



April 2025

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

Spring is here, and we are in the home stretch of the school year! April is a busy month at South Middle, and we appreciate your partnership in ensuring our students finish the year strong.

Our state assessments are currently in progress, and these tests play a vital role in measuring student growth and achievement. We encourage all students to take these assessments seriously and give their best effort. Families can support their children by ensuring they get plenty of rest, eat a healthy breakfast and arrive at school on time each day.

As we approach the end of the school year, it is critical that students stay on top of their grades, homework and assignments. These final months are an opportunity to solidify learning, build responsibility and prepare for the next grade level. We encourage families to check in on grades, review assignments and reach out to teachers with any concerns.

Communication between school and home is essential. If your child is facing academic or social challenges, please do not hesitate to connect with their teachers, counselors or administration. We are here to support students in every way possible, and we can best do so when we work together.

Most importantly, we ask families to continue making education a priority at home. Encouraging a strong work ethic, maintaining routines and reinforcing the value of an education will have a lasting impact on student success.

In addition to academics, April is filled with exciting events for our students:

- The City PBIS Celebration - Friday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m.
- Eighth Grade Career Fair - Wednesday, April 9
- Fifth Grade Orientation - Monday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.
- Start of Boys' Tennis and Track and Field Meets - Various dates in April
- No School - Friday, April 18, and Monday, April 21

Thank you for your continued support in making South Middle School a place where students thrive. Let's finish the year strong together!

Dustin Dooley, Principal

Visible Learning

As part of the Visible Learning journey at Salina Public Schools, our teachers are focused on being clear in their expectations and instruction to support student learning. Teachers use learning intentions and success criteria as a way to communicate and help your child understand:

- What am I learning today?
- Why am I learning this?
- How will I know that I learned it?

Learning becomes more visible for students when there is a connection to what they are expected to learn (learning intentions) and what successful learning looks like (success criteria).

Celebrate learning with your child by asking what they learned this week and how they knew they learned it.

Teachers' use of learning learning intentions and success criteria combined with families talking about learning - helps grow strong learners. Your conversations support South Middle School's focus on developing curious learning dispositions by allowing students to imagine and explore the possibilities of certain topics and content.

Student Council

STUCO is closing out the year on a high note!

This month, our team maintained strong momentum through the Welcoming Committee and "Woot Wagon" while also assisting with daily announcements, managing the weekly Cougar Store and overseeing the monthly slushy sales in the lunchroom.

Looking ahead to April, we will continue our regular activities while embracing new opportunities. Our team will provide concessions at the school-wide PBIS celebration, organize fundraisers for Love, Chloe and Project Salina, and prepare for upcoming STUCO elections.

Thank you for your continued support—stay tuned for more updates!

Math Relays

Twenty-seven seventh and eighth grade students participated in the Math Relays held in Valley Center on Thursday, February 27.

In the seventh grade division:

Jiarong Wang earned third place in Number Systems, Expressions, and Equations.

The team of Lee Cheechi, Dylan Miller and Owen Miller secured first place in Number Systems. Anisti Sauer, Kynall Kinderkinecht, and Kendylle Price placed second in Expressions and Equations.

Jayden Jaramillo, Colin Burke and Lee Cheechi finished third in Statistics and Probability.

In the eighth grade division:

Simeon Piepho placed third in Probability and Statistics.

The team of Carlyn Elting, Marissa Anderson and Vincent Jared took first place in Geometry.

The same trio—Carlyn Elting, Marissa Anderson and Vincent Jared—also earned second place in Statistics and Probability.

Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and achievements!

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

Summer School

Summer school enrollment is now open! Salina Public Schools is excited to offer a variety of programs designed to keep students engaged and support their continued learning throughout the summer. Whether your child needs to catch up or wants to get ahead, we have options available. Our summer school programs include transportation, as well as breakfast and lunch. All classes are taught by certified teachers. For more information or to register, please visit our website.

Spring Activity Meetings

As we approach the spring, coaches from South Middle and South High School will be meeting with prospective students in various sports. These meetings will be held during our advisory time from 8:00 to 8:20 a.m. If your student is interested in participating in any activities next school year, either at South Middle or South High School, please remind them to pay attention to the morning announcements so they don't miss their meeting.

Teacher of the Month



SMS is proud to recognize Amy Diehl as our Teacher of the Month! Mrs. Diehl exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator, creating a welcoming and supportive classroom where students feel valued and inspired. Mrs. Diehl consistently implements engaging instructional activities that spark curiosity and encourage active participation. Her ability to connect learning to real-world experiences makes lessons meaningful and memorable for her students. Beyond the classroom, she is a dedicated team player, collaborating with her colleagues to share best practices and support student success. Her positive energy and commitment to education make a lasting impact on both students and staff. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Diehl on this well-deserved recognition!

Quarter 3 PBIS Celebration

The third quarter PBIS celebration will be Friday, April 4 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at The City, 129 N. 7th St.

In order to qualify students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the third quarter and no office referrals from March 3 through April 4. Students who qualify will receive an arm band during the school day, they will need to have the arm band on to enter The City.

Adaptive Learning Classroom

Students in the ALC program at SMS have been making a meaningful impact while developing valuable job skills. Through their work in our ALC classrooms, students are gaining experience in management, preparation, and stocking as they assist with maintaining the school concession stand for various events. Additionally, some students take on the responsibility of operating the concession stand during events.

Our ALC students also promote sustainability by streamlining the school's recycling efforts. They enhance convenience for classroom teachers by collecting and organizing recyclables weekly before they are picked up.

A new initiative this year includes the development of a coffee ordering system, allowing teachers to place orders once a week. Students manage the process from order intake to delivery, honing their organization and customer service skills.

Functional Learning Classroom

Students in our FLC program are engaging in exciting and enriching activities this semester through our Life Skills and Art classes. In Life Skills, we are exploring a wide range of current events using the *News 2 You* curriculum while participating in activities that enhance fine motor skills and the ability to follow directions.

In Art, students are creating ocean animal-themed crafts and projects using a variety of materials and media. One of the highlights has been working on mosaic projects, which allow students to express their creativity in a hands-on way.

Spring is a busy and exciting time in our classroom as we complete assessments and stay motivated with projects and lessons inspired by warmer weather, the changing season, and sunshine. We wish everyone a fantastic final nine weeks of the school year!

Spring Sports Physicals

Salina Regional Health Center is offering \$25 sports physicals for the 2025-26 school year. This includes South Middle School students entering the seventh and eighth grades.

No appointment is needed, cash or check only please, checks need to be made out to SRHC. KSHSAA sport physical forms must be completed and turned in during the physical.

Physicals will be Wednesday, May 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at South High School. Please come to the lower gym and enter the weight room doors.

Family and Consumer Science

Our Family and Consumer Science (FACS) department continues to provide students with valuable hands-on learning experiences.

Mr. Robinett's Classes

Mr. Robinett's students have transitioned into the kitchen after completing their sewing projects. His FACS 1 classes are eager to begin studying nutrition and wellness before applying their knowledge in the kitchen, where they will learn fundamental cooking skills. Continuing a beloved tradition, they will start with the Orange Julius food lab. Meanwhile, FACS 2 students are preparing to refine their kitchen skills, focusing on advanced cutting techniques and baking. They will be creating a variety of dishes, including sushi rolls, cookies, and tacos.

Mrs. Carraway's Classes

Mrs. Carraway's students have moved from the kitchen to the Sewing Room. Her FACS 1 classes are beginning their Interior Design unit, utilizing **Homestylar.com** to design virtual spaces. In FACS 2, students are diving into the Child Development unit, where they will complete Paper Doll Projects to demonstrate their understanding of age-appropriate activities based on physical and cognitive development. Additionally, Mrs. Carraway is excited to introduce a new initiative this semester—the **Small Business Project**—which will provide students with an opportunity to develop and manage a classroom-based business, aligning with the standard of "managing programs and events."

Our department remains committed to equipping students with practical skills that will benefit them beyond the classroom.

Fifth Grade Orientation

South Middle School will host an orientation for all incoming sixth grade students on Monday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to current fifth-grade students and their parents/guardians from our four elementary feeder schools: Coronado, Schilling, Sunset and Stewart.

The evening will begin with a brief program in Gym 1, where school administrators will provide an overview of expectations, policies, and procedures, as well as answer any questions from families. Following the presentation, students and their families will have the opportunity to tour the building and visit classrooms.

