



# Cougar Pause

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

November 2025

South High School | Salina, Kansas

## **Cougar families,**

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in your student's success in high school and beyond. Missing just two days a month, or 18 days in a school year, classifies a student as chronically absent. This level of absence can significantly impact academic progress, social development, and future opportunities.

Building the habit of daily attendance and punctuality is more than just showing up; these are essential life skills that prepare students for college and careers. Employers and colleges alike value reliability and responsibility, and being present every day helps students develop these traits early.

Each day in school is filled with important lessons, activities, and discussions that cannot be fully replicated outside the classroom. Even missing 10 minutes of class daily may seem minor, but over the course of a high school career, this lost time adds up to weeks of missed instruction. This gap can make it difficult for students to keep up with their coursework and stay on track for graduation.

Beyond academics, daily attendance supports social and emotional growth by helping students build friendships, develop teamwork skills, and engage in extracurricular activities that enrich their high school experience.

Regular attendance also ensures students receive important announcements, access to support services, and opportunities for personalized guidance from teachers and counselors.

We encourage you to support your student in attending school every day and arriving on time. Remember, "Greatness GROWS when you're HERE!"

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure your student's success.

Warm regards,



Dr. Ginger Jones, Principal



## Senior Activity Pass Information

Community members aged 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 our district office at 1511 Gypsum Avenue, 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 Road

## 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 our building social worker for assistance. Greatness Grows When You're Here!



## Reading Pen Pals

Students in Mrs. Kisner's Reading class were matched with Grade 2 pen pals from Stewart Elementary School.

Students exchanged letters and then met up with their pals at Jerry Ivey Park.

Each high schooler picked a children's book and read aloud to their pen pal. After reading, they enjoyed snacks, and most importantly, practiced being positive role models for their new friends.



## October Teacher of the Month



**David Weir** is a teen build teacher at South High. He is currently in his fifth year of teaching and his second year at South High. He chose education as a career because of the many teachers who inspired him throughout his own educational journey. Their influence helped him realize, as he grew older, that he wanted to do the same and make a lasting impact on his students. David often says he wouldn't be where he is today without the guidance and encouragement of his past teachers. What he enjoys most about teaching is building meaningful relationships with his students and celebrating the fact that each one is unique in their own way. A fun fact about him is that he runs his own lawn care business, The Lawn Wrangler.

## October Students of the Month

**Damon McDonald** is a senior at South High. He is involved in soccer and band. His favorite part about school is his medical classes. Outside of school, he is involved in his church. After high school, he plans to get his bachelor's degree in exercise science and then get a doctorate in physical therapy. Some fun facts about Damon are that he has been playing soccer since he was five and he can do a backflip.



**Jalee Hurren** is a senior at South High. She is involved in STUCO and is a member of the drumline. Her favorite part of school is band because it brings everyone together and creates a welcoming community. Outside of school she participates in her church youth group. After high school, she plans to go to college and pursue either the veterinary or dental route. Some fun facts about Jalee are that she has three cats, three dogs, one older sister and one older brother and she enjoys baking and cooking.

**Analeigh Draper** is a senior at South High. She is involved in Scholar's Bowl and serves as the Book Club president. Her favorite classes are psychology and sociology because they explore how different aspects of life shape the way people think and behave. Outside of school, she is active in her church youth group. Some fun facts about Analeigh are that she has an internship, enjoys reading and creative writing, has three siblings and one cat named Violet.



**Jose Pinedo** is a senior at South High. At school, he serves as president of the debate and forensics teams, is a member of the National Honor Society and works as a math tutor. His favorite part of school is having access to resources that fuel his curiosity through classes that match his interests and help him expand his worldview. His favorite classes are debate and forensics because they allow him to have productive and respectful conversations with others. Outside of school, Jose volunteers and also has a job. After graduation, he plans to attend college and major in business. Some fun facts about him are that he loves listening to music, playing sports with friends and he has a pet Chihuahua named Oreo.





