



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 (field trips, private lessons, transportation cost, tournament expenses, medical expenses for boarders etc.), acts as a deposit against damage.

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

A privately owned shuttle service provides transportation to and from the Tampa Airport at discounted rates for students with 24 hour prior notification. 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. Contact the school office for information regarding Insurance for International students.

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 resident assistants.

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. Saddlebrook Preparatory School is not equipped to train beginning players.

6. *Is it helpful for parents to have access to a fax machine or email?*

Yes. Parents may fax or email special requests and the school can respond by fax or email. Due to time differences, this is easier than telephoning. The Saddlebrook Preparatory fax, however, is for business use only. Students should not plan to send or receive personal correspondence via the school fax number.

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

Yes. Saddlebrook has condominium apartments for lease through the Lakeside Village rental office (813-907-4755). Parents may also purchase property or rent houses through the Saddlebrook Real Estate Sales office (813-907-4590). Parents who do not rent through the Lakeside Village office and are not members will pay an annual resort privilege fee which will allow them to have a Saddlebrook Prep Sports Family membership.

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

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

9. **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 at the school for details for the program in which you are planning to enroll.

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

Yes. 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 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. Additionally, the facilities, curriculum and other programs must meet certain qualifications. SACS inspects schools regularly to ensure standards are maintained.

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

For the 2008-2009 Academic Year, the ratio was 8-1.

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

Yes, We offer an SAT class one class period per day.

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. We use the computer lab to accommodate our 'English as a Second Language (E.S.O.L.) students.

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 covering 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. Additionally, the teaching professionals have contacts with college coaches and recruiters.

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 media center also has books with this information.

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

The student must notify each instructor and the Director of Curriculum's office, 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 Counselor.
9. *Can my child attend Saddlebrook Preparatory and graduate from his/her hometown high school?*
Students wishing to do this must coordinate it with the Director of Curriculaum's office, 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. All students should have their laptops insured. Secure pass codes for the school programs Homework Hero and Edline (access to student grade information) are also available in the main office.
11. *Are academic courses available in the summer?*
Yes. International students must have been enrolled 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 Director of Students Affairs's office. Each student will receive a Student Handbook, which outlines rules and possible punishments. 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. Properly licensed non-boarders are permitted to drive their car to school however they may not take any student passengers without parental and school permission.
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 trip to Disney, SeaWorld and other local attractions and special events.
4. *Can my child come home on the weekends?*
Yes. Written plans should be provided to the Director of Student Affairs 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.
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. 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.

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

Non-emergency medical appointments for Boarding Students are handled through the Director of Student Affairs' office. Parents of non-boarding students are required to make arrangements for non-emergency medical appointments. Saddlebrook Resorts 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 resort 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 Director of Student Affairs is 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 over the break periods. They are required to pack up their personal belongings which are stored by the school. Parents may make reservations for their children to stay in the tennis or golf camp program 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 boarding room over the break period.

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

Boarding students can sign up for a maximum of \$50.00 cash allowance weekly. Allowance is distributed on Thursday at lunch. If a student needs additional funds we must receive written documentation from the parent.

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

Parents can arrange accommodations at a discounted rate through the Saddlebrook Resort Reservations 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 must be enrolled in the academic program at 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 does my child make the golf or tennis team?*

To participate in extracurricular athletics, students must have a "C" average. Spots on the teams are filled based on ability, match experience, and try-out performance. Selection to the team is made by the coaches in coordination with the Saddlebrook International Tennis staff and the Arnold Palmer Golf Academy. Playing on the team is a privilege and students must remain in Good Standing with the school to participate.

4. *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.

5. *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 use in entering tournaments on line.

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

6:45 - 7:15 Breakfast

7:25 - 12:05 Academics

12:05 - 1:00 Lunch

Tennis

1:00 - 4:30 Tennis

4:00 - 5:45 Fitness

Golf

1:00 - 5:00 or done 18 holes.

Or

1:00-5:00 Range short game practice, full swing, possible video or lesson.

Or

1:00- 4:00 Range, same as above.

4:30-5:15 Fitness

5:30 - 7:00 Dinner

7:30 - 10:15 Study Time/Free Time

8:30 Curfew

10:15 Bed check