

SOUTH

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT

DISCOVER

SUCCEED

SMS Falcon Character Theme

-SEPTEMBER-



There is only one
person responsible
for where you are
today and where
you'll be tomorrow

CHALLENGE

Always think
before you
talk or act!

Make good
use of your
time & do
your best!

Treat others
how you
want to be
treated!

Be true to
yourself and
stick to your
own values!



Do the right
thing- even
when no one
is watching!

Please
take
RESPONSIBILITY
for the
energy
you bring into
this space.

BE RESPONSIBLE

"It's the one thing you can control. You are responsible for how people remember you- or don't. So don't take it lightly." – Kobe Bryant

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

The staff at South Middle School warmly welcomes all our students and families to a brand-new school year! We are excited to begin this journey together and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences. Let's make it a fantastic year!



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE



Welcome to South Middle School!

As we begin another school year, I am excited to welcome both returning and new families to South Middle School. Our motto—**Connect, Discover, Succeed**—reflects our commitment to creating meaningful relationships, inspiring a love of learning, and supporting every student in reaching their full potential. Together, we foster a culture where students are encouraged to be **Respectful, Responsible, and Ready**. This focus helps create a positive school environment that allows all students to thrive.

The first weeks of school are an important time for building routines, establishing positive habits, and teaching school expectations. Our staff is intentionally focused on helping students learn what it means to be respectful, responsible, and ready in every area of our school. By creating consistent routines and clear expectations, we are building a strong foundation for learning and success throughout the year.

This year, we are also excited to implement **Standards-Based Grading**. Standards-Based Grading focuses on communicating what students know and can do in relation to specific learning standards. This approach provides clearer information about student learning, helps identify areas of strength and growth, and ensures grades reflect academic progress. Throughout the year, we will continue partnering with families to help everyone better understand this important shift and how it supports student achievement.

As always, we remain committed to **strong school-to-family communication, school safety, and providing exceptional support** to our students and families. We encourage you to stay connected, attend school events, and partner with us in making this a successful year for every student.

It's going to be a GREAT school year!

Thank you,

Christy Brower
South Middle School Principal
cbrower@ecasd.us
O- 715.852.5210
C- 715.492.2575

Falcon INFO

As we begin the school year, we are implementing several updated procedures to foster a safe, supportive, and productive learning environment for all students. These expectations are designed to help students build strong habits, stay organized, and engage positively in our school community.

Please review the following updates carefully:

Personal Electronic Devices

To maintain consistency with other district buildings due to school board policy, **cell phones and other personal electronic devices, including wearable technology, must be turned off and stored in lockers from 7:30 AM until dismissal at 2:51 PM.** This procedure is aligned across other middle schools and will be enforced consistently. If there is a unique situation where your child may need their phone on them for a period of time, please inform a member of the administrative team.

Be On Time

Students are expected to arrive to each class on time, ready to learn. Punctuality supports classroom routines and maximizes instructional time.

Planner Use

Students will write in their planner **every class, every day**. This practice helps build executive functioning skills and keeps students informed about assignments, due dates, and important reminders.

Organization System

Each student should establish a personal organization system. This may differ for various students. Staying organized is key to academic success.

Behavior Expectations

Physical fighting and abusive language will not be tolerated. We are committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all students and staff. This includes "play fighting".

Technology Use

Technology should be used **only as directed by staff**. Gaming or other non-instructional use of devices during school hours is not permitted.

Falcon INFO

Continued

Food & Drink

Only water is allowed in classrooms unless a student has a documented medical need. Students may eat a **snack at their locker** during designated times.

Independent Reading

Students are expected to have a **physical independent reading book** or magazine with them at school for enjoyment and personal growth. Reading regularly supports literacy development and fosters a lifelong love of learning. We will be asking students to read their text in lieu of computer games when downtime is available to them.

Locker and Backpack Use

With the installation of new lockers, we encourage all students to begin using them more frequently throughout the day. While students may still carry their backpacks to classrooms if they choose, **backpacks are not permitted in the following areas:**

- Art Classes
- Physical Education Classes
- Cafeteria (during lunch)
- Gymnasium
- Locker Rooms
- Auditorium

Using lockers helps reduce clutter and promotes a safer, more organized school environment.

