

SOUTH

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

SMS Falcon Character Theme

-January-

"Be the rainbow in someone's cloud."

-Maya Angelou



Leadership

MAKE IT
HAPPEN

Lead in a positive direction; Set a positive example; Set a goal and work to achieve it; Show empathy to others; Inspire others

Have a great winter break. We will see you back on Monday, January 5, 2026



February Food Drive!
More details to come.

NOTE: Donations are welcome anytime, but this drive will be a competition between Falcon Times.

Falcon Calendar

January 1- 2 - School Closed

January 5 - School Resumes - All Late work for Mid Quarter due

January 6 - 5th Grade Family Night

January 8 - Grade 7 Band Concert

January 9 - Ski Trip

January 12 - 8th Grade Parent Night at Memorial HS

January 13 - Mathcounts Competition at South

January 15 - 8th Grade HS Registration

January 15 - Q2 Sports End

January 15 - Grade 6 Choir Concert

January 19 - No School

January 20 - Q3 Sports Begin

January 22 - Grade 7 Choir Concert

January 22 - End of Q2/Semester - All late work due today

January 23 - No School

January 26 - No School

January 29 - South Forensics Meet

January 30 - PBIS Celebration



January 1 - 2 - No School - All Buildings Closed

January 19 - No School - All Buildings Closed

January 23 - No School - Staff Work Day

January 26 - No School Staff Work Day



Deposit Dates:

January 8

January 15

January 22

January 29



January Concert Dates:

Band Grade 7
January 8

Choir Grade 6
January 15

Choir Grade 7
January 22

Ski Trip
Dates



Friday, January 9

Friday, February 6

Friday, March 6

Students will be informed when sign ups are available during the morning announcements.



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE

CONNECT

DISCOVER

SUCCEED

SMS Families:

Happy New Year from South Middle School! We hope all families are enjoying a safe and restful holiday break. As we begin the second semester, we remain committed to our motto: *Connect, Discover, and Succeed*. Our students continue to demonstrate what it means to be **Respectful, Responsible, and Ready**, and we are proud of the positive school environment we've built together. Over the past three years, discipline referrals and suspensions have steadily declined, which reflects the hard work of our students, staff, and families in fostering a culture of respect and accountability.

Our staff is deeply engaged in professional learning focused on increasing student engagement and delivering high-quality instruction. One major initiative is our transition to **Standards-Based Grading**, which we plan to fully implement in the 2026–2027 school year. This year, we will begin introducing the concept to students and leading conversations about what it means for their learning. Standards-Based Grading emphasizes clarity, fairness, and growth, and we are excited to share more with families as the process unfolds.

As the semester winds down, please remember that **all student work is due by January 22nd**. Because it is the end of the semester and schedules sometimes change, there will be **no five-day late work option** after this date. We encourage families to check in with students or teachers and ensure assignments are completed on time. Finally, safety remains a top priority at South Middle School. Students should always feel comfortable reporting concerning behavior to an administrator or by using the **Speak Up Speak Out** app. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school safe and supportive for all learners.

