

May 2025

*Dare to SOAR!*

# SUNSET NEWS



## A Note from the Principal

Dear Sunset Families,

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a fantastic year it's been at Sunset Elementary! Our students have grown so much academically, socially and emotionally and we are incredibly proud of everything they've accomplished.

Every day of our last month of school is still filled with important learning, review, and special end-of-year activities. Consistent attendance helps students stay on track and finish the year strong. Let's make every day count!

We're excited to share that our grades 3-5 students have completed state testing. Their hard work and focus truly stood out. Great job, students!

This year, we've been focusing on Visible Learning, which means helping students understand what they're learning, why it matters and how they can track their own progress. It's been amazing to see them take more ownership of their learning and feel proud of how far they've come!

As we wrap things up, please continue to support your child during the upcoming iReady assessments. These help us understand how each student is progressing, and we encourage them to take their time and try their best.

Looking ahead to summer, we hope all of our students and families take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy some well-deserved fun. While summer is a break from the classroom, it's still a great time to keep those minds active.

Thank you for a wonderful year of partnership and support. We're so proud of our Sunset community and can't wait to see what next year brings.

Best regards,

Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

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[Brandon.Cheeks@USD305.com](mailto:Brandon.Cheeks@USD305.com)

# Fifth Grade Honor Night

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6:30 p.m. in the Big Gym

Students are to arrive at 6:15 p.m. to the small gym.

## Sunset Play Day

Friday, May 16

Grades K-2, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Grades 3-5, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunset playground

Parents/Guardians, please feel free to attend and enjoy the day with your student.

The reservation date for lunches has passed, so please bring your own lunch if you want to eat with your child.

## Need Health Coverage? Our School Social Worker Can Help!

Did you know our school social workers can now assist families with Presumptive Eligibility (PE) enrollment? PE provides temporary Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant individuals who appear to be eligible, giving access to important health services while the full application is being processed.

If your family is in need of health coverage or you're unsure where to start, our social worker is able to help guide you through the process. It's quick, confidential, and can make a big difference in ensuring your child stays healthy and supported.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, please contact our social worker, Taylor Stockwell, at 785-309-4581.

## Last Day of School Early Release

On the last day of school, Thursday, May 22, 2025, Sunset students K-5 will be released at 2:00 p.m.



Tasting the gingerbread man  
we've been reading about.

# Preschool

## Preschool Graduation

Wed., May 21

Morning class 9-9:45 a.m.

Afternoon class 1-1:45 p.m.

# Preschool

## Preschool last day of school

Afternoon class - May 21

Morning class - May 22

# PTA

Next meeting

Thursday, May 8

6:30 p.m.

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone that attended PTA Family Fun Night. We hope that everyone that attended had a wonderful time.

Money raised from this event will help to purchase student t-shirts next school year!

## *Skyward Update*

Have you heard? We are upgrading to the newest version of Skyward, QMLATIV, for the 2025-2026 school year.

The upgrade will make it easy to view student records, grades and communication tools. Right now, there is nothing you need to do. Please watch for more details as we get closer to the launch. Thank you!



