

# CHOOSELCS

JAN 2019



CHOOSE > KNOWLEDGE > SUCCESS > ENVIRONMENT > LCS



# Superintendents Message

For far too long now Leon County Schools' has been the best kept secret in our community!

This publication will help you learn a little bit about some of our schools, but I invite you to take a personal tour to see firsthand the programs, services and experiences available to your family.

Leon County Schools' has a vast variety of students with many interests. Our mission is to tailor an individual academic plan to meet the needs and goals of every student. The teachers and support staff we employ are extremely dedicated and are fully certified by the Florida Department of Education. They are simply some of the best educators in the country.



Students who participate in the performing arts, athletics, and extra-curricular activities have consistent school attendance, earn better grades, and are more likely to graduate from high school. This school year, we committed an additional \$1 million to encourage more student participation in these valuable programs.

Your child's safety will always be our top priority. LCS SAFE, is a program designed to strengthen the security of our campuses ensuring they remain some of the safest places in our community. Every school is protected by a sworn law enforcement officer and security monitors. Leon County Schools' has zero tolerance for bullying and firmly believes that character is just as important as classwork!

Our traditional public school system provides multiple academic pathways for all of our students including offerings in Advancement Placement, International Baccalaureate and dual enrollment. Students taking advantage of these programs often start college with a year or more worth of credit. Our graduates are well-positioned to compete nationally and many have gained admission to prestigious post-secondary institutions to include Ivy League Schools and Military Academies. Many students achieve high academic success and have been awarded millions of dollars in scholarships, in addition to the Florida Bright Futures program.

Along with advanced academics we are also focused on workforce development initiatives. We have re-vamped and strengthened our career technical programs giving our students flexibility in making choices for their future.

Leon County Schools' is leading the way and we are committed to our students' academic success. We understand the importance of producing caring, compassionate, and engaged citizens. Please take some time to learn more about our schools. You will not be disappointed!

**Rocky Hanna**  
Superintendent  
Leon County Schools

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# School Choice

The Leon County Schools School Choice and Controlled Open Enrollment Open Enrollment period will begin on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 and accept applications until Friday, March 1, 2019.

There is no better time to send your child to a public school in Leon County. This year alone Leon County Schools achieved its highest graduation rate on record with more than 93% of students earning a diploma. Our schools offer a magnitude of carefully planned programs and curriculum thus creating an educational environment that ensures the overall success of every child. Our magnet schools focus on the arts, engineering, healthcare, technology and more. Please take some time to learn about the many options for your student.

Additionally, Leon County Schools (LCS) offer parents and legal guardians the opportunity for their child to apply for and attend a school outside their regular attendance zone through the Controlled Open Enrollment process. Pursuant to F.S. 1002.31, LCS will allow a parent from any school district in the state of Florida whose child is not subject to a current expulsion or suspension, to apply for an assignment to an available school.

## **Controlled Open Enrollment General Information**

- All students entering grades K–12 are eligible to apply
- Non–Leon County residents are eligible to apply
- The list of schools is posted on the Controlled Open Enrollment application
- Schools not on this list will not be considered for Controlled Open Enrollment
- Parents/Guardians must provide transportation

For more information about all of the choice options in Leon County Schools please visit <https://www.leonschools.net/schoolchoice>.



# Apalachee Elementary School



“ ATMSA has the best combination of high expectations, diversity, arts integration, and technology-infused education in this area. My children had the opportunity to play violin starting in the first grade! The faculty and staff treated my children like their own, with care and compassion. ”

— Sherry S



## WHY CHOOSE APALACHEE?

Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts (ATMSA) was established in 1999 as Leon County's first elementary magnet school. Since then, ATMSA has excelled in enhancing student education through artistic emphasis. Apalachee Tapestry infuses standard state-approved curricula with creative arts and cutting-edge technology as a means to improve the quality of education for the “whole” child. Through this rigorous academic curriculum for the arts, with performances at all levels, ATMSA provides enhanced learning opportunities to better prepare students for high school and beyond.

“ When I tell my friends about Apalachee, I tell them that Apalachee is a hard working school where people are kind, they have dedicated teachers that help me learn, make good grades, and be successful. I enjoy being able to express myself daily in visual arts. ”

— Hope W.

