

SOUTH

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT

DISCOVER

SUCCEED

TODAY
is your
DAY!

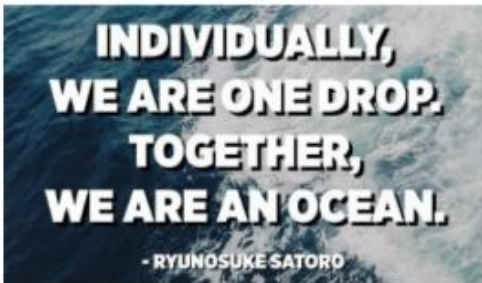
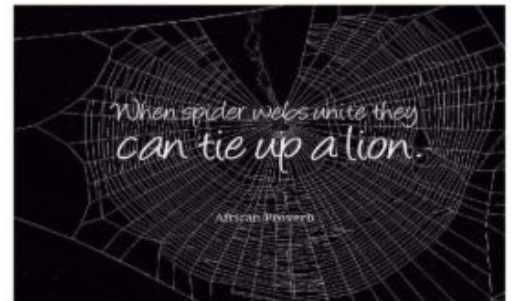
SMS Falcon Character Theme



~March~



BE THE
good



U ↔ N ↔ I ↔ T ↔ Y



Appreciate your own values; Understand the values of others; Treat others as individuals; Take time to actively listen; Embrace differences of others



+1h

Spring
Forward

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** on
Sunday, March 8.

Falcon Calendar

March 2 – No School

March 3 – Forensics – Family Night

March 4 – Dental Clinic

March 5 – Late Work for Mid Q3 Due

March 5 – Forensics State @ DeLong

March 6 – Last Ski Trip of the Year

March 7 – Summer School Sign Up Begins

March 9-10 – Variety Show Rehearsals

March 10 – JA in a Day (Grade 8)

March 14 – South Solo Fest

March 16-17 – Variety Show Rehearsals

March 19 – CVTC Field Trip

March 19 – Variety Show Public Performance

March 23 – 27 – March Madness

March 26 – Quarter 3 Sports End

March 27 – Summer School Sign Up Ends

March 27 – End Quarter 3

March 30 – April 3 – No School – Spring Break

April 8 – Quarter 3 Late Work Due



March 2 – No School –

Staff Work Day

March 30 – April 3 – No School

Spring Break

 ROYAL CREDIT UNION.
SchoolSense
Deposit Dates:

March 5

March 12

March 19

March 26



May 1, 2026

8th Grade Dance
Hollywood Red Carpet



5 Days to Spring Break Dress-Up Days!

Monday, March 23
Comfy Day

Tuesday, March 24
Character Day

Wednesday, March 25
Decades Day

Thursday, March 26
Sports/Jersey Day

Friday, March 27
Falcon Pride
(wear red, black, and white)



2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar

[LINK](#)



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE



CONNECT

DISCOVER

SUCCEED

Falcon Families,

As we move into March at South Middle School, we are excited about the momentum of the school year and the promise of spring ahead. Our school community continues to live our motto—**Connect, Discover, and Succeed**—as students work to be **respectful, responsible, and ready** each day. Parent/Teacher Conferences have concluded. Thank you for partnering with us and taking time to connect with your child's teachers. We value your voice and have sent out a brief family survey focused on conference feedback. Please take a few moments to complete it, as your input helps us continue to improve these important experiences. In addition, you should have also received our larger-scale family **climate survey**, and we greatly appreciate your feedback as we reflect on how South Middle School is serving students and families. You can find these links in your parent square account or linked in this newsletter.

March is also a key month for learning and preparation. Students will begin reviewing and strengthening skills in advance of the **Wisconsin Forward Assessment**, which will take place the **first full week in April**, immediately following Spring Break (**March 30–April 3**). Our staff continues professional learning throughout the year focused on **Effective Instructional Delivery**, and you may notice administrators visiting classrooms more frequently during this time. These visits are part of our commitment to continuous improvement and supporting high-quality instruction for all students. We are also continuing district-wide learning around **standards-based grading**, and the district will host another **parent information night on April 22**, right here at South Middle School. We encourage families to attend and learn more about this important work.

Student safety remains a top priority at South Middle School. On a day when **students are NOT in attendance**, we will be hosting a joint training with **EMS, law enforcement, and school staff** focused on our lockdown and intruder response procedures. More detailed information will be shared with families prior to this April training date. At any time, please remind your child that they should always feel comfortable reporting concerning behavior to an administrator or by using the **Speak Up Speak Out** app. As we look ahead to longer days, warmer weather, and new opportunities, we are grateful for your continued partnership and are excited for the energy that spring and sunshine bring to our school community.

