

The Bridge Sarasota 2025-26 Class Descriptions

Elementary Program: 9:30am-11:30am (lunch 11:30am-12:25pm)

Teachers – Brenda Jones and Melanie Wallenstein

The elementary program will have a three-tiered approach. First, students will examine Apologia's Zoology course which will study the animal kingdom through a biblical lens emphasizing God's design and creation. It's designed for elementary students and incorporates hands-on activities, engaging lessons, and vivid graphics to make learning about animals and their ecosystems come alive. The curriculum covers a range of topics, from basic anatomy and physiology to animal behavior and ecosystems. In addition, general science topics will be explored in weekly hands-on activities to keep students engaged in active learning.

For the last part of the class, students will be exposed to age-appropriate literature and then write using prompts taken from the story. No writing experience is necessary. This is simply meant to remove writing roadblocks and get students used to writing from an early age. Very young writers may simply work on letter and word formation while older students can work more on composition.

Cost: \$300

Supplies provided by student: Apologia zoology book note-booking journal, pencils, pencil sharpener, crayons, liquid and stick glue, and colored pencils. Please note, the textbook is optional for the parent; both textbook and journal book are found in the SUFS marketplace.

Class supplies fee: \$50

Middle School and High School Academy Classes

American Sign Language (Grades 6th-12th) 9:00 – 9:50

Taught by Dr. Sherri Schieferstein

Discover the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) in this introductory course. You'll explore the core components of ASL, including its parameters, syntax, sentence structure, and the crucial role of facial expressions and body language. We'll also delve into nouns, verbs, modals, sign space, time concepts, classifiers, and pluralization. Beyond the linguistic aspects, you'll gain insight into fingerspelling (numbers and lexicalized forms), conceptual accuracy, sign modulation, conversational regulators, and the rich history and culture of the American Deaf community, understanding how ASL embodies their values, beliefs, and customs.

Cost: \$275 Prerequisite: None

Materials/requirements: Note taking materials and a \$10 materials fee to be paid at time of registration.

The instructor will provide any other needed materials

Middle/High School Literature and Writing (Grades 6th-12th) 10:00 -10:50

Taught by Amy Sullivan

The carefully curated curriculum covers a diverse array of the four main genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will explore the fundamentals of literature, from theme and plot elements to characterization and literary devices such as metaphor, simile, personification, imagery and more.

Each week, students will explore thoughtfully selected stories that exemplify weekly themes. Prior to the commencement of classes, parents will be provided with a comprehensive list of these materials for review, offering an opportunity for families to be involved in the educational journey. We welcome and respect parental input, allowing for the option to opt-out of certain readings without any impact on student grading.

Please know that stories will be chosen with the utmost of care ensuring a respectful alignment with each family's values.

The class is structured to promote active participation via the use of discussions, role play, debate, story mapping, analysis and even show and tell. Writing assignments are designed to be approachable focusing on paragraph-style short essay responses that sharpen students' analytical and expressive skills without the pressure of long essays. This class is not just an academic endeavor; it's an invitation to explore the vast landscapes of human experience and emotion through the written word. It's an opportunity for students to open the door to a world where literature becomes a gateway to understanding the complexity and beauty of the human condition.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to read comfortably.

Cost: \$275 Supplies fee: \$10

Materials provided by student:

- Internet access to read online works of literature
- Note taking tools

Pre-Algebra – beginning Algebra (Grades 6th-12th), 11:00 - 11:50am

Taught by Shelby Shaw

This course bridges the gap between basic arithmetic and high school algebra, providing students with a strong foundation in mathematical thinking and problem-solving. Topics include but are not limited to integers, fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions, expressions, equations, inequalities, square roots and their operations, functions, slope, polynomials, systems of equations and an introduction to quadratic equations. Students will explore real-world applications of algebraic concepts, use multiple strategies to solve problems, and build confidence in their mathematical reasoning. The course emphasizes hands-on activities, collaborative learning, and test preparation for either SUFS purposes or the PERT for those seeking Dual Enrollment. If your child has gaps in their knowledge, wants to step up to harder math classes or simply wants to review and prep for the PERT exam, this course is for you.

Cost: \$275 Pre-requisite: Students should be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide comfortably.

Supplies Fee: \$10

Supplies provided by the student: note take materials, calculator (phone is fine), Barron's Painless Prealgebra, Barron's Painless Algebra. Both are located on the SUFS marketplace.

Performing Arts (all grades) 12:30 – 1:25pm

Taught by Jen Johnson

In this dynamic and creative course, students will explore the world of performing arts through acting, movement, music, and improvisation. The course encourages students to develop their self-expression, confidence, and collaboration skills in a supportive environment. Throughout the course, they will learn the basics of stage presence, vocal technique, rhythm, and movement. At the end of each semester, students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills in a class performance, demonstrating their growth and creativity. Join us for this fun elective!

Cost: \$275/year Pre-requisite: None Supplies fee: \$35

Supplies provided by student: Notebook, pens or pencils

Biblical Studies (Grades 6th – 12th) 1:30 – 2:20

Taught by Jen Johnson

Throughout this semester students will study the Bible to gain a better understanding of God's Word. They will learn how this remarkable true book, tells God's story of redemption and grace. Regardless of experience level or church background, students will gain a deeper understanding of the most influential and important book in history.

Cost: \$275 Pre-requisite: None Supplies fee: \$15

Supplies provided by student: a Bible (any translation), a notebook or journal, pens or pencils. Instructor will provide any study materials.

Biology with Lab (Grades 6th-12th), 2:30 – 3:25

Taught by Shelby Shaw

This Apologia course is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of biology while also preparing them for college-level biology and the ACT.

Topics covered include the science and chemistry of life, ecology, cell structure and function, cellular energy, DNA and genetics, evolution, prokaryotes and viruses, protists and fungi, plant diversity and reproduction, plant structure and function, and the biology of various types of animals. Students will learn how to utilize the proper scientific method through weekly hands-on practice, how to record data and report it, and how to read, create, and utilize several types of graphs, a skill also required for the SAT and ACT exams. This class is an excellent option in particular for the “non-science” minded kid or parents who aren't quite sure how to handle the lab component of middle school/ high school science. Material will be broken down in a way anyone can not only understand but in which to excel!

Cost: \$275 Pre-requisite: Students should be able to read comfortably.

Supplies Fee: \$50

Supplies provided by the student: note take materials, Apologia Biology 3rd Edition, Apologia Biology student notebook, Apologia microscope slides. All are located on the SUFS marketplace.

Note: not all students need the microscope slides. We have 6 microscopes so we only need about 5 students willing to buy. As other needs come up, like dissection kits, I will again ask who has funds to buy some of those shared costs.