

Student FAQ

For both Summer@SaMi Camp and SaMi School Year programs

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What is SaMi?

SaMi, which stands for San Antonio Math Include, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in San Antonio, TX, USA. Our organization is dedicated to promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and ensuring equal access to educational opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. Our mission is to provide free classes and summer camps for students in grades K-12, with the aim of fostering a love for learning and encouraging academic growth in the fields of math and science. We believe in the power of education to transform lives and prepare students for future success. Our programs have attracted students from 42 states across the United States, as well as from four other continents, reflecting our commitment to reaching learners worldwide. For more information about SaMi, please visit the [SaMi Website](#) and subscribe for the [SaMi YouTube Channel](#).

What is the format of the summer camp program? Can I participate asynchronously by watching recorded class sessions?

The summer camp program is a free online program for all students in K-12. The three-week period spans the last two weeks of July and the first week of August. This schedule is specifically designed to help prevent the summer slide and keep students engaged for the new school year.

Each week is independent, meaning that the classes taught during one week will cover the same material as the other two weeks. You have the flexibility to teach for as many weeks as you prefer.

The daily classes will be conducted in two sessions, each lasting for 3 hours. The first session, known as the AM session, will take place from 9 AM to 12 PM Central Daylight Time. The second session, called the PM session, will be held from 1 PM to 4 PM Central Daylight Time. It's important to note that each class is taught only during one session, either AM or PM, on a daily basis.

The content covered in all three weeks is the same. Therefore, if you only wish to enroll in one course, you only need to sign up for one week, selecting either the AM or PM session. If you would like to take two courses, you have the option to do so within a single week, attending one during the AM session and the other during the PM session. Or, you can distribute them in two weeks. For example, one in the AM session of Week 2 and the other

in the PM session of Week 3. For those interested in taking more than two courses, you can sign up for multiple weeks. By fully participating in both sessions across the three weeks, you can take a maximum of six courses.

Signing up for more than six courses will lead to scheduling conflicts. We limit enrollment to six courses for two reasons: 1) we value the synchronous classroom experience where students can interact with their tutors and 2) all recorded videos will be deleted right after the summer camp program because they exceed the storage space allowed by our Zoom account. Therefore, we encourage you to sign up only for the classes that your student can attend the live sessions.

If you wish to sign up for a class but couldn't do it (due to, for example, time conflict or you have already reached the maximum of six classes), you can take it during the school year program. The school year program offers shorter and more flexible options to accommodate your schedule.

What is the format of the school year tutoring program?

The SaMi School Year Tutoring Program is a free online program for all students in K-12. The 15-week program starts in late October and ends in late February. Each class session is 40-min long. All classes are taught in Zoom during the weekends (Saturday and Sunday). You can sign up for multiple classes as long as they don't conflict with each other.

What is the time zone used in SaMi?

All times are Central Time, USA.

Who can be a student?

Any student in grades K-12 who is interested in learning about STEM subjects is welcome to join as a participant. Our student body comprises individuals from across the United States as well as from various countries worldwide. It is not a requirement to be a US citizen in order to enroll and benefit from our programs.

What do I need to do to prepare for my class?

No advance preparation is required for any of our classes; simply join the class on time and ready to participate.

In math and science classes, you can expect to engage in a substantial amount of practice during the class sessions. To fully enjoy the experience, we recommend having a pencil and paper readily available. Even better, consider having a marker on hand so that you can write with clarity and showcase your work to the rest of the class using your webcam.

For any programming class (except Kid Coders), a prerequisite is a typing speed of at least 30+ words per minute (wpm). To ensure that your typing speed does not hinder your learning experience, we encourage you to practice and assess your typing speed beforehand. You can do so by visiting <https://www.typingtest.com/>. This will enable you to enter the class fully prepared and take full advantage of the learning opportunities presented to you.

Are all classes based on grade level or age?

All classes are based on grade level rather than age. For instance, Tadpoles (G1) is designed for students in 1st grade, Whirlpool (G2) is tailored to 2nd graders, Science Bowl (G6-8) is intended for middle school students, and so forth. This approach ensures that the content and curriculum align appropriately with each student's academic level.

Will we be signed up for the grade level for the current school year or the next school year?

