

September 2026

Dare to SOAR!

SUNSET NEWS



A Note from the Principal

Sunset Families,

What a wonderful start to the school year! We are excited about the energy and enthusiasm our students have brought to school during these first few weeks. The beginning of a school year is an important time to establish routines, build relationships and create a positive foundation for learning.

Our teachers and staff have been intentional about helping students understand clear expectations for learning and behavior. Through our Ci3T work, we are teaching students what is expected of them, modeling those expectations and giving them opportunities to practice and be successful. Our goal is for students to feel confident knowing what is expected and to understand that these expectations help create a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment for everyone.

This year, we are also placing a strong emphasis on Visible Learning. We want students to understand not only what they are learning, but also why their learning is important. Throughout the day, students are being encouraged to talk about their learning, explain their thinking and recognize their progress. We want our students to be able to answer questions such as, "What are you learning?" "How do you know you are learning it?" and "Why is this important?" When students can communicate about their learning, they become more engaged and begin to take greater ownership of their education.

Families can support this work at home by asking your child about their learning in meaningful ways. Instead of simply asking, "How was school today?" try asking, "What did you learn today?" or "Why do you think what you learned is important?" These conversations help children think about their learning and reinforce the idea that learning is something they actively participate in rather than something that simply happens to them.

We are so proud of the way our students are beginning this school year. We appreciate your partnership as we work together to help every child feel successful, supported and excited about learning. By creating clear expectations, building strong relationships and helping students understand and communicate their learning, we are laying the foundation for a successful year. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for partnering with us to make this a great school year!

Best regards,

Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

P: 785-309-4520

Brandon.Cheeks@usd305.com

Please help us return lost items

If you put your child's name in backpacks, jackets, coats, etc., we can return them to your student and avoid lost and found.

Character Strong

This month's focus is **Respect**. One way to think about **Respect** is "seeing value in all people and things and treating them with care."

Family goal:

Agree as a family to set aside a certain time each day this month to unplug from devices and plug into family time. It shows **Respect** to practice being present in the moment without the distractions that can come from technology.

Donuts with Grownups

You are invited to join us for donuts!

Tuesday, Sept. 15

8:25-8:40 a.m. for K-5 and PreK-a.m.

3:00 for PreK-p.m.

Please enter through the front doors to sign in. Bring your coffee if you'd like. Then you will go to your child's classroom to eat.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up Reminder

Parents, please help us keep drop-off and pick-up safe and efficient for everyone:

- **Reminder that supervision begins at 7:55 a.m.** - please do not drop off students before this time if at all possible.
- **Pull up to the curb** in the front drive when dropping off students.
- **Do not park** next to the curb or let students out in the middle lane.
- If you need to exit your vehicle, **park in a parking space or on the street** and walk your student to the appropriate area.

Arrival Locations:

- Grades K-2: Front of the building.
- Grades 3-5: Side Door 3.

While waiting to enter, **all students should line up along the building.**

Safety Reminders:

- **Be aware of crosswalks** and students crossing the street.
- **Do not block the Kindergarten/First Grade crosswalk** on Pueblo.
- **Follow all traffic safety rules** - we want everyone to arrive safely.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe!



Screen Your Student for Symptoms of Illness

It is important to screen your student for illness everyday before coming to school. Keep your student at home if sick with any illness. By making sure students are healthy when they come to school, we all can help prevent illnesses that disrupt learning.

Thank you for your support!



Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School

We strive to be the best place to learn. The only way we can improve is to know about concerns so we are able to address them. Here are some tips for communicating with your child's school when concerns arise.

The fastest way to a positive result is to start with the people closest to the situation in the school. Talk with the teacher or coach about your questions and concerns before going to the principal.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out to teachers and school staff by:

- Calling the school's phone number. Because they are teaching, you often will need to leave a message for your child's teacher or coach.
- Emailing the teacher or coach directly. All teacher emails are available on our website.

We want to be responsive to parents' questions and requests for information. Our staff will respond to your call or email as soon as possible, in most cases within two school days.

If you have had a conversation with your child's teacher and the principal and are still needing assistance, the director of elementary or secondary programs will be able to provide additional support.

