GULF COAST ACADEMY

OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

District Magnet Middle School

Grades 6-8

Sarasota County Schools

EXPLORE. DISCOVER. INNOVATE.

GULF COAST ACADEMY

OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

A DISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL

A specialized middle school with a focused curriculum, advanced coursework, and innovative learning opportunities for all eligible students.

OUR TRANSITION TO A FULL MAGNET SCHOOL »»» *GCA will phase in by grade level and be* ***A COMPLETE MAGNET SCHOOL*** *by the 2028–2029 school year.*

2026–2027
Incoming 6th Grade Magnet Cohort

2027–2028
6th & 7th Grade Magnet Cohorts

2028–2029
Full Magnet School (Grades 6–8)

PHASE 2 OF CONSTRUCTION **COMING JUNE 2027**

EXPLORE. DISCOVER. INNOVATE.

The Why... Gulf Coast Academy?

At Gulf Coast Academy, technology is the tool students use to think deeply, innovate, and apply learning to real-world challenges.

- Advanced Coursework
- Exploration & Innovation
- Future-Ready Pathways

Students grow into confident learners prepared for whatever their high school goals may be and the opportunities that follow.



Preparing Students for a World That's Changing

The future will require more than knowing how to use technology. Students will need to ***think critically, solve complex problems, adapt, and create.***





CRITICAL THINKING

CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

DIGITAL FLUENCY

COLLABORATION & INNOVATION

At Gulf Coast Academy, students don't just learn about emerging technologies. They learn how to use them to explore ideas, solve problems, and shape what's next.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Students develop transferable skills needed for success in any pathway.

- **Critical & Analytical Thinking**
- **Creativity & Innovation**
- **Collaboration & Communication**
- **Self-Direction & Initiative**
- **Ethical & Responsible Technology Use**



These competencies grow intentionally from Grade 6 through Grade 8.

Grade 6: Innovation Pathways

A year-long, hands-on journey through four connected innovation modules.

QUARTER 1



Cybersecurity

Digital Citizenship & Responsibilities

Build a safe, ethical, and responsible foundation for using technology in a digital world.

QUARTER 2



Machine Learning & Robotics

Systems Thinking & Engineering and Design

Apply systems thinking to design, build, and improve technology solutions.

QUARTER 3



Artificial Intelligence

Move from Building Systems to Creating Systems

Explore how AI works and use it to design, create, and solve real-world challenges.

QUARTER 4



Game Development & Design

Apply Programming and AI Concepts to Creative Digital Experiences

Bring ideas to life by creating an interactive digital experience using programming and AI tools.

THE BIG PICTURE

Students explore all four areas while building core skills, creativity, and confidence for future opportunities in technology.

ACADEMIC & ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

GULF COAST ACADEMY OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

ADVANCED CORE COURSES

All courses are advanced-level and aligned to a designated pathway.

- **Advanced English Language Arts 1**
- **Advanced Mathematics**
  - Advanced 6th Grade Math or
  - Advanced 7th Grade Math
    (FAST Level 5 in 5th grade with A's)
- **Advanced Comp Science 1**
- **Advanced World History**

*Students will have the potential to earn multiple **high school credit courses**, as well as **industry certifications.***



ENCORE / ELECTIVE COURSES

Students will select 2 (hands-on, exploratory, and pathway-connected).

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY *(All incoming 6th grade)*

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Cyber-security	Machining & Robotics	AI	Game Development

AQUA SCIENCE RESEARCH / AGRISCIENCE

Aqua Science and Agriscience are embedded into quarterly project-based learning across robotics, cybersecurity, AI, and game design, connecting technology to real-world applications.

Physical Education (PE)

Beginning Spanish

Spanish 1 *(Offered in 8th Grade)*

Art

Music | Band • Orchestra • Chorus • Musical Theatre

Journalism

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

- **Algebra 1 Honors**
- **Geometry Honors**
- **Physical Science Honors**
- **Spanish 1**

HIGH SCHOOL READINESS

GULF COAST ACADEMY OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Graduates of Gulf Coast Academy of Innovation & Technology are fully eligible for **all Sarasota County high school programs,** including:

International Baccalaureate (IB)



AICE
Cambridge Advanced



Traditional Comprehensive High Schools



Career & Technical Programs



THIS MAGNET PROGRAM EXPANDS FUTURE OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS.

USF PARTNERSHIP

DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY. POWERED BY INNOVATION.

UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Education

Gulf Coast Academy partners with the **University of South Florida** to provide cutting-edge learning experiences that prepare students for future career opportunities.