## QUICK FACTS:

- Apalachee is one of just a handful of schools in the State of Florida recognized as a Florida Arts Achievement Model School.
- Students are able to explore various arts courses that include band, guitar, strings, choir, gardening, dance, visual arts, graphic arts, media arts, and drama.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

Principal Jennifer Ricardo ● 650 Trojan Trail ● 487-7110 ● [www.LeonSchools.net/apalachee](http://www.LeonSchools.net/apalachee)

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# Conley Elementary School



“ My years at Conley gave me the foundation I needed to be successful in both the Pre-IB program at Fairview and now in the IB Program at Rickards High School. When I look back at my time at Conley, I remember the really good relationships I had with my teachers and how much I felt that they cared about me and my friends. I think Conley is the best elementary school for kids.” ”

— Taylor Tillander



## WHY CHOOSE CONLEY?

Conley is a unique and fun place for students to learn and grow! At Conley, they believe they are a collective body of dedicated individuals who are passionate about meeting the student's individual needs and helping students become prepared for the STEM world in which they will live and thrive. Conley students are provided the opportunity to participate in hands-on interactive lessons integrating science, technology, early engineering, arts and mathematics.

“ As a parent, business partner, and volunteer, it is extremely important to me to support the goals and mission of Conley. As a volunteer, I am able to do my part to help ensure that the school is in the best position to give my child and his peers the best education and experiences possible in order to help them successfully matriculate through the educational system because they are the future.” ”

— Barbara Walker

## QUICK FACTS:

- Conley has monthly, school-wide S.T.E.A.M days where all classes engage in S.T.E.A.M activities for the entire day.
- Conley has multiple student clubs including book club, comic club, yoga, chorus, Swarm track club and safety patrol.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Hartsfield Elementary School



“ We have loved our experience at Hartsfield. I especially love the balance - outdoor time, arts, computer time, and classroom. Every adult at Hartsfield CARES, from the principal to the custodians. And the teachers are creative in their methods, really pushing the kids to think and be a positive part of society. ”

— Jessica Comas



## WHY CHOOSE HARTSFIELD?

Hartsfield Elementary is Leon County's PreK-5 school that focuses on educating the whole child and embracing diversity. Hartsfield is nestled in the Indian Head neighborhood amidst a community that cares and offers strong cornerstones of partnerships that provide mentoring, resources, and support. Getting a foundational education at Hartsfield means that your child will be exposed to a strong academic curriculum and extracurricular activities all set within a culture of caring, supported by teachers and staff who teach with heart and lead with soul.

“ I love Hartsfield because it makes me feel like I belong and that I'm cared about. Hartsfield does the most for us and makes sure we learn all that we can. I feel loved because the teachers and staff make sure that we are safe and happy. ”

— Jayla

## QUICK FACTS:

- Award Winning Chorus that has received numerous state competition awards, received monetary awards and was invited to sing at Carnegie Hall.
- Hartsfield is a Conscious Discipline and Trauma Informed School that focuses on developing the whole child with an emphasis on the socio-emotional health of each learner.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# W.T. Moore Elementary School



“I have seen firsthand the talented administration and faculty, and their dedication to teach and support their students. When you walk through the hallways of this school, you can feel the joy and happiness of students and teachers alike.”

— Perry Dissmore



## WHY CHOOSE W.T. MOORE?

Celebrating 50 years of excellence, W. T. Moore is home to learners who are welcomed each day by a warm, loving, and prepared faculty and staff. Located in East Tallahassee, Moore was founded in 1968 as an innovative school community, a tradition that continues to this day.

“From the beginning of school I noticed how friendly and kind each staff member is, both to my daughter and to my family. W.T. Moore continues to meet and exceed my very high expectations—they are eager to have parents and volunteers involved and included.”

— Ellie Hieronymus

## QUICK FACTS:

- Spanish is offered on Special Area Rotation for all students in all grades.
- W.T. Moore has started the process to become an IB Primary Years Program School.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Sealey Elementary School



“Being a “Sealey Superstar” helped my son become a responsible and independent learner. No matter where his academic career may carry him, the skills learned at Sealey will always be his foundation. We are forever grateful for the learning environment Sealey Elementary provided and can positively affirm our experience has been wonderful.”

