



Cougar Pause

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

December 2025

South High School | Salina, Kansas

Cougar families,

In this season of celebration, thanksgiving, and gratitude, our student body and staff wrote thousands of Thank You notes to one another and hand-delivered them. We appreciate the National Honor Society and its sponsor, Mr. Thornton, for organizing this special event. It truly exemplifies South High School's motto: Safe, Honorable, Successful.

The success of all students is our priority. Please continue to monitor your child's progress in Skyward. The end of the semester brings final exams, projects, and papers; when we return from Thanksgiving break, faculty and staff will be working with students to prepare for these assessments. We are here to partner with you in support of your student. Please don't hesitate to reach out to teachers, counselors, or administrators if you need assistance. By working together, we can ensure students have the support they need for a positive end to the semester.

We value each family as a partner in learning. Regular site council meetings advise the school on matters such as school improvement, educational programs, and student learning. South High School's next site council meeting is January 12, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the main office conference room. The site council is open to community members, parents, and guardians.

School will be closed beginning December 19 and will resume January 6.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from our South High School family to yours.

Warm regards,



Dr. Ginger Jones
Principal



Dental Screenings

We will be doing dental screenings December 8 - 11 for all students. If you choose not to have your student screened, please click the link below:

[Dental info](#)

Renaissance Program

It's that time of year again! Final exam exemptions are based on Quarter 1 (August 14 through October 8, 2025). Gold status students can be exempt from **TWO** finals. Silver status students can be exempt from **ONE** final. Students will receive an e-mail on December 1 if they qualify (see below) for final exam exemptions. Forms will be available in the counseling office and are due back to the counseling office by Tuesday, December 9, at 3 p.m. (no late forms accepted).

Silver Status

3.4-3.69 GPA

No more than 2 tardies

No unexcused absences

No referrals

Gold Status

3.7 GPA and above

No more than 1 tardy

No unexcused absences

No referrals

First Semester Finals Schedule

Wednesday, December 17 - Gold Day

Block 2 - 7:45-9:10

Block 4 - 9:15-10:40

Block 6 - 10:45-12:40

Block 8 - 12:45-2:10

ELO - 2:15-2:55

Thursday, December 18 - Green Day

Block 1 - 7:45-9:10

Block 3 - 9:15-10:40

Block 5 - 10:45-12:40

Block 7 - 12:45-2:10

Attending ELO is optional unless the student needs to make up a final exam, work on an assignment, or wait for transportation.





November Students of the Week



Alina Arceo is a senior at South High. In school, she is involved in orchestra, New Dawn Choir, cross country and track. Her favorite class is physics because Ms. Cairns is fun and keeps the class interesting while helping students understand each unit. Outside of school, Alina participates in the Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra and the Winter Soldiers running group. After graduation, she plans to attend college to study exercise science with a minor in music performance. Some fun facts about Alina are that she plays five instruments and has four dogs, sheep, chickens, and horses.

Elle Barth is a senior at South High. She is involved in NHS, golf, soccer, basketball, Relay for Life and HOSA. Her favorite part of school is learning alongside her friends. She especially enjoys AP Chemistry because it's a small class that makes learning easier, and Mrs. Ozores is very kind. Outside of school, she is active in her church youth group. After graduation, Elle plans to attend K-State to study pre-medicine and later go to medical school to become an OB-GYN. Some fun facts about her are that she spends her weekends in Manhattan watching K-State football, she loves playing basketball, reading crime novels and spending time with her friends.



Zoe Davidson is a senior at South High. She is involved in cheerleading, HOSA and serves as a baseball manager. At school, her favorite subject is social studies because she enjoys learning about historical events. Outside of school, she participates in her youth group and volunteers in her church's kids ministry. After graduation, she plans to attend Fort Hays State University to major in nursing. Some fun facts about her are that she enjoys spending quality time with family and friends and watching and attending KU games.

November Teacher of the Month

Terek Smith is a biology teacher at South High. He has been teaching for three years all at South. He has always wanted to have an impact on the community and his greatest inspiration has come from his Dad, who went back to school as a single father to become a teacher. Terek's favorite part about teaching is building relationships with students, seeing them enjoy attending class and learning new things. A fun fact about Terek is that he is engaged to Ms. Kutz who teaches English at South High.





December

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			

Calendar of Events

- 12/2 Winter Band Concert
- 12/8-11 Dental Screenings
- 12/11 Winter Vocal Concert
- 12/13 ACT Test
- 12/17 & 18 Semester 1 Finals
- 12/18 Senior photo deadline
- 12/18 Winter Orchestra Concert
- 12/19 No school
- 12/22 - 1/5 Winter recess

November Cougar Pride Award Winners

Students who embody Safe, Honorable, and Successful qualities:



Ja'Quan Abrams
Grade 9



JaMara Davis
Grade 10



Makiah Couse
Grade 11



Davin Miller
Grade 12



Jared Vincent
Grade 9



Conner Weber
Grade 10



Eli Nouanlasy
Grade 11



Easton Wilcox
Grade 12



Hector Ojeda
Grade 9



Franco Soto
Grade 10



Karla Luna Soto
Grade 11



Anistyn Elting
Grade 12





Theatre News

Halloween Screams opens and closes with massive success! After months of rehearsals, audiences and cast alike had a blast with our Fall play, and are ready for our next theatre production in February - the Footloose Musical!



Theatre classes are preparing their one-act shows!
A Charlie Brown Christmas
December 16-17

Bad Auditions by Bad Actors
December 15-16



Class of 2026 Senior Photos

The deadline for senior photographs for the yearbook is fast approaching. Photographs need to be turned in as printed pictures, digitally on a CD or jump drive, or emailed to salinasouthgrad@gmail.com by December 18.

If you are sending them digitally, please 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
- 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 can be cropped to vertical





Counseling Corner

Pre-Enrollment for the 2026-27 School Year - Attention freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, Class of 2027-2029! Over the next few months, current South High students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will meet with their grade level counselor to create and/or review their course plans. These plans will be used for pre-enrollment for the upcoming school year. Parents can assist with this process by talking to their students(s) about their future career and college goals while reviewing the South High enrollment guide in Xello.

Incoming freshmen, class of 2030! On December 1, Mr. Allen will meet with grade 8 students at South Middle School to begin pre-enrollment. Students will explore our many high school opportunities and select classes for the upcoming school year. Selected courses will be entered into Skyward starting December 8.

ACT Test Dates

The ACT is a standardized test for college entrance that covers four academic skill areas - English, math, reading, and science. It also offers an optional writing test. Listed below are upcoming ACT test dates. Please create an account at www.act.org and register by the deadline listed. If you have any questions, please see the Counseling Office.

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
February 14, 2026	January 9, 2026	January 23, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026	March 24, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 29, 2026

The Free Kansas ACT will be administered on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. This free administration is available to all junior students and any senior student who did not take the free exam as a junior. Registration must be completed by students by Monday, December 15, 2025, with their district email address.

 [Free Kansas ACT](#)

- 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.