Boys Tennis

Spring has arrived, bringing with it the final stretch of the school year—and, of course, boys' tennis! Our season opener took place on Thursday, March 27, as we traveled south to face Derby North. The team put on an impressive performance, securing a 13-5 victory!

In doubles play, we won five of six matches, with victories from:

- Kade Poland (eighth) & Jaxson Forrester (eighth) – 6-0
- Hunter Medina (eighth) & Ridge Morris (seventh) – 6-4
- Jackson Crow (seventh) & Grayson Zuege (eighth) – 6-5 (9-7 in a tiebreaker)
- Gage Hodges (eighth) & Maverick Finnell (seventh) – 6-4
- Bodie Johnson (eighth) & Locke Michel (seventh) – 6-2

In singles play, we claimed victory in eight of 12 matches:

- Jaxson Forrester– 6-4
- Ridge Morris– 6-2
- Hunter Medina– 6-5 (7-5 tiebreaker)
- Jackson Crow– 6-1
- Grayson Zuege– 6-3
- Gage Hodges– 6-4
- Maverick Finnell– 6-4
- Locke Michel– 6-1

The team battled through challenging winds and approaching storms on the way home but showed great determination throughout the match.

Looking ahead, we take on our crosstown rival, the Mustangs, on Thursday, April 3, at Salina Tennis Alliance at 3:30 p.m. Admission is free, so come out and support the team! If you can't make this matchup, we face them again on Tuesday, April 15.

This year's team is packed with talent and potential, consisting of eight eighth graders and eight seventh graders. Our dedicated team managers include Carlyn Elting, Marissa Anderson, Addi Bernhardt and Aiden Orr (all eighth graders) and Bradley Wymore (seventh grade).

Project Salina

April 7 - April 25, South Middle School students will be challenging the South Middle School staff to see which group can collect the most boxes of macaroni and cheese for Project Salina.

Our goal is to have each student bring one box. There will be a table set up inside the front doors under the TV for students to drop off donations. Monetary contributions can be made if preferred and should be given to the Student Council member at the front table or to Mrs. Freeman. We are counting \$1 as one box. Please help us reach our goal!



Students of the Week

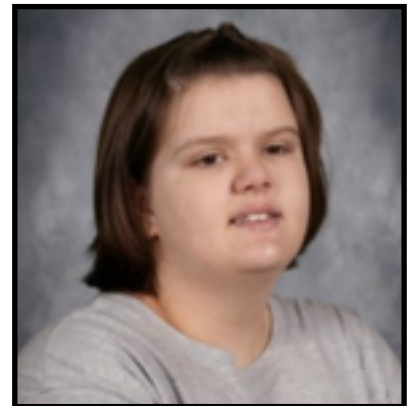
Week 22

Congratulations to Jaimy Vasquez Sanchez for earning student of the week. Jaimy is an eighth grader at South Middle School. She is a member of the volleyball team and plans to join the track team as well. Her favorite subject is math, she enjoys how it stimulates her brain and challenges her. She also loves her guitar class and loves playing in concerts alongside her friends. After high school, Jaimy plans to attend college and become a dentist. Outside of school, she attends church weekly and is currently taking confirmation class in the Catholic Church. In her free time, Jaimy enjoys spending time with her family and practicing her volleyball and soccer skills. Fun facts about her include her love of late-night drives and getting Wingstop with her older sister!



Week 23

Congratulations to Gabrielle Henry for earning student of the week. Gabrielle is an eighth grader at South Middle School. At school, she enjoys attending assemblies, creating art projects, participating in activities and earning rewards, such as PBIS celebrations. Outside of school, Gabrielle loves spending quality time with her dad and watching YouTube videos together. After high school, she plans to focus on activities she is passionate about and continue spending meaningful time with her dad. A fun fact about Gabrielle is that she loves watching Curious George and Care Bears because they make her smile and laugh.



Week 24

Congratulations to Ehan Ali for earning student of the week. Ehan is a sixth grader at South Middle School. At school, he is a member of the Kahoot Club. Outside of school, he plays basketball and soccer for the CKU Shockers. His favorite part of SMS is his teachers - he appreciates their teaching styles and the support they provide him. After high school, he hopes to attend college to further his education and pursue a professional soccer career. A few fun facts about Ehan include that he had two parrots named Leo and Keo, and he enjoys collecting colorful rocks in his free time.



