

# NEW PARENT MEETING

Suncoast Academy 2024-2025





# SCHOOL MISSION

“The mission of Sarasota Suncoast Academy is to integrate excellence in education, highly motivated and qualified teachers, deeply concerned and involved parents and a supportive community to provide students a superior learning opportunity. We will develop and reinforce a strong value system and a healthy work ethic that affords children the tools needed to succeed and contribute in the 21st century.”



# Introductions



Stacy Homan  
Head of Schools



Justin Kamlade  
Middle School Principal



Alba Ramos  
Middle School  
Assistant Principal

# ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Jen Lambright  
Registrar



Dorcas Weaver  
Receptionist



Myreli Zamora  
Parent/Student  
Teacher  
Liaison



## 8TH GRADE TEAM



Denise Piney  
Science



Jeremy Taylor  
Civics



Dan Cymbal  
Math



Jennifer Loomis  
ELA



# ELECTIVE TEAM



Michelle Hill  
PE/ Athletic Director



Matt Webb  
Band/Orchestra/Music Tech



Deyanira Carey  
Spanish



Kat Giguere  
STEM/Agricultural  
Science



Jenifer Modjeski  
Drama/Theater/Dance/  
Tech



Nick Conforti  
PE



Mihn La  
Art



Natalie Smithers  
ILA



# SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website:  
*[www.suncoastacademy.org](http://www.suncoastacademy.org)*

Stay informed about current  
and upcoming events,  
community partners and  
other important information

Be sure to check out the  
PT4SO tab





8:30am - 3:15pm |  
Grades: K-8

# A school where y child is the prior

Sarasota Suncoast Academy stresses the strong link be  
success and social-emotional learning

About Us

Parent Page

Enrollment >

Tours >

Volunteer Portal

Parent Portal

Extended Care

Event Store



[FAQ](#)



[Parent Portal](#)



[Volunteer Portal](#)



[Cafe Volunteer Signup](#)



[Event Store](#)



[Extended Care](#)



[Lunch Menu & Money](#)



[Car Line Information](#)



[Bus Routes](#)



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[Summer Assignments](#)



[Summer Reading  
Programs](#)



[Parent Tutorials](#)



[Enrollment Information](#)



[Elementary Tours Sign-  
up](#)



[Middle Grade Tours  
Sign-up](#)



[K-5 Dress Code](#)



[6-8th Grade Dress Code](#)



[MS Uniform Store](#)



[County Handbook](#)



Quick find



Parents

Volunteer Portal Tutorial

How to access Google Classroom

**FOCUS Parent Portal**



# SSA Parent Tutorials

## FOCUS PORTAL

Make sure you are updating your information in  
Focus Portal:

- Correct email(s)

- Correct address

- Correct contacts

- Correct phone numbers

- Pickup List



# FOCUS PORTAL

Check assignment grades

Check progress reports

See report cards

Notifications



Portal

School Info

My Profile

Communication

**Preferences**

Calendar

Forms

Display Options

Password

**Notifications**

1 Parent

Status	Name	Email	Frequency	Summaries
		<div></div>	Weekly	<div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attendance</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discipline</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Billing Fees</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Upcoming Assignments</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grades Link</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events and Announcements</div></div>

## STUDENT & FAMILY HANDBOOK

*Parents are responsible for reviewing the handbook and all students are bound by the rules noted in this document and by School Board policy.*

their website:

<http://sarasotacountyschools.net/>

You must then click on the “Families” tab. The handbook is listed under the “Other Resources” heading in the middle of the page.





# Parents and Students

Registration

Classroom Libraries

MySCS

Family Portal

Online Payments

Focus Portal

## Popular Resources

Classroom Libraries

Online Payments

## Other Resources

School Map & Directory

Student and Family Handbook

## Technology Resources

District Schools Library Catalog Destiny

FortifyFL Information

# Student and Family Handbook

- [Section 1 Getting Started](#)
- [Section 2 – Attendance Activities](#)
- [Section 3 – Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Section 4 – Academics](#)
- [Section 5 – Health](#)
- [Section 6 – Volunteering and Partnerships](#)
- [Section 7 – Directories](#)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

The Student and Family Handbook has been developed to help students, families, and administrators understand the policies and procedures established for students. Topics of interest can be navigated using the menu on this page. Your school may have additional resources like a school-specific handbook that can be found on their website.

