

# St. Matthew's spotlights



## Upper School Electives

*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*

At St. Matthew's, Seventh and Eighth Grade Students have multiple opportunities to explore a range of elective topics, during which time students are offered four opportunities to choose electives.



## recent upper school elective options



### public speaking

**Public Speaking** is an ancient art form still appreciated today – especially when someone is really good at it! Students learn and practice ancient rhetorical devices that effective speakers use to sway audiences large and small.



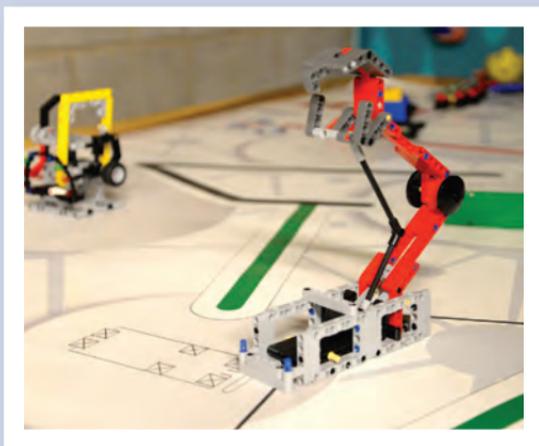
### dance

**Dance** is a popular subject in high school. This class provides a head start learning the fundamentals of dance through a variety of contemporary styles. The program begins with basic technique emphasizing body alignment, coordination, and musicality, then moves on to short combinations that evolve into more extensive choreography. Students acquire dance vocabulary through development of technical skills while regularly completing peer and self-assessments of their progress.



## food • glorious • food

In **Food • Glorious • Food** students learn to create and prepare great meals with their friends. Our goal is to expose students to a range of foods from soups and salads to baked goods and international cuisine. Students learn basic cooking skills and techniques as well as the nutritional values of foods.



## 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.

*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*



## **drama**

The **Drama** elective is a fun, collaborative class that focuses on theater games and improvisation. The class allows students to get to know each other well and also builds students' willingness to take creative and intellectual risks, their knowledge of theater vocabulary - which provides a language to discuss and appreciate the dramatic arts and contributes to cultural literacy - and also builds theater skills which help to develop self-confidence and self-expression.

## creator's studio



**Creator's Studio** focuses on finding the creator in each child and developing their imagination, creativity, and ability to make something out of nothing. Students are challenged to solve problems through project development, test ideas by prototyping and redesign, and learn new skills through exploration and invention. Topics covered include: Circuits, Coding, Physical Computing, and Digital Fabrication.

## japanese

Welcome to **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 of kanji.

## fine arts: clay

This Fine Arts 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.

