

SOUTH

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

SMS Falcon Character Theme

-October-



A SINGLE ACT OF KINDNESS THROWS OUT
ROOTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND THE ROOTS
SPRING UP AND MAKE NEW TREES. THE
GREATEST WORK THAT KINDNESS DOES TO
OTHERS IS THAT IT MAKES THEM KIND
THEMSELVES.



- AMELIA EARHART -

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!



Falcon Calendar

October 3 - Mid Quarter I

October 10 - Late Work Due

October 15 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony/Open House

October 15 - PBIS Celebration/Mile Run

October 16 - Family Conference - NO SCHOOL

October 17 - All Schools Closed

October 20 - No School - PL Day for Staff

October 22 - Immunization Clinic

October 23 - RCU First Day to Deposit

October 27 - 31 - Red Ribbon Week

October 30 - Quarter I Sports End



South Middle School Open House on October 15 from 3:00PM - 5:00PM.

The building will be open to the public at 3:00PM for tours and a presentation at 3:30PM and 5:00PM in the gym. Attendees can start in the gym with a presentation and then a tour.



Parent/ Teacher Conference

Family Conferences are
October 16 8AM - 8PM

No School

October 6 you will see get
information from the IT
department to schedule your
conferences.



School Play Information

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

Dress Rehearsal 3-5PM
November 4 & 5

Performance 7PM
November 6



October 16 - No School - Family Conferences
October 17 - No School
October 20 - No School - PL Day for Staff





Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE



CONNECT

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Dear South Middle School Families,

As we settle into the rhythm of the new school year, we're excited to share some updates and highlights from our school community. Our students and staff have embraced the start of the year with energy and enthusiasm, and we're proud of the positive momentum we're building together.

Construction Update & Open House

We're nearing completion of our construction projects, and we're thrilled to invite you to our Construction Open House on Tuesday, October 15th from 3:00–6:00 PM. Official tours begin at 3:30 and 5:00. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony prior to the open house for those who would like to observe. Come see the exciting changes and improvements to our building! This event will be held the evening before Parent/Teacher Conferences, which take place on Wednesday, October 16th from 7:45 AM–8:00 PM.

Student Life & Culture

Our students are enjoying several new additions this year, including:

- Updated technology and Chromebooks,
- Music during passing time, which adds a fun and welcoming atmosphere,
- A strong start to our cell phone expectations, with students doing a great job keeping phones in lockers,
- Continued learning around locker use and keeping backpacks out of restricted areas.

We're also looking forward to our Annual Mile Run on October 15th, a great tradition that promotes wellness and school spirit.

Activities & Engagement

Our sports teams and after-school clubs are in full swing! Last week, students explored all our extracurricular offerings during our Activity Fair, and we're thrilled to see so many students getting involved and discovering new interests.

Teaching & Learning

Our dedicated staff continues to grow professionally in several key areas:

- -Standards-Based Grading
- -New Evaluation Tools, and
- -Consistency in effective teaching practices across all classrooms.

These efforts are part of our commitment to ensuring high-quality learning experiences for every student.

Family Engagement

We encourage families to stay connected by:

- -Checking Skyward regularly for updates on grades and attendance,
- -Asking your child to show you their FlexiSched login to ensure they're accessing the support they need during Falcon Time.
- -Attending Conferences (Oct. 16)
- -Join the SFAC - Next Meeting is NOVEMBER 11
- -Be on the lookout for Parent Square Grade Level Surveys sent out later this month!

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students Connect, Discover, and Succeed.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and continuing a strong school year together!