## *SHS Theatre News*

Footloose Auditions:

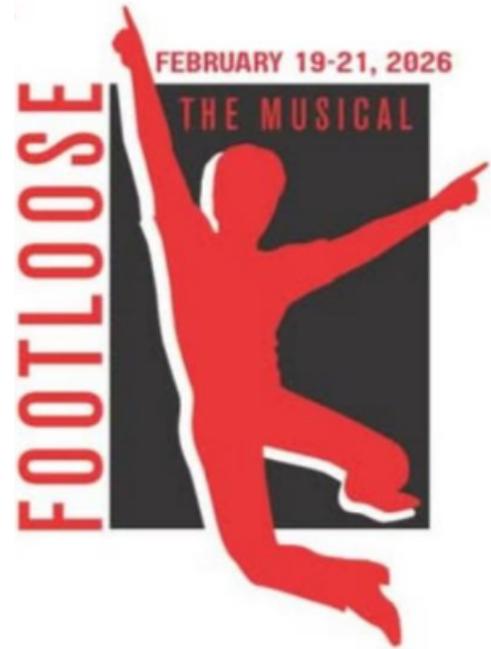
- November 17 & 18

Preparatory audition workshops will be held the first two weeks of November

- See Ms. Wheaton for more information

Footloose the Musical

- February 19-21, 2026



## *Feast on the Fe*

Our talented culinary students, under the direction of Mrs. Edson, cooked up magic from scratch using fresh, farm-to-table ingredients

! They crafted, plated, and served a delicious dish at Feast on the Fe, a farm-to-fork fundraising event and celebration located downtown on Santa Fe.

It was organized by the Local Food Works Foundation and a dedicated team of volunteers.





## November

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
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

## Calendar of Events

- 2 Daylight Saving Time ends
- 5 Cap/Gown online orders due
- 9-15 Buffer Week
- 11 Blood Drive
- 12 Athletic Signing Day
- 15 Debate Invitational
- 24 Winter sports pictures
- 24-28 Fall Break

### *After School Credit Recovery - Quarter 2*

First come, first serve. Catch up on missing credits and get back on track.

- October 28 - December 11
- Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.
- See your grade level counselor to sign up or call 785-309-3715

### *ACT/SAT Test Prep*

- Students can take advantage of ACT/SAT Test Prep in XELLO.
- Methodize is Method Learning's online learning platform. Methodize consists of newly updated and revised ACT and SAT courses.
- Students can access Methodize under "Resources" on their dashboard in their XELLO account.

### *ACT Test Registration Deadline*

- November 7, 2025

### *Next ACT Test Date*

- December 13, 2025

**Register for the ACT Test here:**





## Counseling Corner

**GSCF Scholarship Bootcamp** - The counseling department will host representatives from the Greater Salina Community Foundation. GSCF will be presenting "Scholarship Bootcamp" for interested seniors and parents on Thursday, November 13, at 6:00 p.m., in the SHS Auditorium.

**2026-27 FAFSA** - The 2026-27 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened on October 1, 2025. Students enrolling in college for the 2026-27 academic year can submit their FAFSA at this time; families should use their 2024 income tax information. Before students and parents can complete the FAFSA, both the student and all parents/guardians in the household must create an FSA ID.

[i Create FSA ID](#)

**Pre-enrollment** for grades 9, 10, and 11 will begin this month. Your student will work with their academic counselor between now and the first week of March to discuss their Individual Plan of Study (IPS), graduation requirements, and confirm their requested classes in XELLO. Please take a moment to sit down with your student to review their IPS, along with the USD 305 Course Enrollment Guide, and discuss their desired classes for the 2026-27 school year.

[🔗 Course Enrollment Guide](#)

The Counseling Department will be visiting South Middle School on Monday, December 1, to meet with Grade 8 students for pre-enrollment and transition to high school. South Middle School Grade 8 parents are invited to attend the Grade 8 Parent Night on Wednesday, December 3, at 6:15 p.m., in the SHS Auditorium. We will discuss the pre-enrollment process as well as the transition from middle to high school.

### Class of 2027 Information

Early graduation forms must be submitted by December 1, 2025. Flex Schedule application is due by March 2, 2026.

Students considered for early graduation or a flex schedule need to be a student in good standing, on track to graduate, and have all XELLO lessons completed. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Wagner, Class of 2027 Counselor.

### Class of 2028 Information

Since 1958, HOBY Youth Leadership has provided transformative leadership development training to over 500,000 high school students around the world. These seminars guide students through three phases of leadership - personal, group, and service. These seminars educate over 8,500 students each year as they embrace a better sense of their leadership abilities. Seminar dates are May 28-31, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas. Deadline to apply is November 2, 2025. Please see Mrs. Wagner in the counseling office for more information.

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.