TRIAD
ALTERNATIVE



RESET AND RE-ROUTE

Own the choice. Change the path.

2026–2027

STUDENT HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO
Triad Alternative

This is Triad Alternative's Student Handbook!!

It is a living document - some procedures or policies may change to adhere to current state and district guidelines.

It is your responsibiliy as an enrolling family to read this manual and to be familiar with all school procedures.

Adminstration

Principal
BROOKE TEAL

Assistant Principal
MEGGYN HOLLIDAY

Support Staff

School Counselor
DR. JULIE STOWERS

Instructional Education Facilitator
RITA BRAYLEY

School Psychologist
ALYSSA LUX

Data Coach
ROBERT WHIPPLE

Behavior Coach
MORGAN TAYLOR

School+ District Policies & Procedures

Attendance Policy

Absence Procedure

Absent notes must be submitted through the FOCUS portal, emailed to 0294-attendance@sarasotacountyschools.net or submitted to the front office, within three days of the absence and include the student's full name, date of absence and reason for absence. All notes without a reason for an absence will not be processed.

Students will be afforded the opportunity to make-up work for an excused absence. As outlined in the Student Progression Plan, students are guaranteed the right to make-up work one full calendar day for each excused absence. (ex. three excused absences equates to three days to make-up assignments for full credit)

Acceptable Reasons for an Excused Absence

- Student illness (if documented by parent/legal guardian or medical doctor)
- Observance of a religious holiday and/or service by members of student faith
- Medical or therapeutic appointment with documentation
- Death or documented major illness in the immediate family
- Subpoena by law enforcement agency or mandatory court appearance with documentation

*Students are allowed **NINE** excused absences per semester. After that, a doctor's note may be required for further absences.

Unexcused Absences

Students will be afforded an opportunity to make-up work for an unexcused absence. There may be some academic penalty in accordance with classroom policies and procedures as outlined in the course syllabus.
A student with **15 unexcused absences** within 90 calendar days is habitual truant under state law. The student may be dealt with as a child in need of services. In addition, the parent/legal guardian may be subject to criminal prosecution.

After 15 unexcused absences within a 90-day period, student names will be reported to the Department of High Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).

- Students who hold a Florida driver's license or learner's permit may have their privilege suspended if they accumulate excessive unexcused absences. Students who have not yet received their driver's license or learner's permit may be unable to obtain one.

Clinic

If a student is not feeling well and needs to go home, they must leave through the clinic. If a student is dismissed to go home from illness, they **may not** return to school for 24 hours. The absence will be excused.

Tardy Policy

- First period starts at 7:30 a.m. If a student is late to school (after 7:30 a.m.), they will check-in to the administration office.
- No tardy student without a doctor's note on a modified schedule will be admitted to campus after 7:30 a.m.
- No tardy student without a doctor's not will be admitted to campus after 10:30a.m.

Attendance Policy continued...



Arriving and Leaving Campus

Students should arrive on campus no earlier than 7:00 a.m. when school personnel are available for supervision. All students will enter the gate, surrender their phone and belongings before going through OpenGate and advanced safety protocols. Students arriving after 7:30 a.m. must enter through the front office and check in following the same searching procedures. Students will not be permitted to enter campus after 10:30 a.m. without admin approval. **Students are not permitted to leave campus-- any student that leaves campus will not be permitted to re-enter the same school day.**

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is a privilege. Students must ride their assigned bus, follow all bus rules, and have their student ID each day to scan on and off the bus. Failure to meet these expectations may result in progressive discipline in accordance with the Sarasota County Schools Code of Student Conduct, including bus suspension.

Transportation changes require prior approval the Transportation Department. If your address changes, updated proof of residency must be entered into FOCUS before a bus route can be changed.

Because Triad Alternative School serves students from across Sarasota County, Transportation uses designated neighborhood ("pocket") bus stops. These stops may be a distance from a student's home.

