

SOUTH

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

SMS Falcon Character Theme

-SEPTEMBER-



There is only one person responsible for where you are today and where you'll be tomorrow

CHALENE JOHNSON

Always think before you talk or act!

Make good use of your time & do your best!

Treat others how you want to be treated!

Be true to yourself and stick to your own values!



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Connect • Discover • Succeed

Do the right thing- even when no one is watching!

Please take
RESPONSIBILITY
for the
energy
you bring into
this space.

BE RESPONSIBLE

"It's the one thing you can control. You are responsible for how people remember you- or don't. So don't take it lightly." – Kobe Bryant

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

The staff at South Middle School warmly welcomes all our students and families to a brand-new school year! We are excited to begin this journey together and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences. Let's make it a fantastic year!



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE



Welcome to South Middle School!

As we begin a new school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to all our families—both returning and new. At South Middle School, we live by our motto: **Connect, Discover, Succeed**. These words guide our commitment to building strong relationships, fostering curiosity, and helping every student reach their full potential. Our student expectations—**Respectful, Responsible, Ready**—are the foundation of a safe and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive.

Another continued effort is our promise to meet children where they are and ensure that we are working with individual families to support students' individual needs. In order to continue to do this, we are dedicated to enhancing the skills of our teaching staff. This school year our staff will be learning about the importance of routines, procedures, and organization. They will also be learning about effective instructional strategies as an entire unit to be consistent in every classroom. Finally, the staff will focus efforts on understanding students of various abilities and disabilities, and how to best understand and support them.

We are thrilled to share that our two-year construction project is nearing completion! These improvements will enhance our campus and create more dynamic spaces for learning and collaboration, including new classrooms, updated technology, and collaborative spaces. We appreciate your patience as we complete this project. An open house is planned for October 15th, so please be on the lookout for dates and information.

As we settle into the new school year, we remain deeply committed to **school-to-family communication, school safety**, and **providing excellent customer service**. Whether it's through timely updates, responsive support, or a welcoming atmosphere, we want every family to feel connected and confident in their child's experience at South. We encourage you to join us at school events and be active participants in our school community. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

It's going to be a GREAT school year,

Thank you,

Caleb Hundt
South Middle School Principal
chundt1@ecasd.us
O- 715.852.5210
C- 715.492.2577

Falcon INFO

As we begin the school year, we are implementing several updated procedures to foster a safe, supportive, and productive learning environment for all students. These expectations are designed to help students build strong habits, stay organized, and engage positively in our school community.

Please review the following updates carefully:

Personal Electronic Devices

To maintain consistency with other district buildings and minimize distractions, **cell phones and other personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored in lockers from 7:30 AM until dismissal at 2:51 PM.** This procedure is aligned across other middle schools and will be enforced consistently. If there is a unique situation where your child may need their phone on them for a period of time, please inform a member of the administrative team.

Be On Time

Students are expected to arrive to each class on time, ready to learn. Punctuality supports classroom routines and maximizes instructional time.

Planner Use

Students will write in their planner **every class, every day.** This practice helps build executive functioning skills and keeps students informed about assignments, due dates, and important reminders.

Organization System

Each student should establish a personal organization system. This may differ for various students. Staying organized is key to academic success.

Behavior Expectations

Physical fighting and abusive language will not be tolerated. We are committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all students and staff. This includes "play fighting".

Technology Use

Technology should be used **only as directed by staff.** Gaming or other non-instructional use of devices during school hours is not permitted.

Falcon INFO

Continued

Food & Drink

Only water is allowed in classrooms unless a student has a documented medical need. Students may eat a **snack at their locker** during designated times.

Independent Reading

Students are expected to have a **physical independent reading book** or magazine with them at school for enjoyment and personal growth. Reading regularly supports literacy development and fosters a lifelong love of learning. We will be asking students to read their text in lieu of computer games when downtime is available to them.

Locker and Backpack Use

With the installation of new lockers, we encourage all students to begin using them more frequently throughout the day. While students may still carry their backpacks to classrooms if they choose, **backpacks are not permitted in the following areas:**

- Art Classes
- Physical Education Classes
- Cafeteria (during lunch)
- Gymnasium
- Locker Rooms
- Auditorium

Using lockers helps reduce clutter and promotes a safer, more organized school environment.

We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing these expectations at home. Together, we can ensure a positive and productive school year for all students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.





