



April 2026

South Middle

The mission of South Middle School is to provide a high quality education for all students in a safe, equitable learning environment. This mission is best accomplished through a partnership including students, family, community, teachers and staff, preparing students to become life-long learners in an ever-changing world.

Principal Message

As we move through April, our students are working hard to complete the Kansas State Assessments, which will wrap up by the end of the month. We appreciate the effort our students and staff have put into preparing for these assessments. We encourage students to continue giving their best effort each day, getting a good night's rest, and staying focused during testing. These assessments are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned this school year.

With only about six to seven weeks remaining in the school year, it is very important for students to stay on top of their grades, assignments, and homework. Finishing the year strong academically should be a priority. As a reminder, report cards and progress reports will no longer be mailed home. Families can conveniently monitor student grades and progress at any time through Skyward. Staying connected through Skyward is a great way to ensure students are keeping up with their work and meeting expectations.

During the coming weeks, many of our extracurricular organizations here at SMS, as well as groups from South High School, will be visiting during advisory to share opportunities and information with students. We encourage students to attend and listen carefully to the groups that interest them. As we close out the school year, our goal is for all students to finish strong both academically and behaviorally so they are well prepared and positioned for success in the 2026-27 school year.

Dustin Dooley, Principal

Math Relays

In February, our students participated in the Math Relays competition held at Hutchinson Middle School. We took 17 seventh and eighth grade students to compete in the event. Students were able to compete in up to three individual events or as part of a three-person team. We are proud of how well our students represented our school. The following students placed in the top three in their events:

Grade 7 Individual Results

2nd Place – Collyn Stuart, The Number System

3rd Place – Bryson Allende, Geometry

Grade 7 Team Results

3rd Place – Odin Williams, Jaxson Sturn, and Easton Harmon, Ratios and Proportions

Grade 8 Individual Results

1st Place – Jiarong Wang, Expressions and Equations

1st Place – Jiarong Wang, Geometry

3rd Place – Anisti Sauer, Geometry

Congratulations to these students on their outstanding performance, and thank you to all of the students who represented our school at the competition!

Boys Tennis

The SMS Boys Tennis team kicked off the season with a strong home opener against Derby North, earning two impressive wins. The varsity team won 11–7, and our JV team followed with a dominant 11–2 victory. Great job to all of our players!

Team captains, as voted on by their teammates, are Ridge Morris (Grade 8) and Jackson Watkins (Grade 7). Team members this season include Easton Kepley-Anderson, Ridge Morris, Jackson Crow, Locke Michel, Levi Friesen, Jace Eustice, Aiden Nieto, Maverick Finnell, Taylor Anderson, Landry Stein, Bradley Pfannenstiel, Kimme Owen, Jase Belt-Burnett, Jackson Watkins, William Young, Paul Carpenter, Parker Ingram, Daxton Tyner, Grayson Durall, and Jayden Thompson.

Our next dual match is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, against cross-town rival Lakewood.

Come out and support the team—admission is free!

Quarter 3 PBIS Celebration

The third quarter PBIS celebration will be Friday, April 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The City, 129 N. 7th St. In order to qualify students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the third quarter and no office referrals from March 3 through April 10. Students who qualify will receive an arm band during the school day, they will need to have the arm band on to enter The City.

Fifth Grade Orientation

South Middle School will host an orientation for all incoming sixth grade students on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to current fifth-grade students and their parents/guardians from our four elementary feeder schools: Coronado, Schilling, Sunset and Stewart.

The evening will begin with a brief program in Gym 1, where school administrators will provide an overview of expectations, policies, and procedures, as well as answer any questions from families. Following the presentation, students and their families will have the opportunity to tour the building and visit classrooms.

Spring Activity Meetings

As we approach the spring, coaches from South Middle and South High School will be meeting with prospective students in various sports. These meetings will be held during our advisory time from 8:00 to 8:20 a.m.

If your student is interested in participating in any activities next school year, either at South Middle or South High School, please remind them to pay attention to the morning announcements so they don't miss their meeting.

Spring Sports Physicals

Salina Regional Health Center is offering \$25 sports physicals for the 2026-27 school year. This includes South Middle School students entering the seventh and eighth grades.

No appointment is needed, cash or check only please, checks need to be made out to SRHC. KSHSAA sport physical forms must be completed and turned in during the physical.

Physicals will be Wednesday, May 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at South High School. Please come to the lower gym and enter the weight room doors.

Project Salina

Project Salina will run from Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 24. There are two ways in which students can participate. The first is to bring in tuna (cans or pouches) or donate money. All checks should be made out to Project Salina.

By collecting for Project Salina, we help support the following agencies: Ashby House Family Shelter, Salina Grace, The Salvation Army, Salina Emergency Aid/Food Bank and The Salina Rescue Mission. These agencies offer invaluable services to our community.



Dillons Rewards

SMS families can support the South Middle School PTO by using their Dillons Plus shopper's card. A percentage of all purchases are allotted to our PTO. Here's how to enroll in the Dillons Community Rewards program:



- Sign in to your existing online account or create an account
- Find and select South Middle School PTO or organization #VN011 and click save
- Shop at Dillons and scan your existing Plus shopper's card



Visit Dillons Community Rewards

Functional Learning Classroom

This spring has been a busy and exciting time for our students. In Art, students are creatively designing ocean animals as part of our monthly theme unit. In FACS, they have been preparing recipes that are simple, fun, and most importantly, delicious.

Through our Life Skills curriculum, students have been exploring a variety of current events and topics, including the Great Backyard Bird Count, Monarch migration, the recent lunar eclipse, and Team IMPACT, along with many other engaging subjects.

Spring also gives us the opportunity to spend more time outdoors. Students enjoy exploring outside, incorporating science experiments into our lessons, and learning more about weather and seasonal changes.

It is hard to believe the school year is already winding down. This has truly been a wonderful year filled with learning, growth, and great experiences for our students.

Family and Consumer Science

We're off to a great start in the fourth quarter in Family & Consumer Science (FACS). In FACS 1, students are beginning the Employment and Entrepreneurship Unit. During this unit, they will explore the differences between jobs and careers, set personal goals, and learn about important employability skills.

Later in the quarter, students will move into Foods and Nutrition, where they will study nutrients, kitchen safety, kitchen math, reading food labels, and how to properly follow a recipe. Students will also spend time in the kitchen each week learning how to cook using a variety of kitchen appliances.

FACS 2 students will spend the entire quarter in the kitchen practicing and developing different cooking techniques. Some of their projects include making homemade tortillas, salsa, pasta, sauces, and gravies. Students will also spend a full week learning about eggs and the many different ways they can be used and prepared. One of the highlights of the quarter will be the International Rice Project. During this project, students will work in groups to prepare a rice dish from a different culture to share with the class. They will also give a presentation about the history of the dish and how it became an important part of that culture.

To wrap up the quarter, FACS 2 students will create their own bakery concept and complete a cost analysis of the ingredients needed for the product they choose to make. This project will help students better understand the costs involved in purchasing materials and running a business.

Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Jill Thelen for earning April teacher of the month. Mrs. Thelen teaches in our Functional Learning classroom, whose dedication to serving some of our most unique learners makes a tremendous impact in our school community. Through her caring and empathetic approach, she builds strong relationships with students while also maintaining excellent communication with their families. What stands out most is her belief in every student's potential - she holds them to high expectations while meeting them where they are and helping them grow.



Students of the Week

Week 23

Congratulations to Isabella Phomchaleun for earning student of the week. Isabella is a seventh grader at South Middle School. At school, she is involved in orchestra and yearbook. She enjoys orchestra the most because she loves playing her instrument. Outside of school, she spends her time as a babysitter. After high school, she plans on becoming a therapist or a school counselor. Some fun facts about Isabella are that she has four older sisters and she loves babysitting her younger cousins.