Bell Schedule

TRIAD
ALTERNATIVE

Bell Schedule
2026-2027

High School		# min	Middle School		# min
1st	7:30 - 8:20	50	1st	7:30 - 8:53	83*
2nd	8:23 - 9:38	75	2nd	8:56 - 10:16	80
3rd	9:41 - 10:56	75	3rd	10:19 - 11:39	80
Lunch	10:56 - 11:26	30	Lunch	11:39 - 12:09	30
4th	11:33 - 12:50	77	4th	12:12-1:22	70
5th	12:53 - 2:10	77	5th	1:25 - 2:15	50

* First period is longer to include the announcements

Care of School Property & Custodial Services

Anyone who destroys or vandalizes school property may be required to pay for losses or damage and are subject to consequences outlined in the SCS Code of Conduct. Accidental damage must be reported to an administrator immediately.

Custodian (amazing Mr. Leon) clean rooms and empty trash daily. Students and staff alike asked to put their trash in the trash cans to assist in keeping rooms and the campus clean.

Conferences

Parent/guardians or teachers can initiate conferences. Conferences will be scheduled during planning time before school, or after school.

Cell phones

Students are required to turn in their personal cell phones each morning before entering the school campus. No student may possess a cell phone during school hours. Any student who brings electronic items to school and turns them in does so at their own risk. Triad is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. This policy also applies to all electronic devices, including gaming systems, iPads, tablets headphones, earbuds, smart watches, and similar items.

Code of Student Conduct

Triad Alternative School follows the Sarasota County Schools Code of Student Conduct. Students, parents/guardians, and staff are expected to become familiar with the Code, which is available on the Sarasota County Schools website.

Students who continue to violate the Code of Student Conduct may receive progressive discipline and could have their Settlement Agreement extended. Please refer to the link below to review the complete Code of Student Conduct.
https://files-backend.assets.thrillshare.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/4647/Scs/471b269d-c840-4910-b21b-b9c0d116faea/2026_SY_CSC_Edits_Secondary_6-26-2025.pdf?disposition=inline

Discipline & Settlement Agreement

Every student enrolled at Triad Alternative School is on a Settlement Agreement as a condition of enrollment. The Settlement Agreement outlines the expectations for behavior, attendance, academic progress, and engagement while at Triad. Our goal is to help every student successfully meet these expectations so they can return to their districted school ready to be successful.

At Triad, we believe in strong relationships and high expectations. Students are expected to follow the Sarasota County Schools Code of Student Conduct and uphold the terms of their Settlement Agreement. When students do not meet these expectations, progressive discipline may occur, including the extension of the Settlement Agreement.

The Settlement Agreement also outlines that students may not attend other school campuses for school-sponsored events—including athletic events, clubs, after-school activities, performances, graduations, or other activities—without prior approval from administration.

Detentions, In School Suspension (ISS) Out of School Suspension (OSS)

- Detentions will be used as available and necessary to support the SCS Code of Conduct.
- ISS is given in lieu of OSS. Attendance code will be S.
- OSS is assigned according to the Code of Conduct. Students are responsible for missed work.

Discipline Referrals

Discipline referrals are legal documents and become part of a student's educational record. Referrals and notices of suspension will be shared with families through the FOCUS Parent Portal. Printed copies are available upon request.

Dress Code

Triad Alternative School follows the Sarasota County Schools Dress Code with a few additional expectations to promote a safe and structured learning environment.

- No hoodies or clothing with attached hoods. We are willing to provide any family in need with one crew neck sweatshirt without a hood upon request.
- No sharp objects or accessories that could pose a safety concern.
- Students must comply with all other Sarasota County Schools dress code expectations.



FortifyFL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. Students and faculty can make an anonymous tip through the Fortify app or online https://getfortifyfl.com/Tip.html

Field Trips

A field trip is any school-sponsored activity that takes place away from a student's regularly scheduled classes—whether on or off campus—while under the supervision of Sarasota County Schools staff or while representing Triad Alternative School.

Students participating in field trips are representatives of both Triad Alternative School and Sarasota County Schools and are expected to follow the Sarasota County Schools Code of Student Conduct, all school expectations, and any additional expectations established for the trip.

