



November 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.

Principal Message

Cougar Families,

As the cooler weather settles in and the first semester of the school year is gradually coming to a close, November offers us the opportunity to reflect on what we are grateful for as a school community. I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our teachers, students, staff, and families. Your support helps make our school a place of growth and success.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I encourage everyone to find moments of gratitude in the everyday. Whether it's celebrating academic achievements or recognizing efforts, each milestone deserves recognition.

This month, we will focus on building academic momentum as we approach the winter break. Please keep an eye out for important dates. We will host several music concerts, girls basketball games as well as boys wrestling competitions. We will observe Thanksgiving break November 23 - November 27. Students and teachers will have an entire week off for the holiday, which is a change from previous school years.

As always, I encourage families to stay involved and informed by reaching out to your child's teachers, attending school events, and checking our website and newsletters for updates. I wish every Cougar family a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving season!

Dustin Dooley, Principal

Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to sixth grade social studies teacher, Amy Norton for earning November teacher of the month! Mrs. Norton teaches sixth grade social studies. Mrs. Norton consistently goes above and beyond to ensure each student feels valued and inspired to learn. Her lessons are engaging and she creates a class environment that encourages curiosity and critical thinking.

Congratulations Mrs. Norton!

Industrial Technology

Industrial Technology Education is a class where we focus on teaching basic shop safety, work ethic, quality of work, and communication skills. For some of our projects we work in teams for others we work on individual construction projects. We work with the STEM Concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

Basic Drafting, construction skills, hand tool, and power tool usage are the fundamentals of shop work. Basic measuring skills are also stressed. Safety is the highest priority and stressed at a very high level. Students will bring home small projects made in class, made of metal, acrylic and wood.

Eighth Grade English Language Arts

In eighth ELA, we are beginning a new unit titled "What Matters." In this unit, students will learn about standing up for one's rights and personal beliefs. We will encourage students to consider what rights and causes are worth standing up for and when to stand up for them.

We will be placing a large focus on evaluating reliable sources, using facts and evidence to compose logical arguments, and learning about student advocates who have created change in their communities. Students will read a variety of texts examining several current American issues and view media as they discuss the Essential Question for the unit: *When is it right to take a stand?*

All of the texts we read will be accessible on Google Classroom. We encourage you to read the texts along with your student, and use them as an opportunity for family discussion.

Sixth Grade English Language Arts

Sixth grade English is off and running. We are about midway through the second quarter and our students are starting to understand how middle school works. It's been fun to watch them grow and mature.

Students are getting ready to dive into their second quarter writing assessment which will be an informative writing piece. They will prove through their writing how humans and animals are alike. Several days will be used to research, read, and collect evidence. This information will enhance their writing piece. We look forward to reading all their wonderful papers.

We hope all students are checking Skyward and keeping up with assignments. As the year continues, check in with your student to make sure they still have all the supplies they need to be as successful as possible: pencils, headphones, colored pencils.

Suicide Prevention

In compliance with The Jason Flatt Act (KS 72-6284), USD 305 school personnel are provided with suicide awareness and prevention training annually. The content of this training is available for parents and guardians to review by calling the District Office at 785-309-4733.

Seventh Grade English Language Arts

Seventh grade English finished quarter one by writing a personal narrative essay about a day they will never forget.

For the first part of the second quarter, we are focusing on grammar components including prepositions, compound subjects and predicates, and types of sentences. We will also be writing an Explanatory Essay the first week of November. After Thanksgiving Break, we will begin reading, analyzing, and writing about the famous Charles Dickens story "A Christmas Carol."

Finally, we will end the semester by comparing and contrasting this well-loved literature with its movie version. We are looking forward to a fun and festive time with lots of learning along the way!

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 Dillons Community Rewards program:



Visit Dillons Community Rewards

- 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

Winter Weather Ahead!

There may be days when the start of school is delayed because of weather. This option may be used if snowy roads could be cleared given a few hours or if wind chills are too low during early morning hours but temperatures are expected to warm up within a few hours. The advantage of a delayed start is that we can minimize the loss of instruction while maintaining the safety of students and staff.

Whether a school cancellation or a delayed start is announced, the district will communicate as soon as possible using its rapid notification system. Notifications will be sent to families and staff via phone, email and text.

Details of a delayed start:

- **Bus routes:** General education and special education bus routes will proceed on a 2-hour delay.
- **Pre-K:** Morning classes will be canceled. Afternoon classes will run as normal.
- **Foodservice:** Breakfast will not be served and there will not be a choice lunch option at elementary schools.
- **Elementary Band/Strings:** Band/strings at elementary schools will be cancel.
- **Heartland: a.m.** Pre-K will be canceled. Breakfast will not be served.
- **Salina Adult Education Center:** All a.m. sessions and any GED testing scheduled for the day will be canceled.

Changes to the school schedule are not taken lightly. While calling cancellation and delayed-start days creates inconveniences for families and impacts instruction time, upholding the safety of students and staff is our priority.

As always, the final decision about your students' safety is yours. If you choose to keep your student home when inclement weather occurs and school is in session, please contact the school attendance office and follow the procedures to report an absence.

Eighth Grade Parent Night

South High School's eighth grade Parent Night is Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. Please meet in the South High School commons. This will be the only eighth grade Parent Night for the 2024-25 school year, please plan to attend! Counselors and administrators will be covering course options and enrollment procedures.

Student Council

In October, Student Council was in charge of the first Pep Assembly as well as the first school Spirit Week of the year! Many students participated to help make it successful! We have welcomed students as they came through the doors a couple times in the mornings. We also took around the "Woot" Wagon cart, showing the teachers how much we appreciate them. Finally, we worked concession stands for the various sporting events.

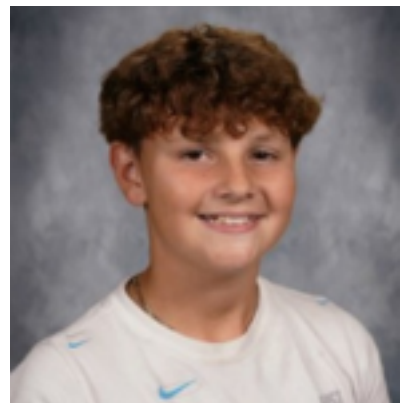
Wrestling

We are excited that the 2024 SMS Wrestling season is finally underway! Our season opens up on November 5 as we travel to Derby. Our parent meeting will be October 29th at 5:00 in the library with our scrimmage to follow at 6:00 in gym 1. There are currently 51 wrestlers on the team. We return a strong core of eighth graders who are providing valuable experience and leadership. Alongside our experienced wrestlers we also have a large group of first year wrestlers who are eager to learn a new sport. We hope to see you at our first home meet on November 12th at 4:30.

Students of the Week

Week #5

Locke is a seventh grader at South Middle School. Locke enjoys his Guitar and P.E. classes as he is able to learn and have fun in a hands-on environment. Outside of school Locke stays active playing football, basketball and tennis. His future plans include attending college and pursuing basketball or becoming a sports commentator. A fun fact about Locke is that he has two dogs and one brother.



Students of the Week (Cont.)

Week #6

Hunter is an eighth grader at South Middle School. At school Hunter enjoys socializing with his peers, taking math, art and facs II. He is a member of the basketball team, tennis team and cross country team. Outside of school Hunter plays basketball, video games and loves drawing realistic artwork. His future plans include attending college and pursuing radiology. A fun fact about Hunter is that he is interested in graphic design.



Week #7

Congratulations to JQuan Abrams for earning student of the week. JaQuan is an eighth grader at South Middle School. JaQuan is on the wrestling, track and football teams and in advanced guitar. He enjoys his teachers due to how fun and engaging they make each day. After high school, JaQuan is considering enlisting in the Army. In his free time he loves playing sports, hanging out with friends and family and traveling with his family. A fun fact about JaQuan is that he has three dogs.



Week #8

Jenna is a sixth grader at South Middle School. Jenna's favorite part of school is her social studies class, as she enjoys learning about history. Outside of school, Jenna stays active through playing soccer, basketball and gymnastics. After high school, Jenna plans to attend college to further her education. Fun facts about Jenna are that she has two sisters, Emma and Hanna and she has three dogs.



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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Important Dates in November

1 - No School

9 - Honors Music at Derby

11 - Veteran's Day

20 - Site Council Meeting

25 - 29 - Thanksgiving Break, No School

Contact Us

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Secretary

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#SMSCougars
#305GrowsGreatness



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@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.