



Cougar Pause



We build positive relationships between home and school so that all students are safe, honorable, and successful.

October 2025

South High School | Salina, Kansas

Cougar families,

As we move through the school year, I want to take a moment to highlight how important parent involvement is to the success of our students. Time and again, research shows that when families stay connected to their child's learning, students are more likely to thrive - both academically and personally.

Here are a few simple but powerful ways you can stay engaged:

- **Check Grades Regularly** - monitoring your student's grades helps you catch concerns early and celebrate successes. Even a quick weekly check-in can make a difference.
- **Skyward** - if you need help logging into Skyward, please contact our counseling office at 785-309-3715.
- **Monitor Attendance** - consistent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of success. Please ensure your student attends every day possible and avoid scheduling appointments during school hours when you can.
- **Arrive On Time** - punctuality sets the tone for the day. Students who arrive on time, start with a clear mind, ready to learn.
- **Join Google Classroom** - by connecting to your student's Google Classrooms, you can see upcoming assignments, projects, and announcements. This allows you to have informed conversations at home about what your student is working on.

Beyond academics, it's also important to support your child as they face challenges. Encouraging resilience - reminding them that setbacks are part of learning - builds confidence and prepares them for the future. Remember, you are not alone in this process. Please feel free to reach out to teachers, counselors, or administrators whenever needed. This is truly a partnership, and together we can ensure every student has the support and tools they need to succeed.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. Your involvement makes all the difference!



Warm regards,



Dr. Jones, Principal



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  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.

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](#).

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 into 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](#).

September Teacher of the Month



Collin Carlson is a social studies teacher at South High School. He has been teaching for 13 years, all at South High. Collin has loved history since he was a child and is driven to share that passion with others through teaching. He was inspired to pursue teaching by many of his past teachers, specifically his high school teachers, Dave Ewers and Mike McRoberts. Collin enjoys being able to help students learn and discover more about the world around them, as well as guide students to reach their full potential. He is grateful for the support, collaboration and friendship of his fellow staff members. A fun fact about Collin is that he became a certified yoga instructor in Joshua Tree, California, this past summer.





September Students of the Month



Sophie Daily is a senior at South High. She is involved in volleyball, basketball, soccer, student council, HOSA, and the writing center. Outside of school, she plays club volleyball and enjoys volunteering. Her favorite part of school is the variety of activities and events, as well as the many opportunities to get involved. After high school, she plans to attend Kansas State University to study medical biochemistry. A fun fact about Sophie is that she has one cat, two dogs, and three sisters.

Julie Lai is a senior at South High. She is involved in HOSA, student council, NHS, Asian Student Union, tennis and math relays. Outside of school, she participates in Big Brothers Big Sisters and volunteers with local businesses. Her favorite part of school is all the activities and opportunities offered, and her favorite teacher is Mr. Carlson. Some fun facts about her are that she loves to listen to music, go on walks and spend time with her brother, Justin. After high school, she plans to attend Wichita State University or the University of Kansas and study medical laboratory sciences or pharmacy.



Jalen Cheeks is a senior at South High. Jalen is involved in basketball, football, track, STUCO, and BSU. Outside of school, Jalen is involved in his church. Jalen's favorite part about school is the football staff because they help him improve on and off of the field. Some fun facts about Jalen are that he has two dogs, his dad is a principal and his mom is a counselor. After high school he plans to attend college, play football and major in vet medicine.

Aliana Rios is a senior at South High. She is involved in theater, color guard and band. Her favorite part of school is spending time with her friends and the connections she has made through theater. Outside of school, Aliana is active in Taylor's Twirling, color guard and Salina theater. After high school she plans to attend Wichita State University and major in technical theater. Some fun facts about her are that she is the youngest sibling and has a cat.





Secondary Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Ericka Cain, our SPS Secondary Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Cain is an adaptive education teacher at South High, and throughout her 29 years in education, she has made a difference in the lives of countless students. Mrs. Cain creates individualized learning experiences that celebrate strengths and fosters a classroom where students feel safe, valued and encouraged to grow. She supports colleagues and paraeducators through sharing resources, building partnerships, and preparing students for life beyond high school. Her compassion, innovation and dedication shine through, inspiring those around her.



Together, let's celebrate Ericka!

October Conferences

Fall parent/teacher conferences will be held October 15 and 16. Conference times for October 15 are from 5 - 7:30 p.m. Conference times for October 16 are 7:15-11:15 a.m., 12-3 p.m., and 5-7:30 p.m.

This session of conferences are a walk-in format (no appointments) with teachers seated alphabetically in the main gym. Please be aware that the evening sessions are usually the busiest times.

Please park on the east side of the building and enter through the gym entrance to sign in and receive a copy of your student's grades.





Spooktacular Season for South High Theater

This month, the South High Drama Department is diving into the world of mystery and mayhem with its Fall production of *Halloween Screams* by L. Don Swartz. This comedic thriller features a talented cast of 36 student actors and a hardworking crew that's been crafting an unforgettable experience from the ground up.

