

“New” AITR Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the Academy teachers and what areas are they certified in?

Janet Cunningham, English

Melanie Wilson, Social Studies & English

Jamie Shultz, Math & Science

Jenny Rette, Math

Kate Freeland, Technology, PE and Science

Margaret Wintenburg, Spanish

Vonda Morris, Math

Michelle Kelley, Reading and Consultation

Dru Urquhart, Technology

How long has the Academy been in existence?

The Technology Academy at Spruce Creek was established in 2007 to serve students with an interest in technology and robotics. Our mission is to create an environment for students, parents, facilitators, and the community to work collaboratively to make the high school experience rigorous and meaningful and to prepare our students to be life-long learners.

What affiliations does the Academy have?

We are a member of the National Academy Foundation, designated as a Microsoft IT Academy and were recently named a FORD PAS Academy.

How are the teachers going to write all the projects?

Our Academy has been chosen to work with the FORD Foundation’s Partnership for Advanced Studies to develop 24 projects that integrate the core subject areas with technology.

What do you mean when you refer to the “New” Academy?

We are not referring to a dramatic change in what we are teaching the students or a departure from current curriculum standards. What we are talking about is a blend of two established and successful curriculum models – online learning and project-based learning. The “new” is in the structure in which these two proven models are being presented to the student.

What about the Florida State Standard and Course Frameworks?

We will be following all District and State curriculum frameworks for each course your student is enrolled in.

Will my student be behind if he or she transfers out of the Academy back into a traditional setting?

We will be following the pacing of each course as established by our District curriculum map so if your student should leave the Academy, he or she will be at approximately the same place in each course as they would be under a traditional delivery model.

What will my student's schedule and transcript look like?

Your student's schedule and transcript will not look any different from a regular student's schedule or transcript.

When will Academy students get their report cards?

Grades will be distributed on the same 9 week schedule as the traditional student.

What if my student is in band or ROTC?

Students will be able to take one elective outside the Academy – either 1st period or 7th period. We will make every effort to schedule the most popular electives during those periods.

Do I have to buy a laptop for my student?

We anticipate that we will have several options for students to acquire the laptops which could include: the student using his or her own laptop and having it approved by the AITR; allowing students to rent laptops from the school; fundraising to reduce the cost of the laptops; and having laptops provided to students at discounted prices.

Why Spanish?

Students in the AITR will have the opportunity to take four years of high school Spanish but taught in an entirely different format than what they may have been used to in middle school. Each module will coincide with coursework from other areas of the curriculum, so students will engage in vocabulary, structure and comprehension that is geared more for practical, everyday usage.

In the past, Spanish has consisted of memorizing material, written and verbal practice and learning about the culture and history of Spanish-speaking countries. In the Academy, students will be given the opportunity to work on specific presentations and plans that will help them in real life situations. The benefits from this type of learning and communication will be evident when they move out of the high school setting on to the university level or workforce.

Can my student take a language other than Spanish?

Spanish is the language being offered in the Academy and will be woven in. Students will learn how to learn a language and how to conduct business in a global economy. If a student would like to take another language, we will work with them on an individual basis to come up with a means for them to do so. It will either be by taking the language 1st or 7th period or by taking advantage of Virtual School offerings.

Can my student take AP Courses?

Yes. Students who would like to take AP Courses may substitute Florida Virtual School offerings for the Academy online learning in AP subjects.

Can my student be dual-enrolled?

Yes. As long as he or she enrolls in the Daytona State courses either online or in the evening.

Are there college scholarships available to Academy Students?

There is \$19 million in scholarship money available to students that participate on one of the Academy's FIRST Robotics teams (we have 5 teams). Students are required to complete 200 hours of service to the team over 4 years to be eligible for scholarship recommendations.