— K. Lambert



## WHY CHOOSE SEALEY?

Sealey is committed to meeting the needs of ALL students while working closely with parents. Sealey is a small, diverse school with a family-like feel. High expectations are set and effective instructional practices are used to help students reach each goal. Our teacher turnover rate is extremely low – consistency in the classrooms matter! Our teachers are knowledgeable and passionate about their important work of teaching. Students are provided many opportunities to learn and grow in and outside of the classroom setting--we offer Strings, Math Competition Club, Green Team Recycling Club, Patrols, Girls on the Run, and a Robotics Club.

“Since being at Sealey, our son has progressed, both academically and emotionally, making A/B Honor Roll consistently, participating in extra-curricular activities, and he adores his teachers and the staff. Sealey goes above and beyond, providing so many opportunities for the students to thrive and we are eternally grateful.”

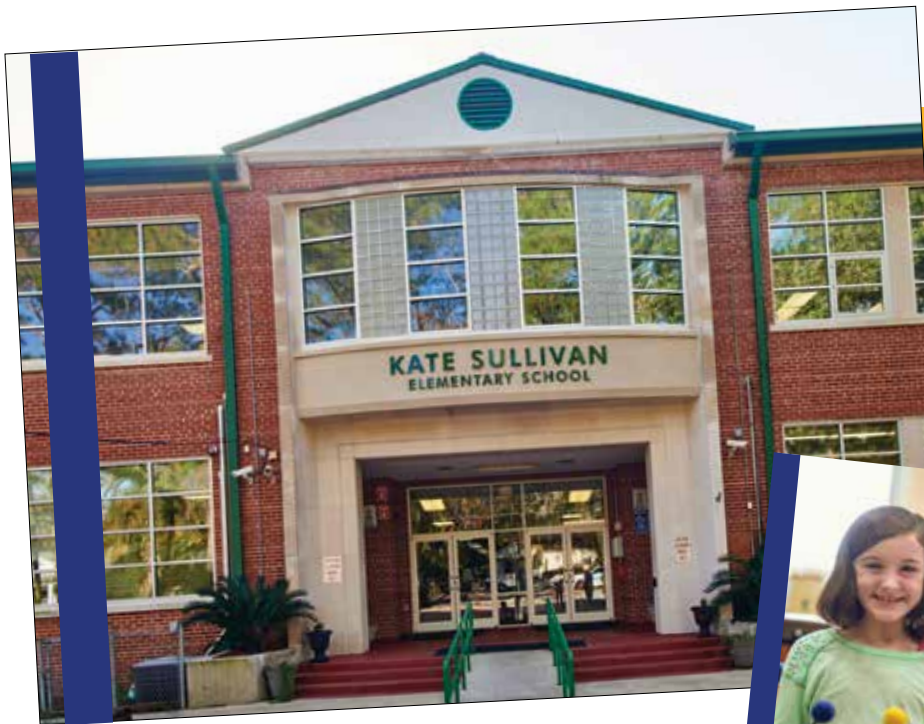
— Mary-Imani Rutherford, mother of a fifth grader

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

## QUICK FACTS:

- Sealey is a Math and Science Magnet School accepting students Kindergarten – Fifth.
- Sealey has been providing students with a quality elementary education since the 1930's.

# Kate Sullivan Elementary School



“ We love Kate Sullivan! We have two children and are on our seventh year with a child here. Every year we have had wonderful teachers. The staff is very caring and they have become like family. They love and care for our children and we appreciate them so much. I recommend Kate Sullivan to families whenever I can. ”

— Melissa Rudd



## WHY CHOOSE KATE SULLIVAN?

Kate Sullivan offers a well-rounded education for all learners in all areas of study (academics, STEM, and the Arts). The school offers the Learning Enrichment and Acceleration Program (LEAP) that provides acceleration in reading and math for advanced kindergartners and first graders. Every student is involved in the iLead Program where students track their own progress and maintain information in iLead notebooks. Sullivan is also home to a very innovative arts program that features both the visual arts and music. There is something for everyone at Kate Sullivan Elementary!

“ This is a place where every child is valued and is nurtured as a student and as a citizen. There is mutual respect between the faculty, administration, and students. ”

— Meg Guyton, Mentor Coordinator

## QUICK FACTS:

- In 2016, Kate Sullivan Elementary received the “Champion of Service Award” in conjunction with the Cobb Middle School Beta Club for their Math Academy.
- Four legged friends help students learn to read with the TMH Reading Education Assistance Dogs program.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Fort Braden School



“Fort Braden administrators, teachers, and staff have been an extension of my family. They have always provided a positive, enriching, and encouraging environment for my children to learn, grow, and become successful.” ”

— Karen Willett



## WHY CHOOSE FORT BRADEN?

Fort Braden takes great pride in providing a comprehensive pre-k through 8th grade experience that includes advanced and high school credit courses, band, fine arts, technology certification, extracurricular activities and a fully functional culinary lab in 6-8 grades.

At Fort Braden we look forward to preparing all of our students for job opportunities in an increasingly global world of work. We value persistence, great citizenship, and a rigorous academic schedule that will empower our students to be successful and responsible adults.

“Fort Braden is not just about learning. It's about finding your place, coming together and pushing your limits. This isn't just a school, it's a family.”

— Amia Wade, 7th Grade

## QUICK FACTS:

- Received the statewide Florida Department of Education's Family & Community Involvement Award District Winner for the Fort Braden Reads Program.
- Home of the Junior Ranger Program – In conjunction with Wakulla Springs student are able to complete activities to earn credit towards becoming a Florida Junior Ranger.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

Principal Jim Jackson • 15100 Blountstown Hwy. • 488-9374 • [www.LeonSchools.net/FTBraden](http://www.LeonSchools.net/FTBraden)

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# Woodville School



“ Woodville PreK-8 School is a great school with amazing administration, teachers, and staff that really connect with the students and parents. My son, Warren, has been attending since kindergarten and is currently in 7th Grade. He continues to thrive and excel with the personal guidance from his teachers.” ”

— Yolanda Cave, Woodville Parent



## WHY CHOOSE WOODVILLE?

Just 16 minutes from the state capital, Woodville is one of only two Pre-K through 8th grade sites in Leon County. Woodville will begin to integrate agriculture instruction in all grade levels supported by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture. Students will learn about nutrition, where their food comes from and what living things need to survive. All grade levels will be exposed to new produce that we grow in our very own gardens throughout campus! .

“ I’ve been a student at Woodville for 6 years; I started in kindergarten. I wouldn’t trade being at one school for anything. It helps that the teachers are supportive, kind, and always willing to help you. I am an avid reader and the media center always has the books I am looking for. ”

— Dax Anderson, Woodville 5th grader

## QUICK FACTS:

- As a K-8 school, 4th and 5th grade students have the unique opportunity to participate in athletics.
- Media Center is home to six WE DO 2.0 Kits and six Mindstorm Kits, plus 3D printers coming soon!

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Cobb Middle School



“ The Cobb Middle School Magnet Program has been incredible for my daughter. She has been both challenged and nurtured by teachers who are among the best in the county at a middle school that values engagement, curiosity and community. It has been a perfect fit! ”

— Renee Thompson, 8th grade



## WHY CHOOSE COBB?

Cobb has been a “School of Choice” for the Applied Science and Technology Magnet Program, offering a rigorous curriculum for students interested in exploring their education through a hands-on approach. In addition to our intensive academic programs, which allow for more individualized instruction, and gifted curriculum, Cobb also offers high school courses in, science, mathematics, computer science and foreign languages.

“ My eagerness and dedication to remain a life-long learner was inspired during my time at Cobb. And it was there, as a member of SFEA, that I determined that my life purpose and passion would be to teach. Once a Cub, always a Cub! ”

— Brandon Young, LCS Teacher & Former Cobb Cub

## QUICK FACTS:

- Cobb Middle School is an important partner with Florida State University in a National Science Foundation project developing computer science curriculum modules that teach middle-school mathematics and computer science simultaneously.
- Robust performing arts curriculum including chorus, band, drama, orchestra, and guitar.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

Principal Sarah Hembree • 915 Hillcrest • 488-3364 • [www.LeonSchools.net/Cobb](http://www.LeonSchools.net/Cobb)

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# Fairview Middle School



“Once I came out and visited Fairview, I knew my son would fit perfectly into what they have created. The support given to the students is like nothing I have ever seen. The foundations laid for my son, and the others at the school, will be carried with them for years.”

— Tomica Smith



## WHY CHOOSE FAIRVIEW?

Fairview Middle IB Preparatory Magnet Program is an advanced program of study designed to accelerate the educational experience of students in all curriculum areas. Students in IB Prep may earn up to eight high school credits, including Algebra and Geometry Honors, Physical Science and Biology Honors, Honors Spanish and French, Chinese, and Journalism. The accelerated curriculum is balanced with promoting a well-rounded education, with students involved in programs such as jazz and symphonic band, orchestra, chorus, and drama, as well as athletics and community service. Morning and afternoon transportation is provided for all IB Prep magnet students from any home in Leon County.

“I was nervous when I began, but the teachers were always very supportive and I never felt like I couldn't approach one if I needed something. Every day was a different learning experience and it pushed us to master time management and study skills.”

— Marquelle Ogletree

## QUICK FACTS:

- Nationally ranked Math Team; two Quiz Bowl teams qualified for Nationals in 2018 and our Science Olympiad team qualifies for the regional competitions annually.
- Over the next three years, we will have a new gymnasium, a new front office and café, a remodeled school with the latest and greatest in technology, and a new parking lot!

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Griffin Middle School



“ Griffin is a very special place for me and my family. My four children have attended Griffin Middle School and they loved it! Griffin set a solid foundation for their learning path and it prepared them for high school. ”

— Veronica Rios, Parent



## WHY CHOOSE GRIFFIN?

At the “Next Generation” Griffin Middle School, the educational offerings are competitive, well-rounded and rich in technology. Our campus offers “state of the art” technologies to include a variety of wireless technologies, computer labs, a demonstration lab, 3-D printing capabilities, a robotics program, and more. Our Technology Academy is dedicated to transforming education through thoughtful integration with the most current knowledge of how students learn. Throughout their time at Griffin, students can select to join pathways – business or design – that cater to their interests, provide opportunities to earn certifications and tools, and prepare them for the rigor of high school.

“ My experience has been great because I have met really good friends and especially awesome teachers. I really enjoy coming to school every day and having every one say “hi” to me. I am sad that in few months I will be leaving, but I’m sure that Griffin Middle School has prepared me well for any challenge. ”

— MRoberta Cobb, 8th Grade Student

## QUICK FACTS:

- Griffin has been designated a Career and Professional Education center providing pathways for students to earn professional industry certifications.
- The Information Technology Academy prepares students for college and career pathways.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

Principal Zelena O’Banner • 800 Alabama St. • 617-5353 • [www.LeonSchools.net/Griffin](http://www.LeonSchools.net/Griffin)

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# R. Frank Nims Middle School



“ During the three years my daughter spent on campus we had the opportunity to see the school improve. I could see and feel the excitement on campus, the improvement in grades, the reduction in student disciplinary necessities, the friendly atmosphere and the willingness of the staff to go the extra mile.” ”

— Donald Thomas



## WHY CHOOSE R. FRANK NIMS?

R. Frank Nims Middle School offers a variety of advanced and high school courses in all core subject areas. We offer computer programming, robotics, and engineering courses in our STEM program for all grade levels. We have an award winning Performing Arts Program which is highlighted by our Trojan Fly Girls Dance Team, Trojan Band, and Trojan Dolls Majorettes. R. Frank Nims Middle School also offers the Nims Trojan Success Academy (NTSA) which is designed to help students complete grade recovery in order to get back on track.

“ I love Nims because of the love and support the teachers give my child and how they help him to grow and pursue his education. I love Nims because of the warmth and kindness from teachers and office staff whenever I come to the school. My child loves coming to school every day. I feel safe sending my child to R. Frank Nims Middle School ”

— Jean Barner

## QUICK FACTS:

- Nims Middle School has increased its school grade by 5% points over the last two years. The 2018 score was the highest score for Nims since the FSA was introduced during the 2014/15 school year.
- Small Class Sizes - 19 to 1 Student to Teacher Ratio and they offer ten Mac Computer Labs, ICT Certification Courses.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Raa Middle School



“ Before I got to Raa I had limited knowledge of music, but over these three years I have had the opportunity to grow my talents immensely. Now, I am currently the only violist from Leon County to make the 2019 Middle School All-State Orchestra. I love what I have been able to accomplish through the support of my Raa family.”

