



# Notebook

September 2023



## KEY DATES

September 12-26  
Middle & High School  
Open Houses  
(Schedule at  
[www.sbac.edu/backtoschool](http://www.sbac.edu/backtoschool))

September 14, noon  
Interim reports available  
In Family Access

September 19, 5:30 p.m.  
School Board meeting  
District Office

September 20, 9 a.m.  
School Board workshop  
District Office

October 2, 1 p.m.  
Community Input Session  
on rezoning  
SWAG Family Resource Center  
807 SW 64 Terrace

October 2, 5:30 p.m.  
Community Input Session  
on rezoning  
Kanapaha Middle School

October 5, 5:30 p.m.  
Community Input Session  
on rezoning  
Newberry High School

October 6  
Holiday—UF Homecoming

More information at  
[www.sbac.edu](http://www.sbac.edu)

## District announces make up days for hurricane

Alachua County Public Schools will be using two days in December to make up for the two instructional days lost to Hurricane Idalia.

The two days school will now be in session are Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22. Both were designated as 'flex days' in the 2023-24 school year calendar approved by the School Board in February.

Flex days are built into the school year calendar in case the district has to make up days lost to severe weather or other emergencies. Alachua County Public Schools has been incorporating flex days into its school year calendars for nearly twenty years.

Make-up days are necessary to meet state requirements for instructional time across the school year and for all grade levels.

The use of the December 21 and December 22 flex days as regular school days will still leave two full weeks for the Winter Holiday, which will run from Monday, December 25 through Friday, January 5.

The full 2023-24 school year calendar is available at [www.sbac.edu/calendars](http://www.sbac.edu/calendars).

Notification about the make up days was sent to families through email, phone message and text for those families that have opted in to the text messaging system. To opt in, parents/guardians can text 'Y' or 'YES' to 67587 using a cell phone on file with their child's school.

*Alachua County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability (Section 504/ACA), sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, genetics or legally-protected characteristics in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.*

*The School Board designates the following individuals to serve as the district's 'compliance officers' (also known as the Civil Rights Coordinators), who shall also serve as the district's Section 504 Compliance Officers/ADA Coordinators and Title IX coordinators.*

*Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Alisha Williams, 352-955-7713, [williamsar@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:williamsar@gm.sbac.edu) (for employees); Dr. Toni Griffin, 352-955-7671, ext. 1610, [griffints1@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:griffints1@gm.sbac.edu) or Donald Reed, 352-955-7671, ext. 1661, [reedd@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:reedd@gm.sbac.edu) (for students).*

## Free FluMist nasal spray offered at district schools

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

The Alachua County Health Department is offering FluMist to all eligible students in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in October. FluMist is a gentle mist sprayed into the nose. 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 and the insurance company will be billed, but there will be NO co-pay or deductible. Children with no health insurance can also receive the free vaccine.

A parent/guardian must provide written consent for their child to receive the vaccine. A consent form and additional information about FluMist is available on the district's website at [www.sbac.edu/flumist](http://www.sbac.edu/flumist). Either the parent or student should return the form to the school's front office or the child's teacher before FluMist is given at that school. A schedule is available at [www.sbac.edu/flumist](http://www.sbac.edu/flumist). For information not posted on the website, parents/guardians can contact the Health Department at (352) 334-7916.



## Parent updates to student information on Family Access due Sept. 30



Parents can update important information about their child and complete several critical forms online through Skyward Family Access, but most of those changes can only be made through September 30.

Emergency contact information can be updated through Sept. 30 on Family Access. After that, it must be done at the school. The new Annual Health Services Form, which is required by the state if a child is to receive any health services at school other than emergency care/first aid, is also due Sept. 30. So is the preferred name form required if a parent/guardian wants the school to use a name, including a nickname, different than the one on a student's birth certificate. After Sept. 30, families will need to submit hard copies of those documents.

Instructions for completing the forms and updating other student information is available at [www.sbac.edu/familyaccess](http://www.sbac.edu/familyaccess). That website also includes information on how to sign up for a Family Access account, which provides parents/guardians with the latest information on their child's grades, test scores, attendance and more.

A new feature of Family Access will allow parents/guardians to submit a note online rather than sending in a hard copy when their child is absent. They can select 'Attendance' from the list of Family Access links, then click 'Absence Requests' and follow the directions for submitting an online note.

### Update on rezoning community input sessions

Due to Hurricane Idalia, the community input sessions originally scheduled for August 28 and 29 have been rescheduled. The meeting at Kanapaha Middle School will be held Monday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m., while the meeting at Santa Fe High School has been rescheduled for October 12 at 5:30 pm.

A full schedule of all the upcoming input sessions and more information about rezoning is available at [www.sbac.edu/rezoning](http://www.sbac.edu/rezoning).