



SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Falcon Calendar

December 2- 13th Food Drive (flyer in the newsletter)

December 3- Juantos Night 4:30-7 PM

December 5- Band 8 Concert 7 PM

December 6- Mid Quarter 2

December 12- Band 6 Concert 7 PM

December 19- Orchestra 7 & 8 Concert 7 PM

December 23- January 1- Winter Break- No School



SMS Falcon Character Theme

-December-



YOU HAVE A CHOICE
EACH AND EVERY SINGLE DAY.

I CHOOSE TO FEEL BLESSED.

I CHOOSE TO FEEL GRATEFUL.

I CHOOSE TO BE EXCITED.

I CHOOSE TO BE THANKFUL.

I CHOOSE TO BE HAPPY.

Thankfulness is the
beginning of
gratitude. Gratitude is
the completion of
thankfulness.
Thankfulness may
consist merely of
words. Gratitude is
shown in acts.

DAVID O. MCKAY

SHOWING GRATITUDE
IS ONE OF THE
SIMPLEST YET MOST
POWERFUL THINGS
HUMANS CAN DO FOR
EACH OTHER.

ATTITUDE
is
every
THING.

Gratitude

CHOOSE
JOY

Express appreciation to others; Give a gift to someone; Be thankful for who you are and what you have; Share the goodness in your heart

FALCON FEST

Our first quarter celebration was a success!



POWER OF PERCEPTION

We are excited to have power of perception at South this year. This chapter meets once a month during the school day.



GUTHERIE

Our 8th graders had the incredible opportunity to experience *A Christmas Carol* at the Guthrie Theater. They all dressed to impress and demonstrated outstanding behavior throughout the event.



Announcements

Dress Up Days

December 16th-20th



Monday- Holiday Comfy Wear

Tuesday: Holiday 'lovely/ugly' sweater



Wednesday: 6th- elves, 7th Santa, 8th Grinch



Thursday: Vacation Wear



Holiday Dress-up Contest



A fun AVID family filled with games and rootbeer floats.



Announcements



4 Tips for Navigating the Holiday Season



1 Create a Budget

Whether you create your holiday budget a year in advance or the month before, it's one of the easiest ways to save during the season. Here's how to get started:

- Make a list of all the holiday-related expenses you expect to have, including gifts, travel, food, etc.
- Take a look at your typical monthly expenses, such as mortgage/rent, groceries, utility bills, etc.
- Determine how much money you can allocate toward your holiday costs while still being able to afford your regular monthly expenses



2 Track Your Spending

Once you have a set amount to spend on your holiday expenses—don't change it! Keep track of each holiday purchase you make and how much you have left as the weeks go on. Some easy ways to do this include:

- Using a budgeting tool that tracks each purchase
- Shopping with a written list
- Only making purchases using cash
- Setting up a separate savings account dedicated to holiday purchases



3 Spend Wisely

You don't have to spend a lot of money to make a gift special, so get creative when gift shopping! Here are a few tips and tricks you can use:

- Thrift or DIY one-of-a-kind gifts
- Allocate a set amount to each person you plan to buy a gift for
- Use coupons and take advantage of sales when possible (hello Black Friday!)
- Check online for special deals before buying a gift in-store



4 Avoid Holiday Scams

If you find yourself holiday shopping or checking for coupons online, make sure you're protecting yourself. Here are some of the best ways to stay safe when shopping online:

- Use secured websites that have a lock symbol and an "https" at the beginning of the URL
- Only submit your credit card information when the website has a secure checkout method
- Avoid clicking on pop-up ads or suspicious links

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ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION

MIDDLE SCHOOL

'Tis the season for saving! Royal Credit Union at South Middle School wants to help your student create the habit of saving each week for life. This in school branch is open before school on Wednesday morning to help students learn how to manage their money. The holiday season can be stressful and Royal Credit Union wants to help ease some of the pressure. Royal Credit Union is proud to partner with Enrich, an interactive financial wellness platform that offers engaging, effective, unbiased online financial education - including tips for navigating stress during the holiday season!

For more financial tools, webinars, and courses, sign up for Enrich at no-cost: <https://rcu.enrich.org>. If your student would like to sign up for our program, follow this link to open an account www.rcu.org/schoolaccounts. We welcome any questions! Please contact:
Rachel Orlovsky
rachel.orlovsky@rcu.org

Concessions

Student Council students will be setting up a Concession Stand at home basketball games this quarter. Bring your cash and have a snack! All proceeds will go toward Student Council initiatives like the 8th Grade Dance, Teacher Appreciation Week, and supporting other school events.



Announcements

Holiday help and meals

You can find information for meals and resources on the community events page.



Community Events and Resources

Registering for High School – Very Important Dates!

