



December 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

As we enter the final month of 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that our students accomplished. This fall, many of our students have not only excelled academically but have also demonstrated the values of kindness, curiosity, and resilience. Our athletic teams, musical performance groups, and student organizations have been shining examples of their hard work and dedication. We are proud of each accomplishment and every step our students have taken towards their goals.

December is a busy month filled with events that celebrate our school and community. I encourage all families to mark their calendars for our musical concerts and athletic competitions. We hope to see many of you there to share in the joy and excitement. Additionally, our Student Council will be organizing a fundraiser to give gifts back to our community. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn the value of service and compassion.

As we prepare for winter break, please note that school will be closed from Friday, December 20 to Monday, January 6. We hope this break offers our students time to relax, and enjoy special moments with family and friends. As we approach 2025, I am filled with excitement for the opportunities the new year will bring our students and families.

Dustin Dooley, Principal

Eighth Grade Enrollment

The South High School Counseling Department will host a ***Parent Night for all South Middle School eighth grade parents and students*** on Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the South High Auditorium. Counselors will present valuable information about freshman year and the transition to South High School.

All eighth grade students will participate in the pre-enrollment process on December 2 and December 9 through their Science class.

Wichita Suburban League Honor Band



Congratulations to Dalaun Gier, KayDee Eustice, Marissa Anderson, and Miette Thomas who traveled to Derby Middle

School on November 2 to represent South Middle in the Wichita Suburban League (WSL) Honor Band!

These students spent several advisory periods working to prepare, not to mention time outside of the school day.

Their day was full of music-making with other talented and hard-working students from all the member schools of the WSL.

They had the opportunity to work with Sara Smitko, an award-winning band director from Frontier Trails Middle School in Olathe, Kansas.

These students put in a great deal of work, and gave up part of their weekend to represent South Middle. We are proud of you and appreciate all the positivity and talent you bring to our school!

Thank you, and congratulations!



Social Media Accounts

Social media is a great way for us to share the amazing things happening at our school. However, it's important to know that the social media you and your child are following is trustworthy. We want to remind you that not all social media accounts you or your child may come across are approved or affiliated with our school. Only the social media accounts linked directly from our school website and our school newsletters are sponsored by SPS. Thank you for your continued support in maintaining a safe and informed community for our students.

Winter Weightlifting

Winter weightlifting for all SMS students who are interested will begin Monday, December 2. Winter weightlifting will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the weightroom at South High School. There will not be any weight training over Christmas Break and the program will conclude Wednesday, February 26.

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:

- 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



Visit Dillons Community Rewards

Seventh and Eighth Grade Art

Seventh and eighth grade students in Dr. Moreland's classes used grids to assist in drawing pet portraits. The goal of a grid is to help get the proportions and sizes the same as a photo. Students created a 9x12 inch grid on top of a photo and added the same grid to a blank piece of paper. Students then drew the photo box until complete. Students used color pencils on the project. This was a long complicated project, but students mastered it.



Wrestling

We have reached the halfway point of the 2024 wrestling season. We are very proud of how hard our team has been working and the progress they have made. Our experienced wrestlers have provided excellent leadership and our beginners have been very impressive on the mat. The wrestlers have showcased their hard work in practice with a strong 5-1 dual record thus far.

On November 16 we wrestled in the Concordia tournament with nine varsity wrestlers finishing top three in their bracket. We have three dual meets left and our season will wrap up as we compete for a league championship at the league tournament here at SMS on December 14.

Thank you all for your continued support this season.



Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Cindy Munk for earning December teacher of the month! Cindy is a seventh grade English teacher at South Middle School. She has been teaching for 26 years, 22 of those at the elementary level and the last four at the middle school level.

Cindy was inspired to pursue teaching because she believes educators can make a meaningful impact in their student's lives. She especially enjoys the opportunity to connect with her students and build meaningful relationships.

Some fun facts about Cindy include her outlook on life. She views life as an adventure, expressed through her passion for traveling to new places and experiencing new things.

Cindy has visited all 50 states and is working on exploring Canada. She has already visited six out of ten provinces and one of the three Canadian territories.



Students of the Week

Week 9

Congratulations to Annaleise Forbes for earning student of the week. Annaleise is a seventh grader at South Middle School. At school, she looks forward to being in guitar class, interacting with her friendly peers and seeing Mrs. Householter!

Annaleise spends her free time drawing, creating art, reading and playing the guitar. After graduation Annaleise plans to pursue pet sitting.

Some facts about Annaleise are that she has McCune-Albright Syndrome, has a twin sister named Lillanna, a brother named Anthony, a dog named Roxie and three birds.



Students of the Week (Cont.)

Week 10

Congratulations to Jasmine Nguyen for earning student of the week. Jasmine is an eighth grader at South Middle School. She appreciates Mrs. Freeman for her guidance and support, which helps her excel both academically and personally. Jasmine enjoys being a member of the school's track team and playing badminton outside of school.

Her future plans include pursuing a career in social media, being self-employed, and collaborating with others as well as with companies.

Jasmine are that she can speak three different languages, she wanted to be a race car driver when she was younger and she has the ability to change her voice to different tones.



Week 11

Congratulations to Rex McGinley for earning student of the week. Rex is a sixth grader at South Middle School. At school, he is a member of the chess club and enjoys learning about science from Mrs. Cooper, as he finds it interesting and engaging.

Outside of school, Rex plays football and spends his free time playing video games. He plans to attend Kansas State University after high school.

Fun facts about Rex include that he has two dogs, a brother, a stepbrother and a stepsister.



Week 12

Congratulations to Abigail Boyles for earning student of the week. Abigail is a seventh grader at South Middle School. She enjoys seeing her peers, band and FACS class. Abigail is also on the cheer team and is a member of the KAY club.

Outside of school, she dances, plays softball and spends her free time making bracelets, doing nails and hanging out with friends. Abigail plan to attend cosmetology school after high school and purse a career as a nail technician and hairstylist.

A fun fact about Abigail is that she has a dog names Beau and a cat named Gizmo.



SMS KAY Club: Building Community and Leadership Through Service

In November, our SMS Club was busy serving the community, attending a conference and celebrating KAY Citizenship week! Our school KAY Club was inducted into the KAY family at the Area 3 Regional Conference in November. Our officers for this school year are: Madilyn Wymore, president; Jaionna Robinson, eighth grade president; Avery Campbell, eighth grade vice president; Jorga Lumley, seventh grade president; Abby Boyles, seventh grade vice president; Ava Chrisman, sixth grade president; and Keaton Ebert, sixth grade president.

Recently, SMS KAY students;

- took ownership in our community by picking up trash
- visited Brookdale Assisted Living and painted residents' fingernails
- ran a "spirit cart" selling items to raise money for military members' care packages
- read to students and help serve Thanksgiving lunch at elementary schools
- provide goodie bags to SMS support staff

We can't wait to see the waves of our students' ripple into our school and community. Their projects build individual student responsibility and help make Salina the best place to live and learn in the heart of Kansas!



Student Council

This month was incredibly busy and rewarding for STUCO! We had the honor of creating a Veteran's Day slideshow to recognize and celebrate the dedication of our nation's Veterans and active service members. In addition, we welcomed students to school, brought the "Woot Wagon" around to support teachers, worked the concession stand, assisted with the Cougar Store, sold slushies after school, and took over the morning announcements.

We also focused on leadership development through weekly lessons. This month, we explored the impact of small and big acts of leadership, ranked our personal leadership qualities, and created collages to reflect what leadership means to us. It's been a busy, meaningful, and productive month for STUCO!

Sixth Grade Art

The Art Department at South Middle has been busy learning about art history, art movements, and different methods, techniques, and art materials including drawing, painting, paper mache, and ceramics!

Sixth grade artists learned to draw three-dimensional forms, learned about Pop Artists, and created still-life drawings of tasty treats with oil pastels. They drew spooky self portraits with graphite or charcoal inspired by filmmaker Tim Burton. They learned to mix colors and created paintings of their own chosen subjects using different color schemes.

