

St. Matthew's Spotlights



Upper School Electives

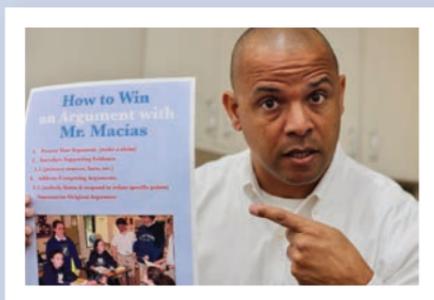
At St. Matthew's, Seventh and Eighth Grade Students have multiple opportunities to explore a range of elective topics. Each semester, students choose an elective to participate in, giving them the opportunity to experience four different electives over the course of these two years.

Cooking elective is so great because we get to learn kitchen skills that will serve us well. It also feels good to know how to cook for someone and to be proud of the things you made.

Violet, Class of 2017

social justice

Students will explore contemporary **social justice** issues using photography, film, art, and other multi-media platforms. Students will develop skills of observation and gain academic knowledge to engage in discourse about power, privilege, and stewardship. They will also practice social emotional skills that promote understanding and interacting with people across differences.



debate

The ability to **debate** others in a respectful and informed manner is one of the foundations for participating as an actively engaged person in the classrooms, workplaces, playgrounds and political arenas of the world. This elective will teach students not only how to critically research and consume the information in media, but also how to harness, frame, and organize that information into persuasive arguments. Through competitive debates against teams of their peers, students will also learn how to better think on their feet and point out the logical fallacies of others that are all too prevalent in modern discourse today. This elective will help students become a more confident, organized public speaker, writer, and thinker.

citizen journalist

The **Citizen Journalist** elective will give students experience in the collection, dissemination, and analysis of news and information by the general public, especially by means of the internet. They will explore social media and photography, while developing interview and article writing skills. This elective will invite guest lecturers and student's will have plenty of opportunities to practice their newfound journalism skills. Work's will be published in the school's magazine, newsletter, and on Instagram - and maybe even in the local newspaper!

recent upper school elective options

public speaking

The words we choose to say and how we say them can give us strength and offer tremendous inspiration to those who hear them. Practice in public recitation builds not only confidence but also mental and physical agility for, as the Romans say, “mens sana in corpore sano!”, which means “a healthy mind resides in a healthy body.” In **Public Speaking**, students will experience the power of their own voice and hone this power with group recitations as well as individually chosen works to recite.

dance

The **Dance** elective introduces students to the fundamentals of dance through a variety of contemporary styles. The class begins with basic technique emphasizing body alignment, coordination, and musicality, leading to short combinations which evolve into more extensive choreography. Students will acquire dance vocabulary through development of technical skills while regularly completing peer and self-assessments of their progress.



drama

To study theatre is to take life's experiences and reflect them through various characters on stage. Live theater sharpens your perceptions while enhancing your creative confidence. Classwork will focus on teamwork, improvisation, creative dramatics, and beginning scene work. **Drama** will introduce students to the art of making acting choices and character development.

scene study

This drama elective is for the more serious-minded actor who would like the opportunity to work on a modern play. During the course of the elective students will use rehearsal techniques focusing on acting choices, ensemble work, trust, compassion and truthful choices. **Scene Study** will culminate with a performance of the chosen play.



food • glorious • food

In **Food • Glorious • Food** students will learn to plan and make great meals with their friends. The goal of the class is to explore a wide variety of culinary tastes with our students. We will teach basic cooking and baking techniques starting with kitchen safety and knife skills. Throughout the term there will be lots of food to eat and share together. Some highlights include: pizza making, create your own gourmet grilled cheese, awesome salads, pie baking, greek dinner, and basic sauces.



robotics

Students have the opportunity to build NXT Robots and explore skills including computer programming, electronic embedded systems, engineering design, and mathematics. The **Robotics** course also teaches skills like time management, resource allocations, teamwork, problem solving, and communications. The program is based on Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Academy Curriculum.

fine arts: painting & drawing

In **Fine Arts: Painting & Drawing**, students study printmaking. Additionally, artists complete several paintings including a silhouette image against a sunset, and a painting that tells a story. A free choice activity is also incorporated into the artistic experience.



paper possibilities

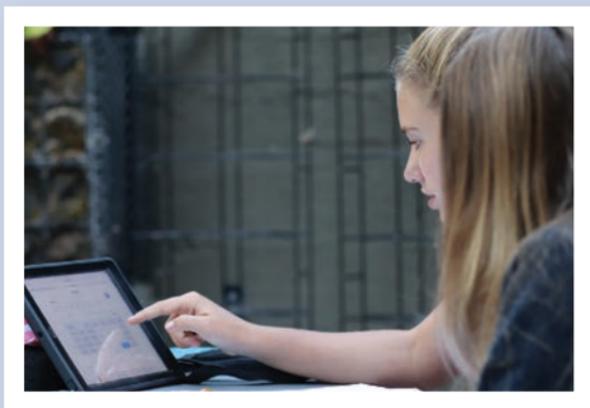
Using various **paper** products, discover and experiment with different techniques to create unique cards, jewelry, and beautiful frameable art. Explore paper quilling, paper weaving and more...the **possibilities** are endless! Students will collect various materials in addition to making their own paper.



fine arts: clay

This elective features projects made from **clay**. Wheel thrown pottery, hand built pottery, mosaics and sculpture are explored by each artist. Besides these projects, students have time to do at least one additional free choice activity.

student technology leaders



Student Technology Leaders will provide technical support to teachers and peer students. They will host a support desk Genius Bar and learn to run the school's 3D printers, laser cutter and other maker tools. In addition, students will select other areas of interest to explore, including building a computer, toy hacking and more. They may also have the opportunity to co-present at a future technology conference.

I love drama elective because I can really be myself and express my true being. I can share my thoughts and emotions knowing I have an awesome teacher and class who will always support me. I love improv because it teaches me how to think on my feet and how to come up with something on the spot!

Mackenzie, Class of 2017

japanese

It is always exciting and fun to learn a new language. In addition to the basics of Japanese language, students will explore **Japanese** culture, traditions, and customs. When looked at from a linguistic point of view, Japanese is considered one of the easier languages for a beginner to learn. It has a simple pronunciation scheme and, with few exceptions, a straight forward set of grammatical rules. Students often learn the Katakana and Hiragana alphabets quickly. From there, students move on to the mastery of writing and reading Kanji.