

October 2025

Dare to SOAR!

SUNSET NEWS



A Note from the Principal

Dear Families,

We have officially finished our first quarter, and we could not be more proud of the effort, growth and enthusiasm our students have shown. Each day, classrooms are filled with curiosity, collaboration and excitement for learning. It has been wonderful to see students taking ownership of their learning and encouraging one another to do their best.

Throughout the first quarter, we have seen some truly exciting things happening in classrooms:

- Students eagerly sharing their ideas during group discussions.
- Hands-on projects that make lessons come alive.
- Increased use of visuals and interactive tools to support deeper understanding.
- Strong participation in activities that promote teamwork and problem-solving.

The level of student engagement has been inspiring, and it reflects the hard work of both our teachers and families in creating a supportive learning environment. Thank you for reinforcing these habits of perseverance and curiosity at home!

Looking ahead, we are preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our goal is 100% family participation, as these conversations are a key part of building strong partnerships between school and home. Conferences provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate student progress, discuss areas for growth, and set meaningful goals for the next quarter. We hope to see each of you there!

We are also thrilled to begin implementing the Character Strong curriculum. This program will help students strengthen their social-emotional learning (SEL) skills, focusing on kindness, empathy, responsibility, and respect. These lessons will not only support academics but also help our students become caring, resilient, and well-rounded individuals.

As we move into the second quarter, we will continue to build on visual learning strategies and interactive practices that help students make meaningful connections. We are excited to see their confidence grow as they take on new challenges and celebrate new achievements.

Please consider joining the PTA! We Need You! Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) plays a vital role in supporting our school community. From organizing events to providing resources for classrooms, the PTA helps make our school an even better place for students. We would love for every family to get involved whether by volunteering time, sharing ideas, or simply becoming a member. Together, we can make a big difference!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are making this school year a successful and memorable one for every child!

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

Letting you know ...

PTA will be doing monthly "dine and donate" nights during the school year! Come out and support Sunset Elementary! More information will be coming home soon with details!

Costume Parade

We will be having a costume parade on October 31 at 8:40 a.m. Families are welcome to watch the parade outside along the front sidewalk of the building. Students will exit at the southwest (5th grade) door then will walk the sidewalk in front of the school back to the 1st grade door.

Students are encouraged to wear their costumes to school over their clothing, as they will be changing out of their costumes immediately following the parade.

Dr. Cheeks asks that costumes having weapons, blood or gore be left at home and not be worn to school. If you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of your costume, please check with the school first.

Parties will be scheduled by the classroom teacher at a time that works best for each individual class.

Character Strong

This month our focus is on **responsibility** which is "taking action and understanding the impact of our choices." Taking action means doing the right thing or completing assigned tasks. Responsible actions help people, but irresponsible actions can hurt others.

Family challenge:

- How can we help each other practice being more responsible?
- Think of ways in which you might make someone's life a little easier by helping a friend with one of their responsibilities. Could you bring the garbage to the curb? Could you invite someone over for a meal?

Down Syndrome Awareness



Click here for national information



Click here for Kansas information

Meet the Specials Team

Miss Rishel - art, Mrs. Lidgett - library, Mr. Hoover - P.E., Mrs. Clark - science, Miss Easter - art



Picture Day

Oct. 1

Marathon

Oct. 7 - Last day to walk laps

Oct. 8 - Marathon results assembly

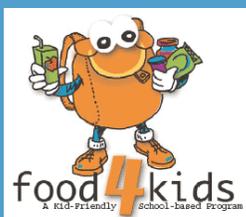
PTA

Thursday, Oct. 2,
6:30 p.m.
in the art room

Food 4 Kids

We are currently working on getting services set up for our Food 4 Kids program.

If your child could benefit from a supplemental program to help with food on the weekends, please contact your child's teacher or our school counselor, Mrs. Stockwell at taylor.stockwell@usd305.com



Red Ribbon Week

October 27-31 Dress Up Days

Monday: Wear red - "Red-y to Be Drug Free"

Tuesday: Wear a team shirt or athletic attire - "Team Up Against Drugs - Stay Strong, Play Safe!"

Wednesday: Wear Sunglasses - "Shade Out Drugs - My Future's Too Bright!"

Thursday: PJ Day - "Don't Let Drugs Ruin Your Dreams!"