The sign-up process is based on the student's upcoming grade level. For instance, if your child will be entering 3rd grade in the next school year, they should sign up for Cygnus (G3). Our curriculum delves a bit deeper than Saxon Math, which is the math curriculum utilized in Basis Schools. As a result, it is designed to meet the academic needs of most students. Additionally, our summer camps are strategically scheduled just before the commencement of the new school year to mitigate the effects of the "Summer Slide" and ensure that all students are adequately prepared for the upcoming academic year.

If you believe that your child's abilities are above or below their current grade level, we recommend signing them up for the grade level that corresponds to their aptitude. Should you have any uncertainties regarding whether your child should be enrolled in a higher grade level, please don't hesitate to contact us at sanantoniomathinclude@gmail.com. We are here to assist you in assessing their readiness and determining the most suitable placement for their academic journey.

How much do summer camps cost?

All summer camps are provided **free of charge** to all students, ensuring accessibility and equal opportunities for participation.

Furthermore, **scholarships** will be automatically awarded to students from low-income families to assist with course-related expenses, including books, supplies, and necessary equipment. This support aims to alleviate financial barriers and enable all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, to fully engage in the summer camp activities.

How do the scholarships work?

How to Apply? There is no separate application process for the scholarship. If your child qualifies for their school's free lunch program in the last academic year (such as, using the status of the 2024-2025 academic year to determine the scholarship eligibility for the 2025 Summer@SaMi Camp program), all you need to do is provide this information in the registration form. Subsequently, we will reach out to you via email and request an official document or letter from the school that can verify your child's eligibility. Once this verification is complete, your child will automatically be enrolled in our scholarship program.

The scholarship will be provided in the form of a check, which can be utilized to cover a portion of your remote learning expenses. This includes costs associated with printing, home internet service, learning materials, books, and other related expenses. You have the flexibility to decide how to allocate the scholarship funds to maximize your student's learning outcomes.

Please note that students must fully attend the summer camp they sign up for (three hours per class per day, five days per week) to receive the scholarship. The scholarship will be mailed to you after the program as a reimbursement.

If you have multiple children participate in their school's free lunch program, each of them will receive a scholarship.

My student is homeschooling or their school doesn't offer lunch. How to determine my eligibility for the scholarship?

In this situation, we kindly request that you refer to the [USDA Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) to assess your eligibility for the scholarship. You will use last academic year's income for measurement (i.e., using the 2024-2025 income to determine the scholarship eligibility for the 2025 Summer@SaMi Camp program).

If I want my child to be in the same class as his/her friend, what shall I do?

If you would like your child to be in the same class as their friend, please reach out to us at sanantoniomathinclude@gmail.com. Kindly inform us of the specific request, and we will make arrangements to place them in the same class. Ensuring a positive learning experience for your child and fostering their friendship is important to us.

How can I confirm if my signup has been accepted?

Upon submitting your registration form, you should receive an automatic email from Google containing a copy of your registration form. If you do not receive this email, kindly search the email address "forms-receipts-noreply@google.com" in your inbox as well as check your Promotion folder or Spam folder. Rest assured, we will send you an email at a later stage to confirm your class(es) enrollment.

In the event that a class you wish to enroll in has reached its capacity, we will inform you that you have been placed on a waitlist.

Is your program designed specifically for advanced math students, struggling math students, or is it open to all?

Our program caters to all students, regardless of their level of proficiency in mathematics. We carefully curate essential topics from the common core curriculum and delve deeper into their understanding. The three-week summer camps are strategically scheduled just before the start of the fall semester to combat the potential learning loss over the summer break, commonly referred to as the "summer slide." Our program aims to provide valuable learning opportunities for students of all abilities and backgrounds.

Is there any homework during a program?

No, there is no homework assigned during the summer camp. We believe in providing a balanced experience that allows students to fully engage in interactive and hands-on learning activities during class time without the added pressure of homework. This approach ensures that students can enjoy their summer while still gaining valuable knowledge and skills.

Are adults allowed to register for your programming and AI courses?

No. Our program is specifically designed for K-12 students. For safety and age-appropriate learning considerations, we are unable to accommodate adult participants. Thank you for your understanding.

Questions about the classes (after your registration)

When will I receive my meeting link and the information about my tutor (for School Year Tutoring Program)?

