

November 2025

*Dare to SOAR!*

# SUNSET NEWS



## A Note from the Principal

Sunset Families,

It's hard to believe we are already moving into November! I want to take a moment to thank all of our families for a wonderful turnout at Parent-Teacher Conferences last month. It was great to see so many parents and guardians partnering with teachers to support our students' learning and growth. These conversations are an important part of helping every child reach their full potential, and we truly value your time and involvement.

As we move toward the Thanksgiving Break, I hope you take the opportunity to relax, enjoy time with family and friends, and reflect on all that you are grateful for. We are thankful for our amazing students, dedicated staff, and supportive school community.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of consistent school attendance. Every day in class matters! Regular attendance helps students stay on track academically and socially, and builds habits that will benefit them for years to come. If your child must be absent, please make sure to communicate with the school office and teachers to stay caught up on any missed work.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Sunset Elementary. Together, we make our school a place where every child can learn, grow, and thrive. Wishing you and your family a safe and joyful Thanksgiving!

Best regards,

Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

P: 785-309-4520

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# Looking ahead...

Dec. 4 - Frosty Festival and Elf Shelf

Dec. 9 - First grade music program, 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 9 - Second grade music program, 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 19 - Jan. 5 - No School/Winter Break

## PTA Activities

**PTA meeting** - Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m. in the art room. Enter through the back door.

**BINGO Night** - Nov. 7, doors open at 5:30 p.m. and BINGO is 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the big gym at Sunset. Enter through the back door.

**Dine & Donate** - Nov. 12, at Gambino's 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

We will be selling **Spirit Blankets** for a fundraiser! Flyers will be going home soon!

More information will be coming home closer to the events.

## Character Strong

**Gratitude** is the character trait for November. **Gratitude** is "choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives." Practicing **gratitude** can increase our well-being and even our happiness!

### Family challenge:

Share something you are grateful for. Maybe it's your favorite water cup, the way the cat sleeps on the chair, or when your grandma bakes your favorite cookies. Spend some time as a family trying to think of at least 10 small things that you have **gratitude** for and then choose to notice them this week with a smile.

## SEL Classroom Visits

You are invited into your child's classroom to experience the Social Emotional Learning time that happens first thing every morning in the classrooms.

**Character Strong** is the new program that we use to help our students become people with good character.

Visit us Tuesday, Nov. 11  
8:25 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. in the classrooms.

Check in at the front door that morning.



## Picture retakes

Wednesday, November 12

## PTA meeting

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

## Thanksgiving lunch

Friday, November 21  
If you made lunch reservations last month to eat with your student, don't forget to come eat.



Thank you, Miss Easter,  
for the painting of Beaks.

# 2025 Marathon Results

Sunset had 150 students finish the marathon this year compared to 70 finishers in 2024.

Kindergarten had the most finishers of all grade levels.

Ms. Patterson's first grade had 100% of her students finish the marathon.



### Grades K-2 Top 3 finishers

Third place - Cruz (Kdg) - 50.2 miles,

Tied for first place - Vanilla and Klayton (both in second grade) - 58.8 miles



### Grades 3-5 Top 3 finishers

Third place - Jacob (fourth grade) - 55 miles

Second place - William (fourth grade) - 68.2 miles

First place - Nathaniel (fifth grade) - 90.2 miles

# Beaks' Good Behavior (GB) Store



## What is the GB store?

Beaks' Good Behavior Store, also known as the GB Store, is an exciting building-wide incentive program designed to recognize and reward students who consistently meet or exceed behavioral expectations.

Students can earn Beaks Dollars throughout the month and spend them on fun prizes and special items in the GB Store.

## Why it matters

The GB Store isn't just about rewards - it's about helping students build internal motivation and practice important life skills like:

- Setting goals and saving their Beaks Dollars for bigger rewards
- Making positive choices and demonstrating consistent effort
- Feeling proud of their good behavior and classroom contributions

## How the dollars will be distributed

Dollars may be given for:

- Following classroom/playground/lunchroom/hallway expectations
- Showing kindness or leadership
- Helping others
- Meeting personal behavior goals

## Hours of operation

- Third Friday of each month
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## A final word

The GB Store is a celebration of our students' effort, growth, and positive behavior. Together, we can make this a fun and motivating experience that helps every child soar to new heights!

# Spotlight on Kindergarten



Kindergarteners work hard during center time.

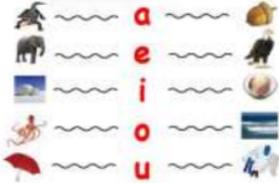


# Help from the Reading Coach



## How Do I Help My Child Read Words They Don't Know?

1. If your child reads a word incorrectly or skips a word say, "Check it."
2. Let your child try to problem solve.

What is that word? I can problem solve!		
Look at the word from left to right.		Use your eyes to look at the word.
Slide each sound.		Slide the sounds together.
Try a different sound. • "Flex" the vowel.		Use a different vowel sound - a,e,i,o,u.
Break the word into parts.		cl ap s
Check it! • Does it make sense? • Does it sound right?		Look, listen and think about it.
Reread		Repeat

3. If he/she reads the word correctly, say:

"Yes, that word is \_\_\_\_\_. What word?"

(Child repeats the word.) Then say,

"Please reread the sentence."

If he/she still does not know the word, say:

"That word is \_\_\_\_\_. What word?"

(Child repeats the word.) Then say,

"Please reread the sentence."



## Senior Activity Pass Information

Community members age 65 and older are invited to pick up a free Senior Pass from the district office. This pass provides complimentary admission to most regular-season athletic events and district activities throughout the year.

Please note that the Senior Pass is not valid for events held at Tony's Pizza Events Center or Kansas Wesleyan University.

To receive your pass, please visit the District Office, 1511 Gypsum Ave., in person during regular business hours. For more information, call (785) 309-4700.

## Building Bridges 2025



Join us for Building Bridges 2025, an event connecting community members, businesses, families, students, and educators to celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) in USD 305.

When: Tuesday, November 11, from 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Where: South High School, 730 E. Magnolia Rd.

## We're Grateful for You!

As we head into Thanksgiving Break (November 24–28), we're thankful for our amazing students, families, and staff who help make every school day count.

Did you know that consistent attendance helps students feel connected, reduces stress, and builds a sense of belonging? Every school day offers valuable opportunities to learn, grow, and connect.

Let's keep showing up and growing together! If your family or child needs support, please reach out to your building's social worker for assistance.

Greatness Grows When You're Here, and we can't wait to see everyone back on Monday, December 1, 2025.



# November Calendar

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

3 - Site Council - 12:00 p.m.  
 6 - PTA meeting  
 7 - BINGO night



11 - SEL Classroom visit  
 12 - Picture retakes  
 Gambino's Dine and Donate  
 24 - 28 - Thanksgiving break

## Contact Us

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

**#SunsetGrowsGreatness**  
**#305GrowsGreatness**

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- [District Website](#)

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