

SOUTH

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

SMS Falcon Character Theme



-November-



“BEFORE
EVERYTHING ELSE,
GETTING READY IS
THE SECRET OF
SUCCESS.”

Henry Ford



Be Ready



Bring all materials to class; Be on time; Stay engaged and focused on the task; Be respectful of others' learning; Challenge yourself

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

November 2 - Daylight Savings - Turn your clocks back.

November 3 - Quarter 2 Sports Begin

November 4-5 - School Play Dress Rehearsal 3PM - 5PM

November 6 - School Play Performance 7PM

November 7 - End of Quarter One

November 11 - Forensics Sign-up 3PM

November 11 - Veterans Day Program 2:15PM

November 11 - Falcon Advisory Council Meeting 6PM

November 12 - All Late Work Due

November 13 - Grade 6 Orchestra Concert

November 17 - AVID Family Night

November 18 - Forensic Paperwork Due

November 20 - Grade 6 Band Concert



Deposit Dates:

November 6

November 13

November 20



November Concert Dates:

Orchestra Grade 6
November 13

Band Grade 6
November 20

School Play
Information



Dress Rehearsal
3-5PM

November 4 & 5

Performance
7PM

November 6

School Performance
November 7



November 24 - No School - Staff PL Day

November 25 - No School - Staff PL Day

November 26 - 28 - No School - All School Closed

Daylight Savings



Don't forget to turn
your clocks **BACK**
on Sunday,
November 2.



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE

CONNECT

DISCOVER

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SMS Families:

We are thrilled to share that South Middle School has officially completed our two-year construction project! The transformation of our learning spaces has been incredible, and we were proud to celebrate this milestone with a successful ribbon cutting ceremony and open house. The event was followed by a full day of parent-teacher conferences, where families and staff connected to support student success. These moments reflect our school motto—**Connect, Discover, Succeed**—and highlight the importance of strong school-to-family communication. We remain committed to providing excellent customer service and ensuring a safe, welcoming environment for all students and families.

As we move through the school year, we continue to reinforce our student expectations: **Respectful, Responsible, and Ready**. Please remind your child to keep their phone in their locker during the school day, arrive on time, and treat all classmates and adults—including guests and substitute teachers—with kindness and respect. Safety remains a top priority, and we ask all families to follow our drop-off and pick-up procedures carefully and drive safely on and around campus. Additionally, we are excited to announce our commitment and partnership with the Wisconsin Office of School Safety, and the utilization of a "Speak Up - Speak Out" program. This program is aimed at enhancing school safety and preventing potential threats. It provides confidential 24/7 reporting for students, parents, and school staff around concerns for threats or actions that pose a school safety risk. It is designed to connect children with resources needed to prevent incidents and alert schools administration. We will be communicating more about this program when we are ready for its roll-out.

Our teaching staff continue to grow professionally throughout the school year. They have continued learning around a framework focused on six key instructional practices: providing clear learning targets, engaging students in complex tasks, asking in-depth questions, increasing response rates, reflecting on learning, and using informal whole-class assessments. We are monitoring these practices monthly to ensure consistency across classrooms. Additionally, our staff is preparing for the district's rollout of **Standards-Based Grading** in the 2026-2027 school year. Families are invited to learn more at upcoming informational sessions: **November 3rd at Memorial High School** and **November 4th at Delong Middle School**, both at **6:00 PM**.

Together, we are committed to building a school community where every student feels seen, supported, and challenged to grow. Thank you for your continued partnership—when families and schools work together, great things happen. Let's keep the momentum going and make this a year to remember!

Caleb Hundt
South Middle School Principal
chundt1@ecasd.us
O- 715.852.5210
C- 715.492.2577



**Quarter TWO
Sports Season**

November 3- January 15

Boys Basketball (Grade 7-8)
Dance (Grade 6-8)
Girls Swimming (Grade 6-8)



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!!



Forensics is a speaking competition with a wide range of categories like play acting, news reporting, reading poetry or prose, persuasive speaking, and demonstration. This is a great opportunity for students to try new things, increase skills, and spend time with peers from South and other schools. Forensics is very flexible with practices 1 night per week with a coach (that is built around the student's availability), 4 competitions, and 1 family night. Students can easily participate in Forensics while doing sports or other activities!

Important dates:

November 11: Informational meeting after school

November 18: Paperwork turn in after school

After Thanksgiving Break: Practices begin

SOUTH School Play - November 6 @ 7PM

Opening night for this year's production of *Young Sherlock* is Thursday November 6th at 7pm in the South Middle School Auditorium. Admission is free and concessions will be available for purchase from Student Council. We hope you enjoy this exciting historical mystery!



ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Royal Credit Union at South Middle School!

COMING UP...

RCU at South Middle School is open every Thursday, 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 rachel.orlovsky@rcu.org with any questions.

