**St. John’s Jesuit Academy Elective Courses 2024-25**

**Electives for 7th/8th grade:**

*Each course earns high school credit.*

Spanish 1

Spanish 2

Chinese 1

Chinese 2

Health/Fitness

**Enrichment courses for 7th/8th grade:**

**Course name: Intermediate Band**

Objective: Develop student musical skills

Description: Academy band for 7th/8th grade students

Final assessment (product, performance, or presentation): Winter/spring concert

**Course name: STEM**

Objective: Introduce students to the four areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through an interdisciplinary approach that will increase awareness, build knowledge, and develop problem solving skills.

Description: The course is intended to integrate the STEM fields through project-based learning. Students will be engaged by hands-on activities geared towards creativity and collaboration. Activities/projects may include robotics, egg drop challenge, catapult construction, etc.

Final assessment (product, performance, or presentation): Projects will be submitted throughout the semester as completed.

**Course name: Media**

Objective: Students will produce digital media through experimentation with various iPad apps.

Description: Podcasts, video clips, digital art, and animation are some of the things students will create in this class.

Final assessment (product, performance, or presentation): Projects will be submitted throughout the semester as completed.

**Course name: Competitive Sports**

Objective: Students will participate in competitive sports that will enhance coordination, strength and speed, hand and eye coordination and physical development and mental toughness. In addition, students will learn self-defense techniques to include wrist grabs such as cross hand & same side wrist grabs. Students will also learn to defend against grabs from behind and other common attacks. Students will be introduced to forward and backward rolls and how to protect themselves against pushes etc. that often occur in conflicts or on the athletic field.

Description: Activities to include self-defense, archery, other sporting activities i.e. competitive gym activities.

Final assessment (product, performance, or presentation): Students will compete in tournaments throughout the semester working cooperatively with peers.

**Course name: Makerspace**

Objective: Foster critical thinking using the engineering design process: Identify the problem/task, develop & design a solution, build and test a prototype, evaluate the results, redesign (if necessary) to fix or improve the solution.

Description: A class for hands-on learning using the tools and equipment in the makerspace. Projects have included 3D modeling and printing, creating personalized stickers and decals, bridge building, electric vehicles, sublimation printing, etc.

Final assessment (product, performance, or presentation): Students will end each unit/project with something that was made by them.

**Course name: Nutrition/Healthy Living**

Objective: Develop an understanding of healthy eating, exercise, and mental health. Students will be able to reduce stress by researching the science of exercise/nutrition.

Description: Discover new ways to live an inspiring life through nutrition and exercise. Activities/projects may include yoga and/or other physical exercises and simple yet healthy nutritional strategies.

Final assessment (research, paper, or presentation): Students will create an individualized nutrition and wellness plan.

**Course name: Astronomy**

Objective: Develop a deeper understanding of the Universe.

Description: Through numerous hands-on activities, students will broaden their minds in the study of the cosmos. Students will investigate and debate scientific theories through games, hypothetical situations and discussion.

Final assessment (product, performance, or presentation): Students will create a movie relating to a scientific phenomenon.