



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

1. *Why is a minimum balance required for the personal account?*

The personal account, in addition to being a source of funds for various activities, acts as a deposit against damage.

2. *Is transportation available from the Tampa airport and the Orlando airport?*

Resort Shuttles provides daily service to and from the Tampa Airport. Parents or students should contact the school office to make arrangements. Transportation to and from the Orlando or other airports is not usually provided except in certain instances (unaccompanied minor requirements). 48 hours notice is required and an additional fee will be assessed for this service.

3. *Does my child need health insurance?*

Health insurance is not a requirement, but is highly recommended. Please note that many physicians and pharmacies require payment in full at the time service is rendered. Completing insurance forms is the parent's responsibility.

4. *What are the criteria for choosing resident assistants?*

Applicants go through a multi-tiered process to determine their maturity, sense of responsibility, and ability to relate to children. A background investigation is conducted on all prospective boarding staff.

5. *What are the acceptance criteria for a prospective student applying to Saddlebrook Preparatory School?*

Applicants must not have a history of significant disciplinary problems, poor grades, or special educational needs which the school is not equipped to handle. Additionally, students must possess a level of achievement in golf or tennis.

6. *May parents rent housing for the school year?*

Yes. Saddlebrook has condos for lease through the Lakeside Village leasing office (ext. 4755). Parents may also purchase property or rent houses through the Saddlebrook Real Estate Sales office (ext. 4590).

7. *Can my child attend Saddlebrook Preparatory for one semester?*

These requests are handled on an individual basis through the Administrative Manager's office.

8. *Is there a payment plan for the school year fees?*

Students enrolled for the full school year are billed in three installment payments. Contact the Administrative Manager for details about the program in which you are planning to enroll.

9. *Do International students need a student visa to attend Saddlebrook Preparatory School?*

Yes. The I-20 Forms are issued by the Administrative Manager. International students must provide a copy of their passport and a letter of financial support from their bank. Detailed instructions will be provided to make an appointment at the nearest U.S. Embassy to your home.

ACADEMICS

1. *Is the school accredited?*

Saddlebrook Preparatory is dual accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) and the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS). This requires all staff to meet certification standards, facilities standards, curriculum standards and other programs must meet certain qualifications. SACS/FCIS sends a visiting team to schools every five years to ensure standards are maintained.

2. *What is the student/teacher ratio at the school?*

For the 2015 - 2016 Academic Year, the ratio was 8 students per 1 teacher.

3. *Can my child receive scholastic aptitude test (SAT) preparation?*

A preparation course can be taken by students for semester one of their senior year. Tutoring is available in the afternoons at an additional cost.

4. *English is not my child's first language, how will this affect him in school?*

Saddlebrook teachers are experienced in working with students who do not speak English as a first language. SPS subscribes to Classroom English Immersion, through a three-pronged approach for English Language Learners. We use teacher instruction, SuccessMaker software, and Rosetta Stone software in our self-contained ESOL learning lab to assist international students with their English language acquisition.

5. *What type of college placement counseling is offered?*

Each Junior and Senior will have the following opportunities available to them through the Counselor: Group seminars with the guidance counselor covering all aspects of college application and admissions. Information on any University/ College is available through computer on-line services, video, and printed catalogues. One-on-one assistance from the Guidance Counselor is provided, which covers all aspects of application and admissions. Compiling a "college file" complete with letters of recommendation and copies of all correspondence. The school staff has a network of contacts at colleges throughout the country. All students will have a college pathway plan created for them, through our counseling office.

6. *How does my child learn about college scholarships?*

There are a wide variety of scholarships available. Scholarship information is received and posted in the Guidance office. The school receives information from local, state, and federal agencies, private organizations, foundations, etc. The golf and tennis coaches assist students with college scholarship opportunities and placement.

7. *Is an absence due to tournament play considered "excused?"*

The student must notify each instructor, the Director of Curriculum, and/or the Headmaster, preferably in writing, prior to being absent. Plans for making up missed work must be established prior to the absence. (See absence policy for additional information.)

8. *How can my child register for the SAT, American College Test (ACT) or Test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL)?*

The Guidance office has applications for these exams. Students should request information packages from the Guidance Counselor. The Guidance Office will assist with the scheduling of these exams for juniors and seniors.

9. *Can my child attend Saddlebrook Preparatory and graduate from his/her hometown high school?*

Students wishing to do this must coordinate it through the Guidance Counselor or Headmaster. Coordination can be made through the Saddlebrook Preparatory School Guidance office, and their hometown High School. Approval will be made on a case-by-case basis.

10. Will my child need a laptop computer?

Yes. Saddlebrook Prep is a laptop school on a wireless network system. Information on hardware and software specifications are available from the school office, in the student handbook, and online. New requirements for student laptops went into effect for the 2015 - 2016 school year. All students are to have their laptops insured, and protection plans are highly recommended. International students are to purchase laptops from a third-party retailer inside the United States to insure compatibility with the SPS network, and have Microsoft Windows operating systems with Microsoft Office installed. All laptop language settings must be set to English during school use.

11. Are academic courses available in the summer?

Yes. International students must have been enrolled in the previous school year to be eligible for summer academics.

DAILY LIFE

1. What will happen if my child misbehaves?

Misbehavior while attending academic classes is handled through the Headmaster's office. Each student will receive a Student Handbook, which outlines rules and possible consequences. Parents will be notified when serious infractions occur.