Your meeting link and the information about your tutor (including their photo, short-bio, and email address) will be emailed to you in the week right before the start of the program (a summer camp or school year program):

The emails will be grouped by subjects, and the subject lines will include the course name and session time. For example:

- Kid Coders (G3-5), 10-10:40AM CT, Saturday

The subject line indicates that the email contains the meeting link and other relevant information for the Kid Coders class, which is scheduled from 10-10:40 am in Central Time (CT) on Saturdays.

If you are enrolled in multiple subjects, you will receive separate emails for each.

When will I receive my meeting link and the information about my tutor (for Summer@SaMi Camp Program)?

Many of our students have enrolled in a full load, consisting of six sessions of classes over the course of three weeks. To simplify everybody's management process, your meeting links and the email addresses of your tutors will be emailed to you on the following dates, organized by week:

- Week 1's meeting links and tutor's email addresses will be sent on Friday right before Week 1.
- Week 2's meeting links and tutor's email addresses will be sent on Friday of Week 1.
- Week 3's meeting links and tutor's email addresses will be sent on Friday of Week 2.

On each Friday, you may receive one or more emails (depending on the number of classes you are enrolled in for each week) containing your meeting links and the email addresses of your tutors. The emails will be grouped by subjects, and the subject lines will include the course name and session time. For example:

- Kid Coders (Grades 3-5), 9AM-12PM CDT, Week 1 July 15-19

The subject line indicates that the email contains the meeting link and the email address of the tutor for the Kid Coders class, which is scheduled from 9am-12pm in Central Daylight Time (CDT), during Week 1 from July 15 to 19.

What is a *Zoom Meeting Links* spreadsheet?

In the above email, you will also receive a *Zoom Meeting Link* spreadsheet. This spreadsheet provides all tutors' meeting links for a specific course you signed up for. Please only join your designated tutor's meeting.

If your tutor is absent on a particular day, you can attend an alternative section during the same weekend using one of the other listed links.

What does the No Class column mean in a *Zoom Meeting Links* spreadsheet.

If a date appears in the No Class column, it means that the class will not meet on that specific day (e.g., due to the tutor being unavailable). You will receive an email notification, and the date will also be displayed in this column. In the event of a cancellation, you can either join a live session led by another tutor that weekend (please notify them of your tutor's absence) or view a pre-recorded video if your tutor provides one.

Where do I find my textbooks and classroom supplies information?

The following *Textbooks and Classroom Supplies* spreadsheets contains a comprehensive list of all the textbooks and classroom supplies used during the class sessions. It is important to note that purchasing the textbooks or printing the handouts is not mandatory for

attending our classes. All class materials will be shared with students via screen share during the live sessions. The only materials you need to prepare are those listed in the "Class Supplies" column.

- [Textbooks and Classroom Supplies - Summer Camp](#)
- [Textbooks and Classroom Supplies - School year](#)

Where do I find my class schedule? What should I do if I want to change my schedule?

During enrollment, your class schedule has been emailed to you as part of the email thread titled, for example, "*Enrollment Confirmation - 2025-2026 School Year Tutoring Program*" or "*Enrollment Confirmation - 2025 Summer@SaMi Camp Program*". To locate it easily, you can search for the subject line mentioned. Change the year of the program to match the current program you enrolled.

If you want to change your schedule, please request it by directly replying to the enrollment email thread. We will respond promptly. You don't need to fill out a new registration form.

Can I use my friend's meeting link to join a class that I am not enrolled in?

We kindly request that you refrain from doing so. To ensure security and maintain the integrity of our classes, only students who are officially enrolled in the class are allowed to join the meetings. If you attempt to join a class without proper enrollment, the tutor will kindly ask you to leave the meeting. If you wish to attend a class, we encourage you to sign up and complete the enrollment process beforehand to ensure a smooth and inclusive learning experience.

May I join another course section using the meeting link from my *Zoom Meeting Links* spreadsheet?

Yes, but only if your assigned section has a date listed in the No Class column, indicating that your tutor will not hold a live session that day. Under normal circumstances, please attend the session led by your designated tutor.

If I need to miss a class, what should I do?

Please inform us in advance (email to sanantoniomathinclude@gmail.com) if you can. You are welcome to attend an alternative section during the same weekend. The Zoom Meeting Links spreadsheet for your course contains the time, the meeting link and the tutor's name for all sections for this course.