Falcon Calendar

September 2- First Student Day

September 9: 6th Grade go to Beaver Creek (Team J)

September 11: 6th Grade go to Beaver Creek (Team K)

September 22: AVID Family Night

September 22 - 23: Play Auditions

September 23: Picture Retake Day



Start Up Dates

9/10/25 - Information Day

9/15/25 - Applications Due

9/18/25 - Interview Notification

9/26/25 - Interviews

9/29/25 - Notification of Hire

10/8/25 - Training

10/22/25 - First Deposit Day!



Picture Retake Day!
September 23, 2025

If you were not able to come to open house, here is your chance to capture that smile. All students are required to take a picture for their student ID.



School Play Information

Auditions 3-4PM
September 22 - 23

Rehearsals 3-4:30PM
Start September 25 and are
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.

Dress Rehearsal 3-5PM
November 4 & 5

Performance 7PM
November 6

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Messages to Your Student:

We strive to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum to support forced learning. However, we understand that special circumstances may arise. If you need to get an urgent or emergency message to your child during the school day, please contact our attendance office - we're here to help!

To help us limit disruptions:

- ★ Remind your child of any special plans (appointments, early pickups, etc.) before the school day begins.
- ★ Encourage students to finalize after-school rides and activities with friends ahead of time.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school day running smoothly!



Quarter One Sports Season

September 2 - October 30

Cross Country (Grade 6-8)

Flag Football (Grade 7)

Tackle Football (Grade 8)

Boys Soccer (Grade 6-8)

Girls Tennis (Grade 7-8)

Volleyball (Grade 7-8)



Activity Fair

We're excited to announce our **2nd annual Activities Fair**, happening during the school day on **Monday, September 22!**

This is a fantastic opportunity for all students to explore what **SOUTH** has to offer beyond the classroom - from **clubs and student organizations to sports and special interest groups**.

Students have the chance to sign up for the activities that interest them most!

Encourage your students to get involved - it's a great way to make new friends, build skills, and have fun.

Most activities run Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3 - 4 PM.

STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We're excited to announce that our **Quarter One Clubs and Activities** will run from **September 22 through October 31**! These engaging opportunities will take place on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays from 3:00 - 4:00PM**, unless otherwise noted.

Keep an eye on Parent Square for more details, including a full list of available clubs and sign-up information.



The Health Department will be here for their annual Immunization Clinic coming October 22 1:30PM - 6PM. More details to come.





TO ORDER:

- Scan the QR Code
- jostens.com/btsoffers
- 1 (877) 767-5217



Order Your 2025 Yearbook Today!

Capture the memories of this school year with our official 2025 Yearbook!

Early Bird Price: \$23

Available now through September 12.

Price Increases after September 12, don't miss out on the savings!

Secure your copy today and ensure your student has a keepsake they'll treasure for years to come.

Let's make this year unforgettable!



6th grade going to Beaver Creek Reserve!

All 6th graders will attend an all day field trip at Beaver Creek Reserve. Team K will attend on Tuesday, September 16th and Team J on Thursday, September 18th. This hands on outdoor experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with nature, discover new interests, and succeed through teamwork and exploration.



SFAC (South Falcon Advisory Council)

The South Falcon Advisory Council (SFAC) is a parent group supporting the work of SMS and our mission of Connect | Discover | Succeed. The primary goal of the SFAC is to open dialogue about strengthening the home-school connection to improve educational

experiences for all students. We are very appreciative of the work of the SFAC and continue to seek new members. Contact our Building Secretary, Rhonda Pederson, (715-852-5289) for more information.



September 8
November 11
April 6
June 8

Meeting are held in the Media Center, room C203 at
South Middle School 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

All are Welcome!!

Falcon FOODS



The Eau Claire Area School District offers Weekend Kid's Meals to all students. The program's purpose is to provide food for your child for the weekend when school meals are not available. It is offered through Feed My People Food Bank. The food is at no cost to you or your child. There are no income guidelines or requirements. Any student can

participate and withdraw from the program at any time. **Please be aware that meals are not screened for student with food allergies.**

contact SMS's social worker Austin Kruger at 715-852-3417 or akruger@ecasd.us



If you have questions, please

Royal Credit Union Returns to South!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Royal Credit Union and South Middle School have partnered to make saving money each week **fun** and **easy**. Starting **October 22**, students can save money at school each **Wednesday**!