Caleb Hundt

South Middle School Principal

chundt1@ecasd.us

O- 715.852.5210

C- 715.492.2577

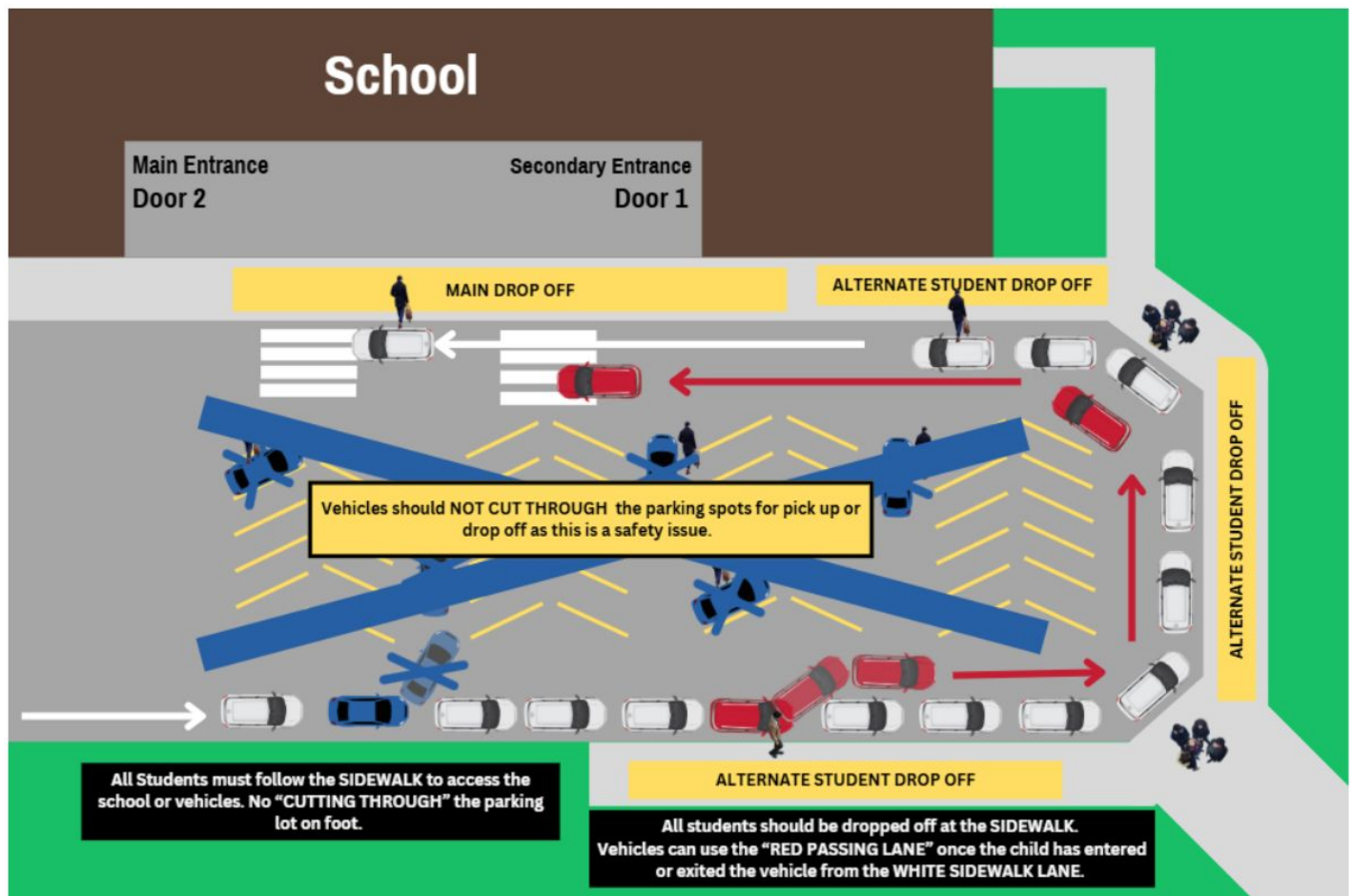
Falcon INFO

Parent Pick Up/Drop Off

It's critical for the safety of everyone, that we adhere to the same system.

Parents, please follow the safety protocols outline below.

- Additionally, you should not be taking a LEFT turn out of the parking lot.
- Items of note
 - - Please DO NOT pull into parking spots, or cut through the parking lot.
 - - Follow the drop off line along the sidewalk.
 - - Only exit into the passing lane, once you have secured your child FROM THE SIDEWALK.
 - - Students SHOULD NOT be cutting through the parking lot to access your vehicle, they should be using the sidewalk.
- Please get used to following these procedures.
- We will likely be using traffic cones as a deterrent after the Holiday Break.





Quarter TWO Sports Season

November 3- January 15

Boys Basketball (Grade 7-8)

Dance (Grade 6-8)

Girls Swimming (Grade 6-8)

Quarter THREE Sports Season

January 20 - March 26

Girls Basketball (Grade 7-8)

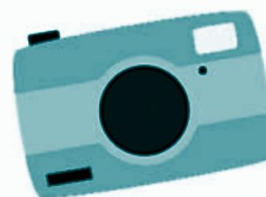
Westling (Grade 6-8)

Boys Swimming (Grade 6-8)



TO ORDER:

- Scan the QR Code
- jostens.com/btsoffers
- 1 (877) 767-5217
- Or click the [LINK](#)



ORDER
YOUR
Yearbook!

