



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

Middle School Elective Information

Electives are part of the Middle School day, taking place during the last class period from 2:45 – 3:30 PM. They are intended to give students an opportunity to try new things in a safe, short timeframe, and to develop multiple interests and experiences that students can bring forward to High School and beyond.

St. Mark offers two types of electives:

Quarterly Electives:

- *Change four times a year (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarters)
- *Duration of 9 weeks
- *Meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Semester Electives:

- *Change two times a year (1st, 2nd semesters)
- *Duration of 18 weeks
- *Meet Tuesday and Thursday

Each Middle School student takes a total of six electives each school year: Four quarterly electives and two semester electives.

How Electives Are Chosen:

Before the current grading period ends (usually the week before elective sign-ups begin), an elective sheet is emailed to parents. This sheet provides a description of each elective being offered, as well as advance notice of the sign-up dates for each grade level.

Between 7:00-7:30 PM on the sign-up date for the student's grade level, parents receive a second email from Ms. Steinkirchner alerting them that elective sign-up is open (please note the new timeframe, which is a direct result of the 2016 Parent Survey where parents unanimously indicated that this is the most favorable timeframe).

Elective Sign-Up Priority

Students with "Free Elective Choice Passes" are given first priority in choosing elective classes (students receive these passes as rewards for various activities at school.) Then, 8th, 7th, and 6th grade elective sign-ups become available, in that order.

Instructions for Students with Free Choice Elective Passes:

Students are required to turn in their signed elective sheet with the "Free Elective Choice Pass" stapled to it to Ms. Steinkirchner on the very first day that elective sign-ups open (prior to the general sign-up period). This is the only day they can turn in the pass for priority. Ms. Steinkirchner will then register them in the elective of their choice. They will not need to register during the general registration period for their grade level.

General Elective Sign-Ups:

On the following days, sign-ups for 8th, 7th, and 6th grades will then become available (for those students who do not have a "Free Elective Choice Pass"). Students may only sign-up on the day their grade is open, and they will only sign-up for **one elective for each quarter and one elective for each semester**.

When an elective is filled, it is removed from the Sign-Up Genius.

Sign-ups are on a first come-first served basis.

Once a student is signed-up on Sign-Up Genius, they are committed to the class for the given time period.

It is best for parents to review the classes with their children and to encourage them to try something new.

If you prefer a Study Hall/Study Skills class for your child, we will open as many Study Hall electives as needed.

Sign-Up Genius Instructions:

*Between 7:00-7:30 PM on the day the student's grade is scheduled to sign-up for electives, parents receive an email from Ms. Steinkirchner alerting them that sign-ups are open.

*Follow the Sign-Up Genius link provided in the email from Ms. Steinkirchner.

*Log in/join.

* Students create an account, or use their parent's account. If parents already have a Sign-Up Genius account established, login, then check the "display an alternate name" box and sign up using the student's name, **OR** click the class you want, then click "submit & sign up," then type the student's full name in the "my comment box."

Consider Volunteering for a Parent-Led Elective:

As a parent, if you are interested in sharing a hobby or talent with students as a Middle School elective class, please contact Ms. Steinkirchner at pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net. We have had great success with our parent-led electives which have touched on a range of topics from stock market investments to Pinterest projects.

Questions:

If you have any other questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Ms. Steinkirchner at pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.