



Student Orientation Guide

A practical introduction to learning, belonging, and succeeding at

Sawyer STREAM Academy

MISSION

At Sawyer STREAM Academy, our mission is to nurture intellect, integrity, and innovation through a project-based curriculum that connects academic learning to real-world purpose.

VISION

Empowering students to become creative thinkers, problem solvers, and compassionate leaders.

Sawyer Scholastics, LLC
7901 4th Street N, Suite 25745
St. Petersburg, FL USA 33702

Welcome to Sawyer STREAM Academy

Sawyer STREAM Academy welcomes you to a learning community where academic rigor, project-based learning, personal responsibility, and care for others are treated as connected parts of education. This guide explains how to begin successfully, what the Academy expects from students, how students and families receive support, and how the school's mission is reflected in daily learning.

As a distance-learning student, you will have flexibility, but flexibility does not mean learning without structure. You are expected to follow a regular learning routine, complete assigned work honestly, communicate with teachers, respond to feedback, and ask for help before small difficulties become larger problems. Your teachers are instructors, mentors, and academic guides. Your family is an important partner in helping you establish the habits needed for success.

Before Your First Day

Check	Orientation Task
☐	Confirm that your name, grade level, contact information, and enrollment records are correct.
☐	Verify that you can access the learning platform and official school communication channels.
☐	Review your course list, pacing expectations, and the procedures for submitting assignments.
☐	Read the Academic Integrity Policy and Technology Acceptable Use expectations.
☐	Identify how to contact each teacher and where to request academic or technical support.
☐	Discuss your weekly learning schedule with your parent or guardian.
☐	Complete the student and family orientation acknowledgment.

1. Understanding the Sawyer STREAM Model

The Academy's educational model combines rigorous academics, project-based learning, and Family Values. STREAM stands for Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. These areas are connected through interdisciplinary learning that asks students to investigate questions, solve problems, create products, explain their reasoning, and apply knowledge beyond a single assignment.

Courses are aligned to recognized academic standards and are designed to develop knowledge, communication, research, reasoning, creativity, and responsible decision-making. Students may learn through readings, teacher explanations, discussions, demonstrations, projects, practice activities, quizzes, examinations, and other forms of assessment.

2. Family Values and the Culture of Care

Sawyer STREAM Academy is rooted in Family Values and a Culture of Care. The Academy identifies Respect, Integrity, Empathy, Responsibility, and Service as living principles that should be reflected in learning, communication, and decision-making.

Respect means communicating thoughtfully and recognizing the dignity of others. Integrity means doing what is right, completing honest work, and accepting responsibility. Empathy means listening and attempting to understand another person's circumstances. Responsibility means meeting commitments and taking ownership of choices. Service means using knowledge and ability to benefit others.

The Culture of Care means that students should be known, valued, guided, and held to meaningful expectations. Teachers seek to understand students before making assumptions, provide guidance intended to improve learning, and use constructive communication when correction is needed. Students are expected to contribute to this culture by treating teachers, classmates, staff, and family members with fairness and consideration.

3. How Distance Learning Works

Sawyer STREAM Academy provides structured learning through digital systems. Depending on the student's program, instruction may include asynchronous coursework, scheduled teacher contact, partner-school instruction, tutoring, or other approved learning arrangements. Students are responsible for accessing their courses regularly, following pacing expectations, completing required activities, and maintaining communication.

Online learning allows flexibility across locations and time zones, but students should not postpone work indefinitely. A stable weekly routine is essential. Students should set aside dedicated learning time, work in an appropriate environment, limit distractions, and keep track of deadlines and teacher feedback.

4. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to participate consistently, submit complete work, respond to teacher communication, protect their account credentials, and use school systems for legitimate educational purposes. They should read instructions carefully, review feedback, revise work when directed, and ask questions when expectations are unclear.

Students must communicate respectfully in messages, discussions, video sessions, and collaborative work. Harassment, threats, impersonation, inappropriate language, misuse of another person's information, or disruption of the learning environment are inconsistent with the Academy's values and expectations.

5. Academic Integrity

Every student must submit work that truthfully represents their own learning. Students may use approved resources, research tools, and technology when permitted, but they must follow teacher instructions, acknowledge sources, and avoid unauthorized assistance.

Copying another person's work, purchasing assignments, sharing answers, using artificial intelligence or other tools in a way that replaces required student thinking, falsifying records, or misrepresenting identity during assessment are violations of academic integrity. When uncertain about whether a resource or tool is permitted, students should ask the teacher before using it.

