

SOUTH

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

*Choose
Kind*

SMS Falcon Character Theme

-February-

*WORK
hard,
BE
nice.*



*MAKE IT
happen*

Kindness

*ATTITUDE
IS
every
THING.*

Be truthful to yourself and others; Do the right things;
Be trustworthy; Honor your commitments; Don't gossip

February Food Drive!



South students will be participating in a schoolwide food drive competition to support the Falcon Food Pantry! From February 2 to February 27, students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items. The Falcon Time class in each grade that collects the most items will win a pizza party. If you're able, please send your student with contributions, or feel free to drop items off during conferences. All non-perishable items are appreciated, but snack items are especially helpful for the students we are supporting.

Falcon Calendar

February 2 – Variety Show Auditions
February 3 – Variety Show Auditions
February 5 – Grade 8 Choir Concert
February 6 – Ski Trip
February 9 – Music Beginners Night
February 9 – Dual Immersion Family Night
February 12 – Music Beginners Night
February 13 – Bucky University Presentation
February 26 – MID Quarter 3
February 26 – Evening Family Conferences
February 27 – No School – Family Conferences All Day



February 27 – No School –
Family Conferences All Day

Ski Trip Dates



Friday, February 6

Friday, March 6

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



Deposit Dates:

February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26



February Concert Dates:

Choir Grade 8
February 5



Family Conference

February 26 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm February 27 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

February 17 – Families should receive an email from the district to sign up for a conference.

February 24 – (8:00 am) Bookings links will turn off to families.

Due to the large number of students at SMS, we are unable to offer conference time slots to every family. If you are not able to schedule a conference, please reach out to your student's teacher. They will be happy to connect with you at another time.



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE



CONNECT

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Falcon Families,

I hope you and your family are well as we kick off Semester 2 at South Middle School. Our school community continues to grow stronger thanks to your ongoing support, and I am grateful for the partnership we share in helping every student connect, discover, and succeed.

To keep you informed, I wanted to share several updates from our recent grade-level meetings. We revisited our core expectations with students, emphasizing the importance of being respectful to staff, avoiding disruptions to peers' learning, and upholding our zero-tolerance stance on physical altercations. We introduced students to Standards Based Grading, providing an overview of what this approach means for their learning and progress. Later this spring, we'll spend more time exploring this with students so they understand how it will benefit their academic journey.

Our dedicated teaching staff continue working together to ensure every student experiences consistent, effective instruction in the classroom. We remain committed to improving our adult practices so that student outcomes also continue to increase. Coming up, we have Parent-Teacher Conferences February 26 and 27. This year, based on your feedback, we're offering (3) "open" drop-in time slots for families who were unable to schedule in advance. We ask that these visits stay within 5-7 minutes to allow more families to participate. As a reminder, Spring Break and the Forward Exam are approaching as we wrap up March and move into early April.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank all participating families for their cooperation with morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up routines. While these procedures can sometimes be challenging, your patience and commitment help us keep students safe, which remains our top priority. Your ongoing support makes a difference, and together, we are building a safe, caring, and successful school environment. If you have any questions, suggestions, or stories you'd like to share, please feel free to reach out.

Looking forward to a productive semester ahead.

