

# Community Newsletter

## Message from our Principal

Dear Families,

I am so thrilled to bring you our second monthly newsletter! It has been a joy seeing our students' growth over the past few weeks, and we are grateful for the continued partnership of our wonderful school community.

As we look ahead, we are incredibly excited for our upcoming **state testing**. This is a great opportunity for our students to show off everything they have learned this year. We want every child to feel confident and ready to shine!

### Testing Schedule & Important Information

Testing will occur from **9:30 AM to 11:30 AM** on the dates listed below. To ensure a smooth testing environment and give every student their best chance at success, we ask that you ensure your child arrives at school on time each day. Additionally, please avoid scheduling any **doctor appointments** or other out-of-school engagements during these testing windows.

- **Tuesday, April 14th:** 5th and 8th Graders – Science
- **Thursday, April 16th:** All Grades – Math (both sections)
- **Tuesday, April 21st:** All Grades – ELA Section 1
- **Wednesday, April 22nd:** All Grades – ELA Section 2
- **Thursday, April 23rd:** 5th and 8th Graders – Writing
- **Makeups:** April 24th–30th

### Preparation Tips

To help your student do their absolute best, here are a few tips to ensure they are rested and ready:

- **Prioritize Sleep:** A consistent bedtime ensures students get the 9–11 hours of sleep their brains need to function at full capacity.
- **Healthy Breakfasts:** A balanced meal in the morning provides the sustained energy needed for focus.
- **Monitor Screen Time:** Research suggests that excessive screen time—especially late at night—can lead to decreased attention spans and lower scores on standardized tests. Try swapping the tablet for a book on the evenings before testing.

We also ask for your help in setting the right mindset. Please encourage your children to slow down, read every question carefully, and take the process seriously. A little extra encouragement goes a long way in helping them stay focused and calm.

We believe in our students and can't wait to see them succeed!

Warmly,  
Steve Smith  
Principal

## Resource Spotlight: 211 Heartline

211 is a phone number you can call, or a website you can visit to check out what resources are available to you in Oklahoma. It is the gold standard of search engines for social services!

On the “Find Local Resources” tab, you can look up things by category such as clothing and household items, employment/income assistance, transportation, housing/shelter, food/meals, family/parent support, legal support, and more. You can even filter the results by distance, meaning you can find the closest resources to where you are. They even give which bus routes you can take to get there!

Overall, 211 is by far, *the* most useful and comprehensive resource I can recommend to anyone. Even if you believe you don’t qualify for assistance, go ahead and check! Many resources are available to anyone and everyone.

To check out 211 Heartline, the local chapter of the national 211, go to:

<https://heartline.ok.networkofcare.org/211/>

## Free Vaccinations - April 13

The Caring Van will be at Jefferson **April 13, 2026 from 12-3** to administer the Tdap vaccine or other needed vaccines for students who are not up to date.

Please remember that Oklahoma school immunization requirements mandate a Tdap booster for all incoming 7th-grade students. This vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and **must** be documented for school attendance.

**Please note the following important updates:**

- New consent forms are now required.
- Students must have the updated consent form completed and returned in order to receive vaccines through the Caring Van.
- The Caring Van provides vaccines at no cost for qualifying students, including those who are uninsured, Medicaid eligible, or American Indian.

**The required forms are attached at the end of this newsletter.**

# Reminder About Food Deliveries at School

The front office has been receiving a lot of Doordash deliveries of fast food or otherwise, that are meant for students. We would like to remind parents and students that deliveries are difficult or sometimes impossible to give to students while they are at lunch or recess. This is why we are discouraging food deliveries at school. The logistics are a burden on our staff and deliveries cannot be guaranteed.

**Please do not order food delivery to school. Thank you.**

## Highlights from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at OCCC

This past month, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade took a visit to Oklahoma City Community College for the annual Career Expo, where our students learned about the many possibilities they have for a lifelong career. The pictures are courtesy of 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, Ms. Hester.



## Clubs and Activities

**Reading Club** meets **every Tuesday & Thursday** from 4-5pm. (This may be canceled on State Testing days. Communication will be sent out if canceled.)

