

SOUTH

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED



SMS Falcon Character Theme

Get it
DONE!

~April~

make a
MARK.



Community

↳ TO DO: think
BIG!

Support one another; Volunteer your time or resources; Trust others;
Work as a team; Give with a purpose; Work towards a common goal

Save the date!

8th Grade CELEBRATION



June 3, 2026 at 1:30PM
More information to come!



Falcon Calendar

March 30-April 3 – NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

April 6 – Q4 Sports Begin

April 7 – Juntos Meeting

April 7-9 – Forward Testing

April 9 – Grade 6 Choir Concert

April 13 – Falcon Advisory Council Meeting 6PM

April 14-16 – Forward Testing for Grade 8

April 20 – AVID Family Night

April 21 – Grade 6 Band Concert

April 21 – CVTC Tours

April 23 – Grade 7 Band Concert

April 24 – Adaptive PE Field Trip

April 27 – NO SCHOOL Staff PL Day

EMS, Law Enforcement, and School-Based training exercise focused on lockdown intruder response procedures

April 30 – CVTC Tours

May 1 – AVID Field Trip

May 1 – 8th Grade Dance – Hollywood Red Carpet



April 1-3 – NO SCHOOL
Spring Break

April 27 – NO SCHOOL
Staff PL Day



Deposit Dates:

April 9

April 16

April 23

April 30



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



May 1, 2026



2026 – 2027 School Year Calendar

[LINK](#)



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE

CONNECT

DISCOVER

SUCCEED

Falcon Families:

We hope all South Middle School families are enjoying a restful and refreshing Spring Break. This time away gives both students and staff an opportunity to reset so we can finish the school year strong. When students return on Monday, April 6, we will begin final preparations for the Wisconsin Forward Exam. This statewide assessment is an important indicator of individual student progress and provides us with valuable schoolwide data to guide instructional systems and programming. All students will test Tuesday–Thursday during the first week, with 8th grade students testing a second week in their Science and Social Studies classes. To help students put forth their best effort, we ask families to ensure students get adequate sleep on Monday night, reduce screen time, and arrive at school with their devices fully charged and ready to go.

Throughout the year, our staff have remained committed to continuous improvement and high-quality instruction. Through focused professional learning around Effective Instructional Delivery, our staff have increased the consistent use of expected instructional practices by more than 50%. Families have likely noticed administrators and instructional coaches regularly in classrooms—this visibility is a promise we make to support our educators and ultimately benefit student learning for years to come. In addition, we continue to invest time in learning about Standards-Based Grading (SBG). The district will host another parent information night on April 22, held at South Middle School, and we strongly encourage families to attend. In May, students will also have opportunities to learn more about SBG as we prepare for implementation next school year.

Looking ahead, our 8th grade graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 4, at 1:30 PM, following a format similar to previous years. Due to limited seating in the gymnasium, attendance will be limited to two adults per student. The event will be livestreamed, with additional seating available in the auditorium. More details will be shared as the date approaches. Finally, student safety remains a top priority, and on Monday, April 27, we will host an EMS, Law Enforcement, and School-Based training exercise focused on lockdown intruder response procedures. No students will be in attendance that day, and additional information will be shared through ParentSquare. Please continue to remind your child that they should always feel comfortable reporting concerns to an administrator or through our Speak Up Speak Out app. We are excited to close out fourth quarter living our motto—Connect, Discover, and Succeed—while supporting students in being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready every day.

Caleb Hundt
South Middle School Principal

chundt1@ecasd.us

O- 715.852.5210

C- 715.492.2577



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.

District INFO



Forward Testing:

Wisconsin students in grades 3rd - 8th, and 10th (social studies only), will be participating in the Forward assessment during the March 16 - April 24th testing window. This assessment is required by both State (Wis. Stat. § 118.30) and Federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Law. Students not in school on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test prior to the close of the testing window.

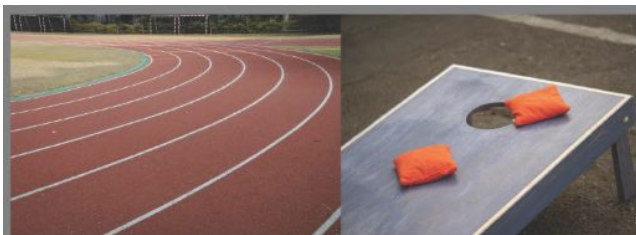
South Middle School is scheduled to take the Forward assessment on the following days:

- **Math & ELA (All Grades):** April 7-9 from 7:30-9:30 am
- **Science & Social Studies (Grade 8 Only):** April 14-16 during student's science/SS classes

Here's how families can help:

- Encourage your student to do the best they can.
- Have your student get a good night's sleep.
- Have their laptop fully charged and ready to go.
- Have your student to school on time.

