

J TERM 2024



ST. MARY'S SPRINGS

Academy



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's Springs Academy, rooted in Christ's teaching, academic excellence, and service to Church and community, prepares students to meet global challenges and become leaders for tomorrow.

CORE VALUES



Faith



Learning



Respect



Responsibility



Leadership



Community

*the
Ledger
way*

Core values to learn, live
and grow by.

VISION OF J-TERM

J-Term at St. Mary's Springs Academy shall spark student interest in learning through a variety of non-traditional courses. Enhancing SMSA's regular curriculum through innovative styles of teaching and enrichment, J-term courses will provide opportunities for project-based learning, interdisciplinary explorations, community connections, and service-learning, along with time to focus on social-emotional development and college and career planning. J-Term will highlight our school's distinctive vision of student growth that is aligned with discernment of personal interests and gifts.

Dear SMSA Parents, Guardians and Students:

With this inaugural J-Term 2024, we celebrate history on the Ledge! Introducing this new academic term is a first of its kind moment which positively differentiates St. Mary's Springs Academy in the region as the only high school in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Flyway Conference to offer a J-Term program and model!

Our dedicated and creative team of high school educators are very excited to launch this new learning experience at the Springs. Planning for this initiative has been interesting and inspirational, firmly focused on providing unique, hands-on, value added and mission driven learning experiences for our Ledgeers.

As we continue to strive for improvement and ways to advance learning at SMSA, I am confident that J-Term will become a treasured and distinguishing feature of the Ledge experience. The high school administration, faculty and staff are very pleased to reveal this finalized initial booklet, which includes course offerings for January Term 2024 and academic policy reminders that apply during J-Term.

SMSA is grateful to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for providing a G.I.F.T.S. Grant to help financially subsidize the development of our first J-Term! We are grateful to Moraine Park Technical College for their creative collaboration and enthusiastic embrace of this project. A hearty thank you to the Springs parent and student community for their positive support for this new model. Finally, many, many thanks to the exceptionally generous and talented faculty and staff of SMSA who have gone the extra mile and a half to imagine and develop our first J-Term!

Our Lady of the Ledge, pray for us.



Eamonn O'Keeffe,
High School Principal



Melissa Trepte
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction



J TERM 2024

COURSE OFFERINGS

Five (5) J-Term course options that convene at Moraine Park Technical College and are taught by MPTC instructors.



MORAINES PARK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Auto Service Fundamentals (602-107)

Date: January 3-15, 2024

Time(s): 8:15am - 12:50pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Duration & Location: Each weekday on the MPTC campus

{ NOTE: PREFERENCE TO STUDENTS OVER 16 DUE TO THE USE OF LIFTS AND OTHER POWER EQUIPMENT.

Successful completion of Algebra required. Maximum enrollment of 18 students. This course prepares students to perform light maintenance repairs such as oil changes and tires. The course orientates students to the college program, repair order writing, professionalism, service information systems, tools and equipment.

CAD 3-D Solidworks (617-114)

Date: January 3-15, 2024

Time(s): 8:15am - 12:50pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Duration & Location: Each weekday on the MPTC campus with a maximum enrollment of 12 students.

This course introduces SolidWorksparametric-based solid modeling techniques. Exercises will include creating and editing solid parts, assemblies and drawings. Top-down and bottom-up designing techniques will be applied to product design, sheet metal and mold tooling exercises. Exploded views, Bill of Materials, animations, finite element analysis and configurations will be created. File conversions will be explored to and from Creo/Pro-Engineer, Mastercam and AutoCAD software.



Gas Metal Arc Welding (442-357)

Date: January 3-15, 2024
Time(s): 8:15am - 12:50pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Duration & Location: Each weekday on the MPTC campus

This course introduces students to the necessary safety and set up of welding equipment and welding equipment maintenance. The course includes an introduction to welding terminology, demonstrates safe shop work practices, teaches the set up and shut down of GMAW equipment and the welding mild steel in the flat, horizontal, and vertical down positions.


