



Cougar Pause



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

March 2026

South High School | Salina, Kansas

Cougar families,

As we transition into spring, here is what's happening at South High, from the classroom to the athletic field.

Spring marks the beginning of Kansas State Assessments required by the Kansas State Legislature.

Why these matter:

- They measure progress in core academic areas (reading, math, science)
- Results help the school identify strengths and improve weak areas
- They provide a snapshot of how South High compares to state standards
- Scores contribute to school accountability and funding decisions

Testing Timeline:

- Sophomores: mathematics and reading assessments
- Juniors: science assessment
- Dates: March 23 - April 17

What Parents can do:

- Ensure consistent attendance during the testing window
- Encourage a healthy sleep schedule and balanced diet leading up to tests
- Remind students to stay calm and do their best--these aren't pass/fail situations
- Avoid excessive pressure or anxiety - talk about the assessments

Research shows a clear connection between consistent attendance and strong academic performance. Students who attend school regularly tend to score significantly higher on state assessments. With testing beginning March 23, please make attendance a priority for your student. Every day in class counts!

Monitor your student's grades and attendance anytime through Skyward. If you need help accessing your account, please contact Mrs. Carlson in our counseling office at 785-309-3715. Have questions? We're here to help - don't hesitate to reach out.

Congratulations to our outstanding winter sports programs! We invite you to support our student-athletes and performers throughout the spring season. You'll find South High students competing and showcasing their talents across:

- Athletics: baseball, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, and track and field
- Fine Arts & Activities: forensics, music, theatre, and numerous clubs

There's something for everyone - we hope to see you in the stands and in the audience!



Dr. Ginger Jones, Principal



February Teacher of the Month

Mr. Jason Hooper is South High's February teacher of the month! He teaches Geometry and Algebra I, and has been teaching for 28 years, all of them at South High. Mr. Hooper was inspired to become a teacher by his father, who was an educator, as well as by other outstanding teachers he had throughout his life and his appreciation for mathematics. Teaching has allowed him to share his passion for math with the next generation while also serving as a mentor to others. His favorite part of teaching is building relationships with students, watching them grow throughout the school year and helping them develop into strong problem solvers. A fun fact about Mr. Hooper is that his daughter is an adaptive golfer who plays with one hand. He developed a prosthetic device that connects her other arm to the golf club, and he now creates the same device for seven other individuals across North and South America. He is deeply passionate about using his skills to help others.



February Students of the Week



Summer Fauci-Wills is a senior at South High. At school, she plays the violin and has been in the orchestra for all four years. She is also involved with culinary internship, scholars bowl and on the swim team. Outside of school, Summer attends youth group. Summer's favorite part of school is the variety of classes, her favorites have been the culinary courses and math. Right now, she is keeping her options open for her plans after graduation but plans to study engineering. Some fun facts about Summer are that she enjoys crocheting and is currently learning how to knit. She has a cat named Jelly and she enjoys drawing portraits in her free time.

Jennifer Nguyen is a senior at South High. At school, she is involved with HOSA, ASU, soccer and wrestling. Jennifer's favorite class is pre-calculus because of Mr. Ballenger's fun teaching style and sense of humor. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Kansas, where she will study human biology, followed by the OU College of Dentistry. A fun fact about Jennifer is that she went from being a wrestling manager to a state placer.



Isabelle Maxton is a senior at South High. At school, she is involved with NHS, the Writing Center, plays volleyball, basketball, and in orchestra. Her favorite part of school is building relationships with teammates and coaches through athletic opportunities. Outside of school, she is involved with Relay for Life, KMEA, and is a youth volleyball and basketball official. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Kansas to study criminal justice. She will then attend law school to become a criminal defense attorney. Some fun facts about Isabelle are that she can crochet and she enjoys working on diamond art projects.





Prom

Juniors and seniors, save the date! Prom 2026 is Saturday, April 11, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at The Temple. This year's theme is Midnight Masquerade. Crowning Ceremony is at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each.

Safe After Prom

All Salina South, Salina Central, and Sacred Heart juniors and seniors and along with their guests are invited to Safe After Prom at The Alley! Free fun for when you're done at the dance. Includes Pancho's, pizza, drinks and desserts. Not going to Prom? You can still come to Safe After Prom, which begins at 11 p.m. and ends at 2 a.m. Lots of money and big prizes will be given away! Bring your student ID and check in at your school's specific registration table upon arrival. You must be in good standing with your school. Cut-off for entry is midnight. No outside food or drink will be allowed in.

Roar & Raise Booster Club Fundraiser

The Salina South Booster Club warmly invites you to year two of Roar and Raise - a special evening dedicated to supporting our entire school community. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our cougar families and supporters, we raised over \$50,000 last year! Those funds directly impacted our students, programs, and activities across South High. We are excited to build on that success!