We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing these expectations at home. Together, we can ensure a positive and productive school year for all students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Falcon Calendar



September 1: First Student Day
September 1: Fall Sports Practice Begins
September 2: Picture Day
September 7: No School - Labor Day
September 14 - 15: Play Auditions 3:00PM - 4:00PM
September 18: Club Rush
September 21: Session 1 Clubs Begin
September 22: 6th Grade go to Beaver Creek (Team K)
September 24: 6th Grade go to Beaver Creek (Team J)



Start Up Dates

9/9/26 - Information Day
9/14/26 - Applications Due
9/18/26 - Interview Notification
9/23/26 - Interviews
9/28/26 - Notification of Hire
10/1/26 - Training
10/22/26 - First Deposit Day!



Picture Retake Day! October 13, 2026

If you were not able to get your picture taken on the second day of school, here is your chance to capture that smile. All students are required to take a picture for their student ID.



School Play Information

Auditions 3-4PM
September 14 - 15
Rehearsals 3-4:30PM
Start September 21 and are
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.
Dress Rehearsal 3-5PM
October 26 - 27
Performance 7PM
October 29

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Messages to Your Student:

We strive to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum to support forced learning. However, we understand that special circumstances may arise. If you need to get an urgent or emergency message to your child during the school day, please contact our attendance office - we're here to help!

To help us limit disruptions:

- ★ Remind your child of any special plans (appointments, early pickups, etc.) before the school day begins.
- ★ Encourage students to finalize after-school rides and activities with friends ahead of time.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school day running smoothly!



**FALL
Sports Season**

September 1- October 29

Cross Country (Grade 6-8)
Flag Football (Grade 7)
Tackle Football (Grade 8)
Boys Soccer (Grade 6-8)
Girls Tennis (Grade 7-8)
Volleyball (Grade 7-8)



Activity Fair

We're excited to announce our **Activities Fair**, happening during the school day on **Friday, September 18!**

This is a fantastic opportunity for all students to explore what **SOUTH** has to offer beyond the classroom - from **clubs and student organizations to sports and special interest groups**.

Students have the chance to sign up for the activities that interest them most!

Encourage your students to get involved - it's a great way to make new friends, build skills, and have fun.

Most activities run Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3 - 4 PM.

STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We're excited to announce that our **Session One Clubs and Activities** will run from **September 21 through November 6**! These engaging opportunities will take place on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays from 3:00 - 4:00PM**, unless otherwise noted. Keep an eye on Parent Square for more details, including a full list of available clubs and sign-up information.



The Health Department will be here for their annual Immunization Clinic coming October 7 1:30PM - 6PM. More details to come.





TO ORDER:

- Scan the QR Code
- jostens.com/btsoffers
- 1 (877) 767-5217



Order Your 2026 -2027 Yearbook Today!

Capture the memories of this school year with our official 2026 - 2027 Yearbook!

Early Bird Price: \$23

Available now through September

Price Increases after September, don't miss out on the savings!

Secure your copy today and ensure your student has a keepsake they'll treasure for years to come.

Let's make this year unforgettable!



6th grade going to Beaver Creek Reserve!

All 6th graders will attend an all day field trip at Beaver Creek Reserve. Team J will attend on Tuesday, September 22nd and Team K on Thursday, September 24th. This hands on outdoor experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with nature, discover new interests, and succeed through teamwork and exploration.



SFAC (South Falcon Advisory Council)

The Falcon Advisory Council is a parent volunteer group that works alongside our school to support students, teachers, and the entire Falcon community. Thanks to the generosity of our families and community, we've been able to fund field trips, classroom supplies, teacher appreciation events, student activities, pizza lunches, transportation, a staff refrigerator, and many other extras that help make South a great place to learn.

Our meetings are a great way to stay connected. Parents receive updates from our principal about what's happening at school, learn about upcoming events, and have the opportunity to connect with other Falcon families.

WE NEED YOU! As we look ahead to the coming school year, we're at an important crossroads. Several of our longtime volunteers are stepping away, and we're looking for parents who are willing to help keep the Falcon Advisory Council going. Whether you're interested in serving in a leadership role or simply lending a hand, your involvement makes a difference. Without new volunteers, this organization may not be able to continue.

If you've ever wondered how you can support our school in a meaningful way, this is a wonderful opportunity. We hope you'll consider joining us and helping ensure the Falcon Advisory Council continues to enrich the experiences of our students and staff for years to come.

Join us for our first meeting October 12th at 6:00pm.

All are Welcome!

2026-2027 Meeting Dates:

October 12 | January 14 | April 5

All meetings are held at South Middle School in the Media Center (Room C203) at 6:00 PM.

