

SARASOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

OUR VISION & MISSION

To be a collaborative community that inspires and empowers students by establishing high expectations for all.

To help students become critical thinkers who are responsible, productive, and resilient.

PRINCIPAL

Jennifer L. Nzeza, Ed.S.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Sarah Davis, *AP*
Cameron Parker, *AP*



EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY!

Academic and Community Distinction

Sarasota Middle has earned a reputation as one of the top middle schools in the region, blending strong academics with a safe, nurturing environment. Faculty and staff are highly skilled, dedicated to their craft, and committed to helping students achieve success both inside and outside the classroom.

The school has proudly held an A+ School Designation by the State of Florida for 19 years and continues to expand opportunities for student involvement. Extracurricular options include Anime Club, Drama Club, History Bowl, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Junior Honor Society, Book Club, Spanisth Club, Yearbook, SMS Green Team, and athletics.

Preparing students for life beyond middle school is central to the SMS experience. Students are encouraged to develop self-awareness, set goals, and plan strategically for their education and future careers. High school credit opportunities are available in courses such as Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Spanish I, Speech, Physical Science Honors, and Emerging Business Technologies. Through Career and Technical Education, students also have the chance to earn high school-level industry certifications, giving them a head start toward career readiness.

From its rigorous academic programs to its diverse extracurricular opportunities, Sarasota Middle School is a place where every student can discover their strengths and passions. With the strong support of families and the broader community, SMS continues to set the standard for middle school excellence across Sarasota County.

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SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

THE PANTHER GIFTED ACADEMY (PGA)

One of Sarasota Middle's hallmark programs is the Panther Gifted Academy (PGA), a full-time program designed to empower gifted learners to think critically, create boldly, and engage meaningfully with the world around them.

The PGA offers both acceleration and enrichment opportunities. Students can earn high school credits in core and elective courses such as Physical Science Honors, Algebra I, Geometry Honors, Spanish I, Business Education, and Speech I. The program also features advanced coursework aligned with the Florida Gifted Framework, with open-ended projects, thematic units, and experiential learning like STEM Fairs, National History Day projects, mock trials, and Socratic seminars.

Individualization is key. Students loop with teachers over three years to build strong connections and benefit from robust student choice in assignments and projects. This consistent, nurturing environment helps students form lifelong relationships with peers and educators. PGA students also compile gifted portfolios, take part in team-building days, and engage in service-learning projects.

The results speak volumes. PGA boasts a 100% pass rate on End-of-Course exams in Civics, Algebra I Honors, and Geometry Honors. Roughly 80% of students continue on to prestigious high school programs such as IB and AICE, and Sarasota Middle has produced National Merit Scholarship finalists, STEM Fair winners, and National History Day champions.

THE PANTHER SCHOLASTIC ACADEMY (PSA)

In addition to the PGA, Sarasota Middle offers the Panther Scholastic Academy, which seeks to empower a diverse group of students to meet their full potential. Dedicated staff nurtures curiosity, builds confidence, and prepares students to thrive beyond middle school.

In PSA, students participate in hands-on learning experiences to enhance grade-level curriculum, such as Campfire Day, Tie-Dye Day, Rocket Launch, and Literacy Week. PSA students develop essential skills, including critical thinking, collaboration, and time management, and use technology to access curriculum and present knowledge in creative ways.

High school credit opportunities are also available to PSA students who meet the requirements in Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Spanish I, Speech, Physical Science Honors, and Emerging Business Technologies. Students also have the chance to earn high school-level industry certifications in Career and Technical Education.

ARTS AND ATHLETICS FOR EVERY PANTHER

Beyond academics, Sarasota Middle School shines with its award-winning performing arts program. Students can explore a wide range of options, including Chorus, Orchestra, Band, Jazz Ensemble, Guitar, Drama, and Visual Arts. These programs encourage creative expression while fostering discipline, teamwork, and confidence.

Athletics also play a vital role in student life at SMS. All sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students are eligible to participate in competitive sports, building school spirit while promoting health, wellness, and leadership.

SMS

SARASOTA County Schools

AN A-RATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS IN FEBRUARY FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR.