



St. Anthony of Padua

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

INCOMING 7TH - 8TH GRADE ELECTIVES 2024-2025 Academic Year

Dear Rising 7th and 8th Students and Parents,

It's time to select the electives that you would like to take in the 2024-2025 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 included below.

In middle school, all classes meet a minimum of 2-3 times per week. Some courses offered are yearlong and others are semester long. As you rank your choices, please keep in mind that Band, Theater Production, Martial Arts, and Angels have a financial commitment involved. If you are serious about taking one of these courses, please rank them as a high choice. **For Angels specifically, please have your student select general PE as their PE elective choice. They will automatically be put into Angels when schedules are created.**

All students must take at least one year of Spanish (i.e., Spanish I). We continue to work with Conroe ISD so that we can offer Spanish as high school credit 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 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 elective 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 their top choices. We do our best to schedule students into the courses they rank highest. If an insufficient number of 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 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,

Rachael Garfield, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8
rgarfield@ap.school

Nurturing Souls. Enriching Minds.

7901 Bay Branch Drive • The Woodlands, Texas • 281.296.0300 • Fax: 281.296.7236

7th and 8th GRADE ELECTIVE CLASSES 2024-2025

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 (Band): 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 (DNN): This semester long course focuses on the production of a weekly news show. 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: 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 as part of the high school admissions process.

Catholic Art: In this semester course, learn 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 (Yearlong): 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.

Design Fusion: Exploring Digital Design & Print Media: In this semester course, students embark on an exciting journey through the colorful world of digital design and print media. Students will dive into the fascinating realm of visual storytelling, learning how to blend the magic of digital technology with the timeless art of print. Topics covered will be design theory and how shapes, colors, and layouts can work together to create amazing visuals that capture people's attention. Get ready to explore the world of fonts, images, and colors as we learn how to make our designs pop on both screens and paper!

Discovery Dolphins: This semester long course is broken into 2 units each quarter. Units could include, but are not limited to, forensic science, space science, ancient civilizations, entrepreneurship, ancient saints, and more. The focus of this question-based learning course, including hands-on activities, is to explore and discover high interest topics that appeal to your adventurous side!

Ignite: This semester long, project-based learning course follows the engineering design process to learn about a variety of topics, some student-led. This class fosters creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork. **This course is by invitation only. If a student qualifies, they will be notified by letter prior to the course selection deadline.**

Newspaper: In this semester course, students are part of The Wave newspaper staff and actively take part in each production of our school's quarterly newspaper. Students learn how to write great headlines and captions, along with important characteristics of informational news and article writing. Each edition includes information about sports, entertainment, school-wide events, and classroom news.

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 to fully participate. PE uniforms are required and sold year-round (t-shirts are \$10, shorts are \$15, and both are billed to your FACTS account).

Physical Education – Angels: Come join the Angel's 2024-2025 Cheer team! All skill levels are welcome. No tryouts are necessary. This class takes the place of a mandatory PE credit and serves as an extracurricular athletic activity. In this class, students learn 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, the annual cheer clinic, and Big Deal Birthday celebrations. There is a \$250 fee for this program. (Please see the Angels parent info packet for more information.) By signing up for Angels, students are also invited and highly recommended to attend the UCA cheer camp in July. This is where students get a jump start on learning team cheers, chants and dances for the upcoming season, as well as time for fun team bonding activities 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. **For Angels specifically, please have your student select general PE as their PE elective choice. They will automatically be put into Angels when schedules are created.**

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 a demonstrable effect in preparing students to positively respond to stressful situations, improving school performance, and increasing comfort and self-confidence in social environments. Taekwondo is a high energy class that intends to motivate students to participate in exercise, enhance strength, flexibility, and speed. 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: In this semester long course, students 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: In this semester long course, students apply for jobs around campus and gain experience working in those positions. They learn how to fill out job applications and will experience the interview process. They are placed in, but 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 (Yearlong): 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 (Yearlong): 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 (Yearlong): 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.

7th/8th Grade Speech: Communicating effectively is one of the most important skills that students can learn. In this semester long Speech class, you 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 covered include how to deal with public speaking 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!

Stock Market: This semester long elective focuses on The Stock Market Game. 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. Students research stocks to select for their portfolio. While working within the guidelines established by the Stock Market Game, students buy and sell stocks to maximize their portfolios based on actual Stock Market data. This course combines cooperative learning, critical analysis, and research skills. Student portfolios will be ranked against others in the area.

Theater Production: The theater department will perform in the Spring 2025 production. All theater production students participate in the performance, as parts are cast from the theater production class. Students are invited to explore and discover the many areas of theater arts. Whether your interests are acting, scenic work, make-up, costumes, or technical theater (lighting & sound), we have a role for you!

Yearbook (Yearlong): In this year-long course, the students produce a theme, design, and create the official school yearbook, The Paduan Pride. Students learn proper photo taking techniques with Canon cameras, editing procedures, and layout and design with Studio Works. This course 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.