Falcon FOODS



The Eau Claire Area School District offers Weekend Kid's Meals to all students. The program's purpose is to provide food for your child for the weekend when school meals are not available. It is offered through Feed My People Food Bank. The food is at no cost to you or your child. There are no income guidelines or requirements. Any student can

participate and withdraw from the program at any time. **Please be aware that meals are not screened for student with food allergies.** contact SMS's social worker Austin Kruger at 715-852-3417 or akruger@ecasd.us



If you have questions, please



Royal Credit Union Returns to South!

COMING UP...

RCU at South open every Thursday morning, before school in the cafeteria. Stop by the RCU teller stand to make a deposit of at least \$0.50 to earn a prize!

QUESTIONS??

Please contact Rachel Orlovsky at rachel.orlovsky@rcu.org with any questions.

DID YOU KNOW??

Before opening for the year, Royal Credit Union recruits student team members to operate the in-school branch. Interested students participate in an authentic hiring process, complete with an application and interview. Hired students receive hands-on training with Royal's computer system to process transactions at school!

OPENING DAY IS OCTOBER 22!

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.

The beginning of the school year is a great time to set goals. Maybe you want to earn good grades or become more involved in the school community. Those are great intentions, but you need a plan to achieve them. That's where SMART goals come in to help you stay focused, motivated, and organized.

S - Specific: What exactly do you want to accomplish?

M - Measurable: How will you know when you've made progress?

A - Achievable: Is your goal realistic and within your reach?

R - Relevant: Why is this goal important to you?

T - Time-Bound: When do you want to achieve it?



Make Your Mark on South

Annual school fundraisers. By making a financial contribution to South in place of sales or projects-based fundraiser, you get the opportunity to provide funds to our South Falcon Family to make a positive impact on our community.

[Here is the link.](#)

Media Center

NEWS



Technology Items

As a student of the ECASD, your student is responsible for a Chromebook and Charger (Hotspots and iPads for some). These items are labeled and inventoried every year.

If a student damages and/or loses tech items, a fee is added to their account. Fees can be paid in the School's Library or thru [MySchoolBucks](#). If you have concerns/questions about payment as it relates to **technology**, please contact your building principal.

When items are turned in at the end of the school year, the ECASD Technology Staff evaluate the condition of the items. If an item is damaged, a fee is added to the account. All fees can be found [here](#).

Item	Replacement/Fee
Chromebook Charger	\$25.00
Student Chromebook Repair	\$40.00
Chromebook Case	\$25.00
Full Damage (intentional)	Actual replacement cost of repair or of device, to be determined after evaluation by Technology staff
Hot Spot	\$149.00
Hot Spot Charger/Block	\$5.00 each

Library Accounts

As a student in the ECASD, your student has access to 2 library accounts: **Destiny Discover** (library catalog) and **Sora** (ebooks/audiobooks).

Every Friday, **overdues/lost notices** are sent out **via email**. This email indicates any item(s) that are either overdue and/or are in lost status (have been overdue for a long time). To resolve the overdue item(s), your student needs to return the item(s) to the library, this will waive the overdue notice and you won't get an email the next Friday. To resolve the lost item(s), your student needs to return the item(s) to the library, this will waive the lost notice, and you won't get an email the next Friday. If the item(s) are truly lost, you can pay for the item(s) by sending cash/check with your student to turn in at the library (a receipt can be given) OR you can pay for item(s) via MySchoolBucks. If you pay for any item(s) and the item(s) are found in the future, you will get your money back via mail.

SAVE THE DATE



FAMILY/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Family/Teacher conferences will be held at SMS in the fall and spring.

FALL: Thursday, October 15, 2026 (7:45 AM - 8:15 PM) **NO SCHOOL**

SPRING: Thursday, February 5, 2027 (After school 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM)

Friday, February 6, 2027 (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM) **NO SCHOOL**

* The entire 2026 - 2027 School Year Calendar can be found under District Calendar on the ECASD website.



AWARDS

Celebrating Student Growth & Excellence a SOUTH

At South, we believe in recognizing and celebrating the unique achievements and growth of our students throughout the school year. Two special awards - **Falcon on the Rise** and the **RS Award** - honor students who exemplify our values and demonstrate personal progress.

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.

At the end of the quarter, the **RS Award** is presented to students who consistently follow South's core principles of **Respect, Responsibility, and Readiness**.

These awards reflect our commitment to fostering a supportive and encouraging environment where every student has the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts and growth. We're proud of all our Falcons and look forward to celebrating their successes throughout the year!

