



Notebook

August 2022



KEY DATES

1st FAST Testing Window
August 22-September 30

Labor Day Holiday
September 5

School Open Houses
September 6-22
Schedule at
www.sbac.edu/backtoschool

Public Hearing
Adoption of 2022-23 Final
Budget and Millage
September 6, 5:30-6 p.m.
Board Meeting Room

School Board Meeting
September 6, 6 p.m.
Board Meeting Room

School Board Workshop
September 7, 1 p.m.

Interim Reports Available
in Family Access
September 15

More information
about these events is
available at
www.sbac.edu

Students to take new state test

Florida public school students in PreK through 10th grade will begin taking a new state test this month as part of a 'progress monitoring' system approved by Florida leaders.

According to the Florida Department of Education, the goal of the FAST (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) system is to provide parents and educators with more timely information about each student's progress during the school year and to guide instruction to better meet students' needs. The system replaces the previous FSA (Florida Standards Assessment).

Under FAST, most students must be tested in reading (PreK-10th grade) and math (PreK-8th grade) three times each school year. The first set of tests must be given on or before September 30.

The testing window for Alachua County Public Schools will begin August 22, but schools will set their own testing schedules. Schools will be notifying families about their specific testing dates and times.

The state requires that parents be provided with their child's results within two weeks of the testing date. The state is currently developing a 'Family Portal' that will allow families to see their child's results, but that portal will not be available until mid-October. In the meantime, Florida school districts are developing plans for sharing tests results with parents within the mandated time frame.

More information about FAST, including testing windows and sample questions, is available at <https://www.sbac.edu/FAST>.



Free FluMist immunizations again offered in schools

Local students can once again receive a free nasal spray flu vaccine at school during the school day.

The Alachua County Health Department is offering FluMist to all eligible students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. FluMist is a gentle mist sprayed into the nose, and it's a safe and effective way to protect children and their families from the flu.

There is no cost to families for the vaccine. If a child has health insurance, that information will be collected so the insurance company can be billed, but there will be NO co-pay or deductible for families. Children without health insurance are eligible for the free vaccine.

Families must sign and submit a consent form for their child to receive FluMist. The consent form, a parent letter, vaccine information and a privacy notice are available on the district's website at www.sbac.edu/flumist. A calendar of immunization dates by school will also be posted on that site as soon as it's available.



Free K-12 tutoring/homework help to start up August 29

The district's Beyond the Bell after-school tutoring/homework help program will start up again on August 29.

The free online service, provided by certified teachers and subject matter experts, will be available for students Mondays through Thursdays. Elementary students can access help from 3 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. in language arts, math, science and social studies. Support is available for middle and high school students from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays for language arts and math, with tutoring in science and social studies available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

Students can access Beyond the Bell beginning August 29 at www.sbac.edu/tutor. They should select the appropriate grade level, select 'Click here to go to tutoring,' then log on to myPortal with the same Active Directory user name and password they use to log in to computers at school.

