



# Cougar Pause



*We build positive relationships between home and school so that all students are safe, honorable, and successful.*

September 2026

South High School | Salina, Kansas

## Dear South High Families,

We are excited to share an important initiative that is underway at our school. At South High, we are committed to fostering an environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and personally. This semester we have rolled out building-wide expectations centered on three core characteristics: perseverance, accountability and willingness.

Our staff has worked together to create clear, consistent expectations across all common spaces in our building - classrooms, hallways, the commons during breakfast and lunch, restrooms, collaborative spaces, school transportation and arrival/dismissal times. Students know what is expected of them in every area of our school.

### *Here's what this looks like in practice*

**In Classrooms** - students demonstrate perseverance by attempting their work and using class time productively. They show accountability by arriving on time and ready to participate, and they display willingness by being open to new learning experiences and engaging respectfully with peers.

**In Hallways** - students use passing time efficiently to arrive at their next class on time, every time. They follow staff directions, use pathways carefully and demonstrate willingness to help others who may be struggling.

**During Breakfast and Lunch** - students go to their assigned areas, eat in designated spaces, clean up after themselves and others and return to class promptly--showing both accountability and respect for shared spaces.

**In Collaborative Spaces** - students share furniture and space willingly, use areas for their intended purpose (learning) and return to class if spaces are occupied rather than lingering in hallways.

**On School Transportation** - students demonstrate accountability by being ready when transportation arrives, staying seated, keeping hands to themselves and listening to directions for the entire ride.

### *How you can support at home*

We know that character development happens both at school and at home. Here are ways you can reinforce these values:

- **Encourage perseverance:** when your student faces academic challenges, remind them that struggle is part of learning. Ask about missing work and help them create a plan to stay caught up.
- **Model accountability:** talk about the importance of being on time, following through on commitments and taking responsibility for choices--both positive and challenging ones.
- **Foster willingness:** encourage your student to step outside their comfort zone, try new things and approach each day with an open mind and positive attitude.

### *Moving forward together*

Our goal is simple--to create a safe, respectful and productive learning environment where every student can succeed. When students demonstrate perseverance, accountability and willingness, they not only meet our expectations, they exceed them and prepare themselves for success beyond high school.

Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

Warm regards,

Dr. Ginger Jones, Principal



## Site Council needs you!

*email here if you are  
interested:*



Come join the South High Site Council! SHS needs community volunteers and school parents to be a part of our Site Council, which is responsible for providing advice and counsel for evaluating state, school district and school site performance goals and objectives. We meet monthly in the main office at 5:30 p.m. on the following dates:

September 14  
October 12  
November 9  
January 11

February 8  
March 8  
April 5  
May 3

## SHS Booster Club

Join the Salina South Booster Club! Help us support our Cougars all year long! Sign up, get involved, and be part of everything we do for our student athletes.

Click here for our membership form -



[Booster Club Membership](#)

## SRO Corner

Hello! Officer Kuhlman here! Summer break flew by and we are back at it for the 2026-27 school year! Since the beginning of a school year frequently comes with new teenage drivers, I would like to highlight some important safety tips you can reinforce with your student:

- Always buckle your seatbelt-
  - Everyone, every trip.
- Slow down-
  - The street and school parking lot are not a drag strip or a raceway.
- Phones down, eyes on the road-
  - Distracted driving endangers you and everyone else on the road.
- Limit your passengers-
  - Most students have restrictions legally limiting passengers - don't violate this!
  - More passengers = more distractions.

All of the following were observed the first week of school: burnouts, speeding, cutting across the parking lot, weaving around other vehicles, attempting to ride on the outside of vehicles, and illegally parking across multiple parking stalls. These behaviors create chaos, dangerous situations and can lead to injuries and property damage. Let's all work together in creating a safe and enjoyable experience around our school.

Thank you and have a safe school year!





## 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](http://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 below.



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 2026-27 Attendance Success Guide to help schedule family trips, appointments and other activities during school breaks and days off. Attend today--Achieve tomorrow!



Attendance Success Guide





## Yearbook Info

**Extra 2025-26 Yearbooks** - there are about a dozen extra 2025-26 yearbooks for sale. They can be purchased in the main office for \$70 on a first-come, first-served basis.

**2026-2027 Yearbooks** - be sure to purchase the 2026-27 yearbook through Rev-Trak on Skyward. Costs are \$69 or \$75 for personalized. We order very few extra so ordering one guarantees that you receive one. Payment for yearbooks is due by May 1, 2027.

### Class of 2027 Senior Photos for the Yearbook

The deadline for senior photographs for the yearbook is December 17, so plan now to meet the deadline. Photographs can be turned in as printed pictures, digitally on a CD or jump drive, or emailed to [salinasouthgrad@gmail.com](mailto:salinasouthgrad@gmail.com). If you are sending them digitally, make sure they are at a high resolution or the reproduction in the yearbook will be unsatisfactory. Senior portraits must meet the following criteria to be used in the yearbook:

- Head and shoulders photo or can be cropped to head and shoulders photo (we can crop them for you)
- No hands or selfies
- Shoulders should be clothed
- Color (not black and white or duo-tone)
- Plain background (it can be outside), no cars, animals, props, etc.
- Vertical photo or croppable to a vertical



The rationale behind these regulations is that head size remains consistent among all pictures and that all portraits command the same amount of attention rather than one individual standing out on the page. If you have any questions about the requirements or want the yearbook advisor to look at a photograph to see if it meets the requirements, contact Kim Warren at [kim.warren@usd305.com](mailto:kim.warren@usd305.com) or 785-309-3798.

