



September 2024

South Middle

The mission of South Middle School is to provide a high quality education for all students in a safe, equitable learning environment. This mission is best accomplished through a partnership including students, family, community, teachers and staff, preparing students to become life-long learners in an ever-changing world.

A Note from the Principal

Our school fundraiser will kick off on Wednesday, September 18 with students selling *World's Finest Chocolate*. This fundraiser is an important event as it is the only fundraiser we participate in as a whole school during the school year.

As in years past students selling a certain amount of chocolate will be eligible for

- various prizes
- spinning the money wheel

All proceeds are deposited into our student activity account and can only be spent on items or activities pertaining directly to our student body. We encourage all of our parents/guardians to help their student sell as much chocolate as they can.

I would also like to remind our families of parent teacher conferences on Wednesday, September 11 and Thursday, September 12. Your child's advisory teacher will be sending out a link for conference sign-up. We encourage all of our parents and guardians to attend.

Dustin Dooley, Principal



Make the Most of Your Parent-Teacher Conference

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for September 11 (3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) and 12 (7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.).

- Advisory teachers will be scheduling conferences with students.
- If your student is in a class first hour (Sensations or Yearbook), one of your child's core teachers will schedule your student's conference.
- After visiting with your child's advisory teacher, parents and guardians will have the ability to visit with other teachers on your student's schedule.

Parent-teacher conferences provide an invaluable opportunity for adults at home and school to come together and discuss how to help students succeed. This open dialogue is an important support in students' school progress.

Conferences provide space for communication with parents in a more personal manner, giving them insight into their student's strengths and weaknesses that they may not otherwise see from test scores or grades alone.

We look forward to visiting with you at parent teacher conferences and working together to build a strong foundation that will help your student learn and grow. With continued communication between home and school, we can make sure our students get the support they need to succeed.

After School Program

This year we are running our program a little differently than in the past because of the discontinuation of ESSER funds. Students will need a teacher recommendation to attend our after school program.

A teacher might do this because of missing assignments, more than could be finished in an advisory period, or if a student needs some extra help to stay on top of their class assignments. The teacher will contact the student's guardian regarding this information and discuss the possibility of after school help. Participating students will come each day until they have made up their work or are no longer needing help to keep up in classes.

We meet in the library on Monday through Thursday from 2:55 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Your student will need to be picked up at 3:45 p.m. in the front circle drive, unless they are walking or riding a bike. We **do not** have a bus this year to take students home.

If you have any questions please email Jill Graff at: jill.graff@usd305.com



Clothing Donations

SMS is looking for clothing donations to fill our care closet. Items will be used throughout the school year to provide needed and/or emergency items to our students. Clothing items needed include: t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweats/joggers, and leggings. We have found that our students like neutral colors and small logos on their clothing. Sizes needed range from youth medium and large, up to adult X-large. Donations can be brought to the South Middle School front office. Any and all donations are appreciated and we thank you for your help and kindness.

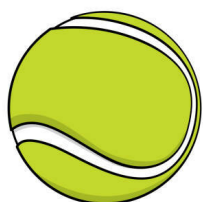
Dillons Rewards

SMS families can support the South Middle School PTO by using their Dillons Plus shopper's card. A percentage of all purchases are allotted to our PTO. Here's how to enroll in the Dillon's Community Rewards program:

- visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards
- sign in to your existing online account or create an account
- find and select South Middle School PTO or organization #VN011 and click save
- shop at Dillons and scan your existing Plus shopper's card



Girls Tennis



Back for her second year as Assistant Coach, Coach Cullins and Coach Pittenger are beyond excited for this season. We had 27 athletes tryout this year, which is amazing. Our roster was made official on Thursday August 22. We are carrying 16 players this season. Last year did not go as we had hoped, but the girls have put in a lot of work in the off-season and during the summer and it is very apparent that it has paid huge dividends. We have a handful of seventh graders being led by our strong eighth grade squad, which boasts of strong leadership. Our first dual is at home against cross town rival, the Lakewood Mustangs on Thursday September 5 at 3:30 at the Salina Tennis Alliance (across from the Tony's Event Center).



Parent Teacher Organization Membership

The South Middle School PTO plays an instrumental role in providing for our students and staff. Historically, PTO has funded \$100 staff grants, parent teacher conference meals, snacks for students during state testing, banners, mascots and much more. A lot of these funds are from donations from patrons to the PTO.



Attached to this newsletter is a donation form for families to help support students as well as our school. A donation results in:

- The family name to be printed on the back of our sports programs.
- No obligation to attend PTO meetings or help with any activities, although help is always welcome. Please consider supporting our Parent Teacher's Organization!

