

September 2024

Dare to SOAR!

SUNSET NEWS



A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been great seeing the students back in school. We are thrilled to share with you an exciting approach to teaching and learning this year at Sunset Elementary. Visible Learning, based on the groundbreaking research of Professor John Hattie, is a comprehensive framework that focuses on making learning visible to both teachers and students. The key idea is that when teachers clearly understand what impacts student learning the most, they can be more effective in their teaching strategies.

Key Components of Visible Learning:

1. **Clear Learning Intentions and Success Criteria:** Teachers will clearly communicate what students are expected to learn and how they can demonstrate their understanding. This transparency helps students understand their learning goals and what success looks like.
2. **Feedback:** Effective feedback is crucial. It helps students understand their progress and what they need to do to improve. Feedback will be timely, specific, and constructive.
3. **Student Self-Assessment:** We encourage students to take an active role in their learning by reflecting on their progress and setting personal learning goals. This promotes self-regulation and a growth mindset.
4. **Teacher Clarity and Expertise:** Our teachers are continually developing their expertise and clarity in instruction. This ensures that teaching methods are based on evidence and best practices that have the highest impact on student learning.

Benefits for Your Child:

- **Increased Engagement:** Students are more engaged when they understand the purpose of their learning and can see their progress.
- **Enhanced Achievement:** By focusing on high-impact teaching strategies, we aim to improve student achievement across all areas.

How You Can Support at Home:

- **Discuss Learning Goals:** Talk to your child about their learning goals and what they are excited to learn.
- **Encourage Reflection:** Encourage your child to reflect on what they have learned each day and identify areas where they can improve.
- **Provide Positive Feedback:** Reinforce the importance of effort and persistence, and celebrate their successes.

We believe that Visible Learning will make a significant positive impact on our students' educational experience. If you have any questions or would like more information about this approach, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit our school website. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Best regards,

Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

Please help us ...

If you put your child's name in coats, jackets, backpacks, etc., we can return them to your student and avoid lost and found.



Donuts with Grownups

You are invited to join us for our first parent involvement activity of the 2024-25 school year!

Parents, grandparents, guardians, and friends are welcome to attend.

Sept. 17

8:25 a.m.-8:40 a.m.

Afternoon PK - 3:15 p.m.

Please enter through the front door and get a visitor sticker.



Screen Your Student for Symptoms of Illness

It is important to screen your student for illness every day before coming to school. Keep your student at home if sick with any illness. By making sure students are healthy when they come to school, we all can help prevent illnesses that disrupt learning. Thank you for your support!



Directory Information

In accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), USD 305 has designated certain information as directory information.



This information is considered public information which may be released from the school district without your prior consent.

Please inform your school building in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without your prior consent (by September 29, 2024 to ensure it is not included in a parent directory). The following information is considered directory information:

- a) The student's name and age
- b) Parent's name, address and telephone number
- c) The student's major field of study and class designation (i.e. first grade, tenth grade)
- d) The student's participation in officially recognized activities or sports
- e) The weight and height of members of athletic teams
- f) Dates of attendance (period of time during which a student was enrolled in an educational agency or institution, i.e. academic year, spring semester)

Fall Pictures

Wednesday,
October 2



Reminder

Please don't have water bottles in backpacks if library books are inside.

Conferences

Wednesday,

Sept. 11

4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday,

Sept. 12

8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Band/Orchestra

On August 27, Mr. Brooks (Band) and Mr. Andres (Orchestra) met with fifth grade to talk about signing up for band and orchestra.

- Band and orchestra class begins Thursday, September 5.
- Band and Orchestra meet 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Title 1 Meeting / Marathon Night

Family Marathon Walk Night

Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Parents start in the gym at a meeting with Dr. Cheeks



School Marathon

What is the School Marathon? Students have the opportunity to run or walk a total of 26.2 miles (131 laps) for 8 weeks. Students will earn prizes for completing 5, 10, 15, 20, and 26.2 miles.

When does it Start? The marathon began August 19 and ends October 10.

The Details. Students run or walk laps around the track on the playground each morning at 8 a.m. Students still must come through their designated morning entrances and then walk out to the playground.

Students that eat breakfast at school, will eat their breakfast first and then will begin their laps. Students may also complete laps during their recess each day if they choose. Some mornings we will have special guests to walk with us.

Can Parents Participate? We welcome parents to walk with their student(s) in the morning, but unfortunately you are not eligible to earn the prizes. If you would like to come to the marathon in the morning, you must sign in at the office. first.





Join the Sunset PTA!

How did the PTA support students last year?

- Purchased a shirt for every student
- Funded many field trips
- Purchased indoor recess materials
- Held fun events for families to participate in
- Purchased various classroom materials



How did the PTA support Sunset staff last year?

Sunset PTA provided meals for conferences, celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with many treats and approved teacher requests for classroom needs.

