



Date: April 1, 2026

Dear Saint James Middle School Families,

As we look ahead to next school year, we are excited to share the elective course offerings available to our middle school students. At Saint James Catholic School, we strive to provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences that help students explore their God-given gifts, develop new skills, and pursue their interests in a Christ-centered environment.

We invite families to review the elective options listed below and have a conversation together about which courses may be the best fit for your student.

Students will be **selecting their desired courses tomorrow, April 2nd**. Please note that course offerings are subject to student interest and enrollment numbers. While we will do our best to honor each student's top choices, not every request can be guaranteed due to scheduling limitations. Our goal is to ensure that each student receives a majority of the electives they are most interested in. Finalized schedules will be distributed **on the first day of school in August**.

Below is a list of the elective courses available for the fall semester:

Stock Market Game (1x/week) taught by Mrs. Laureen Laumeyer

Stock Market Game introduces young people to saving and investing through an online simulation of the stock and bond markets. Students will trade and manage their own virtual \$100,000 investment portfolio while participating in the Kentucky Spring online competition against other middle schoolers in grades 6–8.

National History (1x/week, year long course) taught by Mrs. Laureen Laumeyer

National History Day in Kentucky (NHDKY) is an annual learning competition for students in grades 4-12. Driven by curiosity, imagination, and innovation, NHDKY empowers students to express themselves through a historical topic they are passionate about. This hands-on experience focuses on the autonomy and creativity of each student as they research a topic of their choice, interpret its relevancy to our lives today, and display what they learned through a variety of platforms. ***This will be a year long course.

Drawing & Painting (2x/week) taught by Mrs. Alexandra Barnett

This course explores the fundamental concepts, materials, and techniques used in both drawing and painting. Students will develop observational skills and creative expression through projects emphasizing composition, proportion, value, color theory, and form. Working with a variety of media, students will learn to translate what they see and imagine into compelling visual works. The class encourages experimentation, craftsmanship, and the development of a personal artistic style while building a strong foundation in traditional and contemporary art practices.



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Mixed Media / 3D Art (2x/week) taught by Mrs. Alexandra Barnett

This course invites students to explore the creative possibilities of combining different materials and techniques to create both two- and three-dimensional works of art. Emphasis is placed on experimentation, craftsmanship, and conceptual thinking through projects such as collage, assemblage, sculpture, and installation. Students will work with a wide range of materials to develop unique compositions and forms while learning about contemporary artists who expand the boundaries of traditional art-making.

Behind the Curtain (1x/week) taught by Mrs. Alexandra Barnett

Working alongside musical theater, this hands-on class explores the creative work that brings a production to life behind the scenes. Students design and build props, create costumes, develop stage sets, and produce promotional materials like flyers and posters. Through collaborative projects, they learn the fundamentals of theater production while using art, design, and problem-solving skills to turn ideas into a finished show.

Beginning/Intermediate Band (2x/week) taught by Mr. Ragland

Have you dreamed of learning to play a musical instrument? This elective teaches students to play a band instrument—no prior experience required! This is a year-long course that meets twice a week during school and includes at least two after-school performances.

Knight Adventures (1x/week) taught by Mr. Ragland

Step into a world of imagination with our Tabletop RPG (Roleplaying Game) class, where creativity meets strategy and storytelling come to life! Students will design their own heroes, solve mysteries, and shape adventures filled with dragons, magic, and teamwork. While having fun, they'll also build real-world skills—applying math, strategic thinking, writing, and collaboration. Roleplaying encourages confidence, communication, empathy, and leadership, all within a safe, school-appropriate environment that honors faith and respect for others. No experience needed—just curiosity and imagination!

Music Appreciation (2x/week) taught by Mr. Ragland

This class introduces students to a variety of musical styles while exploring how music reflects and shapes culture and history. Students listen to and discuss works by various artists, learning how different genres connect to important moments in history and broader cultural movements. Through listening, discussion, and creative activities, students build an understanding of music as both an art form and a reflection of human experience.

Modern Band (2x/week) taught by Mr. Ragland

This high-energy class introduces students to the fundamentals of playing in a modern band setting. Students explore instruments like guitar, bass, drums, and other instruments while learning basic technique, rhythm, and collaboration skills. Through group rehearsals and performance opportunities, they build confidence, creativity, and an understanding of how musicians work together to create contemporary music.

Musical Theater (2x/week) taught by Mrs. Joey Jones

This engaging class introduces students to the world of musical theater through singing, acting, and movement. Students develop performance skills while exploring character, storytelling, and stage presence. Through scenes, songs, and group numbers, they build confidence, creativity, and collaboration skills, culminating in performances that bring musical theater to life.

Physical Education (*Daily Option*) taught by Mr. Jeff Lowman

A mixed-grade class that emphasizes physical activity, teamwork, and wellness.

Academic Competition Prep (*1x/week*) taught by Mr. Jeff Lanz

As an alternative to after-school preparation, this class allows students interested in **Governor's Cup/Academic Team, Sixth-Grade Showcase, and Book Bee** to gather and prepare for upcoming competitions during the school day.

Chess (*1x/week*) taught by Mr. Jeff Lanz

If you would like to learn how, or find time to play chess, this is the class for you. Chess is known to raise your IQ, exercise both sides of your brain, increase problem-solving skills, and improve concentration. Chess sets and timers will be provided.

Debate (*1x/week*) taught by Mr. Jeff Lanz

The class will empower students to build confidence, critical thinking, and public speaking skills by researching, structuring, and arguing both sides of relevant topics. Through interactive games and mock debates, students learn to research evidence, use logical reasoning, and engage in respectful civil discourse.

Hollywood Books (*1x/week*) taught by Mr. Jeff Lanz

This elective will help answer the age-old question of "Which is better – the book or the movie?" We will read student-choice novels that have had a Hollywood movie made about them. We will then compare segments of the movie to segments of the book to determine similarities, differences, and which students prefer. Reading is required.

Road Trip USA (*1x/week*) taught by Mr. Jeff Lanz

In this elective, students plan a detailed trip from Elizabethtown to first a location in Kentucky, then a location in another state, then a location in another country! Following the guidelines of budget, timeframe and site theme, students will plan a day-to-day visit to locations throughout the country. Students will also look at history, geography, and current issues within a given region, as well as how to be a safe and conscientious traveler. Students will then present their trip to classmates.

Financial Literacy (*1x/week*) various guest speakers

This practical class introduces students to essential money management skills for everyday life. Students learn the basics of budgeting, saving, spending, and goal setting, along with an introduction to banking, credit, and responsible financial decision-making. Through real-world scenarios and interactive activities, they build the confidence and knowledge needed to make smart financial choices now and in the future.

We are blessed to offer such a wide range of electives designed to inspire creativity, build skills, and encourage our students to grow in faith and confidence. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child make thoughtful and meaningful choices for next school year.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

With blessings,

John Stith

Principal

Saint James Catholic School