First Quarter PBIS Celebration

We will have our first quarter PBIS celebrations on October 17, 22 and 23. Students qualify for the celebrations by maintaining a 3.0 GPA and not receiving any office referrals. Each student will receive a treat and have a chance to have some fun hanging out with friends while playing football or volleyball.

Lunch ID's

At the beginning of the school year, all students received a lanyard with their lunch ID and library ID on the cards. After we take school pictures near the end of August, we will distribute new ID's with student pictures. Students can scan their ID or manually enter their ID on the key pad, whichever they prefer. Also, ID's from last school year will work as well. If a student needs to replace their ID, it will cost them \$2.00. In the event this happens, they will need to visit with Ms. Davison in the counseling office.

Cross Country

Cross Country fans, it sure has been a scorcher to start the year. The team has been lucky enough to be able to run outside the first week of practice but have had to switch to running the halls to avoid the heat on troublesome days. We have a great group of twenty student athletes who are going to do great things this year. Coach Deines and Coach Allen are extremely excited to watch them grow over the season and improve their times. The squad's first meet is here in town at Bill Burke Complex on September 10. Please come out and support our runners.



School Attendance

Do you need to call in your student's attendance or let us know of an upcoming absence or tardy? If so, please contact the Attendance Office:

- Call 785 - 309 - 3904
- Email lorena.hernandez@usd305.com. The attendance office hours are 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Please communicate with the school if your child will be absent.

Pick Up and Drop Off



We would like to remind all of our families to pay close attention as you drive through crosswalks and on the streets by the building. If you would drop you students off on the curb closest to the school sidewalk, that will help deter students from running into the street.

We ask for our families help - please encourage your student(s) to utilize the crosswalks when crossing the street.

Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Luke Curry, SMS eighth grade history teacher, for earning September teacher of the month!



PTO / Site Council Dates

All PTO and Site Council meetings will be held from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the large conference room at South Middle School, we encourage all parents who are interested to attend.

PTO Dates: August 21, October 16, December 18, February 19, April 16

Site Council Dates: September 18, November 20, January 15, March 26, May 14

Receive Important Alerts

In order to get text messages (cancellations, emergencies, and other education communications) from South Middle and USD 305, please make sure your cell phone information is up-to-date in Skyward.



Student Council

Congratulations to our 2024-25 Student Council officers.

Eighth Grade: President, Ella Chamberlain, Vice President, Brooklyn Augustine, Secretary, Madisyn Tillett, Treasurer, Sophia Vargas Valenzuela, Ambassador, Emma Porter, Ambassador, Natalie Pinedo

Seventh Grade: Junior President, Anahy Ruedas, Junior Vice President, Jackson Crow, Junior Secretary, CJ Orr, Junior Treasurer, Colin Burke, Ambassador, Veronica Alvarado, Ambassador, Naneea Calloway, Ambassador, Raegan Cheeks, Ambassador, Kendall Tauber, Ambassador, Leslie Fierro Crottes, Ambassador, Amelia Morris, Ambassador, Jiarong Wang

Sixth Grade: Blakely Chamberlain, Paige Ohlde, Carlos Lara, Santiago Pineo DeLaTorre, Ryker Riley, Kennedy Johnson, Chloe Khamdalanikone, Alyson Gonzalez

Advisor: Amanda Freeman

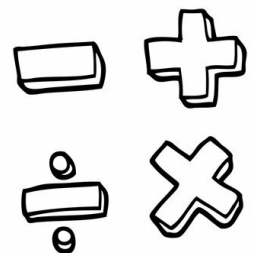
Student Council is excited to begin the new school year!

- Spirit Week: October 7 - October 10
- Lakewood and SMS play: Thursday, October 10.

All Student Council members will attend the STUCO conference held, September 30 in Ellsworth. At this conference students will learn and develop leadership skills along with important life skills to help them become better leaders.

Sixth Grade Math

Greetings from sixth grade math! We are excited to get the year off and running and are very excited to work with your student! In sixth grade math we will start the school off with decimal work and review covering adding, subtracting, and multiplying decimals. We will learn a few new strategies as well as reinforcing already learned skills. We will then move onto Data Sets and Distributions (Mean, Median, Mode, etc.) as well as Area and Surface Area of Prisms and Cubes. We are looking forward to a great year of growing together in mathematics.



Seventh Grade Math

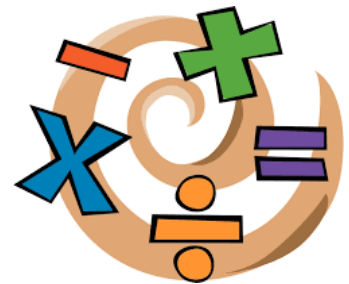
Seventh grade math is currently working on a Statistics Unit, and will be done right before conferences. The second unit will be Probability.

