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Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!

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NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:
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For Immediate Release

District implements new magnet program application process to promote educational opportunity

Alachua County Public Schools is implementing a new magnet program application process aimed at promoting diversity and expanding educational opportunities for all students.

All families interested in enrolling their students in one of the district’s academic or career technical (CTE) magnet programs for the fall of 2019 will be using the new application process, which will now be more centralized and streamlined.

Under that process, 75% of the new students in each magnet program will be selected by the school. The other 25% will be chosen through a districtwide lottery system. Students must meet certain academic, attendance and disciplinary standards to be eligible for each magnet. High school applicants will also be required to submit short essays specific to those programs.

All students in a magnet program must meet the program’s standards to remain enrolled, whether they were selected by the school or through the lottery process.

“Our goal is to provide an opportunity for more students to take advantage of these programs, particularly those students who have traditionally been under-represented,” said Kim Neal, who is coordinating the magnet application process at the district level. “What we’ve found in the past is that students who are motivated and are provided the right level of support will usually rise to the challenge of more advanced coursework.”

Under the new system, elementary students will be able to request up to four programs, in rank order, through a single application. Middle school students can apply for three programs and high school students for five. High school students’ applications can include requests for any combination of academic and CTE magnets.

The application process will open January 8 and close February 8. Families will be notified about their acceptance on February 25 and will be required to commit to a program by March 8.

Emails, automated phone messages and letters are being sent home to all families to inform them of the changes to the application process. The application, magnet program requirements and other information is available on the district’s website at <http://bit.ly/2E0tI4l>. A link is available on the district’s home page at sbac.edu, under ‘District Notices.’ Hard copies of the application will also be available at each school.

Currently there are nearly 3700 students enrolled in the district’s academic and career tech magnet programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Interested students and families are invited to attend Open Houses that are being held for each magnet program from January 8th through the 31st. A complete schedule is available on the magnet application website.

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December 6, 2018

Dear Families:

Alachua County Public Schools is implementing a new magnet program application process for all of the district's academic and career and technical (CTE) magnet programs. This application process is more streamlined, centralized and aims to promote diversity and expand educational opportunities to all students. It has been found that students who are motivated and are provided the right level of support will rise to the challenge of more advanced coursework.

Under this process, 75% of the new students in each magnet program will be selected by the school. The other 25% will be chosen through a districtwide lottery system. Students must meet certain academic, attendance and disciplinary standards to be eligible for each magnet. High school applicants will also be required to submit short essays specific to each program.

The application, magnet program requirements and other information is available on the district's website at <http://bit.ly/2E0t14l>. A link is available on the district's home page at sbac.edu, under "District Notices." Hard copies of the application will also be available at each school.

Under the new system, elementary students will be able to request up to four programs, in rank order, through a single application. Middle school students can apply for three programs and high school students for five. High school students' applications can include requests for any combination of academic and CTE magnets.

The application process will open January 8 and close February 8. Families will be notified about their acceptance on February 25 and will be required to commit to a program by March 8.

✳ Interested students and families are invited to attend Open Houses that are being held for each magnet program from January 8 through 31. A complete schedule is available on the magnet application website.

Magnet Program Transportation will include satellite stops. These stops will be located at the students' zoned elementary or middle school. Stops will be arranged and parents will be notified throughout the summer.

For school/program-specific questions, please contact the school directly. For all other questions, please email alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu or call 352-955-7629.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Neal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Neal, Director

FTE/State Reporting and Student Assignment