Title: Manufacturing Processes (623-162)

Date: January 3-15, 2024
Time(s): 8:15am - 12:50pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Duration & Location: Each weekday on the MPTC campus with maximum enrollment of 14 students.

This course provides training to safely operate commonly used machine tools such as lathes, milling machines and surface grinders while making various hands-on projects. Students learn to use basic measuring equipment such as micrometers and dial calipers. Students also learn basic machining procedures such as calculating speeds and feeds, determining tap drill sizes, and selecting tooling. Several nontraditional machining processes, sheet metal processes, joining processes and plastics processes are also explored.

Nursing Assistant (543-300)

Date: January 3 - January 21, 2024
Time(s): 7am-12:35pm
Duration & Location: Meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday, MPTC campus with maximum of 8-10 students.

 **NOTE: MUST BE 16 YEARS OLD TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS COURSE DUE TO STATE LAW**

The Nursing Assistant Program prepares students for employment as nursing assistants. The program also prepares students for other health-related programs. During the course, students will be required to demonstrate the following skills under the supervision of a licensed nurse: communication, basic nursing assistant and personal care skills, attention to client rights, and care of clients with dementia. The program is recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as a nurse-aide training program.

NOTE: *Ms. Haugen will serve as site supervisor and SMSA teacher of record for Skyward daily attendance and grade entry. She will be on-site at MPTC each day as a resource for Ledgers attending these courses.

J TERM 2024

COURSE OFFERINGS

Eleven (11) J-Term course options that will convene on campus at SMSA using SMSA instructors.



Chemistry Cuisine and Crime

Instructors: Ms. Sweeney & Mr. Zimmer

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

Students will delve into the fascinating world of Chemistry including Food Science and Forensic Science. Through a combination of laboratory experiments and real-world applications. Students will develop a deep understanding of titration, acids and bases, food science, and forensic techniques. By the end of the course, students will have taken several field trips (Grande Cheese and a museum or university to talk about forensic science) and work through various chemistry, food science, and forensic science labs.

Winter Sports Odyssey

Instructors: Mr. Kaiser & Mr. Knepfel

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

Our goal in this course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and appreciation for a variety of winter sports and activities. These activities may include: skating, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, winter survival, dog sledding, and several Olympic sports. There is infinitely more to winter than cozy sweaters and fireplaces - join us as we explore ways to stay active and involved with Mother Nature during the traditionally "restful" seasons in Wisconsin. Off campus and outdoor excursions will be an important aspect of this course.



Laboratory experiments and real-world applications fuel the fascinating **Chemistry Cuisine and Crime** course.

Holy Schist that is a Gneiss Rock! I hope you don't take it for Granite. Let's hit it with a hammer and see what happens.

Instructor: Dr. Biessman

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

Students will learn about common rocks and minerals' formation processes, physical properties, and various uses. Lessons will focus on Wisconsin, a state with a rich geological history. Wisconsin has had mountains, volcanoes, and a large mid-continental rift and borders two of the largest lakes in the world and is part drift less and glacier-plowed. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper appreciation for the geological history of Wisconsin and a better understanding of the formation processes of common rocks and minerals. Each student will come out with a collection of representative samples of Wisconsin's better-known rocks and minerals. Excursions off-campus will allow students to experience geology from a first-person perspective.

Cooking with Confidence

Instructors: Mrs. C. Anderson & Mrs. Arndt

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

Students will develop basic culinary skills, while learning concepts such as menu planning, food prep, and food/kitchen safety. Students will learn to cook confidently with and for others, gain a better understanding of cooking methods, kitchen tools and ingredients used. Opportunities to visit a demonstration kitchen and/or excursions relevant to course topics may further stimulate the imagination and skill set of Ledger cooks.