# LUNCH



- Checks should be payable to “**SKYE RANCH SCHOOL**” and should be placed in an envelope marked with your child’s name (& pin number if you know it.) Note: You can put any amount of money in your child’s account. It is not necessary to pay on a daily basis. Money can be added to your child’s lunch account online through [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)
- Costs
  - Breakfast - \$2.25
  - Lunch - \$3.75
- **Need Assistance?** Applications for Free & Reduced Lunch need to be completed and turned in to the district for approval. These items are confidential, and we are not informed, nor do we have any control of decisions they make. You can sign up online by going to [sarasotacountyschools.net](http://sarasotacountyschools.net). Click on “popular links” at the top. Click “menus,” and the application is on the right.
- Middle grade students are allowed to purchase available seconds with parent permission
- If parents wish to eat school lunch with their child, they must let the office know first thing in the morning so that Skye Ranch can be notified to include additional lunches, and they must pay for lunch when they are served. Adult lunches are \$4.00.
- **Late Arrival:** If your child will be late to school, we need to know their lunch order by **8:50**.
- Menus are sent home monthly. Students may eat school lunch or bring their own nutritional bag lunch from home. **NO SODAS OR CANDY PLEASE!**

Please Note: Microwaves are NOT available to students.



# HEALTH INFORMATION

- If your child has allergies, asthma, or any other major health issues, please make sure you complete school paperwork so that we can take care of them properly. (A county health nurse may be contacting you to get further instructions on their care.)
- It is illegal for us to have **ANY** medication on school grounds without a written authorization from their doctor, including over the counter medications. Forms are available from the school office. **Note: It is also illegal for students to transport any medications. You must come to the front desk and sign in/out all medications.**
- Students may not come to school if they have a rash, pink eye, or active head lice. Students will be sent home with active head lice, if they have a fever of 100 degrees or higher, or if they vomit. Please make sure you have correct emergency numbers.
- **\*\*\*SCHOOL POLICY: Students may not return to school until they have been fever/upset stomach free (without medication) for 24 hours.**



# Attendance Policy

As we begin the school year, we would like to clarify all attendance policies at Suncoast Academy.

School begins **PROMPTLY** at 8:30 a.m.

It's advised that students are dropped off **NO LATER** than 8:20 a.m.

Students will begin "Advisory" at 8:30 a.m.

This is an important part of the Responsive Classroom day; therefore, it is important that your child be in class and ready to begin **BEFORE** 8:30 a.m. daily.

**\*\* Drop off gate will be closing at 8:28 a.m.\*\***

**After this time parents will have to sign them in the main office.**



## Morning Drop-off

- Please do not drop off your child before 8:00 a.m.  
Gates to campus will remain locked until that time.  
(Before Care is \$12/day and runs from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.)
- Students arriving between 8:00 and 8:27 go to their grade level designated area. At **8:27**, students go to their advisory classroom.
- Students needing breakfast **must** arrive before 8:10 and go to cafeteria.

# If you are late, please follow this procedure:

You MUST park, come inside and sign in your child.

The book is on the counter at the front desk.

If your child will be later than 8:50 AM,  
please call  
if they will need lunch.

We call lunches in to Skye Ranch at before 9:00am.

**\*\*NOTE:** If your child wishes to eat breakfast here in the morning, they should arrive **NO LATER** than 8:10 a.m. In order for them to finish and get to their class on time.





# Absences Policy

- **BE ADVISED:** In accordance with the **parent contract** you signed, excessive tardiness directly affects your child's learning and is grounds for dismissal from the school.
- Students that are absent have **three (3)** days to bring in a note to have their absence excused. We do appreciate you calling to let us know that they will be out; however, for audit purposes we still must have a note for their files. Absences past three days requires a doctor note to be excused.



# Excessive Absences/Tardies

Automated phone call for each absence



5 unexcused = meeting or call with school



A student that has 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days is considered a habitual truant under state law.



The student may be dealt with as a child in need of services under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes. In addition, the parent/guardian may be subject to criminal prosecution under Chapter 232, Florida Statutes. School Board Policy 5.40 grants authority to the principal to determine excused absences.