Caleb Hundt

South Middle School Principal

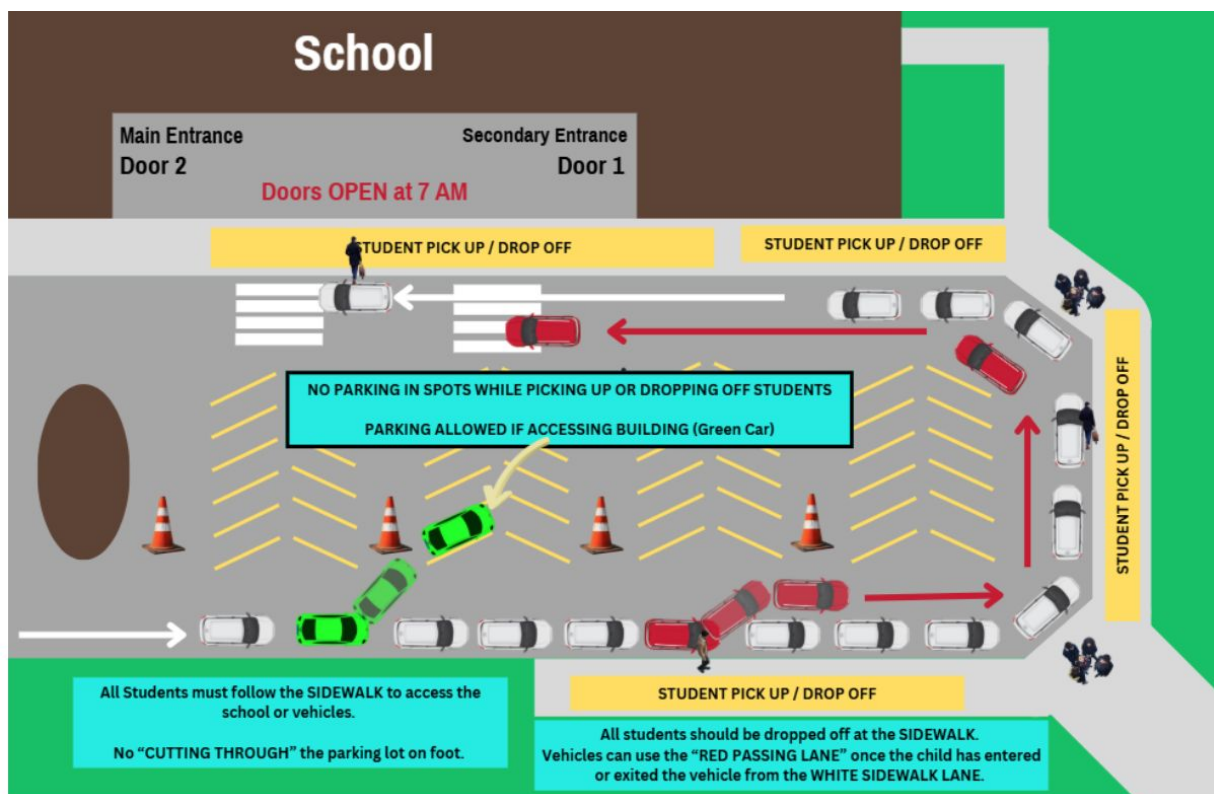
chundtl@ecasd.us

O- 715.852.5210

C- 715.492.2577

A reminder will be sent Monday evening.

Hallway and locker access begins at 7:10.





Open Enrollment Begins February 2

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows students and families who don't live in our district to open enroll into the Eau Claire Area School District.

Who May Participate?

Wisconsin residents in grades K-12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3063 to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify.

How and When May Parents Apply?

The regular open enrollment application window is February 2, 2026, through April 30, 2026, at 4:00 pm for the 2026-2027 school year. Parents may submit online applications beginning February 2, 2026, at the Wisconsin Department of Instruction website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Please call 715-852-3063 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for more information.

Have you moved out of the district during the 2025-2026 school year?

If so, you must apply for a Tuition Waiver to continue attending the Eau Claire Area School District for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. Contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3063 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for an application.

Students Currently Attending the ECASD Through a Tuition Waiver

Students who have moved outside of the district during the 2025-2026 school year and are currently attending school under a Tuition Waiver must apply for open enrollment during the regular application window, February 2, 2026, through April 30, 2026, to continue attending during the 2026-2027 school year.

Current Open Enrollment Students

Students currently attending the Eau Claire Area School District under the open enrollment law do not need to reapply.

Other Information

Students who move into the district after January 2026 and anticipate moving out of the district before the 2026-2027 school year will not be eligible for a Tuition Waiver. Students must apply for open enrollment during either the regular open enrollment or alternative open enrollment period to be eligible to attend the Eau Claire Area School District during the 2026-2027 school year.