Students of the Week

Week 25

Congratulations to Owen Miller for earning student of the week. Owen is a seventh grader at South Middle School. His favorite classes are P.E. and Advanced Math. At school, Owen enjoys meeting new and friendly people. He is a member of the cross country and track teams, and competes in long-distance events. Outside of school, Owen is involved in Scouts and loves spending time outdoors. His favorite activities include walking, running, biking, geocaching and visiting his grandpa's farm to drive four-wheelers. After high school, he plans to attend college and study tech or agriculture. Some fun facts about him include that he enjoys playing video games, spending time with his family of four and their miniature schnauzer, Izzy.



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			

Important Dates in April

4 - The City PBIS Celebration

9- Eighth Grade Career Fair

14 - Fifth Grade Orientation

16 - PTO Meeting

18 - No School

21 - No School

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



f South Middle

@USD305

➔ School Website

305 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.

APRIL

SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

FOCUS OF THE MONTH:

This month, let's focus on cultivating emotional intelligence (EQ) both for ourselves and our students. Emotional intelligence involves the ability to recognize, understand, and manage our own emotions, as well as the ability to empathize with others. Strengthening EQ in the classroom or at home can improve communication, reduce conflicts, and foster a more positive, inclusive environment.

By focusing on emotional intelligence, we can create a more compassionate environment that nurtures both academic and social-emotional growth. Let's work together to help students develop these vital life skills!

WELLNESS TIP:

RECHARGE WITH NATURE

As spring blossoms around us, it's the perfect time to embrace the outdoors and reconnect with nature. Spending time outside can significantly reduce stress, boost your mood, and improve your mental clarity. For both your well-being and your ability to support your students, taking moments to step outside, even for just a few minutes, can help you reset.

By incorporating more time outdoors this month, you're not only boosting your mental and physical health but also modeling a healthy work-life balance for those around you.

Things to try:
Take Walks
Grounding Techniques
Nature Breaks

FUN HOLIDAYS

APRIL

1

April Fools Day

APRIL

20

Easter Sunday

APRIL

22

Earth Day

CONTACT INFO

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Salina Public Schools Middle School Summer School 2025



Students Will Receive:

An engaging learning opportunity that will focus on math, reading, and writing skills as well as lessons for developing intrapersonal and interpersonal abilities, such as self-awareness, social awareness, problem solving and decision making.

Additional Notes:

- Students need to meet qualifying considerations to attend
- Students eligible for the program will be recommended by staff in their building
- Breakfast and lunch are available on site at no charge
- Bussing is available
- Secondary summer school is a service provided by Salina Public Schools

Who

Current USD 305 students completing grades 6-8

When

June 2 - July 2

- (No School June 19)

Monday - Friday

- **Breakfast:** 7:45-8:00 a.m.
- **Class:** 8:00-10:50 a.m.
- **Lunch:** 10:50-11:00 a.m.

Where

Central High School
650 E. Crawford

Please contact your middle school counselor for more information.

Lakewood Middle School
309-4000

South Middle School
309-3900



SALINA
Public Schools

Escuelas Públicas de Salina

Escuela de Verano de secundaria

2025



Los estudiantes recibirán:

Una oportunidad de aprendizaje atractiva que se centrará en las habilidades de matemáticas, lectura y escritura, así como en lecciones para desarrollar habilidades intrapersonales e interpersonales, como la autoconciencia, la conciencia social, la resolución de problemas y la toma de decisiones.

Notas adicionales:

- Los estudiantes deben cumplir con las consideraciones de calificación para asistir
- Los estudiantes elegibles para el programa serán recomendados por el personal de su escuela
- El desayuno y el almuerzo están disponibles en el establecimiento sin costo
- El transporte en autobús está disponible
- La escuela secundaria de verano es un servicio proporcionado por las Escuelas Públicas de Salina

Quien

Estudiantes actuales de USD 305 que completan los grados 6-8

Cuando

2 de junio - 2 de julio

(No hay clases el 19 de junio)

- Lunes- viernes
- **Desayuno:** 7:45-8:00 a.m.
- **Clases:** 8:00-10:50 a.m.
- **Almuerzo:** 10:50-11:00 a.m.

Donde

Escuela Central High
650 E. Crawford

Comuníquese con su consejero de escuela secundaria para obtener más información.