Caleb Hundt
South Middle School Principal

chundt1@ecasd.us

O- 715.852.5210

C- 715.492.2577

Falcon INFO

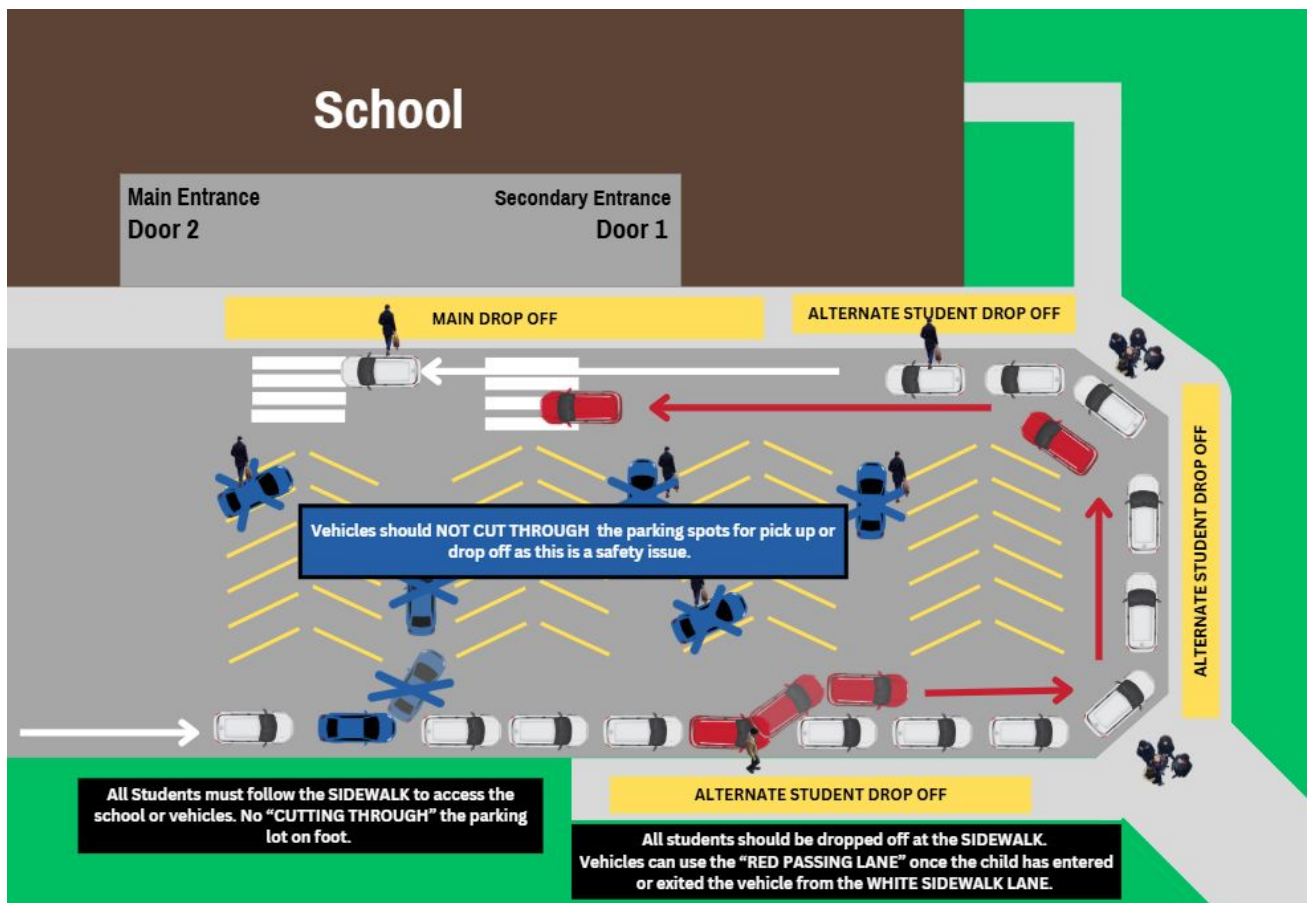
We would like to thank you for your cooperation and support with our student drop-off and pick-up procedure.

After gathering feedback from a few families we are going to begin “trying” an updated system.

This process is similar to that of an airport.

This has been approved by our District School Safety Coordinator.