Break a Leg: Performing and Presenting Without the Pressure of Perfection

Instructors: Mrs. Besson & Mrs. Herbst

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

This is a course intended to provide students with a relaxed environment to explore the theatrical arts and become more comfortable with presenting and performing dramatic and creative pieces. Students will learn how to create, execute, and critique various types of speech and stage arts, both individually and collaboratively. Not only will students perform existing works, but they will also create and compile their own unique pieces. Students will have the opportunity to view and reflect upon both amateur and professional performances. Some off-campus excursion opportunities may further enlighten the art of performance and potential career applications.



Students will gain a deeper appreciation of WISCONSIN'S GEOLOGICAL HISTORY, and learn how to identify rocks like this one, through Dr. Biessman's J-Term course!

Divine Doodles: Exploring Iconography

Instructors: Mr. Braun & Mrs. Stavropoulos

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

In this course, Ledgers will learn to appreciate Greek and Roman cultural elements (art, food, music, architecture, dance, etc) and their influence on modern life - both religious and social. Through field trips to key churches/holy sites, students will explore art and be able to distinguish between Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions. Students will experience different forms of prayer, study religious art forms, and create their own personal icons - some of which may be donated to Ledgerfest!

Have Mercy, Will Work

Instructors: Mr. Gagnon, Mrs. S. Anderson, Fr. Michael Malucha

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

Inspired by the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, students will learn about local and regional resources for serving the most vulnerable. The course will offer both classroom learning and hands-on service experiences at local non-profit community service organizations (ie. St. Vincent de Paul Society, Loaves and Fishes, the Holy Family Warming Shelter, etc). Guest speakers shall address topics such as social justice, homelessness and prison ministry.

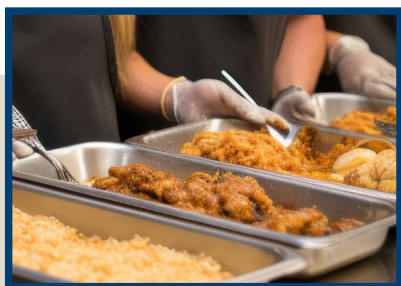
Introduction to D.C. and Digital Circuits

Instructor: Mr. Allen

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

A hands-on lab-based course designed to give the student basic working knowledge of direct current and digital circuits. Students will learn to use various electronic equipment to gain knowledge of the fundamentals of electrical circuits. Students will also explore the core parts of a digital circuit, and build digital circuits involving LED's and Integrated Circuits.



Experiences at local non-profit organizations within our community, make **Have Mercy, Will Work** a powerful course focused on ministry and service.

Life Skills

Instructor: Mrs. Brusky & Ms. Pannier

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

So what is a life skill? A skill that is necessary for full participation in everyday life. Can you earn all of your merit badges for life skills? Come find out. Students will learn how to fix what is broken instead of replacing it, a homeowner essential skill. In addition, students will dive into basic first aid, social etiquette, and how to follow a basic recipe, just to name a few. Life is full of challenges, whether it's starting college, moving to a new community, or planning a budget, we are here to help.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Instructor: Mr. Kieser & Mr. Krueger

Meets: Daily on school days • January 3-19, 2024

Time(s): 8:35am - 12:50pm

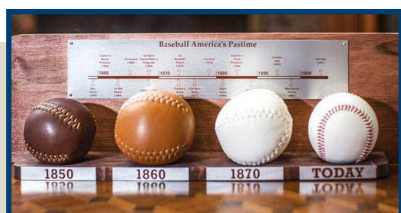
Renowned baseball philosopher Yogi Berra once said, "It's fun." The same could be said of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," our J-term course, which explores the rich history of baseball, the greatest game ever invented. Over 13 days, we'll look at legendary players and unforgettable moments, as we explore the cultural impact that has made baseball a part of our national identity. Who's on first? What's the infield fly rule? Why is there no joy in Mudville? You'll learn the answers to these questions and countless others through historical deep-dives and lively discussions if you step up to the plate and join us for "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Youth Apprenticeship Option