Any student can come to the Reading club! Just show up in the library after school. Please have a ride arranged for pick up at 5.

We would love to welcome parents to join in reading club! They are free to participate & practice their English or just observe the process. Parents will need to fill out a background check before attending. Please contact Ms. Walker for more information & link to the form.



**Garden Club** meets every Wednesday after school from 4-5. Join Ms. Walker in planting and growing this spring! Meet in room D104.

**End of the Year 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to South Skate OKC is May 15!** Permission slips and money due by **April 24th**. We are hoping everyone can join. Parents are welcome to join! Just fill out the volunteer form from the front office and let your child's teacher know you are interested.

## Featured Events at the Public Library:

### Teen Book Bags

**All Day 3/1 - 3/31**

Online + Curbside (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Books & Reading

**Age Group:**

Teens

Do you like books? Are you between 12-18? If the answer to both of those are "yes," then we have the thing for you!

Sign up for a book bag and we will try to find you your new favorite book!

### Fan Fiction/Fan Art Gallery

**All Day 3/23 - 4/3**

Onsite (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Arts & Crafts, Books & Reading, Displays & Exhibits, DIY & Hobbies

**Age Group:**

All Ages, Birth-PreK, Kids, Teens, Adults

The Southern Oaks Library Fan Fiction and Fan Art contest was founded by John Hilbert. In dedication to John's work, the contest continues to recognize the remarkable talents of people in our community.

### S.O. Animation Society

**Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 4:30pm - 5:30pm**

Meeting Room A (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Film & Movies

**Age Group:**

Teens

Love animation, manga, anime in TV or Movies? Join us for The S.O. Animation Society, as we hang out, do a craft, and watch different genres of animated cinema creations. A cool space to talk, watch, and have fun!

### Southern Oaks Chess Club

**Friday, April 3, 2026 at 5:00pm - 6:00pm**

Meeting Room A (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

DIY & Hobbies, Games & Gaming

**Age Group:**

All Ages, Kids, Teens, Adults

Are you a seasoned chess player looking to get in some more practice or help bring new players into the game, or a new player looking to dip their toes into the world of chess? This all ages, all skill levels program will help you do just that!

### After School Hangout

**Monday, April 6, 2026 at 4:30pm - 5:30pm**

Meeting Room A (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Arts & Crafts, DIY & Hobbies, Games & Gaming, Science & STEAM, Writing

**Age Group:**

Kids, Teens

Join us two Mondays a month for an array of after-school activities. School-aged children and teens only!

### Pop-Up Poetry Art

**Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Onsite (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Arts & Crafts, DIY & Hobbies

**Age Group:**

All Ages, Kids, Teens, Adults

Pop in and try out some Poetry art. There will be various pages from books to turn into your Blackout Colored Poetry. We will use water color, markers, and collage from magazines to create Poetry.

### Teen Ransom Note Poetry

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

Meeting Room (Almonte) at Almonte Library

**Program Type:**

Arts & Crafts, DIY & Hobbies

**Age Group:**

Teens

Teens ages 13-17 come join us at the Almonte Library on April 14th @ 6pm to celebrate Poetry Month! We'll cut and paste to create an original poem in a ransom note style using recycled magazines and newspapers.

### Fiber Arts Club

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Meeting Room A (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Arts & Crafts, DIY & Hobbies

**Age Group:**

Teens, Adults

Bring your own project and materials and knit, crochet, or sew your way through the afternoon with members of the community who share your enthusiasm for crafts. All types of fiber arts welcome!

### Minecraft Meetup

**Friday, April 24, 2026 at 4:30pm - 5:30pm**

Meeting Room A (Southern Oaks) at Southern Oaks Library

**Program Type:**

Arts & Crafts, DIY & Hobbies, Games & Gaming

**Age Group:**

Kids, Teens

Join us for an hour of crafting fun! Explore the Southern Oaks' Minecraft world and complete a themed craft.

