



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

South Middle School Newsletter

March 12th, 2023

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Upcoming Events

March 13-17- Dress Up Days

March 16th - Variety Show 7 pm

March 20th- Food Pop- Up at South 11:30-1:00

March 20th- March 24th Spring Break- School is closed

March 30th - Quarter 4 Sports Begin

April 6th- Bring in snacks for Forward Testing

TODAY is your DAY! SMS Falcon Character Theme *BE THE good!*

~March~

Individually we are each one color, together we make a rainbow.

INDIVIDUALLY, WE ARE ONE DROP. TOGETHER, WE ARE AN OCEAN.
- RYUNOSUKE SATO

CONNECT SOUTH DISCOVER SUCCEED FALCONS

When spider webs unite they can tie up a lion.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
—Helen Keller
Author

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Appreciate your own values, Understand the values of others, Treat others as individuals, Take time to actively listen, Embrace others' differences

News and Announcements

Free Drive-Up COVID-19 Testing

Beginning December 5, 2022, through a partnership with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, free drive-up testing for COVID-19 for ECASD students, staff and families will be offered Monday-Thursday at the following locations:

- **Locust Lane Elementary, 3:30-6:30 pm**
- **Putnam Heights Elementary, 4:30-7:30 pm**
- **Sherman Elementary, 4:30-7:30 pm**

*Drive-up testing will only take place on days when school is in session.

Free and Reduced Lunches

You can find answers to your questions regarding the free and reduced price meal application **HERE**. This is a great FAQ page, and you can also see if you qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Food & Nutrition Workers Needed!

Are you or is someone you know looking for a job with daytime hours only? Weekends and Holidays off? Summer break, winter break, and spring break off and the ability to earn some extra income while still being home with your school age children? If yes, please consider applying to the Eau Claire Area School District Food and Nutrition program as a substitute or regular employee! Some positions are benefit eligible. Food service experience preferred, but not required. Interested candidates should submit an online application. For open positions and application instructions visit our Employment Opportunities section at <http://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Human-Resources/Employment-Opportunities>. Please contact Josh Guckenberger, Food and Nutrition Director, at 715-852-3021, with questions.





Summer Programs 2023



Program Guide release date, February 20, 2023
[https://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Teaching-and-Learning/Summer-Programs-\(1\)](https://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Teaching-and-Learning/Summer-Programs-(1))

Summer Programs

Summer Programs 2023 Summer Program Registration begins online Saturday, March 11, at 8 am. The family hotline for questions will be available from 8 am-12 pm on that date only at 715-852-3141. Letters should have arrived in mailboxes with student IDs and instructions on how to register. Families can pick up paper copies at their school and at the Administration Building.
[https://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Teaching-and-Learning/Summer-Programs-\(1\)](https://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Teaching-and-Learning/Summer-Programs-(1)) . Register early as classes fill quickly.

Did someone say snacks?

Thank you to everyone that has signed up to bring snacks for Forward testing. You can still sign up [here](#) if you would like to donate. Please bring all snacks to the attendance office by Thursday, April 6th.



Share Promote Partner

South Middle School - Share Night

Dine-In | Drive Thru | Online | Curbside

Tuesday, April 25th

Portion of ALL Sales
from 4pm to 7pm
donated to: South Middle School

Culver's of Eau Claire – Golf Road



Check out the ECASD Family Services page to find helpful ECASD and community resources.

WWW.ECASD.US/FAMILYSERVICES

Open Enrollment Begins February 6

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows students and families who don't live in our district to open enroll into the Eau Claire Area School District.

Who May Participate?

Wisconsin residents in grades K-12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call the Executive Director of Administration's Office at 715-852-3003 to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify.

How and When May Parents Apply?

The regular open enrollment application window will be February 6, 2023, through April 28, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year. Parents may submit online applications beginning February 6, 2023, at the Wisconsin Department of Instruction website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Please call 715-852-3003 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for more information.

Have you moved out of the district during the 2022-2023 school year?

If so, you must apply for a Tuition Waiver to continue attending the Eau Claire Area School District for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Contact the Executive Director of Administration's Office at 715-852-3003 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for an application.

Students Currently Attending the ECASD Through a Tuition Waiver

Students who have moved outside of the district during the 2022-2023 school year and are currently attending school under a Tuition Waiver must apply for open enrollment during the regular application window, February 6, 2023, through April 28, 2023, to continue attending during the 2023-2024 school year.

Current Open Enrollment Students

Students currently attending the Eau Claire Area School District under the open enrollment law do not need to reapply.

Other Information

Students that move into the district after January 2023 and anticipate moving out of the district before the 2023-2024 school year will not be eligible for a Tuition Waiver. Students must apply for open enrollment during either the regular open enrollment or alternative open enrollment period to be eligible to attend the Eau Claire Area School District during the 2023-2024 school year.