SMSA Liaisons: Mr. O'Keeffe & Mrs. McCarthy

Students currently enrolled in the CESA 6 Youth Apprenticeship Program

(YA) have the option to use J-Term to enhance their work experiences at their existing YA work placements. A separate application form will need to be completed to apply for this option. If interested, YA students should inform their CESA 6 YA Coordinators (Julie Nass or Beth Kwakkel) that they are choosing this option. It allows us to work with YA employers to suggest activities that can expand the YA employment experience. If employers agree to supporting this option, students will then be required to log and certify a total of 52 hours of work at their YA placement site during the 13 days of J-Term. A summative reflection on their experience during this 13 day period will also be required. If all criteria is met successfully, students who choose this option will receive 0.5 academic credits.



Explore the rich history of baseball in the exciting and lively [Take Me Out to the Ballgame](#) course!

Q: When does J-Term occur?

A: The first day of J-Term is Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Students meet for J-Term classes every weekday through January 19. Semester II classes begin on January 23 (NOTE: There are no classes scheduled for Monday, Jan. 22)

Q: Is J-Term required for all Ledgers?

A: Yes. All high school Ledgers are required to earn 0.5 credits through J-Term courses each year they are enrolled at SMSA.

Q: Will J-Term courses cost extra?

A: J-Term courses are included in the cost of SMSA annual tuition. To help support this new initiative, SMSA received an Archdiocesan G.I.F.T.S. grant.

Q: What if a family has made plans out of town during J-Term?

A: Academic administration has approved an SMSA Credit Recovery Plan for any student who may be unable to participate in J-Term. The 0.5 credit lost must be recovered immediately upon return to school in Quarter 3. Further details about the SMSA Credit Recovery Plan will be shared with families on an as-needed basis.

Q: What if a student is absent during J-Term?

A: The compulsory attendance policies of the State of Wisconsin, SMSA and the Archdiocese apply to J-Term. Parents/guardians are required to notify school attendance officials whenever a student will miss any part of a school day. Since J-Term is a compressed learning term (with a single J-Term class period equal to three classes of a semester cycle course) missing one day of J-Term shall be significant and may hinder a students academic progress and term grade. Per

policy, Ledgers with an excused absence are responsible for all missing class work unless a formal medical exemption is approved by the principal. If a student misses more than three days of J-Term classes, they shall be withdrawn from J-Term and subsequently enrolled in the SMSA Credit Recovery Plan developed for J-Term.

Q: Will lunch be available to high school students during J-Term?

A: Yes. When students are learning on-campus during J-Term, lunch will be scheduled at the usual time. When students are off-campus, teachers and chaperones will make sure to plan for lunch. Specific plans/needs will be communicated to parents and guardians through communication from the J-Term instructor(s). For students who enroll in an MPTC course, lunch breaks will be provided. Instructors will provide more information to those who are registered.

Q: What Happens After Lunch for Grades 9-11?

A: Student Life Programming! One exciting feature of the SMSA based daily schedule is the inclusion of special afternoon programming supported by SMSA Pupil Services and the Counseling Office. The unique J-Term schedule and model offers dedicated time to manage important aspects of modern student life that always seem to run short of time in a normal schedule, including social-emotional learning and support; student health and wellness; SCOIR platform orientation; college and career exploration and inventories; College essay boot camp; four year planning and time for future course scheduling. Guest speaker programs may also be featured during J-Term after lunch sessions, which are required for students in Grades 9-11.

OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS:

STUDENT REGISTRATION/SCHEDULING:

Students and parents will receive the official J-Term 2024 Booklet /course guide prior to registration. Course selection/registration shall occur through the completion of electronic forms in homerooms on Oct. 31. During registration, students will indicate a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of J-Term classes. While we hope to accommodate student's 1st choice as often as possible, most students will be taking a class that is their alternate choice. As a small Catholic high school, unlimited curricular options are not reasonable or possible. The same is true with J-Term options. We trust that our Springs community understands this reality and will gracefully respect all final course placement decisions. Each J-Term course has been designed to offer excellent value to students. Over time, SMSA educators believe that the cumulative J-Term experiences of this unique learning model will help students obtain valuable perspectives - whether through a first, second, or third choice course! Scheduling decisions of the principal are final.

DRESS CODE:

Unless explicitly noted as part of a class excursion/ field trip activity, students are expected to be in uniform during the 13 days of J-Term. Some activities off-campus may require alternative attire, and students enrolled in classes that are impacted will be notified.

GRADING:

Each J-Term course shall use the unweighted grading scale (4.3 GPA for A+). Students will earn a letter grade for J-Term courses. Student cumulative GPA shall be calculated including J-Term grades.

FIELD TRIPS, EXCURSIONS &

GUEST SPEAKERS:

J-Term is designed to encourage experiential learning. To accomplish this, sometimes learning will occur on-campus in a lab or classroom. Sometimes the primary learning activity will occur away from SMSA, and even away from Fond du Lac. Some day trips will require students to be off campus for 3-4 hours, and some for 7-10 hours. Some classes plan to invite guest experts to join with our students - either 'in the field' or

in the classroom. Like normal practice, any learning that may take place off campus will require parental permission slips which will be facilitated through the J-Term teacher.

SERVICE DURING J-TERM:

Independent of their chosen J-Term class, all senior Ledgers are required to participate in the Beatitude Project - the new SMSA senior service capstone project. To help facilitate this, seniors will be free after 1pm each day of J-Term. Approval for Beatitude Project senior service will be obtained through Semester I senior theology courses and Mrs. Gentile. Seniors are expected to perform 12 hours of service at their chosen site during the 13 days of J-Term. In addition, the J-Term course "Have Mercy, Will Work" features a variety of community service experiences. Other J-Term courses may also include service as an aspect of the curriculum.

AP & DUAL CREDIT COURSES:

To enable continuity in preparation for AP exams, each AP course shall be scheduled to meet four times during a special 'ZERO hour' rotation during J-Term. College Dual Credit courses will not meet during J-Term but shall resume in Semester II.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES:

Both the Vocal Jazz and Instrumental Jazz ensembles will meet during J-Term on four afternoons. Specific dates will be shared when course plans are finalized. This will enable our music students to maintain their preparation for the State Solo and Ensemble competitions in February.

ATHLETICS:

The SMSA high school athletic calendar and programs shall be maintained during J-Term. Planning has been taken to avoid conflicts with game days. There may be times, however, when a student athlete may need extra leniency from a coach for being late to practice due to a J-Term excursion that has returned late.

FROM THE SMSA 2023-24 CURRICULUM GUIDE:

As a graduation requirement, all Ledgers shall earn 0.5 credit annually during J-Term. Medical documentation shall be required for any student who is absent for more than 3 consecutive days of J-Term. All SMSA academic, attendance and co-curricular policies apply during J-Term. The Ledger Way Core Values are SMSA cultural guide posts during all academic terms.

J-TERM DAILY SCHEDULE FOR SMSA BASED CLASSES:

7:30 - 8:30am	ZERO HOUR Rotation of AP Classes ONLY (all other HS students report by 8:35)	1:40 - 3:15pm	Rotation of Pupil Services Student Life Workshops & Special Programs; Jazz Ensemble Rotations
8:35 - 12:50pm	On-Campus J-Term Classes Meet		
1:00 - 1:35pm	LUNCH for all students on campus		

** MPTC based courses will follow an independent calendar and daily schedule that shall be confirmed with students and parents prior to the start of J-Term classes. See course descriptions for more details.*

J
TERM
2024



For additional information, or for questions regarding J-Term, please contact:

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