Before opening for the year, Royal Credit Union recruits student team members to operate the in-school branch. Interested students participate in an authentic hiring process, complete with an application and interview. Hired students receive hands-on training with Royal's computer system to process transactions at school!

Students working at the Royal Credit Union school site learn valuable skills:

- Real Job Experience
- Member Service
- Confidentiality
- Professionalism
- Responsibility
- Teamwork



Click [HERE](#) to open a savings account for your student. Watch for details on how to save at school next month!

We welcome your questions about Royal Credit Union!

Please contact Rachel Orlovsky at: rachel.orlovsky@rcu.org

Media Center

NEWS



Technology Items

As a student of the ECASD, your student is responsible for a Chromebook and Charger (Hotspots and iPads for some). These items are labeled and inventoried every year.

If a student damages and/or loses tech items, a fee is added to their account. Fees can be paid in the School's Library or thru [MySchoolBucks](#). If you have concerns/questions about payment as it relates to **technology**, please contact your building principal.

When items are turned in at the end of the school year, the ECASD Technology Staff evaluates the condition of the items. If an item is damaged, a fee is added to the account. All fees can be found [here](#).

Item	Replacement/Fee
Chromebook Charger	\$25.00
Student Chromebook Repair	\$80.00
Chromebook Case	\$50.00
Full Damage (intentional)	Actual replacement cost of repair or of device, to be determined after evaluation by Technology staff
Hot Spot	\$149.00
Hot Spot Charger/Block	\$5.00 each

Library Accounts

As a student in the ECASD, your student has access to 2 library accounts: Destiny Discover (library catalog) and Sora (ebooks/audiobooks).

Every Friday, overdues/lost notices are sent out via email. This email indicates any item(s) that are either overdue and/or are in lost status (have been overdue for a long time). To resolve the overdue item(s), your student needs to return the item(s) to the Library, this will waive the overdue notice and you won't get an email the next Friday. To resolve the lost item(s), your student needs to return the item(s) to the Library, this will waive the lost notice and you won't get an email the next Friday. If the item(s) are truly lost, you can pay for the item(s) by sending cash/check with your student to turn in at the Library (a receipt can be given) OR you can pay for item(s) via MySchoolBucks. If you pay for any item(s) and the item(s) are found in the future, you will get your money back via mail.

All students at South are given a structured library time in their ELA/English/Academic Foundations class once every 2 weeks. The Library is open from 7:15-3:15 and students can come in before, in between classes and/or after school in addition to their Library Time. Library item(s) can be returned at ANY time via the bins on the inside of the library and/or bins outside the library doors.



AWARDS

Celebrating Student Growth & Excellence a SOUTH

At South, we believe in recognizing and celebrating the unique achievements and growth of our students throughout the school year. Two special awards - **Falcon on the Rise** and the **R3 Award** - honor students who exemplify our values and demonstrate personal progress.

Falcon on the Rise is awarded mid-quarter to students who are showing notable improvement or achievement in any area. Staff nominate one student per mid-quarter, and each student may be recognized by one teacher per year. This award is open to all students, regardless of academic performance or behavior history, and serves to highlight those who are making strides in their learning journey.

At the end of the quarter, the **R3 Award** is presented to students who consistently follow South's core principles of **Respect, Responsibility, and Readiness**. To be eligible, students must have zero major behavior infractions and no missing assignments. Staff nominations ensure that these students are acknowledged for their dedication and positive contributions to our school community.

These awards reflect our commitment to fostering a supportive and encouraging environment where every student has the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts and growth. We're proud of all our Falcons and look forward to celebrating their successes throughout the year!

Falcon Gear

Order your Falcon gear by clicking the link or use the QR code.