The Forward assessment measures the knowledge and skills students should have for their grade-level. Students' performance on the assessment will not affect their grades. The results of these tests will be used to help school staff make determinations regarding curriculum, placement, and services to best support students.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

SPRING SEASON

Cornhole & Track
Start on April 9th



Practice Locations

Elementary-Putnam Heights ES
Middle School-Delong MS
High School Track-North HS
High School Cornhole-Locust Lane

CONTACT

Justin Jablonske
jjablonske@ecasd.us

For more information use the QR code below!





Quarter FOUR Sports Season

April 6 - May 28

Boys Tennis (Grade 7-8)
Girls Soccer (Grade 6-8)
Girls Softball (Grade 6-8)
Track & Field (Grade 7-8)



SFAC (South Falcon Advisory Council)

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

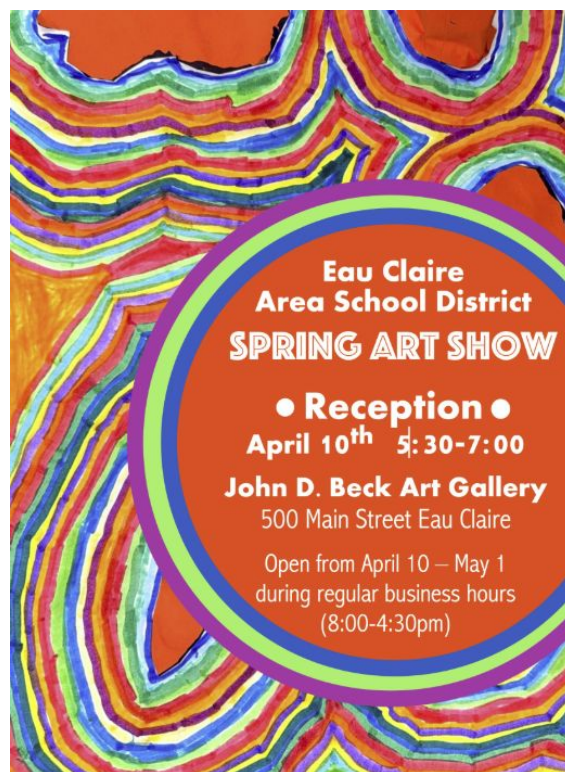
APRIL 13
(Note April meeting
date change.)

June 8

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.

Meeting are held in the Media Center, room C203 at South Middle School 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

All are Welcomell



Two Trading Card Clubs to be Offered Quarter 4



Mr. Wiltgen will be running two Card Collecting Clubs at South 4th quarter. Pokémon club will be on Mondays from 3-4 pm starting April 6 and running through May 18.

There will also be a Sports Cards Club on Tuesdays from 3-4 starting April 7 and running through May 19. This is a great way for kids to connect with each other around a fun hobby! Kids can bring in cards on those given days as long as they stay in their backpacks during school. There will also be a field trip to a local card store included! Permission slips were sent online. Please email Mr. Wiltgen at: bwiltgen@ecasd.us with any questions.



Order Your 2025 Yearbook Today!



TO ORDER:

- Scan the QR Code
- jostens.com/btsoffers
- 1 (877) 767-5217
- Or click the [LINK](#)

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!

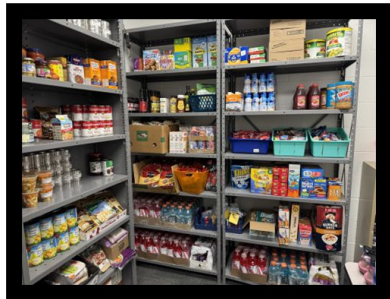
Falcon FOODS



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."

Falcon Foods Order Form – Fill out form

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!

Quarter 3 ended
March 27, all late
work is due **April 8**



Thank You, Families!

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible generosity shown during our recent Food Drive! Because of YOU—our amazing families—we collected an outstanding amount of donations to support those in need in our community. Your kindness, teamwork, and willingness to give truly make a difference. Thank you for helping us show what it means to care for one another!



SNACK

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of snacks for our Forward testing days. Your support helped keep our students energized, focused, and feeling encouraged throughout the testing sessions. We truly appreciate your partnership and the care you show for our school community.

