



May 2025

The Cottonwood Chronicle

Working Together - Learning Together



1994
West Middle School



2000
Plains Elementary School



2025
Cottonwood Elementary School

A Note From the Principal

These last few weeks of school mark a bittersweet moment for me as I bid farewell to my Cottonwood Family. As I prepare to retire, I find myself reflecting on the countless memories, challenges, and triumphs that we've experienced together.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you. I've been privileged to witness firsthand the incredible work that happens in our classrooms, hallways, and beyond. We have navigated challenges with grace and determination, always keeping students at the center of our Cottonwood Community. Parents, thank you for the trust and support you have for our school. I truly believe we have a strong connection with you as we work together to educate all students.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as leader of Cottonwood these last thirteen years. Cottonwood Elementary has an outstanding staff with your child's best interest at heart. Mr. Stockwell will do an outstanding job as the next Principal. As I embark on this next phase, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and a deep sense of pride in all that we've accomplished together.

Sincerely,

Kyle Griffitts, Principal

Cottonwood Elementary

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!



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, or on our YouTube channel, Salina Public Schools.



Last Day of School Early Release

On the last day of school Thursday, May 22, 2025, Cottonwood Elementary School, **students will be released at 2:00 p.m.** Let's finish the school year strong!





Playday/Picnic

When:

May 16

11:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Where:

Cottonwood Playground



Elementary Summer School

Who:

Qualifying USD 305 PreK-Grade 5 students

The PreK student must be enrolling in Kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year to qualify.

When:

June 2 - July 2 (No school June 19)

PreK: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

K-5: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where:

Heusner Elementary

Schilling Elementary



More info

New Adventures for CW Staff



Pamela Hodson
Grade 3

I am retiring from full-time classroom teaching. I will work somewhere, I'm just not sure where yet! I have been at Cottonwood for seven years, and have taught second and third grades.

I am grateful for the years at Cottonwood and the lasting friendships I have made here. Stop by and see me in McPherson if you're passing through!



Tessa Yungeberg
Grade 3

After five wonderful years at CW teaching third grade I've made the difficult decision to leave in order to be closer to my family. It has truly been a joy to work at such a supportive and caring school. I've loved every moment spent with my students and I feel incredibly lucky to have worked alongside such dedicated and compassionate coworkers.

The friendships I've made here are ones I will cherish forever and I will miss everyone deeply. Thank you all for the memories, the support and the lasting impact you've had on my life.



Makenzie Baur
Grade 5

As the school year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. My time at Cottonwood Elementary has been an incredible journey filled with growth, learning, and cherished memories.

Building relationships with students, colleagues, and families has been the highlight of my experience. I have learned so much from all of you, and your support has been invaluable in helping me grow as an educator. Each smile, each conversation, and each moment spent in the classroom has enriched my life and inspired me to be a better teacher.

Thank you for the wonderful memories and for allowing me to be a part of this amazing community. I will carry these experiences with me as I embark on my next chapter.

Wishing you all continued success and joy in the years to come!

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	31

2- Kansas Kids Fitness
Day-Grade 3

16- Playday/Picnic

19- Pre-K Graduation

20- Grade 5 Honor Night

22- Last Day of School

Contact Us

Kyle Griffitts- Principal

Cody Stockwell- Lead Teacher

Debra Shirack- Secretary

Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4600



#CWCommunity #CWMindset

#305GrowsGreatness



@WeAreCottonwood



School Website



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.