# Make Up Work Policy

To receive credit for missing work due to absence, a student must turn in assignments upon returning to school within the number of days missed. However, for assignments that had previously determined due dates, those due dates must be observed unless prior arrangements were made with the teacher.



# Late Pickup

Students must be picked up by 3:30 p.m.

Habitual late pick up will result in dismissal from Suncoast

Helpful Tip: If you sign up for After Care, we will send students over at 3:30 if you happen to be running late



# Early Pickup

- Students need to stay in class through dismissal as learning takes place from the beginning to the end of the day.
- **Please attempt to make appointments after school.**
- Middle school students must be signed out in the middle school office!
- **Please send a note** if you know in advance that you will be taking your child early. It really disrupts the class if the teacher has to stop instruction.



# Bus Riders

Sign up for bus – Focus Portal

Contact Transportation (941-486-2141) if you have issues.

Bus riders must get off at the same stop every day they ride the bus.

Students may not ride the bus to go hang out at another student's house.

District Information: Parents can begin checking FOCUS for bus transportation starting July 22, 2025. If no information appears by August 1, they should submit a request through the Transportation page on the district website. The WheretheBus App will begin updating with route information on August 4.



**\*\*Please note: Cars must yield to a bus at all times!**





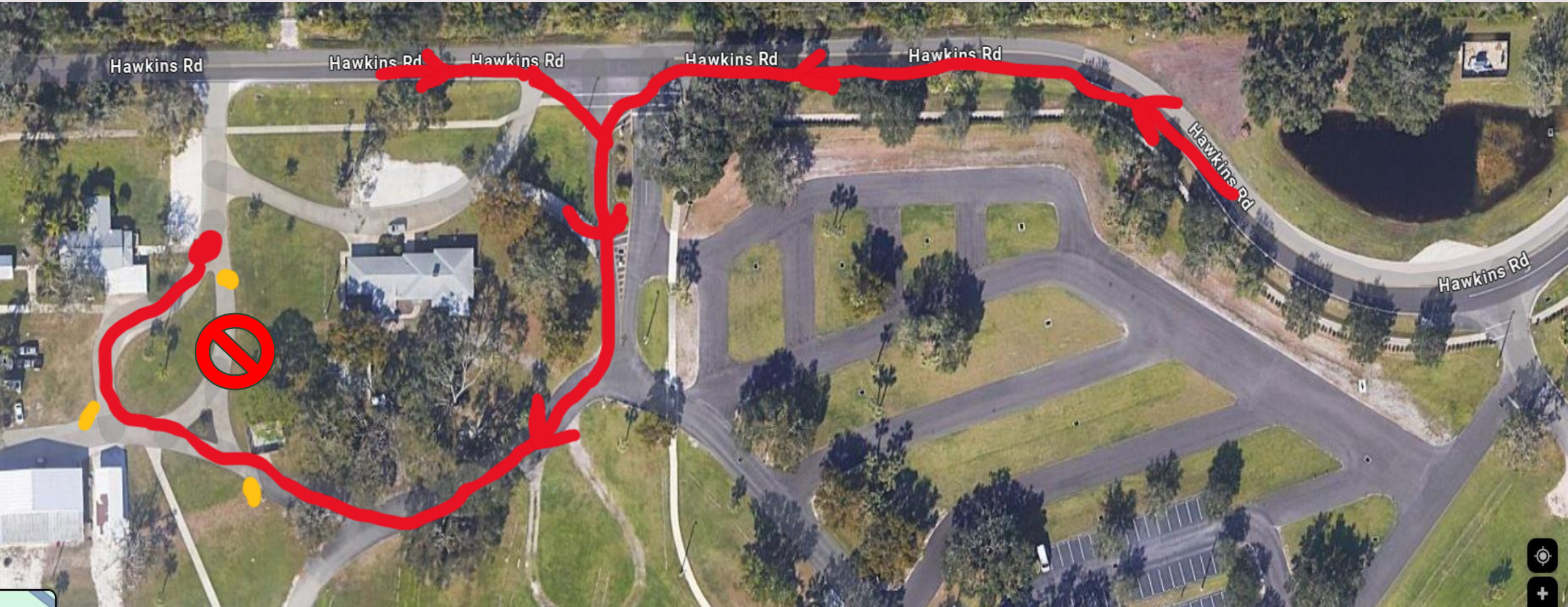
# Afternoon Pickup

**\*\*Urgent Notice: Please Pull All the Way Forward\*\***

- Pick up begins at 3:02
- Avoid early pick up. (Middle School pick up at MS office)
- Students will be walking out to find your car. Please stay in the car and do not walk up to where students are standing.
- Students with elementary siblings will be picked up by the big tree in the elementary line.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL ARRIVAL ROUTE



