

Grade 8 Option Descriptions (2022-2023)

Dear parents/guardians:

Students at St. Thomas are able to make requests for option classes that will occur in 3 terms during the 2022-2023 year.

- Term One: September 1 - November 24 (12 weeks)
- Term Two: November 28 - March 17 (13 weeks)
- Term Three: March 20 - June 28 (13 weeks)

Students will be able to make option **requests** for the year this week **online**. This selection process will be done as a google form that will be available on the [school website](#) from June 13-June 17.

Listed below are the different options available to choose from for the year. Students will be able to take **two** options during each term. Take some time to consider options that your child will be interested in. Students will rank the choices from most desirable to least desirable. Students may not get his/her top choices during the year, as there are over 600 students enrolled in the school. In addition, the ability to offer these options will depend on student interest.

OPTION DESCRIPTIONS

Art

Students will be encouraged to think and generate ideas as artists while expanding their appreciation and experience with various art forms. This course is intended to help students improve their drawing (forms, 3D shading, perspective) and art using paint (colour theory, basic brush techniques, and acrylic and pastel), as well as use non-traditional materials to create sculpture (wire, foam board, toothpicks, etc). Students will learn about influential artists from historic and contemporary times as they learn to critique their own art.

Band

Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a concert band instrument of their choice and will prepare for various performances throughout the year. **This is a full-year option*

Construction

Students will be designing and developing small projects made out of wood using various tools and machinery. These projects are able to be brought home once they are graded.

Cosmetology

In Cosmetology 8, students will be exploring basic personal grooming which includes learning about personal hygiene, skin, hair, face, and nail care in a safe environment. Part of this course will be practicing hairstyles (braiding, curling, up-dos) and makeup application. Students will have the opportunity to create all natural skin care products and hair tutorial videos. Another part of this course will include the possibility of connecting with cosmetology facilities at a high school or community level and learning about career related opportunities in this field. Join Cosmetology for a fun, hands-on learning experience!

Design Technology

Will explore the nature of how and why humans design the things we manufacture & build. Students will use AutoDesk Inventor software which employs 2D and 3D drafting on computers. This leads to 3D printing, CNC machining, architecture, everything and anything engineering.

Drama

We explore self confidence/team building and finding our comfort level with ourselves and each other through competitive drama games, and games that allow us to be goofy and have a laugh. We will hone our drama skills by exploring performance etiquette/technique (facing audience, vocal projection, facial expressions). We also take a look behind the scenes with technical theatre, where we develop skills with makeup and costumes.

Film

Students will learn about various types and purposes of films. Student portfolios can include editing film-trailers, creating music videos, developing commercials and advertisements, and shooting and editing their own short films.

Foods

This is an introduction to foods. Students will be introduced to basic cooking techniques, kitchen safety, cooking concepts and nutrition through hands-on activities.

French

Students will be looking into French culture and exploring the Quebecois identity through food, dancing, music, and most importantly conversational language. This is the beginning of providing students with essential skills and attitudes that will allow them to utilize the language at higher levels of education and while traveling within Canada or abroad.

Indigenous Studies:

Together, we will experience and gain appreciation for various Canadian Indigenous cultures, traditions, and languages, through interaction with a wide variety of Indigenous people, including elders and youth. Current and historical events, as well as in-person and virtual interactions and activities, will shape the course experience.

Leadership

Students will plan and implement school wide activities and a theme week during each term. Students will also choose different skills and interests they are passionate about and find a way to make a difference using those skills through community volunteering opportunities. Have your voice and choice in what happens in your community!

Photography

Students will develop photography skills with DSLR cameras. Modules will include depth of field, motion, photo series, composition, and photo editing.

Programming Technology

Students will engage in the beginnings of programming logic. We will use Scratch, developed at MIT. It is an excellent visual way to start thinking like a computer. More advanced students will use UNITY, it is the software used to create the Angry Birds APP. Again, great software, very user friendly, very relevant to today's programming.