical performances.
- **Theatre Production:** (Yearlong) In this class, students will produce a full theatre production. After-school practices will be required prior to the performance, and potentially other dates. **There is a \$100 fee to participate to cover costumes and theatre boot camps.** *Students enrolled in Production will be invited to sing The National Anthem at a Houston Astros game in the fall.

Yearbook: In this year-long course, the students will come up with a theme, design, and create the official school yearbook, The Paduan Pride. We take many pictures, but there is also much more to this class. Students will learn proper photo taking techniques with Canon cameras, editing procedures, and layout and design with Studio Works. This is a course that requires self-motivation and self-monitoring.

Note: If there are state TEKS available for an elective class, they are utilized in planning curriculum for the course.