High School Registration Materials Handed Out

- January 10th – High School Counselors at South Middle School (Falcon Time)
- January 13th – Course Preview night at North
- January 14th – Course Preview night at Memorial
- January 16th – High School Registration at South Middle School Science Class

- High School Counselors will be at South for the day
- Signed registration forms will need to be turned in



YEARBOOK

**Click here to order
a yearbook today.**



Food Drive

Monday, December 2nd- Friday, December 13th

We need your help to fill Falcon Foods! Falcon Times will be competing against each other to see who can bring in the most items. Items can be dropped off in the box located in Falcon Time rooms.

Items that are loved at Falcon Foods are:



Granola Bars/Protein Bars
Protein Bars
Poptarts
Cans of Fruit
Mac and Cheese
Beef Sticks
Individually packaged snacks
Cereal
Rice
Soups
Microwave Popcorn



FALCON FOODS

IS OPEN!

Contact Jen Whatley, jwhatley@ecasd.us if you would like more information.

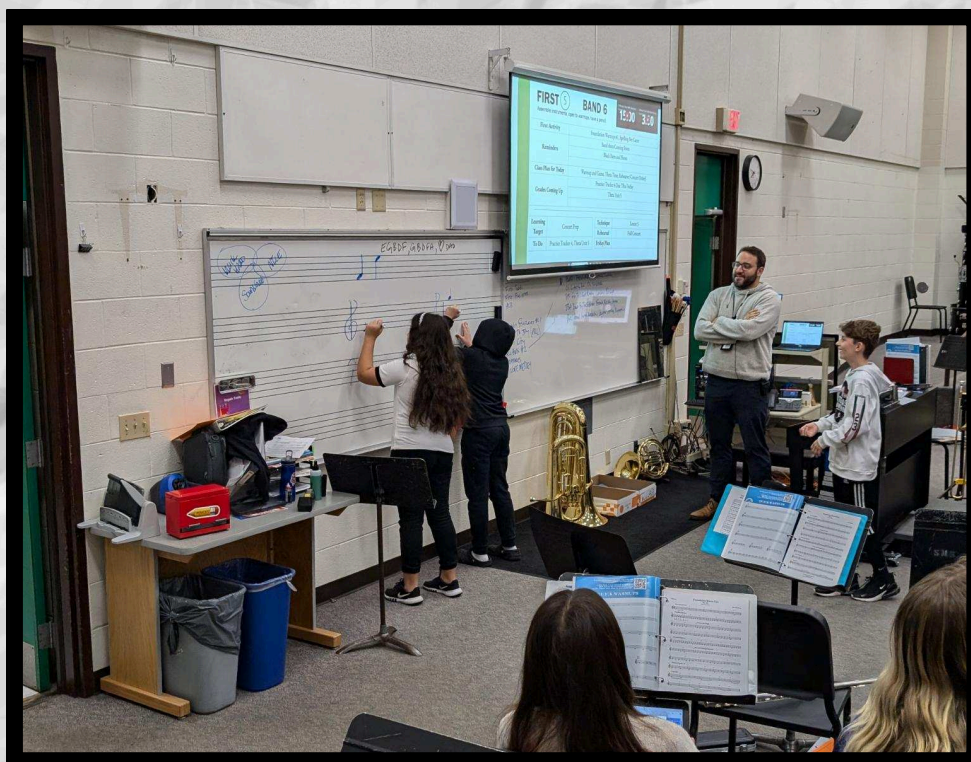
You can start ordering food [here](#).



BAND NEWS



Nov. 19, Band 7 students traveled to UW-Eau Claire for a rehearsal alongside one of the college bands. They heard music from the Symphony Band and got to play along with the university students.



Band 6 kids playing "Spelling Bee," to work on their music literacy.

South Falcon Advisory Council (SFAC)

Meeting Dates

January 13

March 10

May 12



Save Your Box Tops



Hey South Families! Want to earn money to support field trips, (add other fundraising items here) just by doing your usual shopping? Get the Box Tops App and scan your receipt to earn \$.10 for each item with the Box Tops logo on it. No more clipping like in the past. Use the code NJUK7NXE when you scan your first receipt and South will earn extra!

Congratulations to our Quarter 1 Falcon on the Rise award recipients!



South Middle School

Proudly presents

2024-2025 Quarter 1 Grade 7

Falcons on the Rise Award



7th Grade Students not pictured:

Justin
Karmma

South Middle School

Proudly presents

2024-2025 Quarter 1 Grade 8

Falcons on the Rise Award



IMPORTANT LINKS

[December Lunch Menu](#)

[ECASD Family Service Webpage](#)

[South Middle School Website](#)

[My School Bucks](#)

Check balance and deposit money into
your child's lunch account

[ECASD School Calendar](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Family Tech Support Information](#)

[Skyward Family Access](#)