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.



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!!

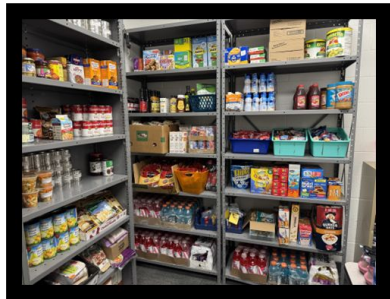
Falcon FOODS



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!



AVID Application Process

See [LINK](#) to the letter.



Quarter 2 ends January 22 and all late work is due January 22, 2026



5th Grade Family Night is for **next year's 6th graders**. This event is on **January 6 at 6PM in the auditorium**. All incoming 6th grade families are invited. Student will learn what it is like a day in the life of a South student, learn about the extracurricular opportunities South has to offer, meet your counselor, talk about scheduling, and learn about our music program! **The 8th grade orchestra, band, and show choir will be performing!**

Ski Trip Sign-Up Information

The first ski trip of the season is **January 9**. If your student signed up, please see the details below.

Students are dismissed at the start of **Falcon Time** (2:20) and returning to school by **10:00 PM** the same evening.

Other Ski Trip Dates:

February 6

March 6



2026-2027 Class Registration Schedule

Grade 6

January 6 – Grade 6 students are presented what classes are offered for 7th grade.

January 13 – Grade 6 students register for 26-27 classes in science.

Grade 7

January 7 – Grade 7 students are presented what classes are offered for 8th grade.

January 14 – Grade 7 students register for 26-27 classes in social studies.

Grade 8

January 6 – MHS counselors come to SMS to talk with 8th grade about registering for HS.

January 12 – Course preview night at MHS

January 15 – Grade 8 register for high school classes in science class.



ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION

MIDDLE SCHOOL

COMING UP...

On January 29, RCU at South will have a Deposit Double-Up. Savers will earn TWO prizes when they roll an even number!

HOURS:

RCU at South 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!

Royal Credit Union at South!

NEW YEAR, BETTER SAVER!

Kick off the New Year with smart saving habits! RCU at South is hosting a January Savings Challenge. Every week you make a deposit in January, you'll earn one entry into a drawing. At the end of the month, we'll pick one winner to receive a \$25 Amazon gift card! Save often for more chances to win!

amazon



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.

Please contact Rachel Orlovsky at rachel.orlovsky@rcu.org with any questions.



Thank You for Your Support!

The staff at South Middle School would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have helped make this school year a success so far.

Your partnership and involvement allow our students to **CONNECT**, **DISCOVER**, and **SUCCEED** every day. We truly appreciate you—because we couldn't do it without you!



Auditions for the SMS Variety Show are coming up in February. All talents are welcome. Email Ms. Moore if you have questions.

smoore@ecasd.us



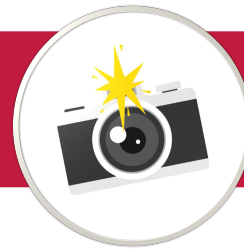
Mathcounts



The Mathcounts team traveled to DeLong middle school for a competition in December.



Sojourner House Field Trip



Students in our first-hour class selected Sojourner House as their Quarter 2 service-learning project. Over several weeks, students identified needed supplies, shopped for items, and ultimately donated 4 baskets filled with essential products for Sojourner House guests. During our visit today, Sojourner House staff welcomed our students, provided a brief tour, and answered meaningful questions about their program and the ways they support the community. It was a great experience that allowed students to see firsthand the impact of their service today!



Students spreading good
CHEER!
Making treats for staff.



Dress-Up Countdown to Break!



SOUTH PRIDE



Staff get into the SPIRIT!



SOUTH PRIDE



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](#)



Connect • Discover • Succeed