## *KS Kids' Fitness Day (third grade)*

**Friday, May 2**

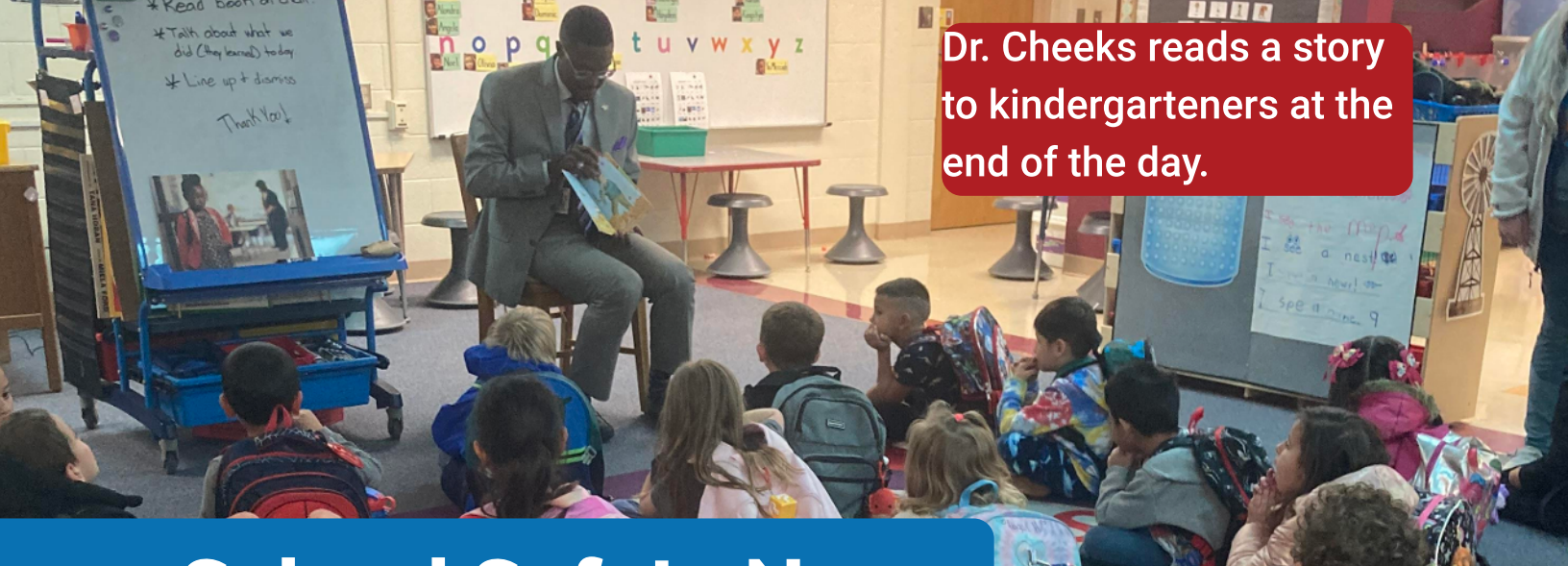
**9:15 a.m.-12:00 noon**

Students will need to wear active wear, tennis shoes, and have sunscreen.

The event will be held at the East Crawford Recreation Area.







Dr. Cheeks reads a story to kindergarteners at the end of the day.

## School Safety News

Our families and community have expressed a high interest in safety measures at Salina Public Schools. As a result, we are creating a series of videos to share some details and information we know you want to hear about.

SPS continuously prioritizes, improves and implements safety measures. This year, we added the STOPit App and the Run, Hide, Fight response procedure. To learn more, please view the video series on our website, [www.usd305.com](http://www.usd305.com), or on our YouTube channel, Salina Public Schools.



Click for the video

The information in school safety video series focuses on what we are doing to be proactive about safety. We appreciate your interest and support about this important subject.

## Summer Food Program

June 2 - July 2

Monday - Friday (closed June 19)

- FREE to all children!
- Adult meal cost: Breakfast \$3.25, Lunch \$5.25
- Meals eaten on site
- No signup, eligibility, or paperwork required
- Free Activities and Book Giveaways

Visit our website for more information:



Summer Food Program



# Three ways to prevent summer slide.



Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned or slip out of practice during the summer months. Try these strategies to help your reader improve her reading during the summer and beyond:

1. Six books to summer success: Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right – not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Libraries often run summer reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area. Also check our book lists for recommendations.



2. Read something every day: Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day:

- Morning: The newspaper – even if it is just the comics or today's weather.
- Daytime: Schedules, TV guides, magazines, online resources, etc. For example, if your daughter likes the food channel, help her look for a recipe on the network's Web site – then cook it together for more reading practice.
- Evening: End the day by having your child read to you from the book he is currently reading (one of the six books, above). Have him rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you. Rereading will help him be more fluent – able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with nice expression.

3. Keep reading aloud: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.

It's hard to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions. These suggestions will fit into a busy schedule and make reading fun!



**For more ideas click here**

# May Calendar

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	28	30	

2 - Kansas Kids' Fitness Day  
(third grade)

13 - Fifth grade honor night

16- Play Day

22 - Last day of school  
(Release at 2:00 p.m.)



## Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal  
Kate Ozores - Lead Teacher  
Gena Koch - Secretary  
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**#SunsetGrowsGreatness**  
**#305GrowsGreatness**

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 **School Website**

 **District Website**