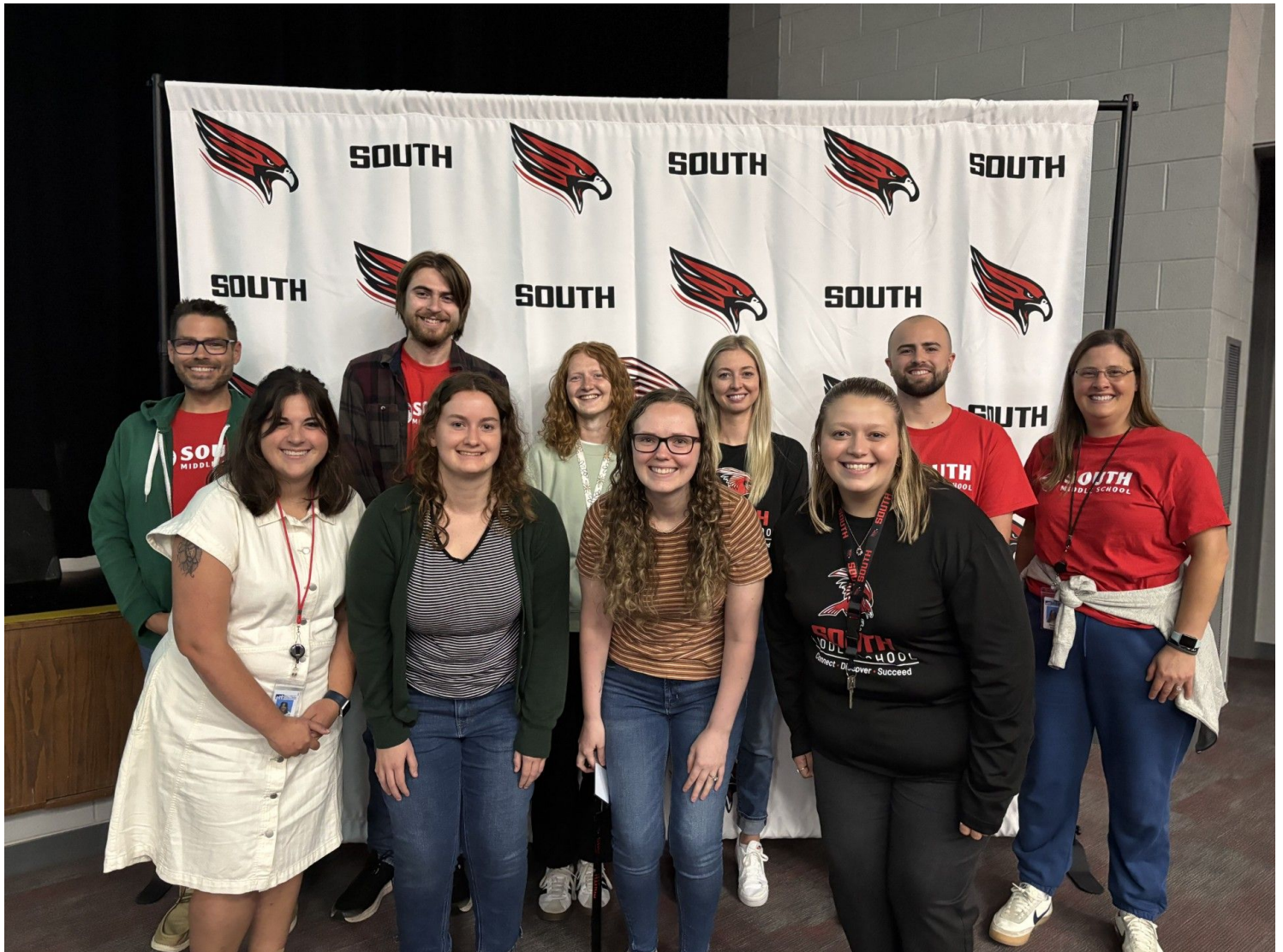
Orders must be in by SEPTEMBER 8. When orders arrive, they will be given to students to bring home.

Products - South Middle School Fall 25 - Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods



NEW FALCON STAFF

We are excited to welcome our staff that are new to South this year.





Thank You

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who generously donated food to South Falcon Foods. Your kindness and support make a real difference in our school community. Because of your contributions, we are able to provide much-needed assistance to many students and families.

Your generosity reflects the spirit of compassion and community that makes South Middle School such a special place. We are truly grateful for your continued support!

Ribbon Cutting **OCT. 15** **Coming Soon**

We are excited to invite families and community members to the **South Middle School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 15 from 1:30 - 2:45 PM.** The building will be open to the public at 3:00 PM for **tours and a presentation at 3:30PM and 5:00PM**. Attendees can start in the gym with a presentation and then a tour.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our new space and connect with staff and the community.

SOUTH LINKS



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

[September
Lunch Menu](#)

[ECASD Family
Service Website](#)

[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](#)



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