Notebook

October 2022

KEY DATES

School Board Meeting
November 1, 6 p.m.
Board Meeting Room

School Board Workshop
November 2, 1 p.m.
Board Meeting Room

Veterans Day Holiday
November 11

School Board Meeting
November 15, 6 p.m.
Board Meeting Room

Career Academy Showcase for 8th graders/families
November 17, 6-8 pm
Eastside High School

Pupil/Teacher Holidays
November 21-22

School Board Swearing-In Ceremony and Organizational Meeting
November 22
10 am, District Office

Thanksgiving Holidays
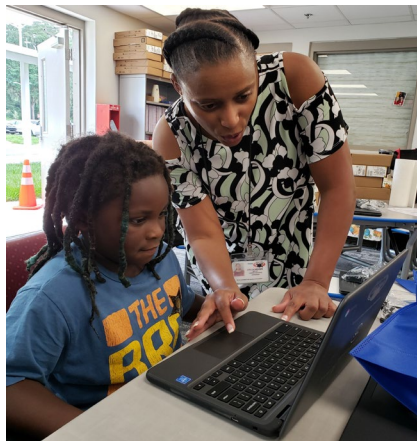November 23-25

More information at www.sbac.edu

Internet-connected laptops still available for student use at home

Families of *all* students attending schools operated by Alachua County Public Schools can now request a laptop with free Internet access guaranteed through the end of the school year. There are NO eligibility requirements. If a student could benefit from having a laptop to do schoolwork at home, families are encouraged to request one. There is no charge for the use of the laptop, which the student will be able to keep until they leave the district.

The laptops have the same content filters as school computers and are accessed through the user names and passwords students use at school.

To request a laptop, families can go to https://www.sbac.edu/ecf. They would then click on the 'Application' button and complete an application for each student. Then they can click on 'Parent Orientation' to watch a 7-minute video and answer a few questions. This can easily be done on a cell phone.

Parents can pick up their child's laptop on Wednesday, November 9 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the District Office (620 E. University Ave.) Parents should have completed the application/orientation process before arriving, but if necessary can do so at the event. If they cannot make the event, they can contact their child's school to make the arrangements to pick-up a device.

School days, minutes added due to Hurricane Ian

The district's school year calendar and the hours at most schools serving elementary students have been changed to make up for the three instructional days lost to Hurricane Ian.

To meet state requirements, the two 'flex days' built into the calendar, including January 3 and February 20, will now be regular school days. Flex days are intended to be used to make up time lost to severe weather or other emergencies.

Ten instructional minutes are also being added to early-release Wednesdays at most schools with elementary-age students for the rest of the school year. Even with the use of flex days, instructional time for 4th and 5th graders didn't meet state requirements. The revised hours will apply to all students at the affected schools, including kindergarten-through-3rd grade students.

Updated school hours are available at www.sbac.edu/schoolhours. An updated school year calendar can be found at www.sbac.edu/calendars.

Career Academy Showcase set for Nov. 17 at Eastside High

Families of 8th-graders can give their children a head start on a career path by attending the district's annual Career Academy Showcase.

Students and their families will be able to view displays, demonstrations and talk to teachers and current students from each of the district's 15 high school career academies during the Academy Showcase on November 17 from 6-8 p.m. at Eastside High School. They can also get information about eligibility and how to apply. More information is available at www.sbac.edu/cte or by calling the Career Tech Education office at (352) 955-6847

Free after-school K-12 tutoring/homework available online

Students and families are encouraged to take advantage of the district's free online tutoring/homework help service Beyond the Bell, available Mondays through Thursdays. Elementary students can access help from 3-4 p.m. and 6-7 p.m. in language arts, math, science and social studies. Support is available for middle and high school students from 6-7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays for language arts and math, with tutoring in science and social studies available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.

Students can access Beyond the Bell 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.