



SPRUCE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

2025-26 HANDBOOK

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ADVANCED PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM AT SPRUCE CREEK

The Establishment of the Advanced Performing Arts Program (APA) at Spruce Creek High School has created educational opportunities for students that are gifted in the performing arts in Volusia County.

The APA Program is an auditioned educational program where students have met specific admission requirements. Continued enrollment in the program is dependent upon maintaining the highest expectations in both performing arts and academic courses.

Please read through the requirements in this handbook as it contains specific information for each program and the standards which you will be held to. Please contact your specific performing arts area faculty if you have specific questions for your program.

OBJECTIVE AND GOALS

- To promote an environment for all students to experience the arts to enrich their education through co-curricular and collaborative efforts.
- To promote and sustain the high academic achievement at Spruce Creek High School.
- To provide students opportunities to earn industry certifications.
- To build a collaborative performing arts community at Spruce Creek High School, the Port Orange Community, and Volusia County Schools.
- To provide students with the opportunities to receive specialized tutoring and mentoring from professionals in their field of study.

CURRICULUM

The Advanced Performing Arts at Spruce Creek High School will be a four-year, full academic curriculum, which includes honors, dual enrollment, advanced placement, and International Baccalaureate courses. The advanced intensive arts curriculum includes dance, vocal, band, orchestra, jazz, piano, and theatre (including performance, technical/design, leadership, and musical theatre). A minimum of 8 courses in the student's performing arts area is required. It is suggested that students take 12 courses to fully immerse themselves in the performing arts curriculum. Students may need to take online classes to be able to fulfill their commitment to their chosen programs of study.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL APA STUDENTS

- Students must be enrolled in at least two performing arts classes each semester.
- Students must take all assigned courses in the outlined provided for the arts specific area.
- Students will be required to attend after-school recitals. Every student must perform on at least one recital by the end of their senior year.
- **A student's schedule and class selection will be set by each performing arts area faculty member.**
- Students in APA will be required to participate in extra activities, such as but not limited to: All County, Solo & Ensemble, Tri-M, Thespians, VCDPA, NHSDA, FDPA. *ask the other components what honors level items they require of their students.

DANCE

Dance students must be enrolled in at least two performing arts classes each semester. When possible, students are strongly encouraged to take a third performing arts class. Dance students will be required to join the dance team their freshmen year. Students will be required to participate in all dance performances.

9TH GRADE

- Dance 1
- Dance Choreography and Performance 1

10TH GRADE

- Dance 2
- Dance Choreography and Performance 2

11TH GRADE

- Dance 3 Honors
- Dance Choreography and Performance 3

12TH GRADE

- Dance 4 Honors
- Dance Choreography and Performance 4

Optional Classes

- Chorus 1, 2, 3, 4
- Theater 1, 2, 3, 4
- Yoga/Pilates/Health and nutrition

MUSIC- VOCAL

9TH GRADE

- Choir 1
- APA Keyboard (Honors credit)

10TH GRADE

- Choir 2
- APA Music Theory (Honors credit)

11TH GRADE

- Choir 3
- Music Technology and Sound Engineering 1 and 2

12TH GRADE

- Choir 4 Honors
- AP Music Theory

Optional Classes

- Theater 1, 2, 3, 4
- Dance 1, 2, 3, 4
- Any other performing Ensemble course
- Music History
- AP Language and Composition (**Highly Suggested**)
- AP English Literature (**Highly Suggested**)

MUSIC- BAND

The band program includes the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensembles, Marching Band, 12 O'clock Jazz Band, 11 O'clock Jazz Band, 10 O'clock Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble. All ensembles regularly participate in district and state performance assessments and consistently receive superior ratings. Advanced performing arts students are required to participate in Solo & Ensemble each year and to audition for the All-County Band. Students are also HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to audition for the All-State Bands. Band students must be enrolled in two performing arts classes each semester. When possible, students are strongly encouraged to take a third music class, such as jazz band, choir, or orchestra.