Week 24

Congratulations to Linxton Dusseau for earning student of the week. At school, he is on the football, wrestling and track teams. His favorite part of school is interacting with his teachers, and he appreciates how caring and willing to help all of his teachers are. Outside of school, he wrestles and plays baseball. After high school, he plans on continuing his athletic career and also becoming a welder or firefighter. Some fun facts about Linxton are that he has three dogs and five siblings. He also loves to play pickeball and disc golf with his friends and family.



Week 25

Congratulations to Viviana Carmona for earning student of the week. Viviana is a sixth grader at South Middle School. At school, she is involved with the KAY club. Her favorite part of school is interacting with her teachers because of how supportive they are. Outside of school, she participates in hip hop dance, acting and singing classes. After high school, she plans on attending college and becoming a psychologist or a marine biologist. Some fun facts about Viviana are that she loves to read, write, play volleyball and swim. She also has one younger brother and a pet named Oreo.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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		

Important Dates in April

3 - No School

6 - No School

10 - PBIS Celebration at The City

17 - Evacuation Drill

21 - Fifth Grade Orientation

22 - PTO Meeting

Contact Us

Dustin Dooley

Principal

Tina Akers

Assistant Principal

Stacy Garnett

Assistant Principal

Jamie Jackson

Secretary

Main Office Phone Number 785-309-3900

#SMSCougars
#305GrowsGreatness



f South Middle

@USD305

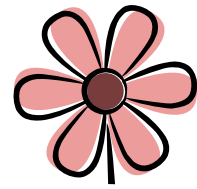
➔ School Website

305 District Website

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.



Social Work Newsletter



April 2026

Hello Spring!

It is a great time to engage in outdoor activities that are also considered coping skills.

Go for a walk, ride your bike, sit outside and read, color, or draw.

Use 5 Senses or Mindfulness on items outside.

Fresh air and warm sunshine can boost your mood, lower your heart rate, and increase your energy level.

Transitions

With two months of school left, it is time to start thinking about the transitions students will be making. While all are moving to the next grade, 8th graders are moving to a new school. This can bring on some anxiety about the unknown.

- Acknowledge their feelings
- Slow down and focus on each step that is remaining
- Answer questions and be open to communication

Also, it is not too late to complete missing assignments or ask for extra credit. Do all you can before the semester is over.

Dates to Remember:

- **April 3-6: No School**
- April 10: Sibling Day
- April 12: Grilled Cheese Day
- April 30: Honesty Day

Contact Info

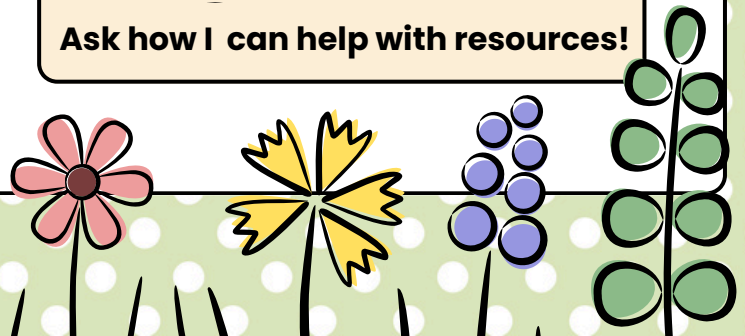
Social Worker:

Rachel Mudloff

785-309-3854

rachel.mudloff@usd305.com

Ask how I can help with resources!



\$25 SPORT PHYSICALS for South Middle School Students



Salina Regional Health Center is offering \$25 sport physicals for summer sports and the next school year. **This includes Salina South Middle School students entering 7th grade and 8th grade.**

No appointment needed. Cash or check only, please. Make checks out to SRHC.

KSHSAA sport physical forms must be completed and turned in during the physical.

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
at Salina South High School**

Come to the lower gym; enter weight room gym doors.



