

September 2025

Dare to SOAR!

SUNSET NEWS



A Note from the Principal

Sunset Parents and Families,

We are excited to welcome you and your children back to a new school year! At Sunset Elementary, we believe that supporting both the academic growth and social emotional well-being of our students is essential, and we strive to ensure that every child feels a strong sense of belonging in our school community. Together, we look forward to creating a positive, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every student can thrive.

We encourage you to be actively involved in our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA plays a vital role in strengthening our school community, supporting programs, and ensuring that every child has the best opportunities to learn and grow. Your participation makes a difference!

At school, it is important for students to be present and give their best effort each day. We will continue to encourage students to try their hardest, take pride in their work, and celebrate progress along the way.

This year, we are also introducing Visible Learning and Learning Dispositions, which focus on helping students take ownership of their learning and grow as independent thinkers. We will be guiding students to develop skills such as:

- Independence
- Communication
- Persistence
- Cooperation
- Reflection
- Optimism
- Curiosity
- Embracing Challenges

We are hopeful that many of our students will also participate in the upcoming School Marathon, a wonderful way to build school spirit, perseverance, and healthy habits.

Finally, please remember that if you have any questions or concerns, your child's teacher is here to work with you in finding the best solutions. Communication between home and school is key to student success. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!



Best regards,
Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks
Principal
Sunset Elementary School
P: 785-309-4520
Brandon.Cheeks@usd305.com

Please help us return lost items

If you put your child's name in backpacks, jackets, coats, etc., we can return them to your student and avoid lost and found.

Character Strong

This month's focus is **respect**. One way to think about respect is "seeing value in all people and things and treating them with care."

Many people feel respected in different ways. Students will develop skills such as perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

As a family:

- Review respect
- Set aside time each week to unplug from devices and be present in the moment without technology and talk to each other.

Donuts with grownups

You are invited to join us for donuts!

Tuesday, Sept. 16

8:25-8:40 a.m. for K-5 and PK-a.m.

3:00 for PK-p.m.

Please enter through the front doors to sign in. Bring your coffee if you'd like. Then you will go to your child's classroom to eat.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up Reminder

Parents, please help us keep drop-off and pick-up safe and efficient for everyone:

- **Reminder that supervision begins at 8:00 AM**—please do not drop off students before this time if at all possible.
- **Pull up to the curb** in the front drive when dropping off students.
- **Do not park** next to the curb or let students out in the middle lane.
- If you need to exit your vehicle, **park in a parking space or on the street** and walk your student to the appropriate area.

Arrival Locations:

- Grades K–2: Front of the building.
- Grades 3–5: Side Door 3.

While waiting to enter, **all students should line up along the building.**

Safety Reminders:

- **Be aware of crosswalks** and students crossing the street.
- **Do not block the Kindergarten/First Grade crosswalk** on Pueblo.
- **Follow all traffic safety rules**—we want everyone to arrive safely.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe!

Fall Pictures

Wednesday,
October 1

PTA

First meeting, Sept. 4,
6:30 p.m. in the art room.
Smencils are coming!
Watch for more
information.

Reminder

Please don't have water
bottles in backpacks if
library books are inside.

Take note....

Lunchroom price increase:
Extra Milk
\$.75
Adult lunch
\$5.50

Title 1 Meeting/Marathon Night

Family Marathon Walk Night

Thursday, Sept. 18, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Parents start in the gym at a meeting with
Dr. Cheeks.



Daily School Marathon

Parents are welcome to walk with their students in the morning from
7:55-8:15 a.m. daily. Please check in at the office first.

The marathon is scheduled for August 25 - October 3. Prizes will be
earned for every five miles walked.

There will be an assembly to acknowledge all the marathon finishers
on October 8 and parents are welcome to attend.

Just walking/running five laps a day complete one marathon.
Encourage your child to make it their goal.





Parent Teacher Association

What is the PTA?

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is a group of parents, teachers, and school staff who work together to support students and enrich the school community. From organizing events and fundraising to volunteering and advocating for school improvements, the PTA plays a vital role in creating a positive and inclusive environment for all.