The play has presented exciting challenges for both cast and crew. While actors hone their comedic timing and embrace the wild antics of their characters, the crew has been busy fabricating props and bringing the eerie world of the play to life. From creepy set pieces to clever stage effects, it's all hands on deck behind the scenes!

Mark your calendars! *Halloween Screams* opens on October 23 at 7 p.m., with additional performances on October 25 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and October 26 at 2 p.m. You won't want to miss this thrilling and hilarious adventure.

As part of the spooky celebrations, the Drama Club will also host a Haunted House fundraiser on October 24, from 4-4:45 p.m. Come get your scare on while supporting the arts!

Don't miss all the spooktacular events coming to South High in October! From frightful to fantastic performances, there's something for everyone!

Scan for tickets and times



Attention Class of 2026

The South High Counseling Department will host the 6th annual Apply South High event Tuesday, October 7, in the Library. This event is in conjunction with the Kansas Apply Free days running October 6-8. During this state-wide event, students can complete their application to Kansas colleges/universities for free! Please scan the QR code below to pre-register.

Questions? Visit the
Counseling Center

More Info:



Kansas Apply
Free Days



Register Here



Now is the time! Kansas Apply Free days! October 6 - 8





October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	29	30	31	



Class of 26 Senior Photos for Yearbook

The deadline for senior photographs for the yearbooks is December 18, so plan now to meet the deadline. Photographs can be turned in as printed pictures, digitally on a CD or jump drive, or emailed to salinasouthgrad@gmail.com. If you are sending them digitally, make sure they are at a high resolution or the reproduction in the yearbook will be unsatisfactory. Senior portraits must meet the following criteria to be used in the yearbook:

- Head and shoulders photo or can be cropped to head and shoulders photo (we can crop for you).
- No hands or selfies.
- Shoulders should be clothed.
- Color (not black and white or duo-tone).
- Plain background (it can be outside); no cars, animals, props, etc.
- Vertical photo or croppable to a vertical.

The rationale behind these regulations is that head size remains consistent among all pictures and that all portraits command the same amount of attention rather than one individual standing out on the page. If you have any questions about the requirements or want the yearbook advisor to look at a photograph to see if it meets requirements, contact Kim Warren at kim.warren@usd305.com or 309-3798.

Yearbook staff members are also available to take a senior portrait. Students can contact Mrs. Warren to set up an appointment in the fall.

Inter-State Studio school pictures can also be used. Students need to let Mrs. Warren know they want this picture to be used. These photos are also used for the senior slideshow at graduation.

Calendar of Events

- 10/1 Sophomore ring meeting
- 10/1 Homecoming parade
- 10/3 Homecoming game
- 10/4 Homecoming dance
- 10/7 Apply South High event
- 10/7 Fall vocal concert
- 10/7 Sophomore ring orders due
- 10/9 & 10 No school/in-service
- 10/15 College & Career Fair
- 10/15 Financial Aid Night
- 10/15-16 Fall Conferences
- 10/16 & 17 No school
- 10/18 ACT Test date
- 10/21 Picture retakes
- 10/22 Senior cap/gown meeting
- 10/23, 25, 26 Fall Play
- 10/24 Theater hosts Haunted House
- 10/29 ACT WorkKeys
- 10/30 PSAT Test date



Counseling Corner

College and Career Fair at SHS - On October 15, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., SHS will host a College & Career Fair for juniors and seniors in Saline County. There will be over 40 colleges and universities in attendance. We also anticipate having over 30 businesses/industries and 9 military branches (and counting) participate in this year's fair.

Financial Aid Night - the Salina South High School Counseling Department will host Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents on October 15 at 6 p.m. in the South high Auditorium. A financial aid representative from K-State Salina will be presenting an update on the new simplified version of the Free Application for Federal Student Ais (FAFSA), as well as other financial resources available for families to assist in funding their student's post high school education.

It's for Me Event - the end of high school comes for everyone. This is a one-day opportunity to explore what comes next. You can afford college--and you can stay in Salina to do it. Juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to visit Kansas Wesleyan University, Kansas State University, and Salina Area Technical College. Our local colleges offer a wide range of certificates and degrees. Even if you plan to join the workforce or the military, our local colleges have resources you can use. This event will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Please see Mrs. Wagner or Mrs. Potocnik, if interested.

The Students' Right to Know Act

House Bill 2085, passed in the 2021 legislative session, created the Students' Right to Know Act to provide information on postsecondary education options. Please click on any of the following for more information:



Kansas Career
Guidance Handbook



Employment and Wage
Data for CTE Courses



Tuition and Earnings Data



Kansas Labor Information

Earnings of Branches of the Armed Services



KBOR Military Veteran Resource



Military Crosswalk



Career Onestop

Phone		785.309.3700
Principal		Dr. Ginger Jones
Assistant Principals		Krista DeVoe, Timothy Quinn
Athletic Director		Ryan Stuart
Office Manager		Julie Work
Website		305southhigh.com



#305GrowsGreatness

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.