For more events, visit [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org)

# THE STATESMAN

## Important Dates:

- **April 3** - Kona Ice will be selling snow cones at school
- **April 9 & 23** - Popcorn and pickles will be sold for \$1 each
- **April 13** - Vaccine Day
- **April 24** - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade permission slips due
- ★ **STATE TESTING** - APRIL 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, & 24-30

5TH GRADE	SOCCER
6TH GRADE	BASEBALL
7TH GRADE	TRACK
8TH GRADE	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31 5PM/6PM HOME @ JEFFERSON	01	02 5:30/6:30PM AWAY @ SNEEGLE TBD	03 KONA ICE SNOW CONES 	04
05	06 7:30PM AWAY @ TAFT	07 5/6PM HOME @ JEFFERSON TBD	08	09  5:30/6:30PM HOME @ DOUGLAS HS 5/6PM HOME @ JEFFERSON	10	11 TBD
12	13 VACCINE DAY 	14 ★	15	16 5/6PM HOME @ JEFFERSON TBD ★	17	18 TBD
19	20	21 5/6PM WESTERN HEIGHTS ★	22 ★	23  5/6PM TBD ★	24 PERMISSION SLIPS DUE ★	25 ★
26	27	28	29	30	01	02



# General Vaccine Consent Form

oklahomacaringfoundation.org



Last name:		First name:		Date of Birth: (month-day-year)	
Address:			City:	State:	Zip code:
Phone number:		Age:	Sex:	Language:	
VFC Eligibility: The child must be younger than 19 years of age and at least one of the following criteria must be met to qualify for vaccines at no charge: <input type="checkbox"/> My child has SoonerCare/Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> My child is American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> My child is uninsured				Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	
Date:		Name of Childcare Center, School, or Event:			

Please check one of the following boxes:  
 My child's immunizations can be done  
WITHOUT my presence

My child's immunizations can only be done  
WITH my presence

Please check one of the following boxes:  
 Please review my child's record and give any  
 immunizations needed

Select the immunizations you would like your  
 child to receive below:

Please write in or circle: \_\_\_\_\_

DTaP	Hep B	IPV	Hep A	HIB	PCV	Rota	MMR	Varicella	HPV	Tdap	MCV	Men B
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I am the parent/guardian/authorized party for the patient. I give permission to Variety Care and the Oklahoma Caring Foundation to give the vaccine(s) to my child. To the best of my knowledge, the information above and the screening questions are correct. I have had the opportunity to review the VIS (Vaccine Information Statement). I give my full, informed consent for the vaccine(s). I authorize disclosure of immunization information to the above-named childcare facility, school, public health officials, and health care professionals. This consent shall remain in effect for 90 days after the signed date.



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_



**Screening Questions for Person Receiving Vaccines:**

	YES	NO	Don't Know
1. Are you sick today?			
2. Do you have an allergy to eggs, medications, a vaccine component, or latex?			
3. Have you ever had a serious reaction after receiving a vaccine?			
4. Do you have a history of a blood disorder with low platelets? Are you taking aspirin?			
5. For babies: Have you ever been told the child had intussusception?			
6. Have you (the child, a sibling or a parent) ever had a seizure or other brain or nervous system problem (including Guillain-Barré syndrome)?			
7. Do you (or the child or a family member) have cancer, leukemia, HIV/AIDS, or any other immune system problem?			
8. In the past 6 months, have you taken medications that affect your immune system, such as prednisone, other steroids, or anticancer drugs; drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, or psoriasis; or have you had radiation treatments?			
9. In the past year, have you received immune (gamma) globulin, blood/blood products, or an antiviral drug?			
10. Is the person receiving vaccines pregnant or planning to become pregnant?			
11. Have you received vaccinations in the past 4 weeks?			
If "yes" to any answer above, please explain:			

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE**

**VARIETY CARE STAFF COMPLETION ONLY:**

Vaccine name:	Lot number:	Site:
Vaccine name:	Lot number:	Site:
Vaccine name:	Lot number:	Site:
Vaccine name:	Lot number:	Site:
<b>X</b> _____ <b>Signature of Person Administering Vaccine</b>		Date: