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

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/2E0t14I>. 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](mailto: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