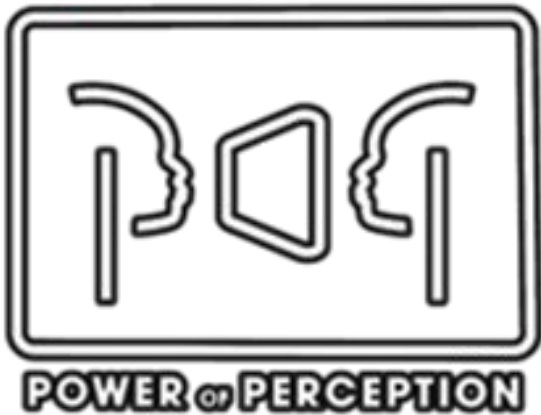
- Vehicles and Walkers should NOT be “CUTTING THROUGH” the parking lot as indicated with the “BLUE VEHICLE”.
- Please plan to drop off or pick up your child for the SIDEWALK lane, as indicated with the “WHITE VEHICLE”.
- You may drop off your child at any SIDEWALK location.
- You may then choose to follow the “PASSING LANE” of the “RED VEHICLE”.
- Please use caution as this creates a “zipper” effect throughout the lines and a merge towards the parking lot exit.
- The Upper Lot is for School Buses **ONLY** or for special or unique circumstances.



Programs at SOUTH

Power of Perception is a mentorship program that provides resources for 6th–12th grade African American and biracial students in the Eau Claire Area School District. South is excited to announce that we are once again partnering with Mr. Dennis Beale (founder of POP) at South Middle School to provide our students with Power of Perception at school. This group is open to all African American and Biracial students and promises to be a wonderful opportunity to form community, learn, and increase leadership skills. We do have many students who identify as Hispanic, Asian, and Native American who choose to join as well.

The SMS Chapter of Power of Perception will meet monthly, and we are excited that your student wants to join. These meetings will alternate between 2nd and 3rd hour each month, and your child will be responsible to make up any work missed. These meetings will begin on October 14. Your child will receive a pass giving permission to leave their normally scheduled class.



<u>POP Dates at South Middle School</u>	<u>POP Community Events</u>
October 14	<i>These are not sponsored by ECASD or South, but might be of interest to your family.</i>
November 18	
December 16	Wednesday, December 17
January 20	Holiday Party
February 24	Saturday, February 7
March 17	3rd Annual Black & Red Ball Fundraiser
April 28	Wednesday, April 29
May 19	2nd Annual Ally Appreciation Dinner (For Students Only)

If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to any of the following SOUTH POP Advisors.

Christy Brower
Assistant Principal
715.852.5211
cbrower@ecasd.us

Austin Kruger
School Social Worker
715.852.3417
akruger@ecasd.us

Olivia Mroczenski
Behavior Interventionist
715.852.15383
omroczenski@ecasd.us

Programs at SOUTH



Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs (WEOP)

WEOP's mission is to prepare youth and adults to pursue higher educational opportunities by providing college and career readiness programs, resources, and support.

South Middle School is excited to partner with WEOP this school year to offer Federal Talent Search programming. This program is designed to assist low-income and/or first-generation students prepare for their future educational goals.

Kacie Glaser, an educational specialist from DPI, supports students from South Middle School once a week during Falcon Time. Ms. Glaser works with students to increase engagement in middle school and help students get excited about high school. Students also have the opportunity to participate in STEM activities, soft skill development, and college exploration activities.

In order to participate in the program, students must apply.

Applications are linked here: [WEOP Talent Search Application](#)

Additional information about the Federal Talent Search program can be found here: [Federal Talent Search Programs | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#).

Please contact Mike Polzer with any questions.

mpolzer@ecasd.us

715.852.5218



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)



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!

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

Let's make this year unforgettable!



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.



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!!

Family/Teacher Conference Meals for Staff

South Middle School families have a wonderful tradition of providing a staff meal during Family/Teacher Conferences. We are offering pizza, salad, snacks, and dessert. If you're able to contribute toward this meal, your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us show our staff how much they are valued!

Any donations should be dropped off at the school by Thursday, October 15. Enter door 2 (main entrance) and drop off in the attendance office.