# Arrival: Families With Multiple Students

- If you have a middle school student and Kindergarten or 1st Grade student, you will need to drop the middle school student off in the middle school car line and then proceed to the elementary car line to drop the Kindergarten or 1st Grade student off.
- If you have a middle school student and 2nd-5th student, they can all be dropped off in the middle school line as they are all portable students.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL DISMISSAL ROUTE



# Dismissal: Families With Multiple Students

- If you ONLY have middle school students, they get picked up in the middle school car line.
- If you have ANY COMBINATION of middle school and elementary students, then you must use the elementary car line. Middle school students will be picked up near the tree, and then drivers proceed to pick up their elementary students



# Uniforms

- Students are expected to wear school uniforms daily as outlined below:

## Monday- Thursday

- **Polos:** green, grey, black. Any shade. Small logos
- **Bottoms:** At least fingertip length. Athletic shorts are acceptable. NO sweat pant material. No tights, leggings, yoga pants. Students may wear leggings under appropriate length clothing in school colors.
- **Shoes:** Closed toe shoes required. Crocs allowed when actively raining but must have change of shoes for when stops.
- **Hoodies:** grey, green, or black. No screen prints. Small chest logo is acceptable. Must wear polos under hoodie.
- Fridays- Students may wear their “School Spirit”, school sports team spirit shirts, or Running of the Bulls shirts on **Fridays Only** in place of their polo shirts.





# Unacceptable Clothing



No lines  
on sides



Sweatpants/or  
sweat pant  
material



Leggings,  
tights, or yoga  
pants



Undergarments  
showing



One leg  
leggings/  
compression  
leggings





## Acceptable Clothing

Shorts At least **Finger tip** in length applies to girls and boys



Black, Gray or any color green



Pants Solid: Tan, black, navy blue, gray



Hoodie with polo underneath



Joggers (no sweat pant material)



# Lost and Found

## LOST AND FOUND

Students lose jackets, extra clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc.

Hint: put student's name on items including water bottles and lunch boxes!

\*\*\*\* Every 4 weeks we will send unclaimed lost and found items to Mothers Helping Mothers \*\*\*



# CELL PHONE POLICY

We have adopted a NO-cell phone policy for the safety of our students, families and staff. We appreciate your cooperation in restricting the use of cell phones in the following areas:

- While in a car in the pick-up / drop-off line
- While driving in the driveway or parking lot at any time
- While walking in the parking area
- In the classrooms while students are present
- Parents should not text or call students on their cell phones.

Please use the school number for correspondence with students while at school.

This policy has been put into effect due to some close calls during arrival and dismissal in order to prevent accidents.



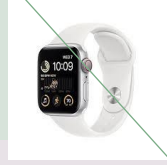
# Student Cell Phone Policy



May have in their bags or purses, etc. (Not on their person)



Must remain OFF while on campus at all times



No smartwatches or other devices that can connect to internet



Students may **NOT** have Bluetooth headphones, must be headphones with wires



Students should not text or call from their cell phones during the school day



## BREAKFAST/LUNCH

Breakfast and lunch is not longer provided for free by the county. To apply for free or reduced lunch visit Sarasota County Schools website.

<b><u>2025/2026 Approved Prices</u></b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Elementary School</b>	2.25	3.25
<b>Middle School</b>	2.25	3.75
<b>High School</b>	2.25	3.75



## ACADEMICS AT SSA

- High academic standards exist at Suncoast.
- New this year: Any student receiving a letter grade of an F (59 and below) for a nine-week quarter will be placed on academic probation. The student will have one quarter to bring the grade above an F.
- Any students receiving an F grade will need to take Course Recovery for the next 9 weeks.