BACK to SCHOOL APPAREL SALE

Use this link or scan the QR code to check out the store:
<https://cvsports.chipply.com/southfalconsf26>

Store closes on September 6th, 2026
Get your back to school look today!

ECASD Special Olympics offers bowling, basketball, cornhole and track for students with disabilities ages 8-21. For more information please either visit our [website](#) or attend the informational meeting September 9 at 6:30 pm at Northstar Middle School.

ECASD SPECIAL OLYMPICS SEASON KICKOFF



Practice starts on September 21st!

Informational Kickoff Meeting

The meeting will take place at Northstar MS on September 9th at 6:30PM

CONTACT

Justin Jablonske
jjablonske@ecasd.us

For more information use the QR code below!



Student Services Counselor Assignments

GRADE 6 - Mike Polzer, mpolzer@ecasd.us

GRADE 7 - Roberta Kostka rprokopkostka@ecasd.us

GRADE 8 - Maggie Kison, mkison@ecasd.us

Please call with questions and/or to set up an appointment with a counselor to assist with scheduling issues, 715-852-5200. Check out the [Student Services webpage](#) for more information.

School Day Reminders

At South Middle School, our doors open for students at **7:00 AM**. Students may enter the hallways and access breakfast beginning at **7:10 AM**. Classes start promptly at **7:30 AM**, and the final bell of the day rings at **2:51 PM**. We appreciate your support in helping students arrive on time and ready to learn each day!



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who generously donated food to South Falcon Foods. Your kindness and support make a real difference in our school community. Because of your contributions, we are able to provide much-needed assistance to many students and families.

Your generosity reflects the spirit of compassion and community that makes South Middle School such a special place. We are truly grateful for your continued support!

As we welcomed our staff back for the start of a new school year, your generosity helped make the occasion extra special. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents who donated snacks and treats for our staff.

Your thoughtfulness and support created a warm and inviting atmosphere as our team prepared for another year of learning, growth, and success. Acts of kindness like yours remind us of the strong partnership between our school and families.

Thank you for helping us start the school year on such a positive note. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to a wonderful year together!

After School Study Help

SMS holds an After School Study Club on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00. Students can work on homework or quietly in groups. Staff will be available to assist students. Study Club usually begins the 3rd week of September. Study Club will be held in the library.

Athletics:

SMS offers a variety of team and individual sports throughout the year. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are welcome to participate in our middle school athletic program. 6th grade students can participate in the programs marked with an asterisk (*).

Sports Seasons

FALL (9/1 - 10/29): Boys Soccer*, Cross Country*, Football, Girls Tennis, Volleyball

WINTER 1 (11/2 - 1/14): Boys Basketball, Dance*, Girls Swimming*

WINTER 2 (1/19 - 3/18): Boys Swimming*, Girls Basketball, Wrestling*

SPRING (3/29 - 5/27): Boys Tennis, Girls Soccer*, Girls Softball*, Track and Field

For information and directions on registering for a sport, please click on the following link [Intro to Middle School Athletics and Registration](#) or go to the SMS website under the Athletics tab.

NEW FALCON STAFF



We're thrilled to introduce the newest members of our school family for the 2026-27 school year! Their skills, passion, and dedication will help make this a fantastic year for our students. Be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them!

All South Staff



MEET OUR SOUTH STAFF

6th Grade Staff



7th Grade Staff



CONNECT

DISCOVER

SUCCEED

MEET OUR SOUTH STAFF

8th Grade Staff



Custodial Staff



Office Staff

Dropping Off/Picking Up Students

SMS Pick Up / Drop Off Procedure:

