

# Parent Choice Information Guide 2012-2013

## Finding Information about Choice and Career Options Programs:

- List of schools/Contacts/Open House dates: [www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms)
- Choice and Career Options Programs Booklet
- **Showcase of Schools—October 18, 2011 at South Florida Fairgrounds from 4:00-8:00pm**
- Individual school websites

## Finding the Application for Choice and Career Options Programs:

- Complete online: [www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms)
- Download from website and complete: [www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/choiceprograms)
- Department of Choice and Career Options—School District Office--Suite C-124
- Inside Choice and Career Options Programs Booklet

## Completing and Submitting an Application:

### **December 16, 2011: Deadline for submitting application for 2012-2013**

- Late applications are accepted after December 16, 2011. However, they are NOT included in the March 2012 Selection Lottery and may be entered **only** after all wait pool applicants are exhausted.
- The parent **MUST** reside in Palm Beach County at the time of application submission.
- Student **MUST** have obtained a student number if they attend PBCSD schools.
- The address on the application **must match** the address on file at school or the application **will be voided**.
- Only one application may be submitted per student.
- The Application is for Choice programs offered in Grades Pre-K through 12.
- **Either one or two choices** are allowed on the application.
- **Applicants rate choices as first and second preferences.**
- **The student has the same chance for being chosen if they list one or two choices.**
- Check the Choice and Career Options Programs Booklet for any eligibility criteria to help determine your choices.
- No program selection changes are allowed once the application has been submitted.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application **online prior to deadline date** for faster entry. A receipt number is your confirmation that the application has been received.

- Hard Copy Application: The original must be **mailed or delivered** to the Department of Choice and Career Options with a postmark no later than December 16, 2011. Postcard confirmations are mailed to the address in the student information system (TERMS) or receipted to the parent via email for hard copy applications.
- The Department of Choice and Career Options is NOT responsible for any application not received as a result of an error or delivery delay by the US Postal Service.
- If the applicant has any siblings currently attending the Choice school to which the student should be applying, this is noted on the application.
- If the applicant has attended a similar preparatory choice theme program at a lower grade level (i.e. Arts, IB, Math, Science, and Technology, Dual Language), this should be noted on the application.
- If a program is offered at a student's Home School (in-house or full choice), that student may not apply for the same program as their first choice at another school except that **all students** may continue to apply to the following schools: Suncoast HS, Dreyfoos SOA, Don Estridge High Tech MS, Bak MSOA, Morikami ES, Northboro ES, SD Spady ES, and UB Kinsey/Palmview ES.
- All information entered on the application must be verified as true with parent/guardian signature.
- The parent is responsible for contacting the school to determine they have all proper documentation needed to determine student's eligibility.
- ESE, ELL, and 504 students **can be accommodated** in all Choice Programs and are encouraged to apply.

#### **Eligibility/Ineligibility of Applicants:**

- There are no elementary school eligibility criteria.
- There are no middle school eligibility criteria except for the passing of an audition at Bak Middle School of the Arts. However, students scoring Level 1 or Level 2 in Reading and/or Math on the state FCAT assessment may not be eligible to take the choice program courses due to state requirements for remediation/intensive courses in Reading and Math for Level 1 and some Level 2 students.
- The eligibility requirements for High School Choice Programs are attached and are based primarily on GPA. High School GPA will be determined at all schools in the following manner: For incoming 8th graders only, coordinators will take the **average** of ALL classes taken in the fourth quarter of grade 7, the first quarter of grade 8 and the second quarter of grade 8. For students in grades 9-11, the GPA listed in TERMS at the time eligibility will determine the GPA.

<i>Aerospace Science (BASA)</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Air Conditioning, Refrigeration &amp; Heating</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Air Force Junior ROTC Aerospace Science</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>American History &amp; Law</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Army Junior ROTC</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Auto Collision Repair &amp; Refinishing</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Automotive Service Technology</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Band/Music Industry</i>	<b>2.0 GPA</b>
<i>Biotechnology</i>	<b>3.0 GPA</b>
<i>Center for Pre-Law/Law related Careers</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Communication Arts</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos</b>
<i>Computer Science</i>	<b>3.0 GPA + Algebra I Honors &amp; Geometry Honors required</b>
<i>Computer Technology</i>	<b>3.0 GPA + Algebra I Honors &amp; Geometry Honors required</b>
<i>Construction Technology</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Construction</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Criminal Justice</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Culinary Arts</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Dance</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Drafting &amp; Design</i>	<b>2.0 GPA</b>
<i>Early Childhood Teacher Education</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Engineering &amp; Technology</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Entrepreneurship</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Environmental Research &amp; Field Research</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Equine/Pre-Veterinary</i>	<b>3.0 GPA + Algebra I or Algebra I Honors Required</b>
<i>Fashion Design</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Film, Photo &amp; Digital Media</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Finance</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Global Business</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Global Business &amp; Entrepreneurship</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>

<i>Information Technology</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Innovative Interactive Technology</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>IB Diploma World School</i>	<b>3.0 GPA + Algebra I or Algebra I Honors Required</b>
<i>International Spanish Academy</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Marketing Academy</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Mathematics, Science &amp; Engineering</i>	<b>3.0 GPA + Algebra I &amp; II Honors &amp; Geometry Honors required</b>
<i>Medical Sciences</i>	<b>3.0 GPA</b>
<i>Music – Band</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Music - Keyboard/Piano</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Music – Strings</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Music - Vocal</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Navy Junior ROTC</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Science, Technology, Engineering, &amp; Math</i>	<b>3.0 GPA</b>
<i>Small School Continuum</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Sports Management &amp; Recreation</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>
<i>Teacher Education</i>	<b>3.0 GPA</b>
<i>Television &amp; Film Production Technology</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Theatre</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Tourism, Hospitality, &amp; Resort Mgmt.</i>	<b>No Criteria</b>
<i>Visual Arts</i>	<b>2.0 GPA + Audition pass for Dreyfoos only</b>
<i>Visual Arts (Digital Media &amp; Photography)</i>	<b>2.0 GPA</b>
<i>Web and Digital Design</i>	<b>2.5 GPA</b>

**Completing the Selection Process:**

- The Lottery will be conducted March 12-16, 2012.
- Only on-time applications postmarked no later than December 16, 2011 are included in the Selection Lottery.
- For programs with eligibility criteria, only students who meet these criteria are included in the Selection Lottery.
- The Selection Lottery is conducted by an independent lottery consultant.

- If a program has more first choice applicants than available seats, applicants are selected by the Selection Lottery according to approved preferences in the following order of importance:
  - ✓ Principals 20% List
  - ✓ Employee preference (parent works at school the child is applying to attend).
  - ✓ Priority SACs (neighborhood designated attendance zones) exist for five schools: Morikami Park Elementary, Poinciana Elementary, SD Spady Elementary, BAK Middle School of the Arts, Suncoast High School) and are listed in the *Choice and Career Options Procedures Manual 2012-2013*.
  - ✓ Sibling preference (siblings must apply to the same choice program or the school the sibling is currently attending and will be attending during the 2012-2013 school year).
  - ✓ Strand preference (Elementary students must have completed grades 4-5 of a similar preparatory choice theme. Middle School students must have completed grades 7-8 of the like program.)
- Once a student is selected for one of his/her choices, he/she is immediately removed from the “wait pool” for the remaining program on the application.
- There is the possibility that an applicant will not be chosen for either one of his/her choices. If this occurs, the student is placed in a “wait pool” and may be selected in future selection lottery drawings conducted for any openings reported by the schools.
- Applicants may be selected via selection lottery until the close of work on the last weekday prior to the first day of school.
- Students who are selected in the lottery will receive a notification letter from the school to which they were assigned. (Letters will be mailed on approximately April 2, 2012.)
- Students who were not selected in the lottery will receive a notification letter of their “wait pool” status from the Department of Choice and Career Options. (Letters will be mailed on approximately April 2, 2012.)
- If a student declines his/her first choice assignment, the student must return to his/her home school and any remaining wait pool selection is deleted.
- If a student declines his/her second choice assignment, he/she may decline (via letter to the Director of the Department of Choice and Career Options) and remain in the wait pool for the first choice.
- Students who are selected and accept placement in a Choice school/program must agree to participate on a **full time basis** in the Choice school/program.
- **Acceptance of a Choice Program takes the place of all assignments for other programs including but not limited to NCLB Public School Choice Transfer, Reassignments, or Opportunity Scholarships.**
- If a student is not selected to attend a Choice program prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year, a new application must be filled out for the following year.

**A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts and Bak Middle School of the Arts:**

- After confirmation that an application for either of these two arts schools has been received by the Department of Choice and Career Options, an audition date and time needs to be scheduled.
- Applicants for Bak MSOA must attend audition registration and should contact the school prior to December 22, 2011, for details. Dreyfoos SOA will send a postcard indicating date and time of the student audition.
- Higher audition eligibility scores are required for ascending grade levels at both Dreyfoos and Bak. Contact the individual schools for more information.
- If a child is ill on the date of the audition, a doctor's written verification presented to the arts school within three school days of the audition is required in order to be considered for a new audition date and time. A new audition date and time will be selected by the school **only** if there are more audition dates available.

**Appeals of Results:**

- Parents who believe their child was not allowed an equitable opportunity to a Choice school or program during the audition or eligibility process because of a technical problem or inequity may request an appeal.
- An Application for Appeal of Choice Program Eligibility (Form # PBSO 2418) must be submitted to the Choice and Career Options Director within ten school days from the date of the lottery notification letter indicating the child's program assignment, wait pool status, or program ineligibility.

**Transportation:**

- Choice Programs students receive transportation to the Choice school if they reside more than two miles from the school and live within a designated Choice Transportation Zone (See the District Transportation web site: [www.palmbeachschools.org/transportation](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/transportation)).
- Bus stops to Choice schools may be limited and located significantly farther from the student's home than transportation to the student's home school.
- Students who live outside of the Choice Transportation Zone may attend the Choice school if they provide their own transportation to and from:
  - ✓ School
  - ✓ Nearest school bus pick-up location within the transportation zone
  - ✓ Nearest Tri-Rail Station location
  - ✓ Nearest Palm Tran Bus Stop
- Contact the Coordinator at the Choice school/program for additional transportation information.