Thanks,

Caleb Hundt
South Middle School Principal
chundt1@ecasd.us
O- 715.852.5210
C- 715.492.2577

District INFO



Family & Student Climate Surveys – Feedback for Your School

From February 23 - March 13, families and students across the school district will have the chance to complete a climate survey. Students will complete the **Student Climate Survey** during the school day, and parents/guardians will have the chance to complete a **Family Climate Survey** in their own time during this period.

These **surveys are anonymous** and will ask questions about their school, their classes, their feelings of safety, and their engagement with school programs and activities. The results of these surveys will help our district learn what we are doing well, where we need to improve, and what we must prioritize as we plan for the future.

We are committed to meeting the diverse needs of each student attending our schools. You can preview the survey questions by visiting the link below

- Family Climate [Survey Questions](#)
- For students in [Grades 3-5](#)
- For students in [Grades 6-12](#)

If you would like to opt-out your child from taking the Student Climate Survey, please reach out directly to your building [Principal](#) by email and notify them that you would like to opt-out your child from participating in the Student Climate Survey.

Thank you for your help in providing us with key input and feedback regarding our school climate. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dang Yang, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at dyang1@ecasd.us.

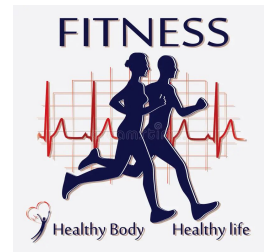
SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please use the QR code to complete the South Middle School Spring Conference Survey. Please complete the survey by **March 6**.



FITNESS TESTING

March 23 – 27, 2026



The Eau Claire Area School District has revised its Physical Education program in grades 6-12. Included in this revision is an increase in fitness instruction and the addition of fitness assessments. The instruction and assessments will include FITNESSGRAM. FITNESSGRAM is a health-related fitness assessment developed by The Cooper Institute and is a research-based criterion referenced test.

The Eau Claire Area School District considers FITNESSGRAM a quality assessment for three reasons:

1. FITNESSGRAM establishes a baseline of a healthy fitness zone from which students can set goals and check their progress (non-competitive) to plan for lifelong physical activity and to maintain and improve their fitness level. This health-related fitness assessment measures students' aerobic capacity, muscular strength/endurance, flexibility and body composition.
2. FITNESSGRAM provides recommended activity program options that will help students reach healthy fitness zones in those areas where they need to improve.
3. FITNESSGRAM does not place an emphasis on skill or sports-related fitness such as speed measured by an individual's 40 yard dash time. It does not compare students to other students. All student data will be confidential.

FITNESSGRAM tests all students regardless of age, gender, or ability. Students are encouraged to be self-aware of health-related fitness and take responsibility by setting personal fitness goals. When students focus on the process of doing their personal best, a more positive lifelong impact is achieved.

There are several FITNESSGRAM assessment components, so students should expect the assessment process to take more than one class period. FITNESSGRAM assessment components include running, flexibility, curl-ups, push-ups, trunk lift. Height and weight are also included as a part of the assessment, and these measurements are taken privately. If you would like your student to be excluded from any of the FITNESSGRAM measurements, please contact your student's physical education teacher.

Each year students will be assessed in the first weeks of their physical education course, and again during the last weeks. This will allow students and their parents/guardians to measure their fitness progress over the school year and year-to-year.

FITNESSGRAM assessment reports will be emailed to all students, and also emailed to parents who have given at least one email address to their school through the Student Information Card, which is updated at the start of each school year. Parents/guardians without an email address will be given a paper copy of their child's report, which will be brought home by the child.

The Eau Claire Area School District believes by providing you and your child with this health-related fitness information you can lead your child toward a healthy lifestyle. A healthy student is better prepared to learn and perform in all aspects of life. A sample student report may be found at <http://www.fitnessgram.net/files/fgsamplereports.pdf>.

If you have any questions about the FITNESSGRAM Assessment, please contact your student's physical education teacher. You may also learn more about FITNESSGRAM at <http://www.fitnessgram.net/>



Quarter THREE Sports Season

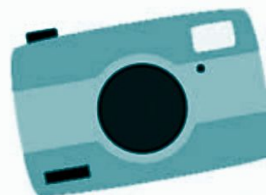
January 20 - March 26

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!!

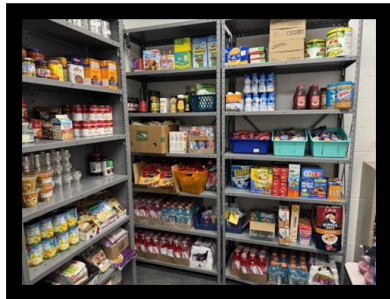
Falcon FOODS



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!