9TH GRADE

- Band 3
- APA Keyboard (Honors credit)

10TH GRADE

- Band 4
- APA Music Theory (Honors credit)

11TH GRADE

- Band 5 Honors
- Music Technology and Sound Engineering 1 and 2

12TH GRADE

- Band 6 Honors
- AP Music Theory

Optional Classes

- Jazz Ensembles 1, 2, 3, 4
- Any other Performing Ensemble course (Orchestra or Choir)

MUSIC- JAZZ

The band program includes the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, 12 O Clock Jazz Band, 11 O Clock Jazz Band, 10 O Clock Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble. All ensembles regularly participate in district and state performance assessments (MPA) and consistently receive superior ratings. Advanced performing arts students are required to participate in Solo & Ensemble each year and to audition for the All-County Band. Students are also HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to audition for the All-State Bands. Jazz students must be enrolled in three classes each semester. Since students are required to be in a core large ensemble per county policy, students must plan to take online classes to allow for three performing arts classes in their schedule each semester.

9TH GRADE

- Band 3
- Jazz 1
- APA Keyboard (Honors credit)

10TH GRADE

- Band 4
- Jazz 2
- APA Music Theory (Honors credit)

11TH GRADE

- Band 5 Honors
- Jazz 3
- Music Technology and Sound Engineering 1 and 2

12TH GRADE

- Band 6 Honors
- Jazz 4 Honors
- AP Music Theory

MUSIC- ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra program regularly participates in district and state performance assessments (MPA) and consistently receives superior ratings. Advanced performing arts students are required to participate in Solo & Ensemble each year and to audition for the All-County Band. Students are also HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to audition for the All-State Bands.

Orchestra students must be enrolled in two performing arts classes each semester. When possible, students are strongly encouraged to take a third music class, such as jazz band, band, or choir.

9TH GRADE

- Orchestra 1
- APA Keyboard (Honors credit)

10TH GRADE

- Orchestra 2
- APA Music Theory (Honors credit)

11TH GRADE

- Orchestra 3
- Music Technology and Sound Engineering 1 and 2

12TH GRADE

- Orchestra 4 Honors
- AP Music Theory

Optional Classes

- Jazz Ensembles 1, 2, 3, 4
- Any other Performing Ensemble course (Orchestra or Choir)

THEATRE

Students in the program will be expected to be members of the Theatre Club and earn induction into The International Thespian Society. Students are expected to participate at the district and state conferences. Students will be expected to audition and participate in mainstage productions.

Theatre (*Music Theatre, Acting, Technical/Design, Leadership*) Course Requirements to be completed over four years.

9TH GRADE

- Theatre 1
- APA Comprehensive Theatre 1

10TH GRADE

- Theatre 2
- APA Comprehensive Theatre 2

11TH GRADE

- Theatre 3 HON
- APA Comprehensive Theatre 3

12TH GRADE

- Theatre 4 HON
- APA Comprehensive Theatre 4

APA POLICIES

Requirements for all active APA students

- Enrolled in a minimum of two performing arts classes each semester.
- 2.5 GPA (unweighted) for each semester and a **B** or better in APA courses.
- Regular attendance at APA Recitals.
- Exemplary Attendance and behavior in all SCHS classes.
- No referrals or suspensions.
- Students are highly encouraged to participate in other activities at Spruce Creek High School and within their community. HOWEVER, APA students will give first priority to ALL rehearsals and performances of their major ensembles.

REMOVAL POLICY

A student may be removed from the program due any of the following:

- Failure to maintain a 2.5 GPA.
- Failure to maintain a **B** in performing arts classes.
- No more than 1 absence per semester from an after-school rehearsal. Absences must be documented with the major performance faculty member. Students will be required to complete additional work in case of any absence.
- Excessive absences from core classes at Spruce Creek High School.
 - Excessive absences are considered more than 5 per nine weeks or 10 in a semester.
- Disciplinary issues within Spruce Creek High School that result in a referral or lowering of students conduct on their report card.

A parent-teacher-student conference will be held if a student is in violation of any APA policies at Spruce Creek High School. If improvement is not seen after the conference, the student will be sent back to their home school if not zoned for Spruce Creek or removal from the APA program and major performance ensemble immediately.

Volusia County policy will be followed if a student must be removed from the APA program. This may include but not limited to:

- Removal from the APA variance program. If a student is removed from the APA program and they are not zoned for Spruce Creek high School, the student will be sent back to their home school.
- If a student is zoned for Spruce Creek High School, the student will be removed from the Advanced Performing Arts.

APA CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the Advanced Performing Arts Program agree to follow the Volusia County School Student Code of Conduct as well as abide by the Principles of Integrity at Spruce Creek High School, their respective Performing Arts programs, and the rules and regulations outlined in the APA Handbook.



SPRUCE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

- Parents and students agree to take the required 9th grade course of Finance and Personal Financial Literacy online with Florida Virtual School in their first year at Spruce Creek.
- Students will also need to take personal fitness online as well to continue to take the required two performing arts classes each semester.
- The student must **abide by all rules of the Advanced Performing Arts Handbook, Spruce Creek High School**, and the Volusia County Code of Student conduct guidelines established by the Volusia County School Board, faculty, students, and parents.
- The student must **comply with the specific requirements of the selected arts program**, of the Advanced Performing Arts at Spruce Creek High School, and of Volusia County Public Schools. Failure to comply may result in the student being placed on probation and eventual dismissal from the program. Students who do not maintain a 2.0 GPA will be placed on probation and will not be able to participate in arts area performances or exhibits. (Refer to school policies for specifics.)
- A student who withdraws from SCHS at any time during the school year will not be allowed to re-enter during that year.
- A **program fee** is required from each student in every arts area to help fund performances, workshops, master classes, etc., i.e., expenses of above and beyond basic class expenses. Opportunities to raise funds to cover a student's fair share payments are provided by each art area's supporting booster group. Parents need to participate in the art area's booster organization to be aware of specific requirements and to have input into policies and procedures of that arts area.
- An additional contract with art area specific rules** must be signed by each student prior to participation in any of the performing arts groups. *For example: Dance students must have complete dress attire as described in guidelines given to students by dance teachers. A **complete physical exam** following their acceptance to the dance program is required, etc.*
- Students who are members of performance groups are expected to attend **required rehearsals and performances**. Students who do not satisfy this requirement may not perform, and course grades in that area may be affected as a result.
- Students are required to take **all required core arts courses** in their arts area.

MY SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES THAT I HAVE READ THE APA HANDBOOK AND THE HANDBOOK AGREEMENT. I AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL POLICIES SET FORTH.

Student's Signature

Date

Please **Print Student's Name**

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Please **Print Parent/Guardian's Name**

2025-26 AUDITION INFORMATION AND DATES

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 1st, 2024: Auditions submissions Open (video audition)

December 6th: Last day to submit an online audition.

December 13th: Audition results and offers emailed to parent Guardians.

January 28th, 2025: Advanced Performing Arts New Student Orientation at SCHS Band room 7:00pm.

AUDITION INFORMATION

- Students do not have to be zoned for Spruce Creek High School to audition and be accepted.
- Students may audition for more than one area but will need to fully complete one performing arts areas required classes.
- If a student is not accepted on their video audition, they may be invited to perform a live audition later in the year.
 - Feedback will not be provided for students that are not accepted into their prospective programs.
- Transportation to Spruce Creek High School is not provided. All travel responsibilities to and from Spruce Creek are the responsibility of the family of the students.
- All arts areas require fee contributions. The amount varies among arts areas and performance groups. Additional area-specific requirements that affect a student's grade may be mandatory. Arts directors will provide more information at new-student orientation.

AUDITION VIDEOS

All auditions must be done online by video. You will upload your video to YouTube as an unlisted video and then submit that link in your application. Any other submissions will not be accepted. If an in-person audition is needed, you will be contacted. See the website for a sample audition videos.

REQUIREMENTS

- Introduction- At the start of your video introduce yourself: Your name, current middle school, description of what you are performing.
- 5-minute maximum video.
- Follow all listed audition requirements for your arts area.
- High quality videos and sound are extremely important.

MUSIC

BAND

BRASS AND WOODWIND

Option 1:

1. Volusia All- County Band Audition
 - A recording of a your all county requirements etude and scales. This recording would be the all-county required etude plus the major scales asked for the audition.

Option 2:

1. Scales: Applicants are expected to perform 3 major scales, multiple octaves when appropriate, with arpeggios.
2. Two contrasting Etudes: Performing the Florida Bandmasters Association All-State Band audition music (lyrical and technical etudes) would be appropriate or the all-county band audition music.

PERCUSSION

Option 1:

3. Volusia All- County Band Audition
 - A recording of a your all county requirements etude and scales. This recording would be the all-county required etude plus the major scales asked for the audition.

Option 2:

2. Scales: Applicants are expected to perform 3 major scales, multiple octaves when appropriate, with arpeggios.
4. Two contrasting Etudes: Performing the Florida Bandmasters Association All-State Band audition music (lyrical and technical etudes) would be appropriate or the all-county band audition music.

ORCHESTRA REQUIREMENTS

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, AND DOUBLE BASS APPLICANTS:

1. Two Scales: Prepare two major scales and arpeggios according to ability. The scales must be at least two octaves.
2. Two Solos: Prepare two pieces of contrasting style lasting approximately two minutes each. Classical music such as unaccompanied suites and partitas, sonatas, concertos, and most selections from the Suzuki books are acceptable. You may also play the Florida Orchestra Association's All-State Orchestra Audition etude and excerpt. An accompanist is not needed for the audition.

JAZZ AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Scales: Applicants are expected to perform 3 major scales, multiple octaves when appropriate, with arpeggios.
2. Jazz Etude:
 - Performing the Florida Bandmasters Association All-State Jazz band audition music (swing or Latin) would be appropriate. Or you may play a jazz standard.
3. Two choruses of improv over Bb Blues with a backing track. (This track can be found at creekband.org)

CHORUS

1. Select an appropriate solo to perform for a live audition. Your solo selection should be an art song or a musical theatre song. The backing track may be prerecorded or performed live. There should be no additional vocals on the backing track.
2. Applicants may find solo literature at their local school program, local music stores or through online vendors, such as jwpepper.com or halleonard.com. Additionally, free music that is in the public domain can be found at imslp.org.

DANCE

Students seeking admission to the Dance Program should submit an application video of a solo or group piece that properly demonstrates proper alignment, musicality, performance quality and any special skills the dancer has in their repertoire.

Applicants should record their audition dressed to dance in attire that makes alignment and musculature easily visible (i.e. leotard and tights). Stage performances, recorded classes, or in-home/in-studio performances of a piece are all acceptable applications.

THEATRE

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SELECT THE MOST APPROPRIATE TRACK FOR YOUR AUDITION.

1. Acting
2. Music Theatre
3. Technical/Design
4. Leadership

ACTING:

Select two contrasting (comic and dramatic) monologues from published plays. The performance should be three to five minutes and school appropriate.

MUSIC THEATRE:

Please prepare a song from a published musical. Prepare at least 2-3 minutes of a music theatre song. You can sing with an instrumental backing track but do not sing over recording vocals. Choose something that suits your voice and skill level.

TECHNICAL/LEADERSHIP:

Please prepare a three-to-five-minute presentation on an experience of technical theatre or theatre leadership (stage management) you have enjoyed. You may also present a design for a musical or play to show us your interest and skills. If called for an interview, you will be encouraged to bring a portfolio of previous productions or designs you have created. This is a good track for students that are interested in the technical aspects of theatre (scenic/costume/lighting design etc...)