



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

South Middle School Newsletter

February 12, 2023

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Upcoming Events

2-14 Choir 8 Concert 7:00

2-16 Family/Teacher Conferences 7:45-8:15

2-17 All Schools Closed

2-20 Schools Closed Staff Development Day

2-24 Mid Quarter 3

Book Fair

The Book Fair is here! Located in the Library, the Book Fair will be open before, during and after school. We will be open all day (7:45am-8:15pm)

during Family Conferences on Thursday, February 16th. There are many selections to choose from!"

Can't make it to the Book Fair? Shop online and help your library right from home!

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/southmiddleschool13>



Teen Technology Use and Misuse

Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Cyberbullying Research Center



Where: South Auditorium
When: Thursday, February 16th at 6pm
Who is invited: Parents, Guardians, and Caring Adults

This presentation will cover a broad overview of cyberbullying, including issues parents, educators, and teens need to know about how youth use and misuse technology to cause harm to their peers. The presentation will define and provide examples of cyberbullying and discuss the role of parents in preventing and responding to inappropriate online behaviors. It will also describe many of the online environments popular among adolescents today and strategies to use to make sure they are used safely and responsibly.



Dr. Justin Patchin is a professor of criminal justice at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Since 2002 he has been exploring the intersection of teens and technology, with particular focus on cyberbullying and social networking. He travels around the United States and abroad training educators, counselors, law enforcement officers, parents, and youth on how to prevent and address the consequences of cyberbullying. Dr. Patchin is Co-Director of the Cyberbullying Research Center (www.cyberbullying.org) and has written eight books and numerous articles on adolescent behaviors online. His co-authored book: *Bullying beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying* was named Educator Book of the Year by ForeWord reviews. A book for teens *Words Wound: Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral* was published in 2013 and his most recent book is *Bullying Today: Bullet Points and Best Practices*. He has presented at the White House and the FBI Academy, and has appeared on CNN, NPR, and in the New York Times to discuss issues related to teens use and misuse of technology.

Twitter: @justinpatchin | @onlinebullying
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cyberbullyingresearch
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/patchin
Web: www.justinpatchin.com



Navigating Mental Health Services in the Chippewa Valley

Getting access to mental health services can be challenging and confusing to do on your own. The “[Navigating Mental Health Services](#)” packet makes it easier to find help. The packet includes phone numbers for local services, commonly asked questions, and a mental health wellness check tool.

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



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.

An evening like never before!

Italian Dinner

Fundraiser

The Florian Gardens
February 24, 2023

Adults & Teens: \$20.00
Children under 10: \$10.00

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner begins at 6:00
Music Starts at 5:30

Tickets: 715-852-6300
or school's website
(under Fine Arts)

hosted by *Memorial High*
School Orchestras



South Apparel Sale

Now is time to stock up on South apparel for the Spring. The site will be open until 2-26. Check out the new clothing designs [here](#).



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 Guckenberg, Food and Nutrition Director, at 715-852-3021, with questions.



South Middle School Action City Fundraiser

Price:

\$40/per person

Details:

Time: 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Date: Friday, March 10th, 2023

Price includes 4-Hour Combo Pass 2-Hour Pizza & Soda Buffet

(\$3 required trampoline grip socks not included)

Event Admission Open to Everyone

\$7.50 of Every Admission is Donated to South Middle School!

2402 Lorch Ave. Eau Claire WI 715-852-6000 ActionCityFun.com



Fun times ahead!



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

ECASD Summer Programs release date for the summer school program guide will be **February 20, 2023**. Check out the offerings for summer school programs that will be offered for your child at the following link
[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.

NATIONAL

School
Counselors:
Helping Students
Dream Big

**SCHOOL
COUNSELING**

FEB. 6-10, 2023

WEEK

*Thank you for
all you do*



Counseling Corner

Ways to Keep Your Relationships Healthy

Taking small steps can make a big difference in your mental health and well-being. Learn more from Change to Chill.



Relationships are a major part of our lives. It is perfectly normal for some relationships to ebb and flow as dynamics change with different school years, shifting of hobbies or afterschool activities, etc. And as we grow and change as individuals, it is important to be mindful of the health of our relationships. This includes how we communicate with one another.