## PARENT COMMUNICATION

- Step 1: Have your child go to the teacher
- Step 2: Go to the teacher
- Step 3: Hold 7th grade team meeting
- Step 3: Reach out to administration





# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

- Absent Work Policy
- For EXCUSED absences: To receive credit for missing work due to absence, a student must turn in assignments upon returning to school within the number of days missed. However, for assignments that had previously determined due dates, those due dates must be observed unless prior arrangements were made with the teacher.
- It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to check **Google Classroom** and/or the **FOCUS** portal for all assignments, announcements, and assessments.
- Students must make arrangements with his/her teacher to take tests/quizzes that are missed within the policy timeframe.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Late Work Policy

One day late: 70%

Two days late: 0%

\*Students are always responsible for knowing the material.



**CARES**

- We encourage parents and students to read the comments in the FOCUS portal regarding CARES grades. This is 5% of the students' overall grade.
- Cooperation / Assertion / Responsibility / Empathy / Self-Control

# **HOMEWORK**

- Students should expect to have no more than 30 minutes of homework every night for each core subject.

**OPEN HOUSE:  
PLEASE JOIN US.**

We encourage parents and students to attend the Middle School Open House on Wednesday, August 27, 5:00-7:00 PM.

Teachers will give more specific information regarding individual classes.

# ATHLETICS AT SUNCOAST ACADEMY

## Athletic Seasons:

Girls Volleyball – August-October

Coed Golf – August-October

Coed Cross Country – September-December

Cheer – September-May

Girls Basketball – October-December

Boys Basketball – October-December

Flag Football - January-March

Pickleball - January-March

Boys Soccer – March-May

Girls Soccer – March-May

Coed Tennis – March-May

Athletic Director: **Michelle Hill**

[Michelle.Hill@suncoastacademy.org](mailto:Michelle.Hill@suncoastacademy.org)



Students must maintain at 2.0 GPA to participate in school sponsored sports! Packets available on the website or you can contact Michelle Hill at [Michelle.Hill@suncoastacademy.org](mailto:Michelle.Hill@suncoastacademy.org) for more information.







## VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Suncoast families are required to give 10 hours of volunteer time.
  - 20 hours for families with both elementary and middle students.
- Hours are awarded for volunteering in the lunchroom, in classrooms, chaperoning field trips, and for attending extra-curricular activities.
- Hours can be logged on the school website
- [Suncoastacademy.org](http://Suncoastacademy.org) -> Parent Info -> Volunteer hours -> "Click Here to Register"





## VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Suncoast Academy STRICTLY enforces the volunteer time requirement. In accordance with the parent contract you signed, failure to complete your obligation will result in your child being returned to his/her district school the following school year. Our parental involvement is part of what makes our school special.
- Please start your volunteer time early!
- In accordance with the Jessica Lunsford Act, everyone visiting our campus must come to the front desk and receive an official photo I.D. in order to be on school grounds. In addition, all volunteers must also have completed F.D.L.E. search through the PALS system.

**NOTE: YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE THE FIRST TIME IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR I.D. BADGE.**