SNAPSHOTS OF GRATITUDE



In honor of Thanksgiving, encourage your student to find three things each day over the course of a week, they're thankful for—people, places, moments, or small joys. They can take a photo or draw a picture of each one. At the end of the week, look back at their "gratitude snapshots" together. Talk about which ones meant the most and how focusing on gratitude changed their week. Make it fun by creating a "Thankful Slideshow" or photo collage to share as a family!

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.

Introducing
the
2025-2026
student
team
members!



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 1 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



Falcon Foods Pantry – Donations Always Welcomed

Our Falcon Foods pantry is always accepting donations to support students and families in need. We are especially in need of **individually packaged snacks** such as granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks, and trail mix—perfect for quick nourishment during the school day. Non-perishable food items and hygiene products are also appreciated. Thank you for helping us keep our pantry stocked and our Falcons supported!

THANK YOU!

Thank You, South Families!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who generously donated food, drinks, and supplies for the staff lunch during conferences on October 16. Your kindness and support made the day extra special for our teachers and staff, and we are truly grateful for your thoughtfulness.

It's moments like these that remind us how lucky we are to have such a caring and involved school community. Thank you for helping us feel appreciated and well-fed during a busy day!

Celebrating our Veterans!

Please join us as we honor our veterans on **Tuesday, November 11 at 2:15 PM in the auditorium**.

This special event is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the brave individuals who have served our country. Our 8th grade students will be attending the celebration. The event will also be live streamed.

Following the program, we will host a reception for veterans and their families in the cafeteria. We warmly welcome all South families and veterans from our community to join us in person or virtually as we honor those who have served.

RSVP Information:

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Rhonda Pederson at rpederson1@ecasd.us by **November 10** with the following details:

- Name and grade of your child
- Name and branch of service of the veteran(s) attending
- Names of other family members attending

Donations Needed:

To help with the cost of the program, we are seeking donations of bottled water, store-bought cookies, and monetary contributions. Please bring donations to the school by **Monday, November 10**, clearly marked **Veterans Day Program**.

Thank you for your continued support!



Standards-Based Grading is Coming in 2026-27!



What is Standards-Based Grading (SBG)?

Standards-Based Grading focuses on what students know and can do. Instead of traditional letter grades, students are assessed on their proficiency of specific standards.

- Promotes clarity in expectations
- Encourages growth and progress
- Provides meaningful feedback to students and families

Join us for an informational session!

Come learn more, ask questions, and see how SBG will support student success.



Memorial High School

Focus: SBG in High Schools

November 3, 6:00 PM

Delong Middle School

Focus: SBG in Middle Schools

November 4, 6:00 PM

North High School

Focus: SBG in High Schools

November 10, 6:00 PM



Stay Connected

Have Questions?

Scan the QR Code or go to the following website to submit questions. These questions will guide the informational sessions.

go.ecasd.us/SBGFamilyQuestion



Want to Learn More?

Visit the District's SBG website by going to the following website or scanning the QR Code.

go.ecasd.us/SBG



Falcon on the Rise

South Middle School

Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 1 Grade 6

Falcons on the Rise Award



South Middle School

Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 1 Grade 7

Falcons on the Rise Award



Falcon on the Rise is awarded mid-quarter to students who are showing notable improvement or achievement in any area. Staff nominate one student per mid-quarter, and each student may be recognized by one teacher per year. This award is open to all students, regardless of academic performance or behavior history, and serves to highlight those who are making strides in their learning journey.



Connect • Discover • Succeed

South Middle School

Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 1 Grade 8

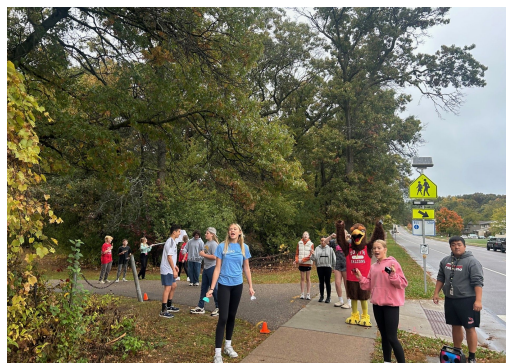
Falcons on the Rise Award



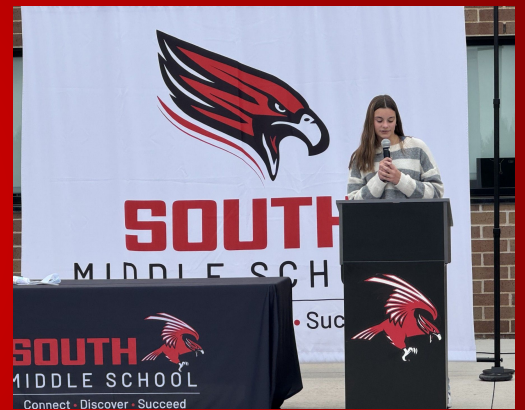
Mile Run PHOTOS



Students participated in the PBIS celebration - Falcon Fest - and Mile Run on October 15.
Enjoy some photos!



Ribbon Cutting



SOUTH LINKS



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

[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](#)



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