Field Experiences Beyond the Classroom

- Real-World Learning

Collaboration with USF Ambassadors

- Mentorship & Guidance

Hands-On Learning in A.I. & Cybersecurity

- Future Tech Skills

A Day at a Glance at GCA

Period	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
All School – 7:30–7:31 *Moment of Silence*			
1ST	7:31–8:24 (53 min)	7:31–8:24 (53 min)	7:31–8:21 (50 min)
2ND	8:27–9:17 (50 min)	8:27–9:17 (50 min)	8:24–9:14 (50 min)
3RD	9:20–10:10 (50 min)	9:20–10:10 (50 min)	9:17–10:07 (50 min)
4TH	10:13–11:03 (50 min)	10:13–11:03 (50 min)	10:10–11:00 (50 min)
5TH	11:06–11:36 (Lunch 30 min)	11:06–11:36 (Lunch 30 min)	11:03–11:53 (50 min)
6TH	11:39–12:29 (50 min)	11:39–12:29 (50 min)	11:56–12:26 (Lunch 30 min)
7TH	12:32–1:22 (50 min)	12:32–1:22 (50 min)	12:39–1:19 (50 min)
8TH	1:25–2:15 (50 min)	1:25–2:15 (50 min)	1:22–2:15 (53 min)

Arrival – 6th Grade
Media Center 7:00–7:15

7:15–7:25
Report directly to class

7:25–7:30
8th grade reports to class

6th Grade
Classroom placement in a separate cluster

Outside eating area
for Magnet students

Magnet Student/8th Grade Bell Schedule
Staggered transition times

Dismissal
The only time everyone moves together

Aftercare
Available until 6:00 PM

GULF COAST ACADEMY

CLUBS

GETTING INVOLVED

Explore interests, build skills, lead, and connect with classmates!

TSA
- Wednesday 2:30–4:00 PM
- Mr. Munroe

Student Leaders
- 1st Thursday 7:00–7:30 AM
- Dr. Fonte

Art Club
- Wednesday 2:15–3:45 PM
- Ms. Artman-Scott

Sea Scholars
- Thursday 2:30–4:30 PM
- Mrs. Gens

Weightlifting
- Tuesday & Thursday 2:20–3:30 PM
- Mr. Carr

Esports
- Tuesday & Thursday 2:15–4:00 PM
- Mr. Munroe

Cudas for Christ
- Monday 2:20–3:00 PM
- Mr. Puzzanchera

National Junior Honor Society
- 1st & 3rd Thursday 2:30–3:15 PM
- Mrs. Chester

Martial Arts
- Tuesday & Thursday 2:15–4:00 PM
- Mr. Epps

GULF COAST ACADEMY ATHLETICS

TRYOUT + SEASON SCHEDULE

WORK HARD • PLAY HARD

A great opportunity to try a new sport and get involved!

A highlight so far this year — Girls Soccer finished 2nd in the district!



THE LINEUP

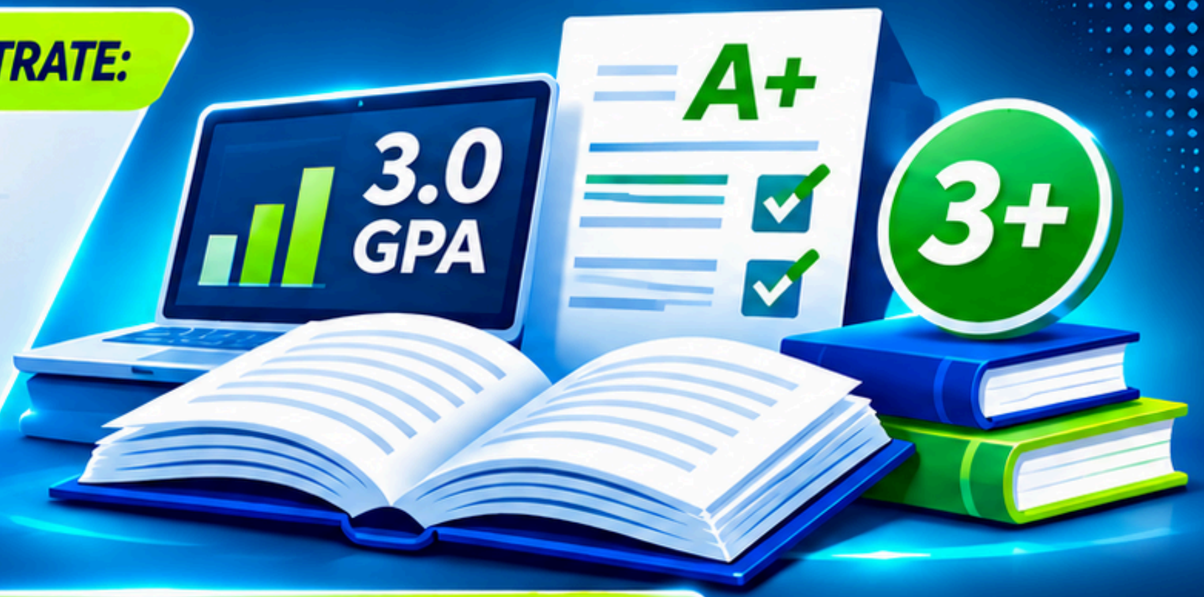
SPORT	TRYOUTS OPEN	SEASON
VOLLEYBALL	August 24	September 9 – October 14
TENNIS	August 24	September 9 – October 14
SOCCER	August 24	September 9 – October 15
BASKETBALL	October 19	November 5 – January 21
TRACK	January 25	February 4 – March 10
FLAG FOOTBALL	March 22	April 6 – May 11
GOLF	March 22	April 6 – May 12

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

GULF COAST ACADEMY OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

THE MOST COMPETITIVE GRADE 6 APPLICANTS DEMONSTRATE:

- Minimum **3.0 GPA** in core subjects
- No failing grades in Grades 4 or 5
- **Level 3** or above on FAST Reading and Math
- Positive attendance record
- Minimal discipline record
- Uniform Required



CONTINUATION REQUIREMENTS

To remain enrolled, students must maintain:

2.5 GPA

A Minimum 2.5 GPA

Satisfactory Attendance

Satisfactory Behavior

Why Should You Apply?

GULF COAST ACADEMY OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

A COMPLETE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

- Hands-on, **technology-rich** learning
- Real-world, **future-focused** experiences
- Access to **advanced** coursework
- A full range of **athletics** and student **activities**
- A **supportive** middle school community
- District-wide transportation
- 7:30 a.m. school start time





INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS

ADVANCED COURSEWORK

ATHLETICS

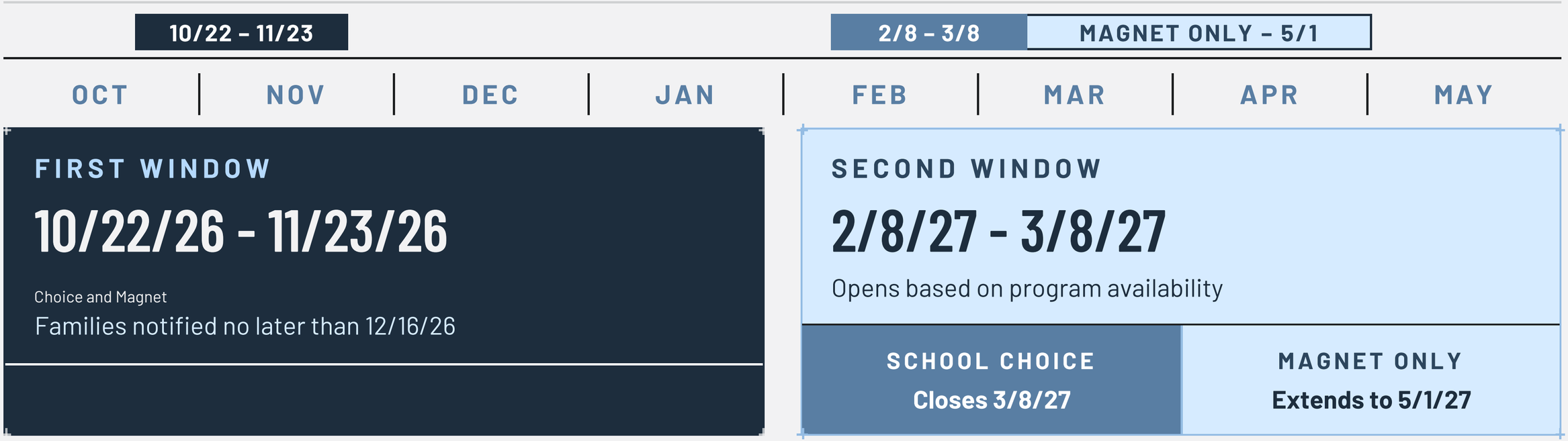
PERFORMING ARTS

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY. POWERED BY INNOVATION.

SCHOOL CHOICE + MAGNET APPLICATIONS

Two Application Windows for 2026–27



FIRST WINDOW

10/22/26 - 11/23/26

Choice and Magnet

Families notified no later than 12/16/26

Important Dates:

Application Deadline :11/23

Decision: no later than 12/16

Accept Seat by Jan 8

SECOND WINDOW

2/8/27 - 3/8/27

Opens based on program availability

SCHOOL CHOICE	MAGNET ONLY
Closes 3/8/27	Extends to 5/1/27

Important Dates:

Application Deadline: 3/8

Decisions:

Accept Seat by:

GULF COAST ACADEMY

OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Next Steps

- Apply through FOCUS
- If accepted, accept seat by Jan 8
- 6th grade camp
- Order uniforms
- Friends who are interested, visits website for tours

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GCA Commercial at USF