Seventh grade learned about Pop Art, including artist Jeff Koons, famous for his sculptures of balloon dogs. Mr. Exline then led students in making their own balloon dogs! They learned about drawing in perspective and created drawings of art galleries. Students moved on to sculpting fun items with paper mache, then creating with clay.

All grades learned multiple methods of hand building with clay. Students reviewed the basics, how to create texture and decoration and different sculpture techniques. Students used all these different techniques to make bobble heads, vessels such as bowls and mugs.



Girls Basketball

The girls' basketball teams may not have as many wins as we would like to have but they have definitely been putting in the work.

With new head coaches at both the seventh and eighth grade the girls have had to learn new offenses, defenses as well as new plays. This has been a lot to learn considering it seems we have had as many game days as we have had practice days. Each day the girls are getting better, gaining more confidence and increasing their basketball intelligence.

Win or lose, we will continue work on teamwork, sportsmanship, goal setting and how these lessons will help them as they move forward in school and sports. We believe we will add some marks in the win column as we finish up the season over the next few weeks.

Boys Basketball

The boys basketball season will be here soon and we are currently having open gyms on Sunday evenings. The last day of open gym will be December 8. Remember in order to participate in tryouts everything must be current in Final Forms. Please check Final Forms to ensure all paperwork is submitted. If Final Forms is not current, this could impact the chance of an athlete making the team.

Tryouts will be a little different this year. Seventh and eighth grade will not be at the same time. Seventh grade will hold their tryouts before Christmas and will be at a different time than in the past. Please note the schedule below.

Seventh Grade ONLY (Monday, December 9 {Meeting} 3:00-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 10 - Friday, December 13, tryouts, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

Eighth grade tryouts will depend on how the girls program does in their end of season tournament. If the girls are successful, we will not be able to hold tryouts until we come back from Christmas break.

If things don't go as planned, we will hold tryouts December 16, 17 & 18 from 3:10-5:00 p.m. Coaches will send an email through Final Forms letting athletes and parents know the situation. If you have any questions about basketball, please contact Mr. Vogt (eighth) or Mr. Willer (seventh) at the school.

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	31				

Important Dates in December

2 - 8th Enrollment Night @ South HS 6:00 p.m.

4 - iReady Reading Assessment - Delayed Start Schedule

11 - iReady Math Assessment - Delayed Start Schedule

12 - Choir Concert 6:00 p.m. / Guitar Concert 7:00 p.m.

16 - Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.

17 - Band Concert 7:00 p.m.

18 - PTO Meeting 12:00 p.m.

20 - No School / Teacher Workday

23 - 31 - Winter Break

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



 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.

SALINA SOUTH

Scholars Bowl



Coaches:

Elizabeth Burke
Nikki Chamberlain



Practice Schedule:

- Thursday, Dec. 5th @ 7:45-8:20 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 10th @ 7:45-8:20 a.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 12th @ 7:45-8:20 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 17th @ 7:45 a.m.-8:20 a.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 8th @ 7:45-8:20 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 14th @ 7:45-8:20 a.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 23 @ 7:45-8:20 a.m.

Remind App:

We will use the Remind App to communicate with players & parents throughout our season. To join: <https://www.remind.com/join/e4gkbh>
If you already have the Remind App, go to Add Class, Join Existing Class, and enter e4gkbh

Guidelines:

There is a 7th grade & 8th grade team. Only 5 people can compete (a minimum of 3) but we can take 6 to a meet. Competitors each meet will be determined based on skill and participation in practices.

IN ROOM:

Events:

JANUARY 7	SMS @ 3:30 pm
JANUARY 9	Mulvane @ 4 pm; Leave @ 2:15 pm
JANUARY 16	Newton @ 4 pm; Leave @ 2:30 pm
JANUARY 21	Pairie Hills @ 3:30 pm; Leave @ 2:00 pm
JANUARY 28	Hutchinson @ 4 pm; Leave @ 2:30 pm
JANUARY 30	League - Derby North @ TBD

Questions:

Contact one of the Coaches



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