School Placement

By completing an open enrollment application, you are applying to attend the Eau Claire Area School District. You can indicate which school your child would prefer to attend; however, the district will determine placement based on space availability.

Questions?

If you have any questions about open enrollment or the application process, please contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3063 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us.



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 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.

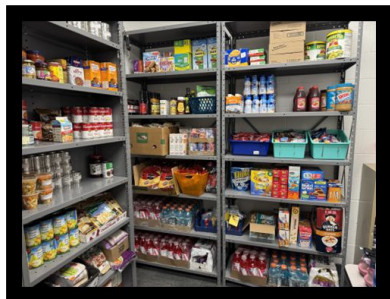
All are Welcome!!

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!

2026 – 2027
School Year Calendar
[LINK](#)



**MID Quarter 3 ends February 26 and
all late work is due March 5, 2026**

Carnation Sales

Student Council will be taking orders for carnations during all three lunches February 4-6 and February 9-11. They will be delivered to students during first hour on Friday, February 13. Carnations are \$2.00, and all profits will support student events such as mile run treats and the 8th grade dance.



Ski Trip Sign-Up Information

The next ski trip of the season is **February 6**. 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.

Next Ski Trip Date:

March 6





MIDDLE SCHOOL

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!

FINANCIAL TIP:

"Pay Yourself First" is a financial strategy where you prioritize saving part of your income before spending money or paying other expenses. This is a great way to reach your savings goals. Are you saving for something special? Stop by the RCU stand - we'd love to hear about it!

Royal Credit Union at South!

FINANCIAL FUN FACT:

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln was the first president to be featured on a U.S. coin?

Minted in 1909, "Lincoln Pennies" were meant to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth - February 12. However, the coins proved so popular that they just never stopped minting them!



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.

UPCOMING WEEKLY PRIZES:



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



Auditions for the SMS Variety Show are February 2 and 3 right after school. All talents are welcome. Email Ms. Moore if you have questions.

smoore@ecasd.us



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS!

This year, the Student Council Dance Committee will be holding a raffle at the 8th grade dance to raise money for the end of the year field trip to Valley Fair. We would love your help to gather items for the baskets. Any monetary donations or new items for the baskets will be accepted. Please make all checks out to South Middle School. All donations can be dropped off in the office—Attention: Jacque Strayer, Student Council. Email jstrayer@ecasd.us for more information! Thank you for your contribution.



Eau Claire Transit

**FREE
FARE
FOR K-12
STUDENTS**

ALL STUDENTS. ALL ROUTES.

Starting January 2026....

All kids and youth 18 and under (or young adults in High School) will qualify for free fare rides on all ECT routes!

High School students will need to show a student ID.

GET A RIDE TO SCHOOL

All middle schools and both high schools are stops on ECT routes.

**FIND YOUR ROUTE AT
ECBUS.ORG**



Family/Teacher Conference Meals for Staff



South Middle School families have a wonderful tradition of providing a staff meal during Family/Teacher Conferences. We are offering pizza, salad, snacks, and dessert. If you're able to contribute toward this meal, your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us show our staff how much they are valued!

Any donations should be dropped off at the school by Thursday, February 26.
entrance) and drop off in the attendance office.

Enter door 2 (main

[SIGN UP LINK](#)



Dr. Seuss once wrote: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 15-2. Please join us in making South Middle School a great place to be. It all starts with one little choice: Make Kindness the Norm! Have you ever thought about how your actions affect the people around you? Amelia Earhart, famous for being the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean put it like this: "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees." In other words, when you do something kind for someone, then they say something kind to someone else, and then they are kind to someone else, and it just keeps spreading! Not sure what you can do to be kind? How about: Practice Patience, Pick Up Trash, Do the Dishes, Take the Dog for a Walk, Send a Card, Send a Message to an Old Friend, Smile, Clean Your Room, High Five Mr. Hundt, Volunteer, Walk with Someone, Offer to Help with Yard Work, Be a Good Teammate, Stand Up for Someone, Visit a Nursing Home, Thank a Teacher, Hug Your Mom, Make a Bird Feeder...I could go on and on. Random acts of kindness that spread love, compassion, and positivity through small, unexpected acts. Each little thing causes a ripple effect of positivity. Let's celebrate the power of kindness and compassion! Make Kindness the Norm at South Middle School!



