



Cougar Pause



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

February 2026

South High School | Salina, Kansas

Cougar families,

I hope this message finds your family well and enjoying a productive start to the new semester. We appreciate the energy and support you bring to our school community - your involvement makes a real difference in your student's success.

This month's Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 4 and Thursday, February 5. South High will host student-led Individual Plans of Study (IPS) conferences.

Conference times are as follows:

- Wednesday, February 4: 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 5: 7:15-11:15 a.m., 12:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Why IPS conferences? The State of Kansas and USD 305 expect every student to have an Individual Plan of Study and for families to be engaged in preparing students for college and career readiness. During these conferences, students will share their academic plans for their time at South High. Students in the classes of 2028 and 2029 will also discuss additional graduation requirements called graduation assets.

Scheduling and participation:

- Conferences will be scheduled with your student's ELO teacher. Please watch your email for the scheduling link to set a time.
- Students will lead the conferences and are expected to attend with their Chromebook and their prepared presentation.
- Administrators, counselors, and additional support staff will be available during conference times if you or your student need extra assistance.

Our goal is to build a strong partnership between home and school so every student is safe, honorable, and successful. We will work to ensure that parents and students leave conferences with their questions answered.

Seniors: please verify that your contact and senior information are current in Skyward so you receive important graduation updates.

Checking grades and Skyward help:

- Parents may view student grades in Skyward
- If you need help with your Skyward username and password, please call Mrs. Carlson in the Counseling Office at (785) 309-3715.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to meaningful conversation during IPS conferences.

Dr. Ginger Jones, Principal



You Make a Difference Award



Please join us in congratulating Mr. Jim Allen, counselor, for receiving this month's You Make a Difference Award! Mr. Allen makes a difference at South High through the care and energy he brings to students, families, and staff each day. He supports families by creating and leading parent presentations on graduation assets and pathways to student success. Jim also serves as the voice of the Cougars at extracurricular events, volunteers on building committees and brings a student-centered perspective to every team. He is known for a creative approach to scheduling classes that helps students access programs and electives that fit their goals and interests. Jim also partners with outside agencies and creates opportunities that spotlight postsecondary pathways, including presentations like Scholarship Bootcamp. By taking time to know students and connect them to the right supports early, he helps strengthen the systems that serve learners across South High.

January Teacher of the Month

Kate Ozores is a Chemistry teacher at South High School. This is her sixth year in education and her first year at South. She was inspired to become a teacher after growing up in a family of educators and experiencing the positive influence of great teachers throughout her school years. Watching their hard work and seeing how rewarding the profession could be motivated her to create meaningful learning experiences for her own students. Her favorite part of teaching is designing lessons that make learning enjoyable and accessible and watching students gain confidence as they master challenging Chemistry concepts. A fun fact about Kate is that while she plans to teach for the foreseeable future, she hopes one day to become a college professor and help prepare future teachers.





January Students of the Week



Amari Deherrera is a senior at South High. She is involved in track, BSU, NHS, the Tutoring Center and serves as a boys basketball manager. Her favorite part of school is her teachers and classes as she enjoys every day and appreciates her teachers for making learning fun for her. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Kansas to study sports management. Some fun facts about Amari are that she loves playing games, going on walks, shopping, spending time with friends and family and she has placed at the state track meet.

Lawrence Underwood is a senior at South High. At school, he is involved with the yearbook, NHS, and is a member of the football and wrestling teams. Lawrence loves all of his business classes as well as any opportunities available to study and experience different types of businesses. Outside of school, he spends his free time as a Big with Big Brothers Big Sister. After high school, he plans to attend Wichita State University, receive a master's in accounting and become a CPA. A fun fact about Lawrence is that he collects records and CDs of different artists and displays them in his room.



Cale Hammond is a senior at South High. At school, Cale is involved with STUCO, NHS, HOSA, and the teaching and medical internships. Outside of school, he does Big Brothers Big Sisters, works at the hospital and enjoys volunteering for various activities in his free time. His favorite part of school is the teachers at South. He appreciates their care, support and dedication to loving what they do and learning. After graduation, he plans to attend Wichita State University and pursue dental hygiene. Following that, he will pursue dentistry. Some fun facts about Cale are that he has one brother, he enjoys listening to music, playing the guitar and hanging out with his friends.

Eden Khamdalanikone is a senior at South High. At school, she is a member of the Asian Student Union (ASU) and involved with HOSA, NHS, Relay for Life and plays soccer. Eden's favorite class is AP Chemistry as she finds the material very interesting and appreciates Mrs. O's care in teaching and ensuring that her students understand the subject. Outside of school, she works as a CNA and enjoys spending time with friends, family, and her boyfriend. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Kansas where she will study biology and later become a pediatrician. Some fun facts about Eden are that she loves to go shopping, try new beverages and has a cat named Twix.





SHS Theatre News

Salina South High School Theatre is proud to celebrate the recent success of its students at the Kansas Thespian Festival, held January 8-10. Eighteen dedicated Salina South theatre students attended the event, where they proudly represented our school and community. Two students earned Superior ratings in the Thespy Awards: Allen Johnson received a Superior rating for Solo Dance, and Jasper Carter earned a Superior rating for Costume Design. In addition, the Salina South Drama Club entered a lobby display and earned a Gold rating for their troupe book, an achievement that reflects the hard work, creativity, and collaboration of our students.

