

Sarasota Suncoast Academy Elective Course Descriptions

The following elective course descriptions are intended to provide Suncoast students and parents with information to aid in the selection of elective courses. Please review carefully before making your selection(s).

VISUAL ART

Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D and 3-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and sculptures. Students learn, investigate, and practice the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and utilization of art tools and materials.

ORCHESTRA

Students who have little or no experience on violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp explore high-quality music literature written or transcribed for string orchestra. Study includes the development of foundational instrumental ensemble techniques, performance skills, music literacy, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

BAND

Students who have little or no experience on flute, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba and percussion instruments explore learning and developing skills to play these instruments. Study includes the development of foundational instrumental ensemble techniques, performance skills, music literacy, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

GUITAR

Students who have little to no experience in playing the guitar will learn to play, read music notation and tablature. Guitars are provided by the school.

Chorus

This course develops healthy vocal technique, music literacy, & ensemble skills through diverse choral literature and performance opportunities. Students will build confidence, teamwork, & expressive musicality while exploring part-singing, dynamics, & stylistic understanding in both classroom & concert settings.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will participate in team/individual activities which promote athletic skills and personal fitness.

SPANISH (Beginning)

Beginning Spanish is available for 6th or 7th grade students. They will learn basic language skills including listening, reading, writing and speaking. The culture and history of Spanish speaking countries will be introduced. No prior Spanish Language experience is required. Beginning Spanish is offered as a year-long course. Limited spaces are available.

SPANISH (Intermediate)

Intermediate Spanish is available for 7th grade students who have taken Beginning Spanish. Students in this course will continue to learn language skills including listening, reading, writing and speaking. Intermediate Spanish is offered as a year-long course. Limited spaces are available.

SPANISH 1

Spanish 1 is a high school level class and is available only for 8th graders. Spanish 1 does not require prior Spanish experience. However, limited spaces are available and preference is given to students that have taken Intermediate Spanish as 7th graders during the 2025-26 school year. FAST scores are considered for placement as well as teacher recommendation for Spanish 1. Students must maintain an 80 B or higher to remain in this course.

DRAMA/ THEATER/ MUSICAL THEATER

The purpose of this course is to provide students with fundamental knowledge and skills in the basics of theater arts. Through games, instructional scene prep, basic musical theater movement, script writing, pantomime, and group activities, students will develop the skills needed to perform in various theater productions. All musical practices and rehearsals take place during class time. There are no after school commitments except for one week of afterschool tech rehearsal. Students will also be required to perform in the Musical and also in the Fall and Spring Night of the Arts Showcase.

TV/ FILM/ NEWS STATION

Students will learn basic techniques in television and film production. Weekly middle school news will be produced for streaming on the school network. Camera technique, journalism, commercial producing, digital editing, and short films will be the focus of this course.

TECHNOLOGY 1

Students will learn technology needed to be successful in the business world. Using marketing techniques they will develop skills to create brochures, signage, and websites. Games and projects will be used to develop knowledge of Google slides, sheets, and docs. Email and social media etiquette will be discussed to help students navigate the digital world safely. Students will learn basic and intermediate block coding through the Scratch and Tynker platform. Typing skills are also practiced through Typing.com

TECHNOLOGY 2

Students will learn technology needed to be successful in the business world. Using marketing techniques they will develop skills to create brochures, signage, and websites. Games and projects will be used to develop knowledge of Google slides, sheets, and docs. Email and social media etiquette will be discussed to help students navigate the digital world safely. Students will learn photo editing techniques as well 3d design and use of a 3d printer. Including coding that will correlate to 3d printed projects. This class will have projects showcased at the Night of the Arts.

STEM/ROBOTICS 1

Students will engage in project based learning techniques in the four pillars of STEM; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This course is designed to ignite curiosity, foster critical thinking, and develop problem-solving skills. Topics will include engineering challenges, robotics, and 3d printing, and more. Student work and projects from this class will be showcased at the "Night of the Arts".

STEM/ROBOTICS 2

Students will build upon skills from STEM 1 and further their knowledge using project based learning techniques in the four pillars of STEM; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This course is designed to ignite curiosity, foster critical thinking, and develop problem-solving skills. Topics will include engineering challenges, robotics, and 3d printing, and more. Student work and projects from this class will be showcased at the "Night of the Arts".

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE/AGRICULTURE

Students will engage in a variety of hands-on experiences in Florida's natural resources, ecology, and agriculture. This class will spend much of the class time outdoors. Student work and projects from this class will be showcased at the "Night of the Arts".