



# Notebook

December 2023



## KEY DATES

December 21  
SCHOOL IN SESSION  
(Hurricane Makeup Day)

December 22-Jan 5  
SCHOOLS CLOSED  
(Winter Holiday)

January 5-February 5  
Magnet Program  
Open Houses  
([www.sbac.edu/magnet](http://www.sbac.edu/magnet))

January 8  
SCHOOLS REOPEN

January 12  
Pupil Holiday/Teacher Workday

January 15  
MLK Jr. Holiday

January 16-February 13  
Magnet Program  
Application Window

January 23  
Report Cards Available in  
Family Access

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

## Window to apply for academic/career tech magnet programs is Jan. 16 through Feb. 13

***Magnet program open houses scheduled for January 5--February 5***

The window for local families to apply for their child to attend one of the district's academic or career-tech magnet programs during the 2024-25 school year will open 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16 and close at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13.

This year 50% of the new students in each magnet program will be chosen through a districtwide lottery. The other 50% will be selected by the school. Students must meet certain academic, attendance and disciplinary criteria to be eligible for each magnet and must also meet program standards to remain enrolled.

The district uses an online process that allows families to apply for more than one program with a single application. Information about the magnet programs, the application timeline and more is available on the district's website at <https://www.sbac.edu/magnet>. The application will be posted on that website when the window opens. Hard copies of the application will also be available at each school.

Each of the district's academic and career tech magnet programs will be holding an Open House sometime between January 5 and February 5 so that families and students can learn more about what they have to offer. A full schedule is available at <https://www.sbac.edu/magnet>. For specific questions about a particular magnet program, please contact the school directly. For all other questions, email [alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu) or call (352) 955-7121.

*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); Kimberly Joy, 352-955-7676, ext. 1670, [joykm@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:joykm@gm.sbac.edu) (for students).*

## Free virtual mental health services will be available for Alachua County Public School students beginning Dec. 11

Families of Alachua County Public School students who are unable to get mental health services for their children due to cost, the shortage of mental health professionals, work conflicts or other challenges can now get those services at no charge.

Under a new partnership with national healthcare provider Hazel Health, the district is offering 'teletherapy,' or virtual mental health services, to ACPS students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The virtual sessions are available at home and at school.

Hazel Health connects students with licensed providers for video sessions for short-term mental health support. If long-term mental health services are needed, Hazel's family resource managers will work with parents to connect them with local care options.

Currently Hazel Health serves nearly 4 million students across more than 140 school districts. Therapists help students deal with stress, anxiety, depression, grief, trauma and other issues.

For more information or to sign up, families can visit <https://www.my.hazel.co/alachua>. The website is available in both English and Spanish, and Hazel provides diverse, multilingual therapists.



## Changes to magnet and courtesy busing take effect January 16



Families of students who use either magnet or courtesy busing to get to school are reminded that changes are coming to both systems beginning January 16.

In light of the ongoing national bus driver shortage and to reduce late and non-arriving buses, magnet bus stops will be consolidated and courtesy busing limited. Families of student affected by those changes are receiving information directly from the district through email, phone and text, but can also find information on the district's website.

Information on changes to magnet busing, including the new stops and pick up/drop off times, is available at <https://www.sbac.edu/magnetbusing>.

Courtesy busing will mostly be limited to ESE (Exceptional Student Education) and those attending high-needs schools, including Alachua, Idylwild, Lake Forest, Metcalfe, Rawlings, Shell and Terwilliger elementary schools. Revised bus schedules for courtesy busing students and other information can be found at <https://www.sbac.edu/courtesybusing>.

**Schools are IN SESSION Thursday, December 21  
(hurricane make-up day)**

**Schools are CLOSED Friday, December 22**

**Schools will re-open Monday, January 8, 2024**