[SIGN UP LINK](#)



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



Study Space and Routine

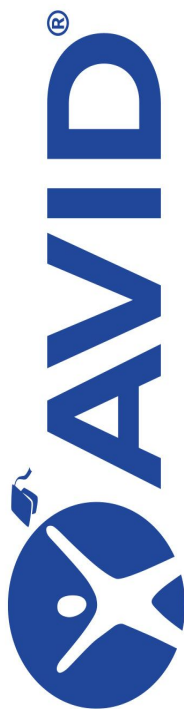
5 strategies for establishing an effective study space and routine

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Schedule a daily study time
 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pick a time when you are at mental peak.Add a recurring study time to your calendar.Break learning into 20- to 30-minute chunks.Take 2- to 5-minute screen time and brain breaks. |
| 2 | Designate a study space
 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Select a space where you can focus.Choose a space with good lighting.Set up furniture and tech to avoid fatigue.Organize your materials.Alert your family when you are studying. |
| 3 | Eliminate distractions
 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep study space organized.Control distractions and avoid multitasking.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Silence phone.Close and mute social media tabs.Avoid listening to music with lyrics. |
| 4 | Develop good study habits
 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review planner for upcoming deadlines.Create and maintain task lists.Prioritize assignments.Avoid procrastination.Read directions carefully |
| 5 | Recharge for the next day
 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recharge your device(s) for school.Recharge yourself.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exercise.Eat healthy.Sleep. |

See also: [Effectively Manage Your Time](#)



There was a fantastic turnout at our AVID Family meeting. Everyone enjoyed delicious ice cream sundaes and meaningful conversations. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the AVID program and its impact, while also strengthening our relational capacity through engaging activities and shared experiences. The energy and connection in the room made it a truly memorable event!





Falcon FOODS

The South Middle School works with Feed My People Food Bank to provide nutritional support to our families who are challenged with having enough food in their cupboards for everyone in their family to thrive.

To access our food pantry, an adult must fill out this confidential order form each time (paper copies available by request). Students may fill this out with an adult at school as needed. Form must be submitted every Monday by 8AM for the week the family would like to receive items. Orders may be picked up on Tuesday-Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, inside door I of the Attendance Office. Bags will be marked with your student ID number and initials. Should you have questions or want a physical order form, please contact South Middle School Social Worker, Ms. Austin Kruger at 715-852-3417 or akruger@ecasd.us.

<https://forms.office.com/r/fbatjZxMZx>



Falcon Foods Order Form



Royal Credit Union Returns to South!

COMING UP...

RCU at South is open every Thursday morning, before school, in the cafeteria. Stop by the RCU teller stand to make a deposit of at least \$0.50 to earn a prize!

QUESTIONS??

Please contact Rachel Orlovsky at rachelorlovsky@rcu.org with any questions.

OPENING DAY IS OCTOBER 23!

If your student would like to sign up for our program, follow this link to open an account www.rcu.org/schoolaccounts. We welcome your questions about Royal Credit Union and how you can get your student started saving at school.

DID YOU KNOW??

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. Student team members have been hired and are being trained with Royal's computer system to process transactions at school!



Why WEOP?

WISCONSIN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

FREE services...



Student Success Workshops



Personal Academic Mentoring and Tutoring



Cultural and Social Events



Leadership Opportunities



Field Trips to College Campuses



College Admissions Assistance



STEM Activities and Events



Scholarship and Financial Aid Assistance

Who should apply?

6th - 12th grade students attending DeLong, Northstar & South Middle Schools and North and Memorial High Schools are encouraged to apply!

Contact us to see if you are eligible!

Email: Kacie.Glaser@dpi.wi.gov

Phone: 608-893-4529

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/weop>



Scan the QR code to apply!



Red Ribbon Week

October 27 - 31

Red Ribbon Week is a nationwide initiative dedicated to encouraging healthy lifestyles and promoting a drug-free future for our youth.

Throughout the week, students will have the opportunity to participate in themed dress-up days as a fun and engaging way to celebrate making positive choices.