Field trips are a privilege, not a right. Participation is based on a student's ability to represent the school safely and responsibly. Attendance on field trips may be limited based on behavior, attendance, academic progress, or other factors determined by school administration. Not all students will be eligible or invited to participate in every field trip.

FOCUS Portal

The FOCUS Parent Portal is the primary source of communication between Triad Alternative School and families. Parents and guardians are expected to regularly monitor their FOCUS account to stay informed of their student's academic progress and school information.

Through the FOCUS Parent Portal, families can:

- Monitor grades and attendance
- Receive school and teacher communications
- View discipline referrals and suspension notices
- Report and monitor absences
- Update contact and address information
- View transportation and bus route information
- Access other important student and school information

Regularly checking the FOCUS Parent Portal helps ensure families stay informed and connected to their student's success at Triad Alternative School.

Grades

SCS uses the standardized grading scale listed here: 100-90 **A,** 80-89 **B,** 70-79 **C,** 60-69 **D,** 0-59 **F**
Grades reflect a student's progress toward mastering course standards. Families are expected to monitor grades regularly through the FOCUS Parent Portal and communicate with teachers if concerns arise.

Guest Speakers and Community Partners

At Triad Alternative School, we believe it takes a village. Throughout the school year, students may have opportunities to participate in programs, mentoring, presentations, and activities provided by guest speakers and community partners who support our mission.

Parent/guardian consent is required for students to participate in these partnerships. Families will be offered the opportunity to provide consent during the enrollment process and may revoke that consent at any time by notifying the school in writing.



Hall Expectations

Students must ALWAYS have a pass or with a staff member when in transit during instructional time. Only one student should leave out of the classroom at a time. If a student leaves the classroom without permission due to frustration, cooling down, etc., a staff member must follow to ensure the student's safety and maintain connection.

Hours

School hours are 7:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. Instructional hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. with buses departing before 2:20 p.m. daily. Students who are picked up may wait in the front office until 3:00 p.m.

ID Badges

All students are required to wear their school-issued ID badge while on campus per Sarasota County Schools policy. Student IDs are used to check in and out of school, scan on and off school transportation, purchase meals in the cafeteria, and enter the Galaxy Room during PBIS activities.

Each student will be issued one ID badge at enrollment of Triad Alternative at no cost. Replacement ID badges are $5.00 each. Students are expected to have their ID with them each day and wear it throughout the school day.

Parking

Student parking is a privilege and must be approved by administration on a case-by-case basis. Vehicles parked on campus without an official Triad parking permit are subject to towing at the owner's expense. All vehicles on school property are subject to search in accordance with school safety policies.

PBIS

At Triad Alternative School, we believe in recognizing students who consistently make positive choices. Every student will earn points each day on their STARS Card, which reflects our 4Rs: Respect, Responsibility, Resiliency, and Relationships. Teachers and Behavior Tech's award points throughout the day based on students' actions, effort, and engagement.

STARS Card points are entered into FOCUS daily so students and families can monitor progress. Students may redeem their points each week in the Galaxy Room.

Students who consistently demonstrate the 4Rs may also be recognized as Student of the Week, Student of the Month, and earn the opportunity to participate in quarterly PBIS celebrations. At Triad, we believe positive choices deserve positive recognition, and every day is a new opportunity to shine.



Non-Discrimination Policy

The Sarasota County School Board, in accordance with federal, state, and municipal regulations, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, religion, natural origin, marital status or disability in access to educational program. Triad Alternative shall maintain an educational and work environment free of harassment on the basis of race, sex, national origin or disability.
https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/271-policy-prohibiting-discrimination-and-harassment

Random Searches

Unscheduled random searches may occur throughout the year. Students will be asked to remain quiet during searches. The search team may utilize a K-9 to check for prohibited items. Administrators will address findings according to the Code of Conduct.

Restrooms

Students need to sign out before using the restroom whether that is in the classroom or the hallway. Bathrooms may be searched between students. **Remind students they may not leave classroom for the first or last 10 minutes of classes,** however, they can use the restroom in the room in accordance to the teacher's policies.

School Resource Officers (SRO)

SROs provide prevention, intervention, and law enforcement services for SCS schools.