PTA Events Last School Year

- Family Movie Nights
- Family Bingo Nights
- Penny Wars
- Fun Night (School Carnival)



Please consider joining Sunset PTA. Membership is only \$5 for the entire school year.

We are always looking for new ideas to raise money so that we can continue to support Sunset students and staff.

Be on the lookout for upcoming meeting dates!

Questions: Email sunsetptaks@gmail.com

Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School

We strive to be the best place to learn. The only way we can improve is to know about concerns so we are able to address them. Here are some tips for communicating with your child's school when concerns arise.

The fastest way to a positive result is to start with the people closest to the situation in the school. Talk with the teacher or coach about your questions and concerns before going to the principal.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out to teachers and school staff by:

- Calling the school's phone number. Because they are teaching, you often will need to leave a message for your child's teacher or coach.

- Emailing the teacher or coach directly. All teacher emails are available on our school website.

We want to be responsive to parents' questions and requests for information. Our staff will respond to your call or email as soon as possible, in most cases within 2 school days.

If you have had a conversation with your child's teacher and the principal and are still needing assistance, the director of elementary or secondary programs will be able to provide additional support.

We are excited for this new school year and look forward to partnering with you to support a great school experience for your student.



Title I Schools Annual Notice

As part of our commitment to transparency and providing the best education for your children, we want to remind you of your rights under Title I. You can request information about the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher and any instructional aides who work with your child. This includes their certification, college degrees, and other qualifications.

We aim to keep open communication and ensure you feel confident in the education your child receives. If you have any questions or would like to request this information, please contact our office.

Help Your Child Fall in Love with Reading!



Below are fun family activities to help you promote a culture of reading in your home.

Play board games together.

Games such as Apples to Apples, Hedbanz, Sequence Letters, Scrabble, Boggle, Tall Tales, Banagrams, or Zingo are fun for everyone. Practicing sounds, letters, and words will help with reading!



Play games as you travel.

Look for letters on signs or license plates. Play “I spy” with sounds—I spy something that has the “ch” sound.

Use art to learn letters and words.

Use sidewalk chalk to draw pictures and label them. Practice writing letters and words. Use magnetic letters on a cookie sheet to build words and practice sounds. Use those same magnets on the fridge to play “Change a Word” by moving beginning, middle and ending sounds to create new words.



Read together and talk about what was read.

Oral language, vocabulary, and knowledge about the world are some of the best predictors of reading success. Reading and talking about the characters, events, or information in the book develops these necessary skills for your child. Audio books can also be used. Letting your child both ask and answer questions and having discussions about reading is time well spent!



An Introduction to *Eureka Math*²

*Eureka Math*²® is your student's revolutionary new math program. Its learning design allows your student to build a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics that will better prepare them for college, career, and beyond.

Family Math letters will be coming home with your child throughout the year. These letters will provide a topic overview that includes content, images of models and strategies, and key vocabulary. It also includes ideas for math activities that may be done at home.

Sunset's staff honors and celebrates the role caregivers play in each student achieving greatness. Thank you for your partnership!

Shelby Davis
Math Coach
Sunset Elementary

HEALTHCARE ON WHEELS

COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU

FOR ALL SALINA PUBLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES:
STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF

- ILLNESS, MINOR INJURIES, PHYSICALS
- NOT REQUIRED TO BE A SALINA FAMILY PATIENT
- WALK-INS WELCOME OR RESERVE YOUR SPOT ONLINE WITH AN APPOINTMENT
- MINORS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN
- PLEASE BRING YOUR INSURANCE CARD OR FORM OF PAYMENT

EVERY MONDAY
AVAILABLE 7AM-9AM

(Excluding School Closures)

VISIT [SALINAHEALTH.ORG/HEALTHCARE-ON-WHEELS/](https://salinahealth.org/healthcare-on-wheels/)

Monthly Locations:

August/September 2024 – Schilling

October 2024 – Cottonwood

November 2024 – Heusner

December 2024 – Oakdale

January/February 2025 – Sunset

March 2025 – Coronado

April 2025 – Meadowlark

May 2025 – Stewart

LEARN MORE:



September Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2 - Labor Day/No School

9 - Site Council, 12:00 noon

11 - Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences

12 - No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences



13 - No School

17 - Donuts with Grownups No Marathon

19 - Title 1 Meeting/Marathon Family Walk Night

Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal
 Kate Ozores - Lead Teacher
 Gena Koch - Secretary
 Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4520

#SunsetGrowsGreatness
#305GrowsGreatness

- [Sunset Eagles 305](#)
- [@Sunset Eagles 305](#)
- [@SunsetEagles305](#)
- [School Website](#)
- [District Website](#)

Unified School District #305 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning Unified School District #305 compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, ADA, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact the Unified School District #305 Executive Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 797, Salina, Kansas 67402, 785-309-4726.