DRESS-UP DAYS

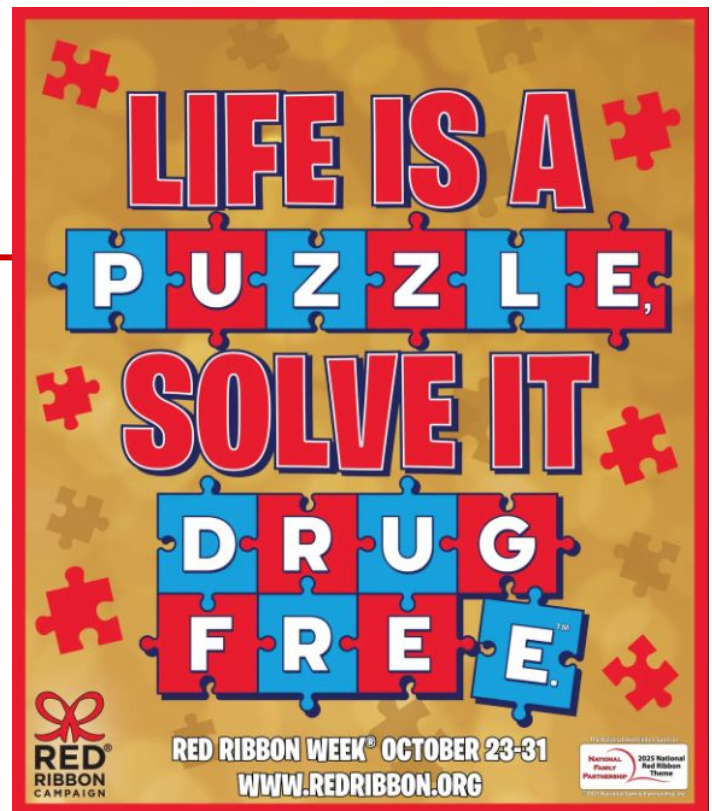
Monday (Oct. 27) - Comfy Day

Tuesday (Oct. 28) - Wear
NEON

Wednesday (Oct. 29) - Wear
RED

Thursday (Oct. 30) - Jersey or
Team Uniform

Friday (Oct. 31) - Costume Day



Reminders about costumes:

- Costumes cannot distract from the learning process and participation in school activities throughout the day is expected; students must change for PE
- Costumes cannot advertise alcohol or tobacco products
- Footwear is required
- No masks or face coverings are allowed
- No props that resemble weapons
- Students need to wear their costume to school; restrooms will not be used as dressing rooms (this includes any hair spray or other accessories)
- Costumes should not portray stereotypes of different cultures

Wear BLUE on October 6!

Join us on Monday, October 6 and wear BLUE for World Bullying Prevention Day.

Let's get back to kindness and resist judging others. Be respectful of all people because the world needs all of us!

**STOMP
Out
Bullying®**

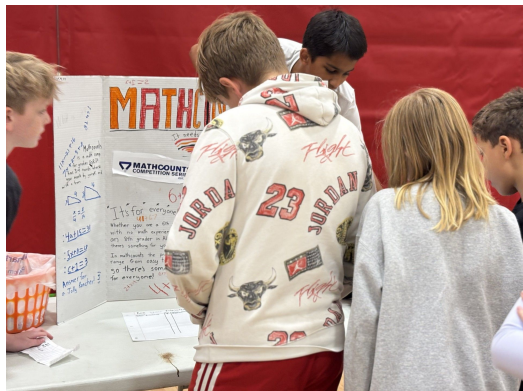
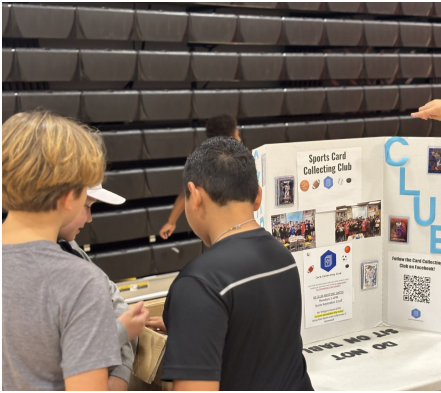
End The Hate...
Change The Culture



On Friday, September 12, we took a moment to recognize and thank some truly remarkable individuals—the dedicated crews who worked tirelessly on the renovations and additions to South Middle School. Their commitment, craftsmanship, and long hours brought transformative changes to our building, all while navigating the challenges of working in an active school environment. Thanks to their hard work, our students and staff now enjoy a refreshed, more functional space that supports learning and growth. We are deeply grateful for their efforts and proud of the beautiful results they've helped create.



Activity Fair PHOTOS



**STUDENT
CLUBS AND
ACTIVITIES**



Quarter One Clubs and Activities run from **September 22 through November 17** ! 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.



6th Grade Beaver Creek Reserve PHOTOS!



SOUTH LINKS



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[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](#)



Connect • Discover • Succeed