

January 2026

**Dare to SOAR!**

# SUNSET NEWS



## A Note from the Principal

Sunset Families,

We hope you had a wonderful and restful winter break! We are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to getting back into our school routines. January is a great time for fresh starts, new goals, and renewed energy and we are thrilled to kick off the second half of the school year together.

As students return, teachers will spend time revisiting classroom expectations, reviewing school-wide routines, and helping students reestablish good habits to ensure a smooth transition back to learning. This is also a great time for students to set personal goals for the remainder of the school year and reflect on the progress they've made so far.

We encourage families to check the district website or the Sunset Facebook page regularly for updates on upcoming events, school activities, and any weather-related announcements or changes to the schedule. Staying informed helps ensure that students are prepared and that families can participate in school activities.

Regular school attendance is especially important as we begin the new year. Being present each day helps students stay on track academically, strengthens classroom routines, and supports their social and emotional growth by keeping them connected to peers and teachers. Your support in helping your child arrive at school on time, ready to learn, and prepared for the day makes a big difference in their success.



We are looking forward to a fantastic start to 2026 and can't wait to see all that our students will accomplish. With your support and our continued teamwork, we are confident this will be a year full of growth, learning, and exciting opportunities for every student at Sunset Elementary.

Best regards,

Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

P: 785-309-4520

Brandon.Cheeks@usd305.com

## Looking ahead...

Feb. 2 - Site Council at noon

Feb. 4 - Individual/Class pictures

Feb. 24 - Fam Jam, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Mar. 5 - Third and fourth grade music programs

### Fourth Grade Will Attend Symphony

Sunset Fourth Graders will be attending the Salina Symphony Outreach Concert, "The Harmony Games."

They will travel to the Stiefel Theatre on **January 23 from 8:45-11:15 a.m.**



### Muffins in the Morning

**Tuesday, January 27**

**8:25 - 8:40 a.m.**

Bring your favorite morning beverage and join your student for a muffin in their classroom.

We kindly ask for parents to wait outside the building until 8:25 a.m. so that we can get students settled into their classrooms.

If your student eats breakfast in the cafeteria you are welcome to join them.

### Character Strong

This month is all about **Perseverance**, "pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles."

It is important to develop tools that help us work through those challenges in order to grow in those moments instead of giving up.

#### Conversation Starter:

When working towards goals, how does **Perseverance** help us to reach them?

#### Family Practice:

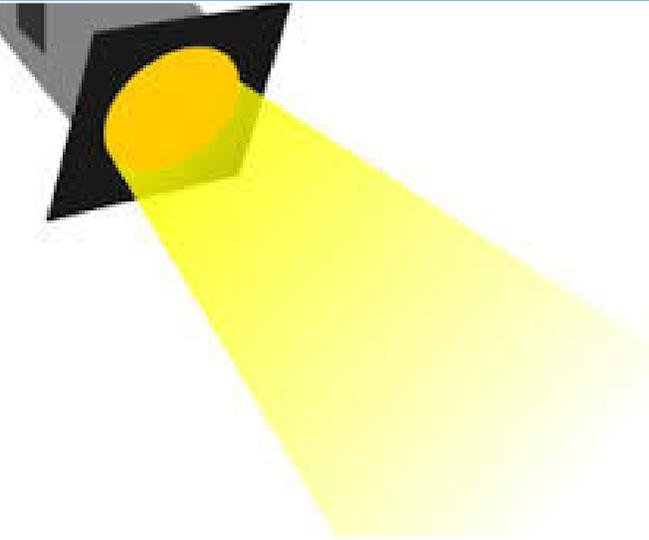
Consistency is hard. Have each person in the family commit to one thing they will do each day this month. Maybe it is flossing, drinking a certain amount of water, getting to bed at a certain time, limiting screen time, or exercising. Create a place where each person can talk about their progress and see who can keep their streak going the longest!

#### Family Challenge:

Can you fit your whole body through an index card? While it sounds impossible, with the correct folding and cutting technique, you can make it happen! Give each family member a 4x6 index card (or stiff paper) and a pair of scissors.

Ready for the answer? You can find the directions and solution online by searching: "Fit Your Body Through an Index Card."

# Spotlight on Second Grade



What an amazing year it has been so far!

Before Thanksgiving break we had our own version of The Macy Thanksgiving Day Parade. We called it Balloons Over Sunset! Each student had to design and create their own balloon creature to be in the parade.

Students also had a super successful holiday program performing "The Nutcracker" in December!

The second grade team is looking forward to having Art Fusion come to our school to perform "Fall Frenzy and Bad Water Puppet Show" this month.





## Child Care Assistance Program

The Child Care Assistance Program is available for families who need help paying for child care costs. With this program, families can find and keep quality child care, which benefits the whole family.

You can also find more information by calling 1-888-369-4777, picking up an application in a DCF office, or clicking on the button below to complete an application.



[Child Care Financial Assistance Information](#)



[General Information About Kansas Services](#)

## Students Selected for Honor Choir

Congratulations!

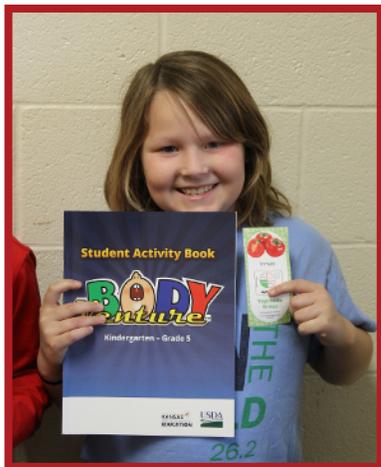
Nine Sunset students will be attending North Central KMEA District Honor Choir on February 7 at Manhattan High School.

Thank you to all the students who auditioned. It was a very difficult decision.

For those that were selected, please watch for important information coming home.



# Students take a walk through the body





## Keep Your Child Healthy & in School

Daily attendance is essential to help your child stay on track and engaged in learning. Please send your child to school each day they are feeling well enough to participate in classroom activities. Many mild symptoms do not require students to stay home. Children can still attend school if they have:

- A mild cold (such as a runny nose or cough)
- Watery eyes without fever, eye pain, or redness of the eyelids
- A mild stomachache
- A mild rash with no other symptoms
- Have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication

Unsure if your child should stay home? Additional illness guidelines are available on our website at [www.usd305.com](http://www.usd305.com).

As a reminder, please call your school office to notify them anytime your child will be absent. Greatness grows when you're here!



## Food Service Accounts



Please review your student's food service account balance regularly to keep your account current and prevent overdue payments. To view your current balance, log into Skyward Family Access and click the Food Service Tile.

You may pay in person at your school, district office, or online in Skyward: <https://skystu.usd305.com/StudentSTS>

# January Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Day 3	7 Day 4	8 Day 5	9 Day 1	10
11	12 Day 2	13 Day 3	14 Day 4	15 Day 5	16 Day 1	17
18	19	20 Day 2	21 Day 3	22 Day 4	23 Day 5	24
25	26 Day 1	27 Day 2	28 Day 3	28 Day 4	30 Day 5	31

1,2,5 - No school

8 - PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

19 - No school

27 - Muffins in the Morning



## Contact Us

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

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

 [Sunset Eagles 305](#)

 [@Sunset Eagles 305](#)

 [@SunsetEagles305](#)

 [School Website](#)

 [District Website](#)