Each week's content is independent, so missing one week won't impact your progress in the following week.

If nobody joins a class, will the class be canceled permanently?

It depends on the circumstances. If a student has notified SaMi about their absence in advance, the class will be canceled for that weekend and resume next weekend. So please let us know in advance if you will be absent someday.

On the other hand, if no student sends a notification of their absence, the class will be canceled permanently to ensure the tutor's time is utilized effectively. In such cases, an email notification will be sent to the entire class informing them about the cancellation.

I am enrolled in the class, but why did my tutor ask me to leave the meeting?

If your tutor asked you to leave the meeting, the most probable reason is that your display name differs from your name in the registration form. For instance, your display name might be that of your parent's (or vice versa). To ensure a secure learning environment for all students, we require participants to use their own names during the meetings.

Action Required: Kindly update your display name to match your registration name immediately after joining the meeting. By doing so, you'll help us maintain the safety of all participants by ensuring only enrolled students are present in the sessions.

Will all classes be recorded in the School Year Program?

Yes. However, we encourage students to attend live sessions. All classes are conducted live by our dedicated tutors to promote active participation and enhance the learning experience. If a scheduling conflict arises, students are welcome to attend an alternative section during the same weekend. Meeting links for all sections are provided in the course's Zoom Meeting Links spreadsheet.

Will all classes be recorded in the Summer Camp Programs? How long are the video recordings available?

Yes, all classes will be recorded in the summer camp programs. Class videos are available during the week the class is taught and may be deleted at the end of the week if the tutor's cloud space is full. Therefore, we strongly encourage students to actively participate in the live sessions for an enhanced learning experience. If they miss a class, they should view the video immediately before the next class.

Where can I find the information about this program?

Please refer to the [Program](#) for general program information, the [Class Schedule](#) for class times, the [Curriculum](#) for subject topics and prerequisites, and the [Student FAQ](#) for general questions.

What are the class policies?

Effective communication and mutual respect are foundational to our learning environment. To ensure that all students can focus and participate effectively, Our class policies are not limited to but including:

- Mute Your Microphone: Unless you are speaking or asked to participate, please keep your microphone muted.
- Respectful Interactions: Any contributions during class should be constructive and relevant to the discussion.
- Be Attentive: Engage with the class materials and discussions actively. Distractions not only disrupt your learning but also that of others.

These guidelines are in place to maintain a productive and respectful environment where each of you can thrive and learn.

What are parallel sections, and can I attend a parallel section if my class doesn't meet on a particular day when my assigned tutor won't be teaching?

Parallel sections refer to classes that cover the same subject matter and are scheduled at the same time as your primary class, but taught by different tutors. In our course offerings, about a half classes have parallel sections, while others may have only one section based on the total number of enrollments. Typically, a higher enrollment count leads to the creation of parallel sections, while a lower count results in a single section.

If, on a specific day, your assigned tutor is unable to teach the class, you will have the opportunity to attend a parallel section to cover the material scheduled for that day. This ensures that you continue to receive instruction and progress in your learning journey even when your regular tutor is unavailable. In such cases, an email notification will be sent to the entire class informing them about the cancellation of their class and the availability to attend a parallel section.

If your class consists of only a single section and your assigned tutor is unable to teach on a particular day, the class will be canceled for that day and you can watch a pre-recorded video to take the class. The live class will resume on the following day.

Once the class ends, is there any chance that the student will still be able to get in touch with their tutors from the classes they have attended if they need more guidance especially once the school starts.

We completely understand the importance of ongoing support and guidance. The availability and willingness of tutors to continue assisting students after the program may vary based on individual circumstances. Some tutors may be open to maintaining communication with their students if they are available and willing to do so. Tutors who are able to provide ongoing support will be more than happy to assist their students in any way they can.

We at SaMi value the strong connections and learning relationships that have been fostered during our program, and we want to ensure that students receive the help they need even after the program concludes. Please contact sanantonimathinclude@gmail.com if you have any questions or need help after the program.

Whom should I contact during the program?

For any questions throughout the program, please use SaMi's primary email:
sanantoniomathinclude@gmail.com.

For course-specific inquiries, you can also reach out directly to your tutor; their email address will be provided to you.