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

END of Quarter 3 is March 27 and all late work is due April 8

99.9 FM Eau Claire together with WQOW News 18 present

Help for the Homeless HYGIENE DRIVE

**Feb. 22 -
Mar. 15**

Help ease
financial strain on 5
local homeless and
crisis programs in
Eau Claire and
those they serve!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Bathroom Tissue	Diapers/Baby Care	Paper Towels
Cleaning Supplies	Face/Bath Soap	Razors
Dental Care	Feminine Care	Hair Care
Deodorant	Laundry Detergent	Trash Bags

Donations remain in the community where collected!



Thanks to our sponsors and event partners! Details at www.TheFamily.net or 800-236-9364.



Snack

As we prepare for Forward Testing in April, we are asking for your help in providing snacks for our students. If you are able, please consider donating **individually wrapped, nut-free snacks** to support our learners during testing days.

Please send all donations to the school by **March 27**, labeled **"Forward Snacks."** We truly appreciate any contributions you can provide.

If you prefer, you may also make a **monetary donation**, and we will use the funds to purchase snacks on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and school community!

[Here is the link to sign up for donations.](#)



Thank you to all of our families for your incredible generosity during our February Food Drive! Because of your donations, we were able to support local families and community organizations in a meaningful way. Your kindness and willingness to give truly make a difference, and we are grateful for the strong community spirit that shines through each year. Thank you for helping us care for others!



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.



ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION.

Royal Credit Union at South!

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!



5 BUDGETING TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY FOR SPRING BREAK:

Royal Credit Union is proud to partner with Enrich, an interactive financial wellness platform that offers engaging, effective, unbiased online financial education. Learn five ways your family can save to make the most of your Spring Break vacation this year by following this link:
<https://bit.ly/springbreaktips>



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.

SPRING BREAK GIVEAWAY:

On Thursday March 26, stop by the RCU teller stand to share a smart savings tip! You'll receive a Jolly Rancher for participating. Take a look at the wall behind the RCU stand for other smart savings tips!

UPCOMING WEEKLY PRIZES:



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

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026

Summer Program Registration begins online Saturday, March 7, at 8 am and will end on March 27. Athletics registration will be open throughout the summer. The family hotline for questions will be available from 8 am-12 pm on March 7 only at 715-852-3141. Letters should have arrived in mailboxes with student IDs and instructions on how to register.

The guide is also online at www.ecasd.us/summer. Families can pick up extra guides at their school and at the Administration Building.



Thank You, Families!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who generously donated food, treats, and supplies for our parent-teacher conference meals. Your kindness helped make these long days a little brighter for our staff, and we are truly thankful for the support you continually show our school community.

Your thoughtfulness means so much—thank you for taking such good care of us!



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

Spring Break Tips for Middle School Students & Families

As Spring Break approaches, here are some helpful reminders to ensure students enjoy a safe, healthy, and restful week away from school.

For Students

Stay Active

Enjoy time outdoors—go for a walk, ride your bike, play a sport, or try a new hobby.

Keep a Light Routine

A flexible schedule still helps maintain good habits. Try to keep consistent wake-up and bedtime routines.

Read or Learn Something New

Pick up a book, explore a favorite topic, or try a hands-on activity like cooking or building.

Balance Screen Time

A little gaming or scrolling is fine—just remember to mix in screen-free time.

Help Out at Home

Spring Break is a great time to practice independence: tidy your room, help cook, or take on a small project.

Spend Time with Friends—Safely

Choose safe activities, positive online behavior, and fun group outings.

For Parents

Set Expectations Early

Talk about daily routines, screen time limits, and activity guidelines before break begins.

Safety First

Review online safety, know who your child is hanging out with, and remind them of basic safety when they're out and about.

Make Simple Memories

You don't need a big trip for meaningful family time. Try game nights, local outings, baking together, or exploring a new hobby as a family.

Monitor Devices & Social Media

Check privacy settings, discuss healthy posting habits, and encourage mindful screen use.

Encourage Rest & Recharge

Spring Break is a great time for students to relax and reset before the final stretch of the school year.

Ease Back into Routine

A day or two before school starts, re-establish earlier bedtimes and get school materials organized.



R³ Award Recipients

South Middle School
Proudly presents
2025-2026 Quarter 2 Grade 6

 **R³ Award** 

CONGRATULATIONS! 

At the end of the quarter, the **R³ Award** is presented to students who consistently follow South's core principles of **Respect, Responsibility, and Readiness**. To be eligible, students must have zero major behavior infractions and no missing assignments. Staff nominations ensure that these students are acknowledged for their dedication and positive contributions to our school community.