School Placement

By completing an open enrollment application, you are applying to attend the Eau Claire Area School District. You can indicate which school your child would prefer to attend; however, the district will determine placement based on space availability.

Questions?

If you have any questions about open enrollment or the application process, please contact the Executive Director of Administration's Office at 715-852-3003 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us.



fmptfoodbank.org | (715) 835-9415 | info@fmptfoodbank.org

Pop-Up food pantry at South Middle School

Receive fresh produce, dairy/meat, and pantry staples including
snacks and cereal for your household.

- Distribution will take place in the front parking lot off of Mitscher. Look for signs for the exact location.
- Receive groceries drive-thru style.
- Groceries will be loaded directly into your vehicle by volunteers.
- No ID is required.
- You may pick up for more than one household.
- The special distribution is brought to you by Feed My People Bank and South Middle School's very own school pantry: Falcon Foods.

Monday | March 20th | 11:30am - 1:00pm

South Middle School
2115 Mitscher Ave



Alcohol Prevention During Spring Break

Spring Break means many families will be spending more time together. This can be the perfect opportunity to have short, casual conversations with your children about underage drinking. Research shows that having frequent, causal conversations about alcohol, starting around age 8, can be more effective than one super serious talk. So, start talking and keep listening. Help your child build the confidence to grow up alcohol-free.

Tips and resources for how to have these conversations can be found at <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/small-talks>

This information is provided by The Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention coalition, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. For more information or to sign up for the Alliance's Parent/Guardian Newsletter, visit www.getinvolvedasap.org

Falcon Faces



Ski Trip

The ski trips were a success. Thank you to Mr. Kopf for organizing them this year.



Encore

1st place in two of their three competitions this year, sweeping the local competitions at Memorial High School and Altoona High School! Next year, we look to make it three-for-three!

If you'd like to catch the group's show, you can still do so on May 10 at the MHS Pops Concert (in Owen Park), on May 11 at the 7th Grade Chorus Concert at SMS, and on May 30 at the 8th Grade Chorus concert at SMS. And if you happen to see one of these brilliant kids about town in their orange Encore threads, feel free to say "hi" and throw some props their way!

Attention 6th Grade Parents!

We need your help to make Camp Manitou a success. Please fill out the correct form if you are interested in helping.

Team J

Team K





JA in a Day
(Career Day)



Counseling Corner



How to Help your Student Prepare for the State Assessment

General Preparation

- When possible, it is beneficial to establish a daily routine for meals, homework, chores, bedtime, and family time
- Provide students with a designated study area at home
- Encourage students to practice good study habits and set aside time every day for homework
- Ensure students get a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before taking a test
- Offer praise and encouragement for achievement and improvement
- Share your enthusiasm and interest in reading, mathematics, and science with your children.



General Test Preparation

- Make sure students have an opportunity to become familiar with the format of the test.
 - There is a link to practice tests and sample items on the Assessment Information for Families Webpage.
- Remind students to listen to and read all directions and to tackle the test one question at a time instead of thinking about the entire test
- Review Test-Taking Strategies. There are strategies that will help your child do their best on an exam
 - Arrives on time and stay relaxed
 - Encourage students to answer all test questions
 - Guessing is alright - it is best to eliminate any answers they know are incorrect first and they chose the best answer from what is left
 - Skip a question - better to skip a question that they are stuck on, flag it, and come back to it later than to spend lots of time on something they don't understand or is causing stress
 - Leave time at the end to look over your work. Did you answer every question?
- Remind students to think positively. Being in the right mindset can make all the difference. Encourage your child to think positively when heading into an exam
- Remind your student a test is not a race. Don't worry if others finish before first. They should focus on the test in front of them.



English Language Arts (ELA) Test Preparation

- Read to students and encourage them to read to you
- Have students try crossword puzzles
- Encourage students to read the newspaper, magazines, and recreational books; and to discuss what they have read
- Discuss the events and stories you read about
- Play games that involve spelling and vocabulary (scrabble, apples to apples, boggle, balderdash, etc.)



Mathematics Test Preparation

- Play games that involve numbers and/or computation
- Encourage students to make connections between their everyday lives and what they are learning in math class
- Encourage the use of math everyday through measuring recipes, adding prices at the store, creating a budget, explaining graphs and charts in the newspaper or magazine articles, and taking measurements while doing home projects or sewing



Science Test Preparation

- Encourage participation in science competitions, fairs, and other activities
- Explore nature centers, zoos, and science museums
- Watch programming that shows the wide variety and interesting things going on in science. (Comos, Modern-Marvels, Myth-Busters, Shark-Week, etc.)



Jill K. Underly, PhD, • State Superintendent

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