Sexual Harassment Policy

The SCS School Board forbids sexual harassment, or any other form of illegal harassment, of any employee, student, volunteer or visitor. Triad Alternative School will not tolerate sexual harassment, or any other form of illegal harassment by any of its employees, students, volunteers or agents. The prohibition against discrimination including sexual and other forms of illegal harassment shall also apply to non-employee volunteers who work subject to the control of school authorities, and to all vendors or service providers who have access to school board facilities.
h**ttps://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/271-policy-prohibiting-discrimination-and-harassment**

Scheduling

Student schedules will be created following the enrollment meeting. Each student will receive their schedule on their first day at Triad Alternative. Class assignments may only be changed at the discretion of administration. Students will be placed in courses that align with their graduation goals and support a successful transition back to their public school.

Schedule Change Policy

Student schedules will be created following the enrollment meeting. Each student will receive their schedule on their first day at Triad Alternative. Class assignments may only be changed at the discretion of administration. Students will be placed in courses that align with their graduation goals and support a successful transition back to their public school.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Every public school in SCS is required by the FLDOE to publicly post a School Improvement Plan (SIP), which outlines the goals, strategies, and measurable objectives for the current year. Goals are reviewed and amended annually by the SAC. Below is the Triad Alternative SIP visual for the 2026-2027 school year.



Testing

Throughout the school year, students will participate in district, state, and classroom assessments. These assessments help measure student progress, guide instruction, and meet graduation and state requirements.

Students are expected to arrive on time, follow all testing procedures, and give their best effort on every assessment. Maintaining a quiet, respectful testing environment is essential so all students have the opportunity to do their best. Electronic devices and other prohibited materials are not permitted during testing unless specifically authorized.

At Triad, we believe every assessment is an opportunity to demonstrate growth, and we expect every student to take testing seriously.

Open Gate

The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. To enhance school safety, Sarasota County Schools utilizes OpenGate® Weapons Detection Systems at Triad Alternative School.

All students are required to pass through the weapons detection system each morning before entering campus. Triad does not permit backpacks or personal belongings. If a backpack or purse is brought it is placed in a locked room in the front office and is subject to be searched. After students walk through Open Gate an additional screening occurs using a handheld metal detector wand as a secondary safety measure.

Any item that violates the Sarasota County Schools Code of Student Conduct or Triad Alternative School expectations will be confiscated and addressed according to district policy. Refusal to participate in the screening process or attempts to bypass security procedures may result in disciplinary action and denial of entry to campus.

Maintaining a safe learning environment is everyone's responsibility, and we appreciate each student's cooperation in helping keep our campus secure.



SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS

2026-2027 DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR

1960 Landings Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone (941) 927-9000

JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

6th - 10th - 240 Staff Non-Work Days
13th - 220 Staff Return

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3rd - 196 Staff Return
10th - First Day for Students, 186 Staff

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6		8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7th - Labor Day - Students, All Staff

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12*	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

9th - End of 1st Grading Period
12th - Professional Day - Students, 186 Staff

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25			28
29	30					

23rd - 27th - Thanksgiving Break -
Students, 186, 196, 220 Staff
25th - 27th - Thanksgiving Break - 240 Staff

DECEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

18th - End of 2nd Grading Period
21st - 31st - Winter Break - Students, All Staff

JANUARY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4*	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17		19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

1st - Winter Break - Students, All Staff
4th - Professional Day - Students, 186 Staff
18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Students, All Staff

FEBRUARY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14		16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

15th - Presidents Day - Students, All Staff

MARCH 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12*	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26*	27
28	29	30	31			

11th - End of 3rd Grading Period
12th - Professional Day - Students, 186 Staff
15th - 19th - Spring Break - Students, All Staff
26th - Mini Break - Students, 186, 196, 220 Staff

APRIL 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16*	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

16th - Mini Break - Students, 186, 196, 220 Staff

MAY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27*	28*	29
30						

26th - Last Day for Students, 186 Staff
28th - Last Day for 196 Staff
31st - Memorial Day - All Staff

JUNE 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

11th - Last Day for 220 Staff

* Inclement weather makeup day if needed