Why Join?

Joining the PTA is a great way to stay involved in your child's education, connect with other families, and make a real difference in the school. Whether you have a little time or a lot of time, your voice and support matter!

Membership is only \$6

What are some examples of what the Sunset PTA does?

- Purchase a t-shirt for every Sunset student
- Funds many field trips throughout the year
- Funds teacher requests for items such as indoor recess materials, games for the classroom, etc.
- Buys popsicles for back to school
- Volunteers to assist with picture day, kindergarten roundup, 5th grade honor night, etc.
- Provides meals for teachers during conferences
- Holds events such as Bingo Night, Holiday Shop, and Fun Night

We'd love to see you at our first PTA meeting on **Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Art Room.**

Enter through the green recess doors at the back of the school.

Screen Your Student for Symptoms of Illness

It is important to screen your student for illness every day before coming to school. Keep your student at home if sick with any illness. By making sure students are healthy when they come to school, we all can help prevent illnesses that disrupt learning.

Thank you for your support!



Need Health Coverage? Our School Social Workers 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 workers are here 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 your school's social worker directly.

We're here for you!

Title 1 Schools Annual Notice

As part of our commitment to transparency and providing the best education for your children, we want to remind you of your rights under Title I. You can request information about the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher and any instructional aides who work with your child. This includes their certification, college degrees, and other qualifications. We aim to keep open communication and ensure you feel confident in the education your child receives. If you have any questions or would like to request this information, please contact our office.

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) promotes meaningful family engagement at all levels of education and provides information and resources to help parents, educators and other organizations promote the educational success of every Kansas child.

Check out their website here:



[Kansas Parent Information Resource Center Website](#)





Our district is launching a district wide attendance campaign to reinforce the importance of school attendance and to support families in helping every student achieve their personal best.

Did you know that missing just 2 days a month for any reason, whether excused, unexcused, or due to suspension, can add up to a student being chronically absent? Chronic absence (missing 10% or more of the school year) can cause students to fall behind academically and feel disconnected from school.

As partners in your child's education, we encourage you to help build strong attendance habits by setting consistent

routines. scheduling appointments outside of school hours when possible, and avoiding vacations or trips when school is in session.

If your child will be absent, please communicate with the school, and don't hesitate to reach out to our school counselor or social worker if you have any concerns. They are here to support you and your student.

Together, we can help all students grow and succeed because greatness truly grows when you're here!

Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School

We strive to be the best place to learn. The only way we can improve is to know about concerns so we are able to address them. Here are some tips for communicating with your child's school when concerns arise.

The fastest way to a positive result is to start with the people closest to the situation in the school. Talk with the teacher or coach about your questions and concerns before going to the principal.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out to teachers and school staff by:

- Calling the school's phone number. Because they are teaching, you often will need to leave a message for your child's teacher or coach.
- Emailing the teacher or coach directly. All teacher emails are available on our school website.

We want to be responsive to parents' questions and requests for information. Our staff will respond to your call or email as soon as possible, in most cases within two school days.

If you have had a conversation with your child's teacher and the principal and are still needing assistance, the director of elementary or secondary programs will be able to provide additional support.

We are excited for this new school year and look forward to partnering with you to support a great school experience for your student.

September Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Day 4	3 Day 5	4 Day 1	5 Day 2	6
7	8 Day 3	9 Day 4	10 Day 5	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13
14	15 Day 3	16 Day 4	17 Day 5	18 Day 1	19 Day 2	20
21	22 Day 3	23 Day 4	24 Day 5	25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27
28	29 Day 3	30 Day 4				

- 1 - Labor Day/No School
- 4 - PTA meeting
- 8 - Site Council, 12:00 noon
- 16 - Donuts with grownups
- 18 - Family marathon night



Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal
 Stephanie Turowski - Lead Teacher
 Gena Koch - Secretary
 Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4520

#SunsetGrowsGreatness
#305GrowsGreatness

- [Sunset Eagles 305](#)
- [@Sunset Eagles 305](#)
- [@SunsetEagles305](#)
- [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.