Matthew Pyle, DO
Sports Medicine Physician



Kevin Klug, MD
Sports Medicine Physician

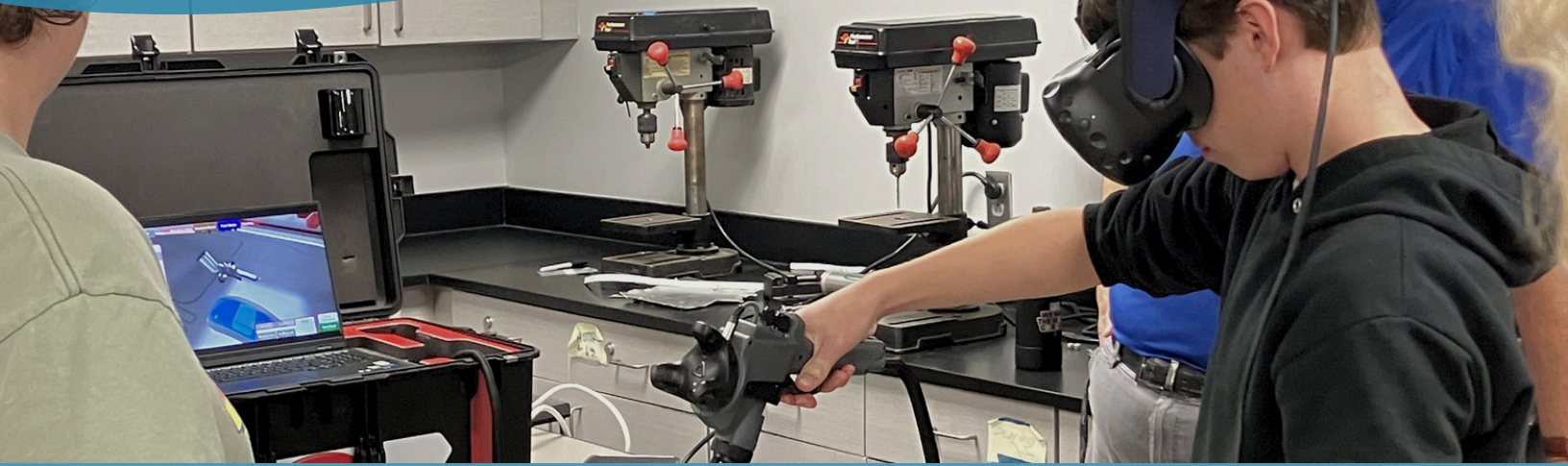


**Salina Regional
Sports Medicine**
Salina Regional Health Center

www.SalinaRegionalSportsMedicine.com
785-452-7366



2026 Middle School Summer School



Students Will Receive:

- Engaging learning opportunities that focus on math, reading and writing skills.
- Lessons for developing intrapersonal and interpersonal abilities, such as self-awareness, social awareness, problem solving and decision making.

Additional Notes:

- Students must meet qualifying considerations to attend.
- Students eligible for the program will be recommended by staff in their building.
- Breakfast and lunch are available on site at no charge.
- Busing is available.
- Secondary summer school is a service provided by Salina Public Schools.

Who:

- Current Salina Public Schools students completing grades 6-8.

When:

- June 1 - June 30
 - No School: June 19
- Monday - Friday
 - Breakfast: 7:45-8:00 a.m.
 - Class: 8:00-10:45 a.m.
 - Lunch: 10:45-11:00 a.m.

Where:

- South High School
 - 730 E. Magnolia Rd.

Please contact your middle school counselor for more information:

Lakewood Middle School
309-4000

South Middle School
309-3900

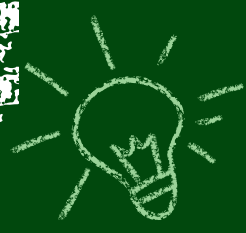


Welcome

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Future 6th Grade

APRIL 21 AT 6:30PM



Presentation
Meet Staff
Walk Through the School



ENTER BACK OF THE BUILDING THROUGH ACTIVITIES DOOR



PIBIS CELEBRATION



30TH
JULY

10TH
APRIL

2026



THE CITY

6:30 PM - 8 PM

Qualifications: All A's B's & C's
And NO Office Referrals

Students who qualify will receive a wrist band.

Salina South Middle School