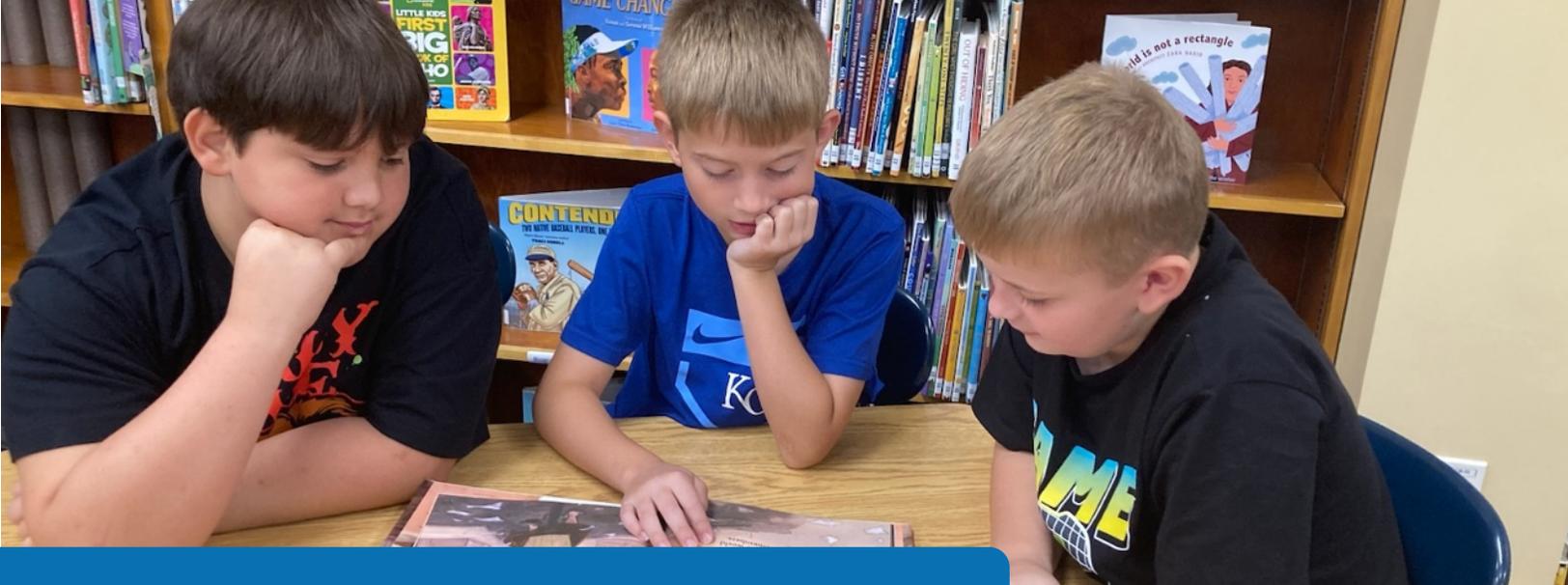
Friday: Halloween costumes - "No Tricks, Just Treats - Say No to Drugs!"



Lost and Found

Please put your child's name in coats, jackets, shirts, backpacks, water bottles, etc. We can return items to their owners if we know who they belong to.





A message from Nurse Carol

October is usually recognized as the beginning of the flu season. This is a great time to schedule flu shots for the entire family. Other actions to consider:

- Wash your hands often to prevent illness
- Get plenty of sleep
- Eat healthy foods - fruits and vegetables high in Vitamin C

Please also remember that as the weather turns colder, to make sure your students has appropriately warm clothing to be outside. We try to take all recesses outside as the fresh air and exercise is good for everyone.

Carol Unsderfer RN/BSN
Sunset School Nurse



[Click for more information](#)

PTA activity night

PAINT THE TILES NIGHT!

Bring the whole family and let your student(s) paint a ceiling tile that will be placed in the ceiling for everyone to enjoy for years to come!

October 24, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Last painter must begin by 7:30 p.m.)