2. Can my child have a car while attending Saddlebrook Preparatory? How will its use be controlled?

Boarding students are not allowed to have cars or any other motorized vehicle. Properly licensed non-boarders are permitted to drive their car to school, however, they may not take any student passengers without parental and Headmaster permission prior to the transport.

3. What do students do on the weekends?

Saddlebrook Preparatory schedules tournaments on most weekends. Additionally, field trips are also scheduled. Students may also use the time to do schoolwork, laundry, etc. Students also "get together" to go to the movies, mall, beach, etc. Students may sign up for trips to Disney, SeaWorld, other local attractions and for special events. All off-property boarding trips are arranged through the Student Services Coordinators.

4. Can my child come home on the weekends?

Yes. Written plans should be provided to the Headmaster's Office 24 hours in advance.

5. How do students make special purchases such as clothing, school supplies, etc.?

There are planned weekly shopping trips to a local mall and/or shopping center. Any online purchases are delivered to the school's front office.

6. Should my child have a credit card?

For use in emergencies, it is recommended that all boarding students have a credit card or card number on file in the Administrative office. For safe keeping, it may be maintained in the safe deposit box.

7. Can Saddlebrook Preparatory provide driving instructions for my child?

Saddlebrook Preparatory does not have the resources to provide instruction to students seeking driving training.

8. Can Saddlebrook Preparatory provide transportation for my child to make the drug/alcohol training and education course required by the State of Florida before students may apply for a driver's license?

Saddlebrook Preparatory cannot provide the transportation, but students and parents may arrange for the student to take the class. Private transportation can be arranged at the student's expense.

9. *How are travel documents (tickets, passport, etc.) secured?*

International students must turn in passports, I-20s, and airline tickets to the Administrative Manager's office. These are secured in the safe until the student requires the documents. U.S. students may also request that certain documents (airline tickets, passports, etc.) be secured by the school. It is the responsibility of the student to turn these documents in for safe keeping.

10. *What happens if my child becomes ill or is injured?*

Non-emergency doctor's appointments for Boarding Students are handled through the School's Administrative Assistant or Student Services Coordinators. Parents will be notified of the appointment. Parents of non-boarding students are required to make arrangements for non-emergency medical appointments. Saddlebrook Resort Security employees are "First Responders" who are trained to deal with medical emergencies. They may be contacted from any resort phone by dialing ext. 4911 or the operator.

11. *Can Saddlebrook Preparatory accommodate special requests for roommates (i.e.: English-speaking only, age, tennis/golf only)?*

Every attempt will be made to accommodate special requests. However, several factors determine room assignments, and in certain cases, special requests cannot be met. The Student Services Coordinators are available to discuss special concerns of students and parents.

12. *Can my child stay in the boarding and athletic program during an official school break?*

Most students travel home during break periods. They are required to pack up their belongings which are stored at the school. Parents may make reservations for their children to stay in the tennis and golf camp programs at a discounted student rate. Payment arrangements must be made in advance through the school office. Students may be required to move to a different room over the break period.

13. *Can my child get money from their personal account?*

Boarding students can sign up for a maximum of \$50.00 cash allowance weekly. Allowance is distributed on Thursday at lunch in the school cafeteria. If a student needs additional funds, we must receive written parent authorization two days prior to the date distributed.

14. *Where can parents stay when they visit their children at Saddlebrook Prep?*

Parents can arrange accommodations at a discounted rate through the Saddlebrook Resort Reservation office (813) 907-4100. Reservations must be made in advance and a credit card is required to confirm the reservation.

ATHLETICS

1. *Can a child be part of the tennis or golf program without being enrolled in the school?*

Students in all grades must be enrolled in Saddlebrook Preparatory School. Programs for younger students and previously graduated students are also available.

2. *Can my child take private lessons?*

Private lessons are arranged through the Administrative Manager and charged to the personal accounts. The school offers students special discounted rates. (For further information, see the policy regarding private lessons.)

3. *How is my child's progress monitored?*

Periodic evaluations covering a wide range of areas are completed. Copies of these are sent to parents and given to the students. Tennis also implemented the computer program Tennis Learning Management System (Tennis LMS). This innovative program is used for monitoring the progress of the student athlete including match analysis, video analysis and daily instruction logs by our coaching staff. Students and parents have secure pass codes to their child's athletic records through Tennis LMS..

4. *How does my child enter tournaments?*

A tournament schedule is available through the Tournament Coordinator's office. Golf entries are handled in the Golf office. Tennis entries are handled through the Tournament Coordinator's office. Credit card information is required to be kept on file in the Tournament Coordinator's office for tournament entry fees.

5. *What is a typical day like in the boarding program?*

All Students:

6:30am - 7:15am	Breakfast
7:25am - 12:05pm	Academics
12:05pm - 1:00pm	Lunch

Tennis Students:

1:00pm - 4:30pm	Tennis
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Fitness

Golf Students:

1:00pm - 5:00pm	18 Holes completed
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Or

1:00pm - 5:00pm	Range Short Game Practice, Full Swing, Possible Video, Lesson and Fitness
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All Boarding Students:

5:30pm - 7:00pm	Dinner
7:30pm - 9:00pm	Study Hall (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Mandatory)
9:30pm	Curfew
10:15pm	Bed Check/Light Out