JA in a Day - 8th Grade Families

8th grade Academic and Career planning event: Junior Achievement in a Day

On Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, eighth graders at South Middle School will participate in a career day. This event represents a partnership among several groups including Junior Achievement, the Eau Claire Area School district, Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce and many other local businesses and organizations.

In the morning, students will engage in workshops regarding education and career opportunities throughout the Chippewa Valley. They will attend a panel presentation with local entrepreneurs, an expo with representatives from multiple career clusters and learn about career-related skills from volunteers in our community.

In the afternoon students will visit two business sites within the community. Students will tour the businesses to learn more about career options. Buses will leave South after lunch (11:30) and return prior to the end of the school day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the field trip please contact the student services office. We are looking forward to a great day of activities to assist your child in planning for their future. Please return your students' permission slip as soon as possible.

Falcon on the Rise

pie

South Middle School

Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 2 Grade 6

Falcons on the Rise Award



South Middle School

Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 2 Grade 7

Falcons on the Rise Award



Two students not pictured.



Falcon on the Rise is awarded mid-quarter to students who are showing notable improvement or achievement in any area. Staff nominate one student per mid-quarter, and each student may be recognized by one teacher per year. This award is open to all students, regardless of academic performance or behavior history, and serves to highlight those who are making strides in their learning journey.



Connect • Discover • Succeed

South Middle School

Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 2 Grade 8

Falcons on the Rise Award



5th Grade Family Night



Several members of our staff recently had the opportunity to meet with next year's incoming 6th graders. During their visit, students were introduced to what a typical day looks like as a South Falcon, giving them a glimpse into the routines and expectations that will help them feel prepared and confident for the transition.



The students also met their counselor for next year, learned about our vibrant music program, and explored the building during a guided tour. This experience allowed them to become familiar with key spaces and resources, while building excitement for the opportunities that await them in middle school.

Chior Concert



Ski Trip

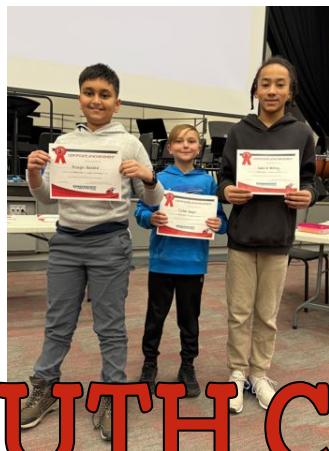


South students and staff recently hit the slopes at Christie Mountain for an exciting evening of skiing and snowboarding! It was a fantastic experience for everyone, with students of all skill levels participating. Some braved the challenge and learned to ski for the very first time, while others showcased their skills like seasoned pros.

The energy on the mountain was incredible, and both students and staff enjoyed a night filled with fun, laughter, and winter adventure. We're already looking forward to the next ski trip, which is scheduled for **February 6**.



Mathcounts Competition



SOUTH Competition



REGIONALS

On **January 13**, South Middle School proudly hosted the **Mathcounts competition**, bringing together nearly **100 talented students** from South and DeLong! A big shoutout to all participants for their hard work and enthusiasm—what an amazing day of math and teamwork!

On **January 29** South students participated in the regional competition at DeLong. The South team is heading to STATE! Congratulations to Vivaan Brahmbhatt, Elijah McMorran, William Mooney, Jack Finstad, and Henry Doxie on their placements and eligibility to go to state. Let's go Falcons!

<https://www.weau.com/2026/01/29/local-math-stars-test-their-skills-northwest-wisconsin-mathcounts-competition/>

SOUTH LINKS



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[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](#)



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