— Nia Morgan, 8th Grade Student

## WHY CHOOSE RAA?

As the premier Middle School Arts Magnet School, Raa offers various degrees of Band, Guitar, Orchestra, Chorus, Theater, Piano, Steel Drums, Dance, Spanish, Building Construction and state-recognized pre-apprentice certification, Digital Design with Photoshop Certification, and Studio Art. Arts magnet students are paired with arts mentors from the community and from our colleges and universities to provide an additional layer of support with students developing their craft and exploring their interests. Furthermore, students are provided with opportunities to participate in specific arts exploration field trips and are eligible for arts scholarships at the end of their 8th grade year.

“ I have learned the value of teamwork and respect while being at Raa Middle. Moving into high school will be a big change, but Raa has definitely prepared me for it.”

— Mikale Myrick, 8th Grade Student

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

## QUICK FACTS:

- Partnerships with the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Council on Culture and Arts, and many others to bring about targeted programming to enhance student's exposure to visual and performing arts.
- RAA has the only middle school shop program in the school district.

# Godby High School



“I choose Godby High for my boys because of the magnet programs. Two of my sons completed the Information Technology track with certifications and are currently working in the IT field. Godby rigorously prepared my boys for college and beyond—I am eternally grateful.”

— Michelle Richardson



## WHY CHOOSE GODBY?

Godby High School offers its diverse population many different educational opportunities. While attending traditional classes at Godby High School, students can choose to be a part of our College Academy and work towards their A.A. degree, work in Welding, the Certified Nursing Assistant's Program or take to the skies in the Aviation or Engineering programs. Godby High School fits the needs of each one of their students.

“Godby is a place where I learned life lessons that I will be carrying with me for years to come. To be a Godby Cougar is to have the utmost pride and respect in your school and its campus. It's the way you represent the colors of blue and white on the field, in the class and in life.”

— Tia Huie

## QUICK FACTS:

- Dual Enrollment Connection directly to Tallahassee Community College
- Leads the district in the amount of industry certification earned by students.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

# Rickards High School



“The alma mater really embodies how Rickards shapes you as a person; the memories it leaves you with and this sort of feeling of belonging to this group of Raiders.”

— Mamie Odom '2018



## WHY CHOOSE RICKARDS?

The vision of Rickards High School is to provide students with a caring, supportive learning environment that allows them to reach their maximum potential through quality programs, instruction and experiences. We are an IB World School who offers a variety of academic tracks for our students: Health Academy, Engineering Academy, AVID Program, and Industry Certification Programs. Rickards offers 15 Athletics Programs and a wide variety of clubs, including but not limited to Robotics, Mu Alpha Theta, and Brain Bowl.

Rickards' Music Program has received superior ratings and offers courses in guitar, orchestra and jazz. We welcome assistance with helping us achieve our mission so that we can fully realize the vision for James S. Rickards High School. We believe that together we can make a difference in the lives of our students and our surrounding community!

## QUICK FACTS:

- Offers International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Courses.
- Coming soon an entirely new, state of the art campus with courtyard, sports fields, and tennis courts.

Open enrollment starts January 8 - March 1, 2019

Principal Douglas Cook • 3013 Jim Lee Rd. • 414-5500 • [www.LeonSchools.net/Rickards](http://www.LeonSchools.net/Rickards)

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# Pre-K to College



COMMUNITY EVENT  
JANUARY 15, 2019 6:00-7:00 PM  
@ CONLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Join us to learn about exciting new public school options at

**Conley Elementary, Fairview Middle, Rickards High School**

Students, Parents and Staff will present pathways to success for every child.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ROBOTICS CODING ART ORCHESTRA HONORS JAZZ



Open enrollment starts  
January 8 - March 1, 2019

[www.LeonSchools.net](http://www.LeonSchools.net)