There are still many students that do not have their own calculator. Seventh grade teachers spend a lot of time teaching students how to properly use their own calculator, so if at all possible, we appreciate student's using their own.

A friendly reminder that a video for each lesson is always posted on google classroom over the material covered in class that day, so please remind your students to check Google classroom if they miss to stay caught up!

Eighth Grade Math

Eighth grade math has started the year reviewing our knowledge of equations and then expanding that into more complex equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. We will move into a big unit on slope intercept form of equations and graphs and then on to even more complex equations. Eighth grade math teachers would like to remind parents/guardians that daily practice of the math skills is important for students' success on assessments. Please encourage your student to seek help if they are not understanding.



Football

Football at Salina South Middle School had a great summer. The team had a lot of athletes participate in the summer weight program and attend football camp throughout the summer. The coaching staff is really excited to see what this group of young men can do out on the football field.

- The eighth grade team is led by Ryan Schafer and the assistant coaches are Lance Johnson and Luke Easterday.
- The seventh grade team is led by Preston McCorkle and the assistant coaches are Seth White and Kerry Starks.



The coaches' goal is to teach the fundamentals of football as well as the importance of teamwork and character. The coaches will stress self-discipline, concentration, friendship, leadership and good sportsmanship. This includes in the classroom, hallways and practice / game fields. Coaches and athletes are very excited to work collaboratively as a whole middle school unit to achieve our goals.

Volleyball

As the school year begins, South Middle is gearing up for an action-packed volleyball season. With practices already underway, players and coaches are eager to hit the courts and showcase their skills.

This year's team boasts a number of players who worked hard in the off-season to improve and gain experience. Many played Club Volleyball in the winter and attended camps and open gyms throughout the summer. The experience is paying off and the coaches are excited by the work ethic, perseverance, and excitement at practice.



The home opener for the eighth grade is on September 5 and for the seventh grade is September 9. Fans are encouraged to come out and support the team. With a competitive schedule ahead and a positive, determined squad, South Middle School's volleyball season promises to be an exciting one.

2024 7TH GRADE COUGAR VOLLEYBALL

SEPT. 5 @ 5	Goddard, Andover Central	GODDARD
SEPT. 9 @ 5	Hutchinson, Valley Center	SMS
SEPT. 14	Emporia Tournament (A only)	EMPORIA
SEPT. 16 @ 5	Maize South, Maize	MAIZE
SEPT. 17 @ 5	Lakewood, Hays	LAKWOOD
SEPT. 19 @ 5	Lakewood, McPherson	SMS
SEPT. 23 @ 5	Goddard Eisenhower	GODDARD E.
SEPT. 24 @ 4:30	Abilene, Concordia	ABILENE
SEPT. 28	WSL B Tournament	DERBY
SEPT. 30 @ 5	Derby North	SMS
OCT. 3 @ 5	Newton, Lakewood	LAKWOOD
OCT. 7 @ 5	Derby, Andover	ANDOVER
OCT. 12	WSL A Tournament	SMS

2024 8TH GRADE COUGAR VOLLEYBALL

SEPT. 5 @ 5	Goddard, Andover Central	SMS
SEPT. 9 @ 5	Hutchinson, Valley Center	HUTCHINSON
SEPT. 16 @ 5	Maize South, Maize	MAIZE SOUTH
SEPT. 17 @ 5	Lakewood, Hays	SMS
SEPT. 19 @ 5	Lakewood, McPherson	LAKWOOD
SEPT. 23 @ 5	Goddard Eisenhower	GODDARD E.
SEPT. 24 @ 4:30	Abilene, Concordia	SMS
SEPT. 28	WSL B Tournament	DERBY NORTH
SEPT. 30 @ 5	Derby North	SMS
OCT. 3 @ 5	Newton, Lakewood	SMS
OCT. 7 @ 5	Derby, Andover	DERBY
OCT. 12	WSL A Tournament	HUTCHINSON

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29	30					

Important Dates in September

- 2 - No School Labor Day
- 11 - Parent Teacher Conferences (p.m.)
- 12 - Parent Teachers Confereces (a.m./p.m.)
- 13 - No School
- 18 - School Fundraiser Begins

Contact Us

Dustin Dooley Principal
Tina Akers Assistant Principal
Curt Exline Assistant Principal
Jamie Jackson Secretary

Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-3900

#SMSCougars
#305GrowsGreatness



f South Middle

@USD305

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.