# Volunteering

## Possible volunteer opportunities:

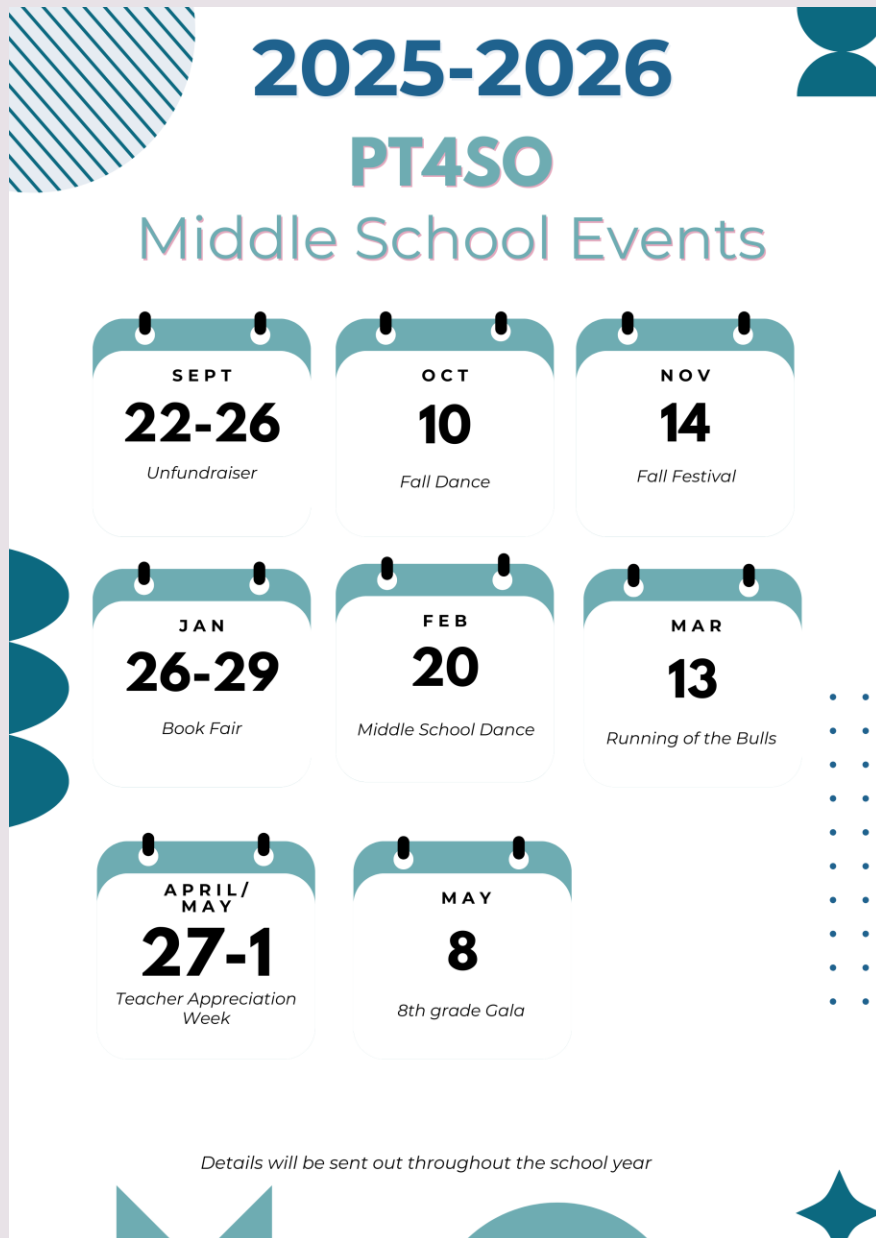
- Classroom events
- Cafeteria help - daily 11:00-1:15
- File books in the library
- Running copies/ laminating
- PT4SO events

## After hours opportunities:

- PT4SO Meetings / Events
- School Meetings / Events
- Sports/Events
- Cleaning with the custodian
- Yard/lawn work (Hurricane Clean Up)



# PT4SO- Parents and Teachers For Students Organization



Welcome to the 2025 - 2026 school year at Sarasota Suncoast Academy. The PT4SO is excited about the many possibilities that each new year brings. Whether your family is returning to Suncoast, or you are new to the school, we look forward to working with you to make this year a success!

The PT4SO's goal is to build a strong community of parents, teachers and administrators. We are committed to enriching the lives of our students and their families through events.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

## Room Parents

Responsible for sending communications out to parents, through a class email list. Providing details on the events coming up. Help during advisory school events and overall support to the advisory teachers.

## Dances

Middle school hosts 3 dances per year. We need 3 chair volunteers to run these events. Chairing events, you create your team and run the event. We have 2 (all grade dances) and 1 (8th grade dance)

## Unfundraiser

Largest fundraiser Suncoast Academy runs at beginning of year. This fundraiser helps build up our PT4SO funds for the upcoming year of events. PT4SO funds all of the events put on for both elementary and middle school.

## Fall Festival

Fall Festival is a yearly school celebration & silent auction that brings our school K-8 together. It takes place in November and is a time of fun, community and fundraising. All funds raised to go teachers & their classrooms!

## Field Day "Running of the Bulls"

Responsible to help pre organize as well as help run for the day of the event. Requires pre-planning for yearly custom shirts & gathering donations to cover the cost of shirts.