Thank you for making a positive difference!



RCU



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!

FINANCIAL TRIVIA:

Throughout the month of April, Royal Credit Union at South will host financial trivia each day of the week. Students who answer the trivia questions correctly will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. The drawing will take place on Thursday April 30.

CREDIT UNION YOUTH MONTH:

April is Credit Union Youth Month, a month-long initiative that helps teach and encourage students to develop good financial habits. With a youth savings account at Royal Credit Union, young Members can make weekly deposits and watch their savings grow with compound interest! Learning this good habit at a young age will start them on the path to financial well-being.

amazon

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.

Protect our environment and community by properly disposing of medicines!

Visit one of the National Prescription Drug Take-Back events on Saturday, April 25, to safely dispose of prescription medications, over-the-counter products, ointments, patches, creams, non-aerosol sprays, vials, pet medications, and sharps. Convenient curbside drop-off locations are available at all locations, and it's free!

Check out the flyer to see what times each location is accepting drop offs. >>>

This information is provided by the Eau Claire Health Alliance. Learn more at: echealthalliance.org

Have expired or unwanted medications? Bring them in for free disposal!

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY Saturday, April 25, 2026

CURBSIDE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Altoona Police Department**
1904 Spooner Avenue
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Eau Claire County Government Center**
721 Oxford Avenue
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Fairchild Village Hall**
331 Oak Street
10 a.m.-noon



For more information, visit EHealthAlliance.org/News

Career Venture 2026

This annual interactive career exhibition welcomes over 2,500 students from 7th grade to high school. It presents a great chance to engage with some future talents and leaders in the region. Showcase your company's offerings, emphasize career prospects, and contribute to guiding our students in shaping their future in West Central Wisconsin.

Career Experience:

All 7th Grade students will attend **Career Venture** @ Indoor Sports Center

Thursday, May 7th 12:30-2:00 PM

Students will learn about career and educational opportunities available in West Central Wisconsin. By exploring careers in each career cluster, students can bridge what they learn in school with the knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers.

Falcon on the Rise

South Middle School
Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 3 Grade 6

Falcons on the Rise Award





South Middle School
Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 3 Grade 7

Falcons on the Rise Award



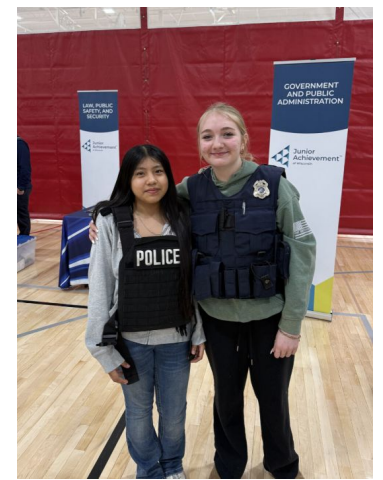

Falcon on the Rise is awarded mid-quarter to students who are showing notable improvement or achievement in any area. Staff nominate one student per mid-quarter, and each student may be recognized by one teacher per year. This award is open to all students, regardless of academic performance or behavior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

South Middle School
Proudly presents
2025-2026 MID Quarter 3 Grade 8

Falcons on the Rise Award



JA in a Day



South's 8th grade students participated in the annual Junior Achievement Day this March, engaging in hands-on activities that helped them explore real-world career skills, financial literacy, and teamwork. Throughout the day, students collaborated with community volunteers to solve challenges, make decisions, and learn more about the world of work. It was a meaningful opportunity for our learners to connect classroom lessons with future possibilities and gain confidence in their growing skills.

JA in a Day



JA Junior Achievement™
In-a-Day

SOUTH

SAFE Club



Friday before break, 5 students from our SAFE club went to Dove West to present at the Health Alliance Coalition meeting. The room was filled with adults from all areas of our county that have a hand in health-related community organizations. People from the county health department, UWEC staff, nurses from Mayo, parks & recreation officials, city council members, senior living council members, early childhood representatives, ECASD human resources, etc. were all there to hear about what our youth are doing to promote health in our schools. Our students gave a few minute speech on what our SAFE club has done at our school over the past 3 years. The students also fielded some questions from the adults, and they did a great job thinking on the spot and giving ideas how adults in our community could better support the youth. Some of the students had time at the end to connect and talk to these people about future activisms we could participate in or to figure out how these adults and organizations could help our schools. Several representatives approached us afterward and gave us their business cards because they want to work our kids!



Connect • Discover • Succeed



SOUTH

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