Sunset Elementary

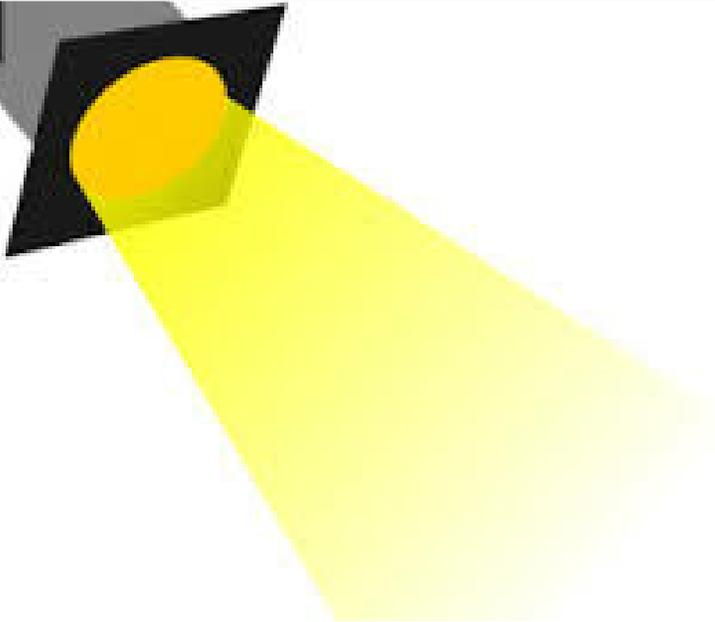
Cost is \$20.00 per tile

Registration is required and closes October 17.

A flyer with directions to register and pay will soon be sent home and posted on line .

Tiles, paint and brushes will be provided but special stencils are welcome.

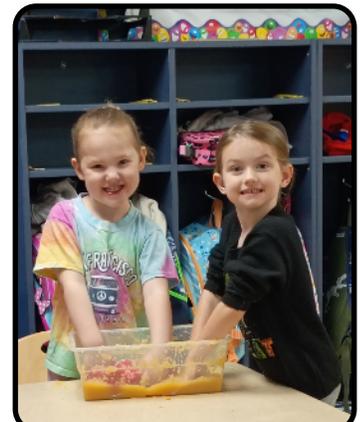
Spotlight on Pre-K



In Pre -K last month we learned about apples. We had an apple orchard in our dramatic play area and we played with applesauce in sensory station.

Some of the skills we have been working on in class include saying the days of the week, identifying and writing their names and recognizing patterns. Our favorite days are the days we get to work on our gross motor skills with Miss Angie.

During the month of October, we will be focusing on pumpkins and Halloween. We will have a pumpkin patch in our dramatic play area.



Healthcare on Wheels



Salina Public Schools partners with Salina Family Health Care Center to provide convenient health services for students and families. While the Healthcare on Wheels bus will not be visiting each school this year, families can still access services at community locations throughout Salina.

Visit www.salinahealth.org/healthcare-on-wheels to view the schedule of locations, days and times, and even schedule your own appointment online.

Appointments may also be made by calling the main clinic at 785-825-7251.



[View Salina Health information](#)

Receive important notifications from SPS

Parents and Guardians, to ensure you don't miss important notifications, please review and update your contact information in Skyward.

Log in to Skyward to update your notification preferences by visiting Skyward here:



[Update Skyward notification preferences](#)

1. Click on the Skylert Tile, then update your phone, email and text contacts.
 - Be sure to check the box for "General" Messages. The majority of our messages are sent this way. We strongly recommend checking this box.
 - Once your contact information is updated click the 'Save and Back' button.
2. Please note, parents and guardians must personally log in to Skyward to make these updates. SPS staff cannot update this information for you.

Opting in for text notifications:

After updating your phone, email and text contacts you will still need to opt-in via text message to receive text notifications.

To do this, simply text 'Yes' or 'Y' to the number 67587.

- You must opt-in to receive text alerts.
- Texts are often used to draw attention to important emails
- Texts are always sent if school is canceled.

For a step-by-step guide visit the district website here:



[Update text information](#)

October Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Day 5	2 Day 1	3 Day 2	4
5	6 Day 3	7 Day 4	8 Day 5	9	10	11
12	13 Day 1	14 Day 2	15 Day 3	16	17	18
19	20 Day 4	21 Day 5	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24 Day 3	25
26	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29 Day 1	30 Day 2	31 Day 3	

1 - Picture day

2 - PTA meeting

6 - Site Council, noon

9 and 10 - No School/Teacher Inservice/Workday

15 - Parent/Teacher Conferences in the evening



16 - No School for students/ Parent/Teacher Conferences

17 - No School

24 - Paint the tiles PTA activity

31 - Costume parade

Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal

Stephanie Turowski - Assistant Principal

Gena Koch - Secretary

Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4520

#SunsetGrowsGreatness

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 [School Website](#)

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