



# Cougar Pause



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

January 2026

South High School | Salina, Kansas

## Cougar families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful winter break. As we closed out the first semester, our students and staff enjoyed many memorable events - athletic activities, band, choir, and orchestra concerts, debate tournaments and drama productions. Thank you to everyone who participated or helped make these events successful.

As we begin the second semester, many students will start new classes. Class schedules are available in Skyward. South High staff will work with students in grades 9, 10, and 11 to register for the 2026-27 courses; enrollment guide and registration details can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. Please take time to review options with your student and align course selections with their interests and future plans. If registration feels stressful, our counseling team is ready to help.

Counseling and registration contacts:

- Jim Allen, College & Career Counselor/Department Chair
- Melanie Goodrich, PBD Counselor/Coordinator
- Cameron Magnall, Academic Student Support
- Elise Potocnik, Social/Emotional Counselor
- Heather Smith, Academic Counselor
- Amy Wagner, Academic Counselor
- Lynnette Froome, Registrar
- Monica Carlson, Counseling Secretary

Tips to help your student this semester:

- Set clear, achievable goals. Help your student choose one or two academic and personal goals and check progress regularly.
- Stay organized. Encourage a planner or calendar app for assignments, tests, and activities.
- Prioritize attendance. Regular attendance keeps students connected to learning - please report absences promptly.
- Seek help early. Teachers offer after-school help and tutoring; remind your student it's okay to ask questions.
- Get involved. Clubs, sports, and activities build connections and a sense of belonging.

When making weather and school-day decisions, student safety is our top priority. If we use a weather day, students will return following the green/gold calendar established at the start of the year.

We value the partnership between home and school. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your student's teachers, counselors, or the staff listed above. We're committed to clear, timely communication and working together to support your child.

Thank you for being part of our Cougar community. I wish you a very Happy New Year and look forward to the opportunities this semester brings - it's a great day to be a Cougar!

Warm regards,

Dr. Ginger Jones, Principal



## **Keep Your Child Healthy and 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!

## **Lunch Account**

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 on the Food Service Tile.

You may pay in person at your school, district office, or pay online at



## **Credit Recovery Program**

The after school credit recovery program for Quarter 3 will run from January 27 through March 12, Monday through Thursday, from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m.

See your grade level counselor to sign up or call 785-309-3715.

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





## December Students of the Month



**Levi Harrison** is a senior at South High. At school, he is involved in band and choir. He enjoys playing in the band and getting to use the instrument he bought. Outside of school, he participates in the KWU jazz band, church choir and city band. After graduation, Levi plans to attend college and study criminal justice. Some fun facts about him are that he enjoys hunting, fishing, building things, and working on cars.

**Kalliauna Johnson** is a senior at South High. At school, she is involved in NHS, The Peppers dance team and orchestra. Her favorite part of school is seeing her friends and attending school events. Outside of school, she works and is a part of a dance studio. After graduation, Kalliauna wants to go to the University of Kansas and major in pre-nursing. Some fun facts about her are that she has two older brothers named Gavin and Garrett and she enjoys shopping.



**Gavin DeVoe** is a senior at South High. At school, he is involved in FFA, HOSA, basketball, track, and NHS. His favorite part of school is the welcoming environment and how comfortable he feels asking questions in class. Outside of school, Gavin works for local campaigns. After high school, he plans to attend college and study communications and political science. A fun fact about Gavin is that he has nine ducks.

## December Teacher of the Month

Shana Pittenger is an English teacher at South High. She is in her 32nd year of teaching, with 19 of those at South. She has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. Her great grandmother taught in a one-room schoolhouse. Mrs. Pittenger chose to teach English because her best friend's mother was an English teacher, and as a child it seemed like she had the best job in the world. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the pride in students when they notice their own improvement, especially in their writing. She also enjoys hearing from former students about their accomplishments. A fun fact about Shana is that she has visited the West African Savanna and stood side by side with a full-grown male and female lion.





## January

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

- 1/5 In-service
- 1/6 Classes resume
- 1/19 No school
- 1/31 Sadies Dance

## December Cougar Pride Award Winners

*Students who embody Safe, Honorable, and Successful qualities:*



Ella Chamberlain  
Grade 9



Alexxa McWilliams  
Grade 10



Jittakarn Chimkho  
Grade 11



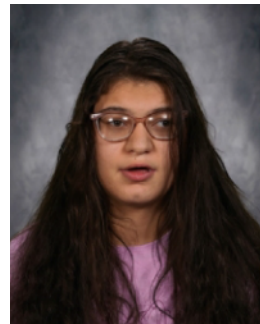
Hannah Miller  
Grade 12



Paige Daily  
Grade 9



Mia Matute  
Grade 10



Nevaeh Clark  
Grade 11



Sophie Daily  
Grade 12





# Counseling Corner

**Pre-Enrollment** - School Year 2026-27 pre-enrollment for grades 9, 10, and 11 has begun. Your students will work with their academic counselor between now and March to discuss their IPS, graduation requirements, and confirm their requested classes in Skyward. Please sit down with your student to review their IPS, along with the USD305 Course Enrollment Guide, and talk about their desired classes for the 2026-27 school year.

## USD 305 Course Enrollment Guide

**Dual/Concurrent Credit Course Enrollment** - Students, if you are taking one of the following classes: Accounting, Algebra 2/Trig, AP Biology, AP Language and Composition, AP Statistics, Architectural Drafting, Computer Applications 2, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Principles of Marketing, Metals 2, Metals 3, Physics/AP Physics, Pre Calc/Trig, you are eligible to receive **college credit from Salina Area Technical College** for taking these classes on the SHS or CHS Campuses. Students have received information from his/her classroom teacher on how to enroll with Salina Area Technical College. The deadline to enroll with SATC is January 29, 2026, by 2:45 p.m. Please contact your teacher for instructions to enroll.

If you are taking American Justice for Teaching as a Career, you are eligible to receive **college credit from Bethany College** for taking these classes on the South High Campus. Students will receive information from his/her teacher on how to enroll with Bethany College. Please contact your teacher for instructions to enroll.

## 2026 ACT Test Dates and Deadlines

ACT testing at SHS begins at 8:00 a.m. and students are encouraged to report no later than 7:45 a.m. on the day of the test.

\*Denotes SHS test site date

Test Date
February 14
April 11
June 13*
July 11

Early Registration Deadline
January 9
March 6
May 8
June 5

Late Registration Deadline
January 23
March 24
May 29
June 24

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.