# PT4SO



# SPONSORSHIPS



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### BULLS PARTNER

\$5,000+

- Promotional Booth at Fall Festival
- Large Logo on Running of the Bulls/Little Bull Run Shirts
- ¼ page ad on Yearbook
- Monthly social media shout out
- Website link to your business
- Logo displayed in school lobby
- Banner on fence

#### School Needs:

Golf Cart / Instruments / Risers  
Soccer Goals / News Cameras / Gym

### CLASSROOM SPONSOR

Sunshine Sponsor - \$200

- Certificate of Appreciation

Solar Flare Sponsor - \$350

- Certificate of appreciation
- 1/8 Yearbook Ad
- Business link on School Website

Solar Eclipse Sponsor - \$500

- Plaque - Fall Festival
- 1/8 Yearbook Ad
- Business link on website
- Social Media Shout out

### ATHLETICS SPONSOR

\$3,000

- Scoreboard Advertisement for 3 years (limited to 3 Sponsors)-Larger size Company Banner on MS Athletic Field

\$2,000

- Scoreboard Advertisement- (limited to 1)-Smaller size Company Banner on MS Athletic Field

\$500 Sports Spirit Shirts - (per sport)

- Sponsor back of the shirt  
Volleyball, Football, Soccer girls/boys, Basketball Girls/Boys, Pickleball , Cross country , Tennis, Cheerleading.

\$350

Company Banner on the MS Athletic Field Fence

### ARTS SPONSOR

\$500

Name on Play and Night of the Arts programs

Name on Play Shirts

Special Events Sponsors Contact PT4SO  
(Dances, Teacher Appreciation, Fall Festival, Family gatherings,  
Little Bull Run, ROB, Pj Bingo)



# Supply Donations

- The supply donation goes to benefit teachers, to help purchase items that are needed but are difficult for parents to provide
- Payment envelopes will be given to students on the first day of school





# Student Schedule Pick Up

Thursday, August 7, 2025

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

- Purchase Friday Spirit Shirts (\$12)
- Buy school hoodies (\$30)
- Pick up Before/Aftercare Information
- Pick up Athletic Info
- Sports Physical – Dr. Jason Walsch, DC (\$25 cash/check) (Use Sign up Genius)
- Walk your schedule
- Meet teachers
- Drop off supplies and/or donations under the tent



# MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

## 2025-2026 Middle School Events

<b>AUG</b> <b>27</b> <i>Open House 5-7pm</i>	<b>OCT</b> <b>1</b> <i>Picture Day</i>	<b>OCT</b> <b>10</b> <i>Middle School Dance</i>
<b>OCT</b> <b>28</b> <i>NJHS Induction 7th-8th</i>	<b>NOV</b> <b>14</b> <i>Fall Festival</i>	<b>NOV 24 - 28</b> <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> <b>DEC 22 - JAN 5</b> <i>Holiday Break</i>
<b>JAN</b> <b>14</b> <i>Sports Banquet</i>	<b>FEB</b> <b>20</b> <i>Middle School Dance</i>	<b>MAR</b> <b>4</b> <i>Middle School Play</i>
<b>MAR</b> <b>13</b> <i>Running of the Bulls</i> <b>15-20</b> <i>Spring Break</i>	<b>APR</b> <b>15</b> <i>Night of the Arts</i>	<b>MAY</b> <b>8</b> <i>8th grade Gala</i> <b>20</b> <i>8th grade Graduation</i> <b>27</b> <i>Last Day of School</i>

Details will be sent out throughout the school year

# Thinking About High School

- Start early with tours
- Know your HS school zone
- Know different programs offered: AICE, IB, VPA, Dual Enrollment, AP courses etc.
- Know the deadlines to apply if going to a specific Program or Private School
- Some schools will visit Suncoast
  - Polytech
  - Booker VPA
  - Cardinal Mooney
- In Advisory students will receive plenty of info
- We will send info out



# Class of 2026 Important Reminders

- Baby/early year pictures submitted for yearbook and graduation slides before Thanksgiving break. Email with details will come out.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Gala 5/8/2026
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade last field trip – 5/18/2026
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation- 5/20/26



# Washington D.C.

- Late March
- Planning in house
- Want to help?