The theatre program extends heartfelt gratitude to the parent chaperones and volunteers who made this opportunity possible. Their time, support, and encouragement play an essential role in the success of our students. As the program continues to grow, additional parent involvement is vital. Salina South Theatre is currently seeking new Booster Club members and officers for the 2026-27 school year. With current booster leadership graduating alongside their students, now is the perfect time for new families to step into leadership and help support the future of the program. Parents interested in joining or serving as an officer are encouraged to email Shilind Wheaton at:



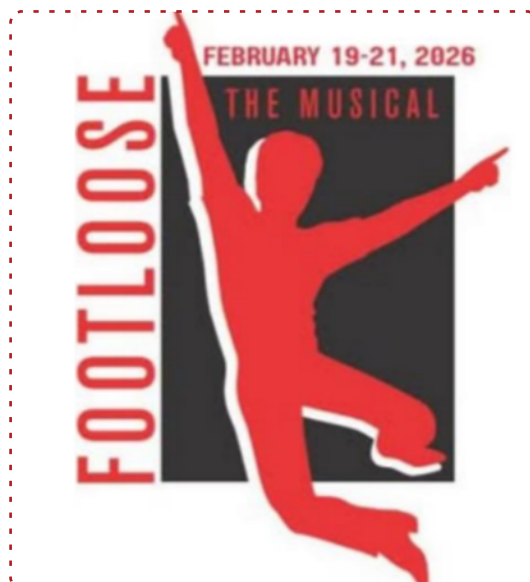
Ms. Wheaton

The Salina South Theatre community is also excited to announce adjusted performance dates for the spring musical, Footloose. Performances will take place on February 19 at 7:00 PM and February 21 at 2:00 and 7:00 PM. We invite the community to come out and support the cast and crew as they bring this energetic production to life.

For ticket information and program updates, please follow our Facebook page:



Salina South
Theatre Presents





Celebrating Career and Technical Education

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, and we are pleased to highlight the vital role CTE plays in preparing students for college, careers and life beyond the classroom.

CTE programs help students explore real-world skills, hands-on learning and career pathways that align with their interests and future goals. We celebrate our students and educators who make learning relevant, engaging and connected to today's workforce.

For more information about CTE programs in Salina Public Schools, visit CTE and Postsecondary Opportunities webpage on the district website.



After School Credit Recovery Program

The after school credit recovery program started January 27 and will run through March 12. If your student has signed up, please make sure they are attending on a daily basis so that their class can be completed within the allotted time frame. CRP runs Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Students who miss more than three days could forfeit their seat to another student. If your student needs to arrange to make up a required core class, please contact their grade level counselor at (785) 309-3715.

Save the Dates!

**Roar & Raise
Booster Club Fundraiser
Saturday, March 28**

**Prom at The Temple
Saturday, April 11**





February

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

Calendar of Events

- 2/4 Athletic Signing Day
- 2/4 & 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 2/5, 6 & 9 No School
- 2/19 & 21 Footloose Musical
- 2/24 ACT Test for Juniors

FAFSA Help Session

The Counseling Office will host a FAFSA Help Session for seniors and their parents on Wednesday, February 4, at 6 p.m., in the South High Library. A financial aid representative from K-State Salina will be on hand to assist families with questions or completion of the FAFSA. Students will need to bring their chromebooks.

Pre-Enrollment for 2026-27 School Year

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, Class of 2027-2029. Over the next several weeks, SHS students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will meet with their grade level counselor to create and/or review their IPS. These plans will be used as pre-enrollment for the upcoming school year. Parents can assist with this process by talking to their student(s) about their future career and college goals while reviewing the enrollment guide on the SHS Counseling website.

Attention Juniors

Flex schedule applications are currently available to juniors in the Counseling Office. Juniors who wish to pursue a flex schedule during the spring semester of their senior year must:

- Be a student in good standing - attendance and discipline will be monitored before approval
- Have all Xello activities completed prior to and during the flex schedule agreement
- Be enrolled in five or more new classes to be eligible for KSHSAA activities
- Be on track in meeting USD 305 graduation requirements

Applications are due to Mrs. Wagner, Junior Counselor, complete with student and parent signatures by March 2, 2026. **No late applications will be accepted.**





FREE CNA Classes

Lindsborg Community Hospital and Bethany Village are host sites for free CNA classes. The mission of the CNA classes is to train compassionate, competent students with the knowledge and skills necessary to support successful employment in a variety of healthcare settings. The generosity of an anonymous charitable organization has funded free certified nursing assistant classes at LCH and Bethany Village since June 2002. Working with Hutchinson Community College, we have seen 1,066 graduate as CNAs.

- Each summer, classes are scheduled for four sessions. Each session has limited enrollment.
- Each session is 14 days in length and held Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The cost of the class, tuition, books, TB test, fees, and even meals are underwritten by the organization.
- In the case of a positive reaction to a TB test, the organization does not provide free X-ray services.
- In order to receive five college credits, participants need to be 16 years of age and at least a junior in high school.

CNAs serve an important role in the care of patients. They have varied duties according to experience and the type of facility they serve. Duties may include feeding patients who are unable to feed themselves, preparing food trays, bathing, grooming, dressing patients, helping patients to move about, measuring liquid intake and output, measuring and recording vital signs, making beds, and observing the patients' mental, physical and emotional condition and reporting any concerns to the nursing staff.

Enrollment for class session will be handled through a competitive application process. Classes fill quickly. Remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list. Successful applicants will be notified within 10 days of the closing date for applications.

Applications are due by March 31, 2026. For more information, please see the brochure available in the Counseling Office.

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.