Escuela Preparatoria Lakewood
309-4000

Escuela Preparatoria South
309-3900



SALINA
Public Schools

2025 Summer School Program

Driver Education

The Mission of Driver Education:

Driver education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices to ensure personal safety to self and others on the road.

To Accomplish this Mission:

Driver education courses are often more comprehensive and efficient than learning on your own or from a biased family member who may or may not have “good driving habits”. Driver education courses teach everything from the basics of traffic laws and traffic signs to defensive driving strategies. Endorsed driving instructors will teach the importance of Safety in addition to modeling good driving etiquette and providing experienced instruction. Instructors reinforce best practices – such as distraction-free driving, no texting, mandatory seat belt laws, and defensive driving habits. Many professions involve driving a vehicle to/from work or on the job. For this reason, it is the goal of driver education courses to put courteous, safety conscious, competent drivers behind the wheel. [Kansas State Department of Education](#)

Driver Education includes 30 hours of classroom instruction as well as the completion of driving times.

Attendance is required for program completion.

If interested, please register using this [REGISTRATION LINK](#).

- Online registration closes April 22.
- If registration exceeds class limits, then enrollment will occur by random assignment. If you are not chosen, you will be placed on a wait list.

If your student is selected you will be notified by April 30 and required to attend an in-person enrollment on Saturday, May 3 at South High. Plan to bring your student and their Chromebook for a vision screening, to select driving times, take the initial driving test, and to provide the following:

- Proof of birth date -- state issued license, instructional permit, birth certificate, or school transcript. Students must be 14 years of age by **June 2, 2025**.
- Your school id-- if the above is NOT a photo id.
- Payment to USD 305 Summer School for \$175. A minimum of \$25 must be paid at the time of enrollment to secure your spot.

Questions?

Contact **Orlando Carmona** orlando.carmona@usd305.com **785-309-3802**

Programa de la Escuela de Verano 2025

Educación para conductores

La misión de la educación vial:

La educación vial prepara a los estudiantes para carreras exitosas y una vida de decisiones informadas para garantizar su seguridad personal y la de los demás en la carretera.

Para lograr esta misión:

Los cursos de educación para conductores suelen ser más completos y eficientes que aprender por su cuenta o con un familiar parcial que puede o no tener "buenos hábitos de conducción". Los cursos de educación para conductores enseñan todo, desde los principios básicos de las leyes y señales de tránsito hasta estrategias de conducción defensiva. Los instructores de conducción acreditados enseñarán la importancia de la seguridad, además de dar ejemplo de buena conducta al conducir y brindar instrucción basada en la experiencia. Los instructores refuerzan las mejores prácticas, como conducir sin distracciones, no enviar mensajes de texto, leyes de uso obligatorio del cinturón de seguridad y hábitos de conducción defensiva. Muchas profesiones implican conducir un vehículo hacia y desde el trabajo o en el trabajo. Por esta razón, el objetivo de los cursos de educación para conductores es poner al volante a conductores corteses, conscientes de la seguridad y competentes. [Departamento de Educación del Estado de Kansas](#)

El programa de educación para conductores incluye 30 horas de clases en el aula y la realización de pruebas de conducción. **La asistencia es obligatoria para completar el programa.**

Si está interesado, regístrese utilizando [ENLACE DE REGISTRO](#).

- La inscripción en línea cierra el **22 de abril**.
- Si la inscripción excede los límites de la clase, la inscripción se realizará mediante asignación aleatoria. Si no es seleccionado, se lo colocará en una lista de espera.

Si su estudiante es seleccionado, se le notificará antes del 30 de abril y deberá asistir a una inscripción en persona el sábado 3 de mayo en South High. **Planifique traer a su estudiante y su Chromebook para una evaluación de la vista, para seleccionar los horarios de conducción, tomar la prueba de conducción inicial y proporcionar lo siguiente:**

- Comprobante de fecha de nacimiento: licencia emitida por el estado, permiso de instrucción, certificado de nacimiento o expediente académico. Los estudiantes deben tener 14 años de edad antes del **2 de junio de 2025**.
- Su identificación escolar, si la anterior NO es una identificación con fotografía.
- Pago a USD 305 Summer School por \$175. Se debe pagar un mínimo de \$25 al momento de la inscripción para asegurar su lugar.

Preguntas?

Contacto **Orlando Carmona** orlando.carmona@usd305.com **785-309-3802**