We are excited for this new school year and look forward to partnering with you to support a great school experience for your student!



Daily Marathon Walk

Parents are welcome to walk with their students in the morning from 7:55 - 8:15 a.m. daily. Please check in at the office first.

The marathon is scheduled for Aug. 31 - Oct. 7. Prizes will be earned for every five miles walked.

There will be an assembly to acknowledge all the marathon finishers on Oct. 13, at 3:00 p.m., and parents are welcome to attend.

Just walking/running five laps a day completes one marathon. Encourage your child to make it their goal.



Need Health Coverage? Our School Social Workers Can Help!

Did you know our school social workers can now assist families with Presumptive Eligibility (PE) enrollment? PE provides temporary Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant individuals who appear to be eligible, giving access to important health services while the full application is being processed.

If your family is in need of health coverage or you're unsure where to start, our social workers are here to help guide you through the process. It's quick, confidential and can make a big difference in ensuring your child stays healthy and supported.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, please contact your school's social worker directly.

We're here for you!

Title 1 Meeting/Marathon Night

Thursday, Sept. 3,

5:45 p.m. - Title 1 Parent Meeting, big gym

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Marathon Family Walk Night

Title 1 Schools Annual Notice

As part of our commitment to transparency and providing the best education for your children, we want to remind you of your rights under Title I.

You can request information about the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher and any instructional aides who work with your child. This includes their certification, college degrees, and other qualifications. We aim to keep open communication and ensure you feel confident in the education your child receives. If you have any questions or would like to request this information, please contact our office.

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) promotes meaningful family engagement at all levels of education and provides information and resources to help parents, educators and other organizations promote the educational success of every Kansas child.

Check out their website here:



Kansas Parent Information Resource Center Website



ParentSquare: Our New Communication Platform!



Beginning this school year, Salina Public Schools will use ParentSquare as our primary communication platform for families, students and staff across all of our schools.

ParentSquare brings classroom, school and district communication together in one place, making it easier to receive urgent alerts and everyday updates through email, text or app notifications—all based on your notification preferences.

Families, keep an eye out for your ParentSquare account invitation email. Once you've logged into your account you can stay connected through the ParentSquare website, www.parentsquare.com or by downloading the free mobile app for easy access on the go!

Download the free mobile app from the Apple App store or the Google Play Store, or by scanning the QR code:



Learn more about
ParentSquare

Greatness Grows When You're Here!

Greatness Grows When You're Here! And every day at school is a new opportunity for students to learn, grow and connect.

Being at school each day helps students feel more positive about school and themselves while supporting their academic and social success. Consistent daily attendance helps students stay engaged, build a sense of belonging and develop strong habits that support success in the classroom and beyond.

Starting the year strong by building good attendance habits reinforces the importance of being on time and present each day. Families play an important role by making attendance a priority, staying connected with their student's school and planning ahead to reduce absences.

Use our 2026-2027 Attendance Success Guide to help schedule family trips, appointments and other activities during school breaks and days off. Attend today—Achieve tomorrow!



Download the Printable Attendance Success Guide

September Calendar

		1 Day 5	2 Day 1	3 Day 2	4 Day 3	5
6	7	8 Day 4	9 Day 5	10 Day 1	11 Day 2	12
13	14 Day 3	15 Day 4	16 Day 5	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19
20	21 Day 3	22 Day 4	23 Day 5	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26
27	28 Day 3	29 Day 4	30 Day 5			

3 - Title 1 Parent meeting, 5:45 p.m., Big Gym

3 - Marathon Family Walk Night, 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

7- Labor Day/No School

8 - Sunset Night at the Salina Public Library, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

10 - PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.



15 - Donuts with Grownups

24 -Marathon Family Walk Night, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Up Coming Dates

October 3 - PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

October 7 - Fall Picture day

October 8,9,15,16 - No School

Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal
Stephanie Turowski - Assistant Principal
Gena Koch - Secretary
Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4520

#SunsetGrowsGreatness
#305GrowsGreatness

Sunset Eagles 305

@Sunset Eagles 305

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School Website

District Website