Yearbook staff members are also available to take a senior portrait for the yearbook. Students can contact Mrs. Warren to set up an appointment this fall.

Inter-State Studio school pictures may also be used. The yearbook staff has access to the photos, but students need to let Mrs. Warren know they wish to use these.

The photos you provide will also be used for the senior slideshow at graduation.





## Kansas Apply Free

The Kansas Apply Free days will be held October 5-9, 2026! During this week, any Kansas resident, regardless of age or income can apply for free at any of our seven public universities, 19 community colleges, six technical colleges, and the 21 private member institutions of the Kansas Independent College Association.

Kansas Apply Free Days is during Apply Kansas month, a statewide application campaign held annually in October that helps support grade 12 students in the completion of applications based on their post-secondary plans.

The Kansas Apply Free Days is designed to increase Kansas's college-going and FAFSA completion rates. In the last 10 years, we have seen our college-going rate decline. As of 2021, we are only sending 59.5 percent of our high school graduates to a college, university or certificate program, and less than 50 percent of students submit a FAFSA application-a key indicator of students' likelihood to continue their education.

By removing barriers for students to achieve a credential, Kansas can help residents take that first step into continuing their education to increase the number of students who complete their programs and enter the workforce with a degree or competitive skills. Kansas Apply Free Days encourages residents to realize their fullest potential.

## College Course Payment Deadlines

If you are taking a course from one of the following colleges, please follow their payment process when paying for the course. South High does not take payments for college courses.

### Salina Tech Concurrent Credit

Bill payment deadline for Fall 2026 semester - November 20 - 100% of balance due  
Salina Tech online payment option



Online Payment

or

You may pay in person at the Student Services Business Office, building A, room 232.

### K-State Salina Pre-College

Bill Payment Deadlines - All billing from K-State is sent electronically to the student's K-State email address and is also available in the student's KSIS account. Once enrolled, the student will have at least a month before tuition is due. K-State's billing cycles on the 15th of the month by 3 p.m. Upon enrollment, tuition will be assessed to KSIS as "future due" until the next billing cycle occurs.

Pay by mail: mail a check written to KSU with the student's Wildcat ID (WID) number in the memo field to:  
K-State Salina Cashier's Office, 2310 Centennial Rd., Salina, KS 67401.

Pay in person: pay cash or check on campus in the cashier's office, Kuhlman Center, Salina.





## September

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | 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  |     |     |     |

## Calendar of Events

- 9/7 Labor Day Holiday
- 9/14 Site Council Meeting
- 9/19 ACT Test Date
- 9/21 thru 9/26 HOCO Week
- 9/30 Sophomore Class Ring Meeting

## Attention All Juniors

We will be testing grade 11 students on Wednesday, September 30, for the ACT WorkKeys. This year for the first time, all students in grade 11 will participate. Students who earn a **silver certification or higher** can use WorkKeys as a **graduation asset**. All student graduating with the class of 2028 need at least two post-secondary assets. WorkKeys certifications can also be used for certain job applications and promotions. Contact Mr. Magnall, grade 11 counselor, with any questions.

## HOSA-Future Health Professionals

HOSA members represented our school on the International level in Indianapolis, Indiana, over the summer by competing in their medical event that they placed Top Five in at State last spring. Sophie Daily '26 and Elle Barth '26 competed in the First Aid/CPR event, and Angela On '27 competed in the Physical Therapy event. Angela On is the first student from South High to qualify for Round 2 at the International Conference! Congratulations to all members!





## Counseling Corner

Beginning in September, SHS College and Career Counselor, Mr. Allen, will be visiting ELOs for grades 9 through 11 to share a presentation on Individual Plans of Study (IPS) portfolios and course planning in XELLO.

Our learning intentions are to assist students in updating/reviewing their IPS as well as mapping out core and elective courses for next school year. For freshmen and sophomores, we will look at future school years to map required courses through graduation.

Our objective is to provide all students in grades 9, 10 and 11, with a head start on their IPS prior to the pre-enrollment visit with their academic counselor later in the year. Mrs. Wagner will be sharing senior news and what they can be working in preparation for post-high school planning.

### Earl Bane Micro-Scholarship

The Earl Bane First-Time Student Micro-Scholarship is for \$250. Both high schools will award 20 scholarships (10 per semester) or (20 per year) either combination contingent upon applicants.

A student may only receive this scholarship one time. The scholarship may only be applied to tuition for a dual or concurrent credit class and must be paid directly to the college. This scholarship is for anyone in high school enrolling in a CTE or college-level class for credit. However, it must be the first time the student has taken such a class for college credit.

### ACT Info

Once again, South High is a host site for the ACT this school year. Our first test date is Saturday, September 19, at 8:00 a.m. If you did not register for this test date, the next test date is October 17. Please register here using your free MyACT account.

### Credit Recovery Program

The after-school credit recovery program will begin Wednesday, September 2 and run through October 7. This program is for students who need to make up previously failed classes. Program times are Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. Please make sure that your student attends regularly as their class will reset at the end of each quarter. Students may contact their counselor to get signed up.

|                      |  |                             |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Phone                |  | 785.309.3700                |
| Principal            |  | Dr. Ginger Jones            |
| Assistant Principals |  | Krista DeVoe, Timothy Quinn |
| Athletic Director    |  | Ryan Stuart                 |
| Office Manager       |  | Julie Work                  |
| Website              |  | 305southhigh.com            |



*#305GrowsGreatness*

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