

DEVELOPMENTAL OPTIONS – Grade 8 / 9
Course Descriptions 2026-27

DRAMA 8/9 (no cost): In Drama, the students will explore the wonderful world of theatre on and off the stage. This course involves exercises, scene work and theatre games designed to develop performance skills and technique. You will study the five disciplines in theatre: Movement, Speech, Improvisation/Acting, Theatre Studies, and Technical Theatre. Drama can develop the whole person – emotionally, physically, intellectually, imaginatively, aesthetically, and socially – by giving form and meaning to experience through “acting out”.

LANGUAGES (no cost): Bonjour! ¡Hola! This course at St. Francis offers students the unique opportunity to explore both French and Spanish within the same class. Students will engage in exciting activities covering a variety of themes such as school, food, sports, and more, while developing their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Through fun games, cultural exploration, music, and interactive projects, students will gain a solid foundation in both languages. This course encourages risk-taking and creativity, all within a supportive and non-threatening environment. By the end of the course, students will have had the chance to experience two of the world’s most widely spoken languages, preparing them for future global experiences!

FOODS 8/9 (\$60.00): In junior high, Food Studies courses are designed to help students build daily living skills and form the basis for further learning. Concepts presented in the Foods Basic course include safety and sanitation, care and use of equipment and tools, understanding recipe language, nutrition, planning, preparing and evaluating basic foods, and career exploration.

ART 8/9 (\$20.00): St. Francis offers a comprehensive and exciting art program that focuses on the elements of art and principles of design in order to give students the tools necessary to create effective works of art. Each level offers projects that are both 2-D and 3-D, and explore the use of a variety of media. Guest artists visit the school periodically to discuss their work and provide students with further exposure to the local art community. Students are given the opportunity to display their artwork in the school and at times, in collaboration with performing arts productions. Student work is also chosen each year to be displayed at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in the ‘*Art’s Alive and Well in the Schools*’ exhibition.

BAND 8/9 (\$50.00). This course provides opportunities for grade 8/9 students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. No musical experience is necessary. Students will study many styles of music and perform before live audiences in several concerts throughout the year. Previous musical experience is beneficial but not required.

****Note:** Students are required to rent or otherwise obtain an instrument if they do not already have their own.

CHORAL MUSIC 8/9 (\$30.00): For any student who wishes to explore his or her potential in making music with the voice, choral music is perfect. By following levels 1, 2, and 3 curriculum for choral as mandated by Alberta Education, the students will learn fundamentals that will help them develop their vocal skills, aural skills, theoretical and practical skills, and finally music interpretation skills. These skills will all be covered through fun and engaging activities, such as vocal warm-ups, ear training, articulation exercises, and most importantly, learning different styles of music from pop to classical. The students will learn how to build a good tone both individually and as a group. They will have opportunities to perform throughout the year in and out of school as well as a possible tour in and out of the city of Lethbridge.

LEADERSHIP 8/9 (\$5.00): Leadership is an option for students who wish to become an integral part of activities in the school. This option gives students a chance to put a stamp on their own school life by planning and advertising for activities throughout the school term. Activities in Leadership class may include: assembly planning, school spirit activities, charity fundraising, new student welcoming, and many others. Students in this option should have exhibited leadership qualities in previous years at St. Francis Junior High School and are expected to maintain the high level of reliability and stewardship fitting of a Leadership student throughout the school year.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY 8/9 (\$90.00): This course has been designed to give students an introduction to or to continue skills in some of the procedures used in the area of construction. The focus in Construction Technology will be on safe woodworking procedures, basic joinery, and use of the planer, jointer, drill press and the band saw. We will also be learning how to layout a simple project from a plan, construct all pieces in preparation for assembly, and finishing.

STEM 8/9 (\$30.00): The goal of this developmental option is to provide students with positive, interactive, educational and social learning experiences that promote science, technology, teamwork and leadership. Students will participate in a variety of activities which highlight Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) and find connections and correlations between them. Students will discover their interests in practical and purposeful ways by engaging in hands-on learning opportunities. They will learn to ideate, collaborate and create by following the engineering design process, and will develop 21st century skills which can be applied to both academic courses and real-life situations

OUTDOOR ED 8/9 (\$10.00): Outdoor Education gives students a unique opportunity to become involved in activities outside of the Physical Education program. They are able to interact with the environment and develop a respect for all that the outdoors has to offer. This program will be rooted in development of planning, preparation and participation to ensure the safety of all, with an emphasis on survival skills.

DANCE 8/9 (no fee): In the dance development option we will be exploring movement in a variety of ways. We will be looking at different styles of dance including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary dance. Students will learn the technique, theory, and history of dance. All students are welcome and no prior dance experience is necessary!

PHYSICAL PURSUITS 8/9 (\$75.00): This option is designed for those who want to pursue a lifelong relationship with fitness. Throughout the semester we will explore all different types of movement and physical activities, along with the many different aspects of wellness. Expect to be taken out of your comfort zone as we try new sports and activities, and learn from experts about mindfulness, healthy nutrition, and much more. Think of this course as a way to build the foundations for a healthier future!

ADVANCED GAMING CONCEPTS 8/9: (\$60.00) Students will explore esports history, game genres, esports technology, hands-on troubleshooting, and college and career readiness with a technology focus. The course allows students to practice good gamer health and engage in digital citizenship, social-emotional learning, teamwork, journaling, and reflection.

MONEY MASTERS: (\$25) Welcome to Money Masters! In this class you will be submerged into the world of all things MONEY! You will learn the ins and outs of what it takes to earn money, manage your money, pay bills on time, save money, and invest in the stock market. We will be completing these tasks through an interactive website that will keep track of how well you handle life's curveballs, and your quality of life! If you are ready to take ownership of your future, this class is for you!

***Please note that you need a personal device each class in order to use the program. There is a very limited supply of computers at the school, so you are expected to have a non cellular device of your own. There will also be a fee \$25.00 to have access to your personal finance lab account and the stock market simulation.

INNOVATORS STUDIO: (\$30) Are you ready to turn ideas into reality? This exciting and hands-on option is designed for students who are curious, creative, and ready to explore the world of entrepreneurship. In Innovators Lab, students will learn what it takes to launch a product—from concept to creation—and develop essential skills in design, marketing, and business. Students will have access to cutting-edge tools like the xTool laser cutter, allowing them to design and produce custom items such as engraved jewelry, cups, keychains, signs, and more—the sky's the limit! They'll also tap into their entrepreneurial spirit to brainstorm and develop St. Francis swag for events, guests, and even potential sales. This course may include opportunities to participate in a school-based market, giving students real-world experience in product development, pricing, and sales—all while building confidence and creativity. Whether you dream of starting your own business or simply love creating, this lab is your launchpad for innovation.

COSMETOLOGY: (\$40) Do you want to learn more about basic nail care & art, haircare, basic updo's, beginner skincare, henna, and makeup application? If you answered yes, then this class is for you! This is a beginner cosmetology course where students will explore topics related to esthetics and beauty through a lens of self-care while building self-confidence.

TRADITIONAL GAMES: (no cost)

This course aims to introduce or reconnect students to sports and recreation through traditional FNMI games. Elders used games for children to help develop their cognitive ability, physical strength, and agility to hunt, gather and survive in harsh climates. Students will learn these games and make the equipment (if necessary) to play them in a respectful manner.