



Congratulations on being selected for the Booker High School Law Academy program!

You should be proud of this accomplishment, especially because of the serious consideration we give for each and every student who applies. We strive to bring you the finest comprehensive pre-professional law related education in a safe and nurturing environment, and we are committed to delivering quality instruction to talented and passionate students. We're looking forward to a wonderful journey with you!

Enrollment in Booker High School's Law Academy is a privilege extended only to the most capable students, and admittance is based upon an application that evaluates academic strength and character strength. Once accepted into the program, with the support of caring faculty, the student, along with their family, assumes responsibility for their own success.

The training offered requires time, concentration, cooperation and open-mindedness. Rules and conventions have evolved, which will allow students to attain professional standards of performance. Please read carefully the entrance agreement and keep on hand for reference. ***You must submit your signed contract (enclosed) acknowledging your responsibility to adhere to the rules of the Law Academy in order to be registered for Law Academy classes.***

IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN THE LAW ACADEMY PROGRAM, STUDENTS MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 *per quarter* in Law Academy classes with no D or F grades.
- Maintain an *UNWEIGHTED* overall combined GPA of 2.5 per quarter.
- The Law Academy believes deeply in the necessity for students to develop a wide range of abilities that encompasses academics. Our goal is to produce graduates who have had the training in high school to successfully take on any endeavor upon graduation. Many of our graduates go on to pursue legal education in college where placement is competitive, and overall grades are the most important factor for most post-secondary institutions, regardless of course of study.
- Demonstrate continued enthusiasm for Law Academy curriculum and growth as assessed by Law Academy faculty.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and involvement in the classroom, field trips, and programs.
- Abide by all requirements of each Law Academy class syllabus, as well as the Law Academy rules.
- Maintain attendance that allows for full participation in Law Academy activities.
 - Excessive absences will result in the following: After 11 absences from LAW ACADEMY classes—excused or unexcused—a parent conference will be called, and the student, parent and faculty will create a probationary attendance contract stipulating consequences. Twelve to twenty absences could result in ineligibility for additional opportunities. If a student accrues more than 20 absences—excused or unexcused—they may be dismissed from the program.
- While attendance in LAW ACADEMY classes is critical, it is likewise critical for students to attend their academic classes. Students with excessive absences from non-LAW ACADEMY classes will face consequences from ineligibility for other opportunities to probation and removal from the program.

PROBATION

Probation is a tool that the Law Academy Program uses to indicate to a student that he/she is falling behind in one or more significant areas. Students may be placed on probation any time during the grading period. A student would be granted a minimum of nine weeks to correct the terms of probation.

A student may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program for deficits in the following areas:

GPA

The student must maintain an UNWEIGHTED 2.5 grade point average in all combined academic courses. In addition, the student must also maintain a 2.5 grade point average in all Law Academy courses with no grade below a C. We strive to provide support; parents can monitor grades via CrossPointe, and it is the responsibility of parents and students to maintain an open line of communication with faculty and staff.

ATTENDANCE (SEE ABOVE FOR DETAILED ATTENDANCE POLICY)

Attendance is vital in Law Academy classes; much of the work we do cannot be replicated outside of Law Academy classrooms and field trips.

- Students also should maintain excellent attendance in non-Law Academy (academic) classes.

COMMITMENT/ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR

Participation in Law Academy is a privilege, and staff and faculty expect positive behavior and commitment from students and their families.

- Students must contribute to the classroom instruction in a POSITIVE manner.
- Students must adhere to all of the rules and policies set forth in each Law Academy class syllabus.
- Students must demonstrate serious interest and intent toward their professional growth.
- Students must not present problems in academic classes or outside of the Law Academy classroom in general, as Law Academy students are ambassadors of the Law Academy. Poor behavior in academic classes can result in probation; ongoing behaviors may result in dismissal from Law Academy.
- Students who violate societal expectations by committing crimes, even off campus, may be subject to probation or immediate dismissal from the program.

PROBATION PROCEDURE

- Unless the only reason for the probation is GPA (ie: a student falls beneath 2.5 unweighted GPA), a conference would be convened with the student placed on probation for the purpose of informing the student of the areas in which the student needs to show improvement. Parent contact will be made by phone or email; this will be initiated by the Law Academy teacher or, in extenuating circumstances, the Law Academy coordinator or administrator.
- Probation is a status that is confidential (ie: kept between students, their families, and the teachers). It is not at all reflected in the classroom, and the educational experience is the same for ALL Law Academy students, regardless of status.
- A written explanation will be sent home to be read and signed by a parent/guardian. This MUST be returned to the Law Academy office. Once the letter has been mailed, non-compliance on returning it is no excuse for not managing the terms of probation. Failure to do so can result in dismissal from the program.

- If the student does not fulfill the probation requirements, the student may continue on probation **if they are showing progress towards an agreed upon goal**, or the student may be dismissed from the Law Academy Program.
- Students who are placed on probation will be monitored throughout the remainder of their tenure at Booker High School. This is not meant to be punitive, but supportive. We want to ensure that our students are aware of Law Academy expectations and hold themselves accountable for them.
- For one-time penalties (ie: a discipline infraction), a student's probation status may be terminated at the end of the time designated on the probation contract, so long as another infraction is not made.
- A student may be dismissed from the Law Academy Program at the end of a semester or at the end of the school year. The decision would be contingent upon which release date would have the least negative impact on a student's overall academic goals.

Immediate Law Academy Dismissal – Special Circumstances

While normally students are dismissed at a semester break, there are certain circumstances in which a student may be dismissed immediately from the Law Academy program. The principal has the authority to dismiss a student from the Law Academy Program at any time. Offenses resulting in this action include:

- Refusing to participate in a mandatory Law Academy activity or function.
- Being removed from a Law Academy club, team or activity for violation of the rules, policies, and guidelines.
- If a student has been placed on probation on more than one instance.
- Violation of the rules and policies as specified by the Law Academy or in the school handbook and Sarasota County Schools Rules of Conduct.

DISMISSAL FROM THE LAW ACADEMY

If a student is dismissed from the Law Academy program, whether initiated by the student or by the Law Academy office, the student is eligible to apply ONE YEAR after the time of his/her removal. A new application must also be submitted. Entry at that time is dependent upon application, space, and scheduling.

PROMOTION

- Students must meet Law Academy expectations herein to be promoted to the next level.
- Students must maintain an UNWEIGHTED 2.5 grade point average and earn no grade below a C in the Law Academy for promotion.