South Middle School
Proudly presents
2025-2026 Quarter 2 Grade 7

 **R³ Award** 

South Middle School
Proudly presents
2025-2026 Quarter 2 Grade 8

 **R³ Award** 

CONGRATULATIONS! 

ENCORE Competition



Here are some photos from our first Encore competition, "Locopalooza" which was at Altoona High School. This was on Saturday, January 24th and we got 1st runner-up! Not everyone is included in the photo

UWEC MS Honors Choir



Here are the pictures from the UWEC Middle School Honors Choir. This happened on January 8th. I included both the serious and goofy photo lol. Thank you in advance for posting this and sending it out!



GOLDEN APPLE AWARD



SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

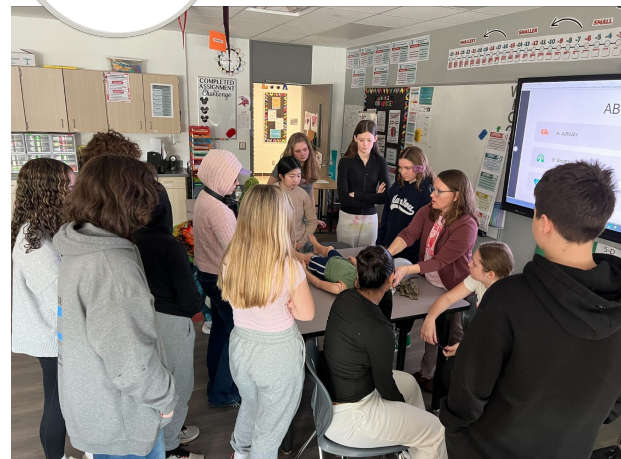
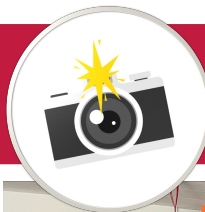


Congratulations Shelby Moore!!! - We are so proud to share that **Shelby Moore** has been selected as this year's **Golden Apple** recipient for **South** !

This honor reflects her exceptional dedication, positivity, and the hard work she brings each day to support our students and staff. Shelby, thank you for everything you do to make South such a special place. We are incredibly grateful to have you representing our Falcons! If you haven't seen the tv clip on WEAU yet, here is the link

<https://www.weau.com/2026/02/04/south-middle-school-honors-english-teacher-shelby-moore-with-golden-apple-award/>

AVID



3rd hour AVID had the opportunity to learn from Jess Ewing, an advanced practice nurse, certified nurse midwife, Army nurse, and mom to Mady! She shared her journey to become who she is today. Her tips for success are Work hard, set goals! Fail...forward! It's ok to change it up! Learn something new every day! Have fun!

Bucky University



Bucky's classroom visited grade 7 students. Bucky's Classroom brings UW-Madison student ambassadors directly into classrooms across Wisconsin, reaching over 2,000 seventh graders per year. The ambassadors lead interactive sessions that help younger students build a better understanding of college both academically and socially, gain knowledge about terms related to college, resources to help pay for college, explore possible career options and discover the importance of establishing a strong foundation for their future, rooted in education.

Wrestling Match



February 17 South had their home Wrestling Invite. Here is a picture of South Middle School and Memorial High School Athletes

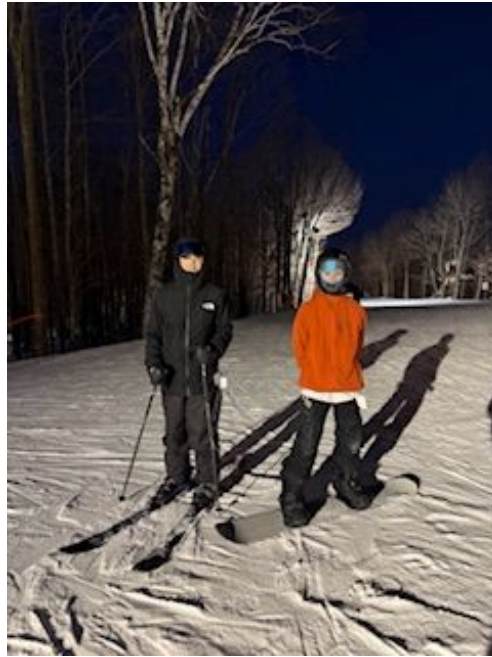


SOUTH

Ski Trip #2



South students and staff recently hit the slopes for the second time 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 final ski trip is on **March 6**. Students have already signed up for it and the bus is full.



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