6. Courses, Pacing, and Attendance

Each course contains learning objectives, instructional materials, required activities, and assessments. Students should follow the course sequence and pacing guidance unless a teacher or administrator approves an adjustment. Completion is measured not only by logging into a system, but by meaningful participation, submission of work, communication, and demonstrated academic progress.

Families should notify the Academy when illness, travel, technology failure, or another significant circumstance interrupts participation. The Academy may work with the student and family to establish a reasonable plan for returning to regular progress.

7. Assessment, Feedback, and Progress

Assessment helps teachers and students understand what has been learned and what still requires attention. Students may complete diagnostic assessments, practice activities, quizzes, projects, presentations, unit assessments, benchmark assessments, midterm examinations, and final examinations.

Teacher feedback is part of the learning process. Students should read comments carefully, make corrections when requested, and use feedback to improve future work. Grades and progress reports provide important information, but students should also pay attention to standards mastery, completion patterns, work quality, and the ability to explain and apply learning.

8. Working With Teachers

Teachers provide instruction, evaluate work, answer questions, monitor progress, and help students develop successful learning habits. Students should contact teachers when they do not understand an assignment, fall behind, experience repeated difficulty, or need clarification about feedback.

Communication should be clear and professional. A useful message identifies the course and assignment, explains what the student has already attempted, and asks a specific question. Students should allow a reasonable response time and should continue with other available work while waiting.

9. Family Partnership

Parents and guardians are essential partners in distance education. They help students establish routines, monitor whether work is being completed, communicate changes that may affect learning, and encourage students to seek help. Families are not expected to complete assignments or provide answers for students.

The Academy encourages families to discuss progress regularly, review official communications, attend required meetings or orientation sessions, and communicate respectfully with teachers and school leadership. Concerns should be raised early and through the appropriate school channel.

10. Technology and Digital Safety

Students must use secure passwords, protect account information, and avoid sharing private information through unapproved channels. School systems, video meetings, discussion areas, and digital resources must be used responsibly. Students should report suspicious messages, account access concerns, cyberbullying, harmful content, or other online safety issues to a trusted adult and the Academy.

Families are responsible for maintaining suitable internet access and an appropriate device for the student's program. When a technical problem occurs, the student should document the issue when possible and contact the appropriate support person promptly.

11. Student Support and Intervention

Sawyer STREAM Academy monitors student progress and may provide additional guidance when a student is struggling academically, not participating consistently, or experiencing circumstances that affect learning. Support may include teacher consultation, adjusted pacing, additional practice, tutoring recommendations, academic planning, family conferences, or referral to appropriate outside services when needed.

Asking for help is a responsible action. Students and families should not wait until the end of a course or grading period to report a serious concern.

12. Student Voice, Leadership, and Service

The Academy seeks to develop creative thinkers, problem solvers, and compassionate leaders. Students may be invited to provide feedback, participate in projects, contribute to school activities, support peers appropriately, and complete service connected to their communities.

Leadership at Sawyer STREAM Academy is understood as responsible action rather than simply holding a title. Students demonstrate leadership by showing initiative, completing commitments, helping others, solving problems ethically, and contributing positively to the learning community.

13. When You Need Help

For an academic question, contact the course teacher. For a concern involving course placement, progress, records, or graduation planning, contact the appropriate academic or administrative representative. For a technical access problem, follow the Academy's technology support procedure. For a safety concern, crisis, threat, harassment, or suspected harm, notify a trusted adult and school leadership immediately.

In an immediate emergency, students and families should contact the appropriate local emergency service in their own location before or while notifying the Academy.

Habits of a Successful Sawyer STREAM Student

Plan	Participate	Reflect
Use a weekly schedule and begin work early.	Complete meaningful work and communicate regularly.	Review feedback, correct mistakes, and set new goals.

Student and Family Orientation Acknowledgment

By signing below, the student and parent or guardian confirm that they have reviewed this guide and understand the Academy's mission, vision, Family Values, Culture of Care, distance-learning expectations, academic integrity requirements, communication procedures, and student-support expectations. Signing confirms understanding and a commitment to participate responsibly; it does not waive any rights provided by applicable law or school policy.

Student Name	
Grade Level	
Student Signature	
Parent/Guardian Name	
Parent/Guardian Signature	
Date Completed	

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