This year's event promises an amazing atmosphere, a delicious dinner and desserts and a wide variety of auction items for everyone to enjoy. It will be a fun and meaningful night to connect, celebrate and give back to our school. We hope you will join us for an unforgettable evening in support of our Cougars. Your continued support makes all the difference. Go cougars! Click on the button below to purchase tickets:

- **When: Saturday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.**
- **Where: The Venue, 638 Francis Street**



[Roar and Raise](#)

Credit Recovery

Last chance for after school credit recovery! Catch up on missing credits and get back on track before summer school. Quarter 4 session is March 31 through May 7, Monday through Thursday, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Please see your grade level counselor to sign up, or call 785-309-3715.

Lost and Found Items

Parents, are you wondering where your child's hoodie is? Or maybe their favorite water bottle? Have they lost a spare set of car keys, perhaps? There are multiple items located in our lost and found area at the attendance office. Please have your child check here for any long lost items - we just may have it!





Take Our Belonging Survey

During conferences, families were invited to complete our Belonging Survey. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please take a few minutes to do so by using the link below. The survey will close on March 20.

This survey helps our district and schools understand how connected families feel to their student's school and guides efforts to strengthen belonging for students, families and staff. If you have students at more than one school, please complete a separate survey for each school by reopening the original link.



Survey Link

Greatness Grows When You're Here!

As we move into the spring months, consistent attendance remains essential for student success. Missing even a few days of school can make it more difficult for students to stay on track academically and socially.

This is a great time to refresh daily routines such as consistent bedtimes, morning preparations and transportation plans to help students finish the year strong. While spring often brings busy schedules and changing routines, making school attendance a daily priority makes a meaningful impact.

If your family is experiencing challenges with attendance, please reach out so we can work together to support your student. Greatness Grows When You're Here!

SPS Preschool Information and Eligibility Event

If your child will be aged three on or before August 31, 2026, and meets the criteria in one of the following areas:

- CKCIE Special Education
- Head Start
- Preschool Age At-Risk

Learn about Salina Public Schools Preschool programs, eligibility requirements and the application process for the upcoming school year at the SPS Preschool Information and Eligibility Event.

- When: Thursday, March 26, 2026, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Where: All SPS elementary school locations

If you have questions, please call 785-309-5000.





March

| 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

- 3/2 First day of spring sports practice
- 3/8 Daylight Savings Time
- 3/10 Blood drive
- 3/10 Vocal concert
- 3/11 Awards assembly
- 3/12 Super Cougar Basketball
- 3/13 No school/in-service
- 3/16-20 Spring Recess
- 3/20 First day of spring
- 3/24 Band concert
- 3/25 Senior cap/gown distribution
- 3/28 Roar & Raise booster club fundraiser
- 3/29 Softball dinner fundraiser

Spring Sports

Spring sports begin on Monday, March 2. Make sure you have your physical turned in to Mrs. Weis in the main office before heading to the first practice. Final forms will also need to be completed before athletes start practice. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Weis at 785-309-3713.

Senior Info

Cap and gown order distribution is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, during the lunch block in the commons. If you are unable to pick your order up at this time, please call the main office at 785-309-3700 to make other arrangements.

Nurse news (upcoming)

South High will be providing free vision and hearing screenings to students in grade 10, new-to-district students, and all students with IEPs in compliance with Kansas State Statute. These screenings will take place during the first week of April. Please keep in mind that vision and hearing health is an important part of a child's overall health, and plays a critical role in a child's ability to learn and succeed in school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school nurse, Alysha Pierce, RN, BSN, at 785-309-3716 or email using the button below.





Counseling Corner

Academic Letter & Awards Ceremony - Students who achieved a weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or above will be recognized at the Academic Letter & Awards Ceremony on March 11 at 2:15 p.m. in the South High School Auditorium. The qualifying grade point average was calculated at the end of first semester. Parents and students will receive an invitation to attend the ceremony, if applicable.

Pre-enrollment for 2026-27 School Year - attention freshmen (2029), sophomores (2028), and juniors (2027), by March 12, all current South High students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will have had the opportunity to meet with their academic counselor to discuss their IPS, graduation requirements and confirm their requested classes in Skyward. Parents can assist with this process by talking with their student(s) to review their IPS, along with the USD 305 Course Enrollment Guide, and talk about their desired classes for the 2026-27 school year.

Please note - a copy of all pre-enrolled courses will be sent home via mail on March 27. Please review these courses and contact your student's academic counselor with any corrections, changes, or questions. The last day to change any course requests for the upcoming school year is the last day of school, Thursday, May 21.

K-State Salina Pre-College Courses and Enrollment Deadline - K-State Salina has implemented an online form for enrolling in pre-college courses. The priority deadline for summer and fall pre-enrollment forms is Wednesday, March 11. K-State Salina will continue to accept pre-enrollment forms after this date but only if seats are available. To view the form, click here. See Mr. Allen in you have any questions.

Upcoming ACT Test Dates

April 11 (registration deadline is March 6)

June 13 (registration deadline is May 8)

July 11 (registration deadline is June 5)

The ACT test is \$68. To register, please visit: www.act.org

Looking ahead - senior recognition night is Monday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m., in the SHS Auditorium.

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| 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.