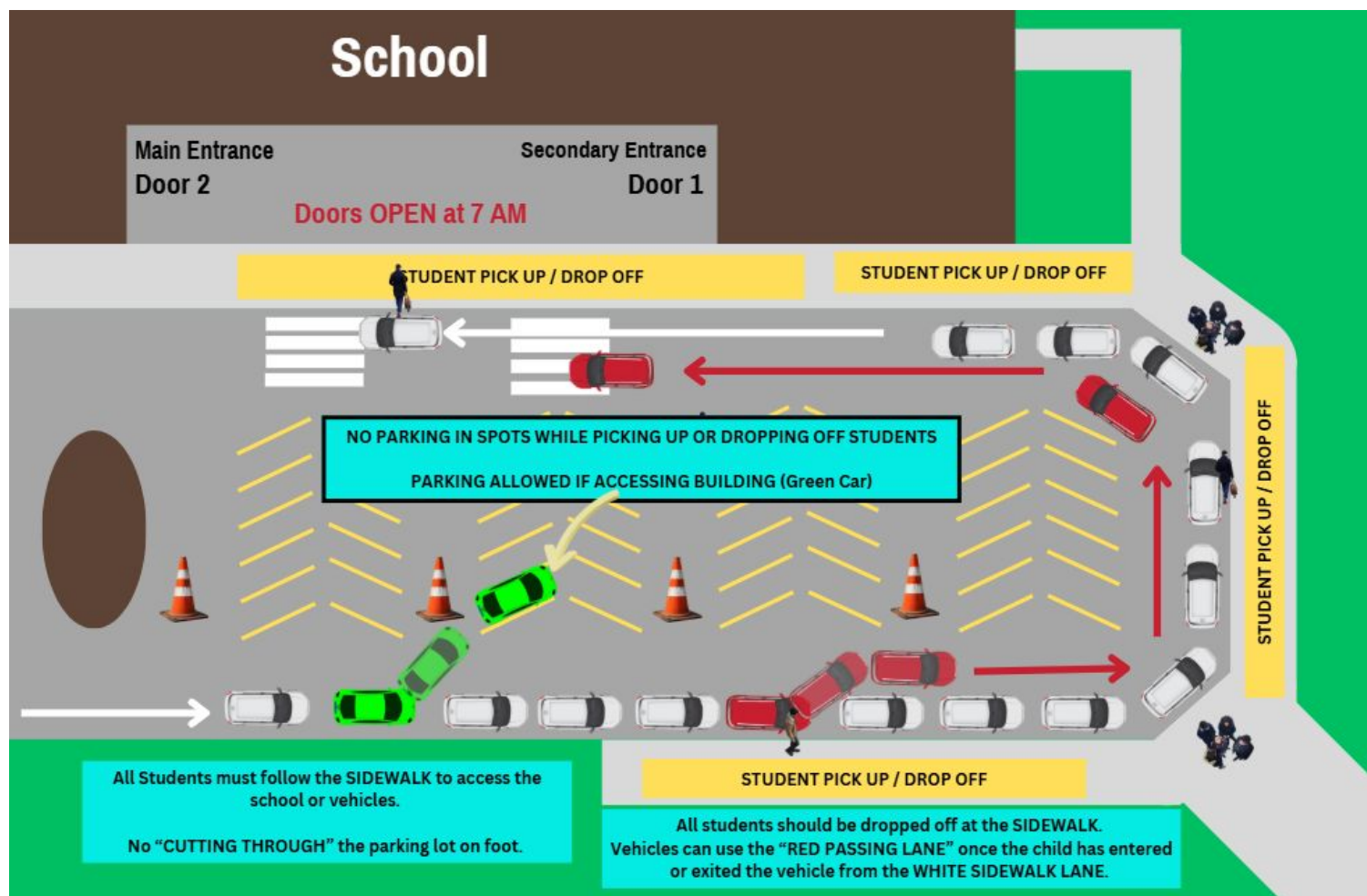
The following procedures will ensure a **SAFER** and more **EFFICIENT** Pick-Up/Drop Off. The diagram below will help with understanding these procedures.

Student Drop Off and Pick-Up Reminders:

- ★ Doors 1 and 2 are open starting at 7:00 AM. Hallway and locker access begins at 7:10AM.
- ★ Please DO NOT drive beyond the orange cones to pull into parking spots or cut through the parking lot UNLESS you are accessing the building. (Green Car)
- ★ Follow the pick-up /drop off route along the sidewalk. (White Car)
- ★ Students MUST use the sidewalk to exit/enter vehicles. (White Car)
- ★ Exit into the "passing lane" once you have secured or dropped off your student from the sidewalk. (Red Car)
- ★ Students SHOULD NOT be cutting through the parking lot to access your vehicle.

Additional Notes:

- ★ To keep traffic moving, please safely and timely exit the pick-up/drop off line.
- ★ Please avoid taking a LEFT turn onto Hester Street out of the parking lot. This slows the flow of traffic.
- ★ Try to avoid dropping off on Hester Street.
- ★ Do NOT drop off your student in the upper lot. That lot is for Bus Pick-Up/Drop Off.
- ★ Cars waiting in line should not wait past 7AM to drop off their student (unless you are still in line and not yet at a drop off location).



SOUTH LINKS



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

[September
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