



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Year 8 Subject Selection Handbook 2025

St Mary's College is an inclusive and liberating coeducational Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition that aspires to excellence in learning, acting with compassion and justice and inspiring one another to shape a better world for all.

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Year 8 Course Outline

Core Subjects

Compulsory Subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- HPE
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Science
- Italian
- Digital Technologies

VAPA

Choose two subjects,
one for each semester

- Drama
- Music
- Visual Art
- Visual Design

Design & Technologies

Choose two subjects,
one for each semester

- Design & Technologies - Food
- Design & Technologies - Materials
- Design & Technologies - Textiles

Timeline

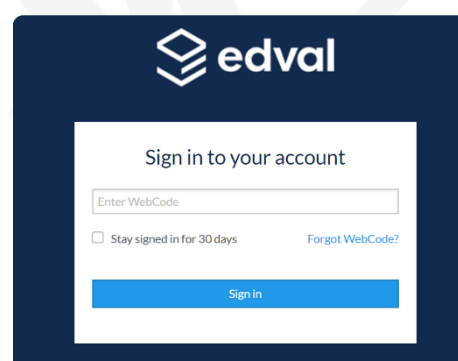
Session	Date
Year 8 Pathways Handbook available	23 August 2023
Information session for students	23 August 2023
Online selection process	23 August 2023
Online selection process closes	30 August 2023
Confirmation of 2024 subjects	Term 4

Online Subject Selection Process

We build our timetable and subject offerings on our students' selections. Which means that the subjects that the students select determine the subjects and number of classes that will be offered in 2024. We make the decision to offer certain subjects when there are enough students to have a viable class. In some instances, there may not be enough students selecting a subject to have more than one class. We have proposed a wide range of subjects that we think may interest our students knowing that there will be some subjects that cannot be offered because the number of students who may select them is too few to have a viable class. For this reason, it is very important that students input their selections in **order of preference**.

Step-by-step Guide

- o The link to Edval Choice can be access through the school links on SIMON
- o Students will be emailed a unique web code that will allow access to the online selection [website](#)
- o Use the individually generated web code to log in to the subject selection page. It is important to log out of last year's page and login with this year's code.
- o Select subjects in **preference order**. You are also required to have two reserve preferences. Please consider these as part of your selections as there is a strong possibility that you may be allocated one of the reserve subjects if there is an unavoidable clash (with a higher preference) or if there are not enough students who select a subject (which means it will not be offered)
- o Click "Submit" when completed.



We are here to help

We have a dedicated team that are more than willing to assist and support our students to make good choices. Please make contact with any of the team if you have any questions or concerns.

College email addresses are:

- o initial
- o surname
- o @stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au



VAPA Electives

Drama

Course Description

Year 8 drama emphasises the development of the practical skills and techniques required by actors and performers through individual and collaborative performances. Students make and respond to drama independently, and with their peers, teachers and communities. Throughout their study students build on their understanding of role, character and relationships. They use voice and movement to sustain character and situation. They use focus, tension, space and time to enhance drama. Students create dramatic action and mood and atmosphere in performance. They shape drama for audiences using narrative and non- narrative dramatic forms and production elements as they engage with diverse forms of drama that range from traditional to contemporary. As they make and respond to performances, students explore ways meaning is created in drama and consider social, cultural and historical influences. Through research and analysis, they evaluate directors' intentions, expressive skills used by actors and actor-audience relationships in the drama they view and perform.

Course Structure

- o Performance
 - o Perform roles
 - o Use a range of performance styles
- o Analysis
 - o Evaluate performances
 - o Research drama practices

Visual Art

Course Description

In Year 8 Visual Art students develop skills in drawing, painting, printmaking and digital art through a study of the theme of 'Space and Form in Art'. As they progress in their study of art, students use an artist's sketchbook to develop their creative ideas and techniques. They experiment with different mediums and learn how to apply these to achieve artistic outcomes such as tonal variation and the illusion of three-dimensional form. As students' skills develop through guided tasks, they begin to refine their work and create artworks for presentation. Through experimenting with collage and mixed media students learn how artworks constructed with diverse materials can vary in the way that they represent subject matter. Through a study of art history students develop an understanding of diverse artistic practices as they build their knowledge of art terminology and their ability to discuss artworks across different times, cultures and artistic practices from traditional to modern periods. Year 8 art students gain inspiration for their work by teacher organised visits to art galleries where students can experience artworks in a gallery setting and improve their overall knowledge of art and art analysis skills.

Course Structure

- o Practical: Folio
 - o How to apply mediums in an artwork
 - o How to create the illusion of three dimensional form
 - o How to apply design elements and principles to construct a composition
- o Theory: Art analysis
 - o How artists develop and construct artworks
 - o How artists express ideas through an artwork

Visual Design

Course Description

In Year 8 Visual Design students develop skills in both Visual Communication Design and Media Arts. Through a study of Visual Communication Design, they learn how to create communication designs that respond to a design brief using both manual and digital drawing techniques. Students experiment with composition, design elements and principles and typography to develop ideas and create final design solutions. They learn how to follow the various stages of a design process as they complete selected communication design tasks. As part of their study students research and develop communication designs that include logos, branding, promotional posters and t-shirt graphics. As they progress through the course students are introduced to designers and design styles and they begin to develop and understand the role and purpose of communication designs in appealing to a target audience. In Media Arts students continue to build on their digital design skills. They are introduced to digital artists and explore representations in art through a study of self- portraiture and identity. Students learn how to manipulate and abstract images and experiment with combining image and text in their designs. They create final digital artworks for presentation in both digital and physical spaces.

Course Outline

- o Practical: portfolio
 - o How to create digital designs for specific purposes
 - o How to develop composition and apply design elements and principles
 - o How to follow a design process
- o Theory: Design and Media Art analysis
 - o Designers and design styles
 - o How Media artists develop and create their art

Music

course description

Year 8 Music is an elective course. It is a preferred requirement of this course that students participate in instrumental/vocal lessons and commit to at least one College music ensemble. Students build confidence to be creative, innovative, skillful and informed musicians through performing, listening and composing. This course is designed to review existing knowledge, plan performance development and establish solid foundations of music theory, understanding and appreciation.

Course content

Focusing on the 12 bar blues, students will

- o Understand the historical context of the blues
- o Develop music theory concepts
- o Improvise melodies over primary chord structure
- o Rehearse and perform in both solo and ensemble environments
- o Analyse music to inform and apply in composition and appreciation
- o Develop listening skills in order to identify, interpret and evaluate
- o Compose music software

Design and Technologies Electives

Design and Technologies - Food

Course Description

In Year 8 Food students learn about food production and how food is produced in managed environments such as farms or plantations, or harvested from wild stocks. They develop an understanding of the challenges involved in managing resources within sustainable agricultural systems. Students explore nutrition principles and the characteristics and properties of food, food selection and preparation, and contemporary food issues. Students come to understand the importance of a variety of foods, sound nutrition principles, food preparation skills and food safety. They learn how to prepare healthy and tasty meals (Designed Solutions) using seasonal ingredients.

Course Outline

- o Practical: Food design solutions
 - o How to create healthy food design solutions
 - o How to prepare food safely
 - o How to follow a production process
- o Theory: Investigation
 - o Properties of food
 - o Sustainability

Design and Technologies - Textiles

Course Description

In Year 8 Design and Technologies - Textiles students explore a broad range of traditional, contemporary and emerging materials, and specialist areas that involve an extensive use of technologies. Students learn about working with materials and production processes. They investigate design opportunities and generate ideas before producing designed solutions using a variety of skills and techniques. Ethical and environmental considerations are explored, and designs are evaluated throughout the design process. Students analyse ways to create textile designed solutions through selecting and combining characteristics and properties of materials.

Course Structure

- o Practical: Folio
 - o How to use machines safely
 - o How to create textile design solutions
- o Theory: Designers
 - o The design process
 - o Safety
 - o Production, materials and sustainability

Design and Technologies – Materials

Course Description

In Year 8, students continue to explore the design process, building on the Year 7 introductory course. They consider the ways different technologies can be used to create designed solutions to problems for individuals. Students develop ideation, documentation and research skills to develop and construct a USB powered Bluetooth speaker. Independent work and organisation becomes of increasing importance in order to manage design tasks and the safe and successful construction of their product.

Course Outline

- o Portfolio:
 - o Research into technologies, materials and construction techniques
 - o Sketching and ideation techniques
 - o Project management
- o Construction
 - o Construction of Bluetooth speaker casing
 - o Addition of decoupage front facia
 - o Soldering and assembly of electrical components



"You can't use up
creativity. The more
you use, the more you
have."

—Maya Angelou