



December 18, 2020

Dear Wildcat Family,

Digital Academy teachers sent out a survey last week asking for parent intentions about second semester. We will use those surveys to place students back into Brick and Mortar classes over winter break. **For those parents that chose to return to school on Monday, January 4th, you will receive an email with classroom assignments and school safety procedures.** Please note that if you didn't let your DA teacher know you will return, then your child will not be on a class list.

Thank you to the wonderful PTA Wildcat Dads for the amazing and VERY bright "Winter Wonderland Across the World". It was truly spectacular with a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Winter Holiday Break is from Monday, December 21st - Friday, January 1st. We will return to school on Monday, January 4th. The end of the first semester is on Thursday, January 28th. Friday, January 29th is a Student Holiday/Teacher Workday (no school for students that day).

It is never safe to drop or pick up students in the middle of the parking lot. Other drivers can easily be distracted and not see children.

There will be a School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting on Thursday, January 21st at 3:00 pm.

We want you to have a spectacular winter holiday break. Take time to spend with your children, friends and loved ones. Take some time to read with your children. Ask them comprehension questions and keep those brains working.

As a winter surprise, we purchased the "Hip Hop Nutcracker Virtual Field Trip" for the Brick and Mortar and Digital Academy Students. We hope that your child enjoyed the show.

Sincerely,

*Katherine L. Munn*

Katherine L. Munn  
Principal



*Ed Haukland*

Ed Haukland  
Assistant Principal

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Tina Certain  
Robert P. Hyatt  
Diyonne McGraw  
Leannetta McNealy, Ph.D.  
Gunnar F. Paulson, Ed.D.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Carlee Simon, Ph.D.



District Office  
620 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida  
32601-5498

www.sbac.edu  
(352) 955-7300

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

December 17, 2020

Dear Alachua County Public School students:

As a proud graduate of Alachua County Public Schools, I'd like to tell you that I know what it's like to be a student in this district. But COVID has changed things.

Your education and your lives have been turned upside down because of this pandemic. Whether you're attending in person or online, school is a lot different than it was just a year ago. It's definitely harder for you, your families and your teachers. I see it with my own three kids, who are all students here. But I want you to know that everyone in our school district has been working very hard to support you.

I know you've missed out on a lot of things you really enjoy doing, like hanging out with your friends, going to games, concerts or movies, or even spending time with your extended family. I also know that COVID has hurt many families in some way.

Now that a vaccine is on the way, I think we can look forward to a brighter 2021. But we all need to keep doing what we can to protect ourselves, our friends and our families, like wearing masks, social distancing and washing our hands often. That way we'll all have a chance to celebrate together when life finally gets back to normal.

As the new Superintendent for our district (that's the person in charge of schools), it will be my job to do whatever I can to keep you, your teachers and everyone in our schools safe and healthy. It will also be my job to make sure our schools have what they need to give you a great education and prepare you for success.

The education I got here in Alachua County has made a big difference in my life. It's helped me achieve my goals and reach for new ones. I want the same for you.

So keep working hard inside and outside the classroom, and keep your eyes on the future--not just the end of the school year, or the end of COVID, but on the future you want for yourself after you graduate, whether that happens this school year or thirteen years from now.

You've had a tough year, but things will get better. In the meantime, I hope you and your families have a safe and happy Winter Break!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlee Simon, Ph.D.".

Carlee Simon, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Alachua County Public Schools

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Dear Alachua County Public School families:

As a parent of three school-aged children, I know that your time is precious, particularly during these stressful times. That's why I'm going to be very brief in introducing myself. My name is Dr. Carlee Simon, and I'm the new Superintendent for Alachua County Public Schools.

I have a 20-year background in education. I've been a K-12 teacher, and my parents were both teachers in this district. I've taught hundreds of principals, district administrators and other educators about educational leadership, school finance, and other school-related issues. I've run a national education organization, written many published articles and made many presentations to national, even international groups.

That background will certainly help me lead the district day-to-day. But I believe my passion for education, my commitment to the success of all children and my experience collaborating with diverse groups to achieve common goals will be just as important.

We are facing enormous challenges in the next few months, including the pandemic, a potential budget crisis and a stubborn achievement gap. We will need the voices, ideas and efforts of families, as well as students, employees and the broader community, to come through those challenges and to establish a solid foundation for an even brighter future for our children.

This is only the first message in what I expect to be a vital and ongoing dialogue between the district, our families and all of Alachua County about a shared vision for our public schools. I'm looking forward to it!

My very best wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy winter break!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlee Simon, Ph.D.".

Carlee Simon, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Alachua County Public Schools



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## Why Girl Scouts?

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## What's new?

We know times have changed - so we have, too. We're proud to still operate by the same basic principles on which we were founded while constantly adapting to the world around us. Today, Girl Scouts offers exciting new opportunities like STEM programming, virtual activities, girl-led troops and leadership roles for our older girls.

## I'm ready!

Becoming a Girl Scout has never been easier! Visit our website at [www.joinsgsc.org](http://www.joinsgsc.org) or call us at **877-764-5237** to complete your registration. **Interested in becoming a volunteer?** Visit our site or call for more information on how you can help change the world for the better.



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Girl Scouts brings out the best in your girl, even in the most challenging times. As she learns about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills, she'll also discover new ways to make your family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone.

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Winter



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