

DEVELOPMENTAL OPTIONS – Grade 7

Course Descriptions 2026-27

ART 7 (\$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 7 (\$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.

BEGINNER ACOUSTIC GUITAR (\$5.00): This is a beginner guitar course perfect for the student who has never picked up the guitar but has always wanted to give it a try. Our main focus will be the acoustic guitar. You will have the opportunity to learn and practice the technical skills you need in order to make acoustic guitar playing enjoyable. You will also have the opportunity to increase your library of popular music, as you will be using the skills you learn in order to play various pop/rock/country/folk tunes. The best thing about the guitar is that you can take it and play it anywhere. Music is an amazing art form that not only helps you discover who you are, but allows you to grow in confidence as you learn how to effectively and creatively express your emotions, opinions and ideas to others.

CHOIR 7 (\$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, oral 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 plenty of opportunities to perform throughout the year in and out of school. If they stay with the program, the possibility is there to go on tour in and out of the city of Lethbridge. The ultimate goal is to have fun and instill in the students an appreciation for music, as well as a desire to continue singing well after this experience has ended.

CONSTRUCTION TECH - WOODWORK 7 (\$100.00): This course has been designed to give grade 7 students an introduction to some of the procedures used in the area of wood construction. The focus will be on safe woodworking procedures, basic joinery, and use of the planer, drill press and the scroll saw. We will also be learning how to layout a simple project from a plan, construct all pieces in preparation for assembly, and finish. If you like working with your hands and making new things, this is the course for you!

CONSTRUCTION TECH - METALWORK 7 (\$100.00): This course has been designed to give grade 7 students an introduction to some of the procedures used in the area of metal construction. Students will be learning how to layout a simple project from a plan, construct all pieces in preparation for assembly, and finish. Students will use various methods of cutting, joining and shaping metal to complete projects with sheet metal, producing items they can take home and use. If you like working with your hands and making new things, this is the course for you!

DRAMA 7 (no fee): In Drama, 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”. It fosters positive group interaction as students learn to make accommodations in order to pursue shared goals. Here is where you can act out and get credit for doing it!

FOOD STUDIES 7 (\$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.

GAMING CONCEPTS (E-SPORTS) 7 (\$60.00): This course is to allow the gaming student to practice positive physical and mental health and engage in digital citizenship, social-emotional learning, teamwork, journaling, and reflection. Students will explore game genres, gaming technologies, hands-on troubleshooting, and career/college readiness with a technology focus.

INNOVATORS STUDIO: (\$30.00): 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.

LANGUAGES (French) (no cost): Bonjour! This course at St. Francis offers students the unique opportunity to explore French. 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 French. 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 one of the world's most widely spoken languages, preparing them for future global experiences!

STEM 7 (\$20.00): 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 with new and emerging technologies. They will learn to ideate, collaborate, problem-solve 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.

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.