- Healthy relationships depend on [healthy communication](#). This is a skill that we learn and practice starting at a young age, and further develop over time. We encourage you to implement healthy communication in your relationships by:
- *Using assertive communication:* Clearly state your thoughts, opinions and feelings using “I” statements and calm, clear, but direct tone and body language.
- *Actively listening:* Communication goes both ways. It is important to listen to hear, not to respond. When others talk, pay attention; avoid automatically dismissing or discounting their feelings. The other person is the expert about their own thoughts and feelings, just as you are with yours.
- *Setting boundaries:* It can be hard to say “no” and put your own needs first, especially if it won’t please others, but you have the right to do what you feel comfortable with.
- *Resolving conflict:* Conflict happens in every relationship. It is important to resolve it in a timely manner to prevent it from turning into unresolved conflict that can damage your relationship.

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

WWW.ECASD.US/FAMILYSERVICES



Dear Falcons and families,

In an effort to make conferences more accessible, we would like to inform you of some changes made to South Middle School's Spring Conferences. It is our hope the new format opens up more opportunities for our Falcon families to learn more about how we Connect, Discover, and Succeed here at South.

South will be offering an open house concept from **12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.** and **6:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m.** We will still offer one-on-one, traditional conferences (in-person or virtual). Families that need to connect with a teacher to discuss specific concerns are highly encouraged to book a one-on-one conference- this will be available starting next week.

The open house is a chance for you to explore the school and classrooms as your student shares what they are or will be learning this semester. This option is ideal for families that want to learn more about what we do here at South but do not have specific concerns about their student's performance.

Again, classroom staff will be only available during the open house from **12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.** and **6:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m.** You are welcome to explore throughout the conference day from **7:45 a.m.-8:15 p.m.**, but staff will likely be in conferences outside the open house hours and unavailable.

If you would like help understanding this document in (Spanish or Hmong), please leave a message with your name and phone number at 715-852-5281 and a bilingual aide will assist you.

Hmong message: Yog koj xav tau tus neeg Hmoob txhais tsab ntawv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog tsab ntawv no, hu rau Carmen Kopf 715-852-5281.

Spanish Translation:

Queridos Falcons y familias,

En un esfuerzo por hacer que las conferencias sean más accesibles, nos gustaría informarles sobre algunos cambios realizados en las conferencias de primavera de South Middle School.

South ofrecerá un concepto de jornada de puertas abiertas de 12:15 p. m. a 1:15 p. m. y de 18:45 a 20:15

Seguiremos ofreciendo conferencias tradicionales individuales (en persona o virtuales). Se recomienda encarecidamente a las familias que necesiten conectarse con un maestro para discutir inquietudes específicas que reserven una conferencia individual; esto estará disponible a partir de la próxima semana.

La jornada de puertas abiertas es una oportunidad para que usted explore la escuela y las aulas mientras su estudiante comparte lo que está aprendiendo o lo que aprenderá este semestre. Esta opción es ideal para familias que quieren aprender más sobre lo que hacemos aquí en South pero que no tienen preocupaciones específicas sobre el desempeño de sus estudiantes.

Nuevamente, el personal del salón de clases solo estará disponible durante la jornada de puertas abiertas de 12:15 p. m. a 1:15 p. m. y de 18:45 a 20:15 Puede explorar durante el día de la conferencia de 7:45 a. m. a 8:15 p. m., pero es probable que el personal esté en conferencias fuera del horario de puertas abiertas y no esté disponible.

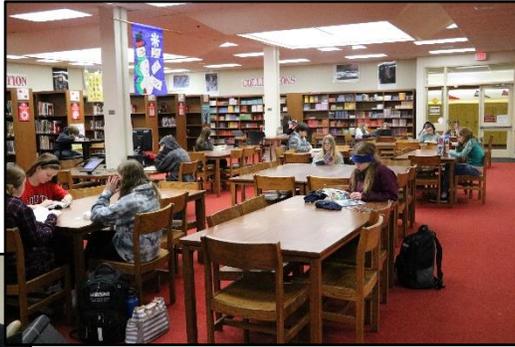
Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita un traductor para las conferencias o la jornada de puertas abiertas, comuníquese con la oficina lo antes posible para obtener ayuda.

Where Knowledge and Inspiration Meet to Create the Future



Inside the Walls of South

End of 2nd Quarter Celebration



South had two great speakers visit this month!



Author Visit

Ms. Lynda Blackmon Lowery turned 15 years old when she was the youngest person to walk the entire 54-mile length from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama in the 1965 Voting Rights March. This march took five days to walk the whole way and they were protesting to support voting rights for African Americans.



Justin Patchin spoke with students about cyberbullying and social media.

He will have a different presentation on February 16th at South.