

SOUTH

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



CONNECT



DISCOVER



SUCCEED

SMS Falcon Character Theme

-October-



A SINGLE ACT OF KINDNESS THROWS OUT
ROOTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND THE ROOTS
SPRING UP AND MAKE NEW TREES. THE
GREATEST WORK THAT KINDNESS DOES TO
OTHERS IS THAT IT MAKES THEM KIND
THEMSELVES.



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Connect • Discover • Succeed

- AMELIA EARHART -

South Middle School will be celebrating veterans on Wednesday, November 11 in the auditorium. This special event is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the brave individuals who have served our country.

- ★ **Program Start Time:** 2:10 PM
- ★ **Location:** South Middle School Auditorium
- ★ **Attending Students:** 8th Grade
- ★ **Live Stream:** SMS website > News & Events > Video Streaming > Eau Claire South Falcon TV-You Tube > Click Live and then select your video



Following the program, we will host a reception for veterans and their guests in the cafeteria.

More details to come via Parent Square.

ECASD Black / Biracial
PTA

Check out these
opportunities to participate
in our ECASD Black/Biracial
PTA throughout the year.
PTA Meetings [LINK](#)



Principal's Corner

FALCON PRIDE



South Families,

As we enter October, I want to **THANK YOU** for helping your students establish strong routines for the school year. The first month of school has been filled with learning, building connections, extracurricular activities, and opportunities for students to grow both academically and socially. Our Grade 6 students enjoyed a field trip to Beaver Creek. This experience encouraged teamwork, communication, and curiosity while creating memories with peers and staff.

October is an important month as students continue building positive habits around our district's **Life Ready Dispositions** which include **Responsibility, Perseverance, Collaboration, and Self-Management**. These skills help prepare students for success both in school and beyond.

Family-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 15 from 7:45 am. to 8:15 pm. Families may schedule a time to meet with teachers. We will also offer two drop-in opportunities from 9:00-9:45 am. and 6:30-7:15 pm.

Our staff continues to learn and grow professionally to support student success. This year, our professional learning is focused on strengthening our implementation of Standards-Based Grading, improving collaboration practices around curriculum, instruction, student achievement and assessment, and ensuring consistency in effective teaching practices across all classrooms. These efforts reflect our commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences for each student, every day.

We encourage families to stay connected and engaged throughout the school year by checking Infinite Campus regularly for updates on standard scores and attendance, asking their child to show them their FlexiSched account and discuss how they are using Falcon Time, attending Family-Teacher Conferences on October 15, and joining the South Falcon Advisory Council (SFAC). Our next SFAC meeting will be held on October 12. We welcome all families to participate and share their perspectives as we continue working together to support student success.

We value family and community partnerships and welcome your feedback. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas, please reach out to a member of our administrative team. Thank you for helping make South Middle School a great place for students to **Connect, Discover, and Succeed**.

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



Falcon Calendar

October 1: RCU Training

October 2: MID Quarter 1

October 6: Juntos Family Night

October 7: Flu/Immunization Clinic

October 12: Falcon Advisory Council Meeting (6PM)

October 13: Picture Retake day (AM)

October 15: NO SCHOOL - Family Conferences
(7:45 AM - 8:15 PM)

October 16: NO SCHOOL

October 19: NO SCHOOL

October 22: RCU First Deposit Day

October 26 - 30: Red Ribbon Week

October 29: End of Fall Sports

October 29: School Play Public Performance

October 30: PBIS Celebration and Mile Run

October 30: School Play Performance for All Grades



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

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**



Look for an
email October 6
after 3PM with a
link to sign up
for fall
conferences.



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



STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We are excited to share that Session 1 of South Middle School's Clubs and Activities program is officially underway! These opportunities allow students to make new friends, discover new interests, develop skills, and stay connected outside of the school day. Session 1 runs through November 6.

Here are the clubs available during Session 1:

Encore (Show Choir)

Open to 7th and 8th grade Chorus students. Membership is determined during the previous school year's spring auditions. Encore performs at competitions, concerts, and special events throughout the year, combining singing and dance in a themed show production. Meets Monday evenings in Ms. Waterhouse's Room (D103).

Relaxation Creation Club

Students can relax and create crafts such as diamond art, Perler beads, yarn art, coloring, play dough, and more. Meets Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Ms. Syverson's Room (A205).

Board Game Club

A great opportunity for students to play card and board games, meet new people, and unwind after school. Meets Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Mr. Smitz's Room.

LEGO Fun Club

Students can use their imagination to build and create with LEGO bricks. Meets Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Ms. Syverson's Room (A205).

Self Care Club

A relaxed environment where students can participate in activities such as walking, listening to music, playing games, painting nails, and other self-care activities. Meets Mondays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Art Room.

Scrappy Sewing Club

Students will learn basic sewing skills while creating fun projects to take home. No prior experience is necessary. Meets Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Mrs. Michels' Room (C102).

Feel-Good Fitness: Walk & Dance Club

A fun club that combines easy dance routines with walking breaks to stay active, boost energy, and have fun. Meets Mondays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Ms. Stanley's Room.

Skate Club

Beginning September 14, students will meet with Mr. Pederson to learn about skateboarding, watch videos, and skateboard together. Skateboards will be available for students who do not have one. The club will also look to visit local skateparks throughout the session. Meets Mondays and Fridays in Room C110.

Permission forms and club agreement forms can be picked up from Ms. Stevens, Mr. Rudolph, or the sponsoring staff member. We encourage all students to get involved and take advantage of these exciting opportunities!



Report Your Child's Absence Anytime - 24/7 Through Infinite Campus!

Did you know?

Parents and guardians can conveniently report student absences directly through the **Infinite Campus app** anytime, day or night. No phone call required!

How to Submit an Absence Request:

- ✓ **Step 1:** Open the **Infinite Campus** app and scroll to the bottom of the screen.
- ✓ **Step 2:** Under **Shortcuts**, locate the four boxes.
- ✓ **Step 3:** Select "**Absence Request.**"
- ✓ **Step 4:** Click the blue "**New**" button in the lower-left corner and select the student for whom you are reporting the absence.
- ✓ **Step 5:** Enter the reason for the absence and choose one of the following:
 - Full Day Absence
 - Arrive Late
 - Leave Early
- ✓ **Step 6:** Select the appropriate date and enter the arrival or departure time if applicable. You may also upload medical documentation and add comments.
- ✓ **Step 7:** Click **Submit** to send your request. You can also review previously submitted absences within the app.



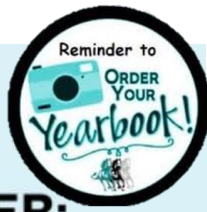
Why Use Infinite Campus?

- ✓ Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ✓ Quick and easy submission process
- ✓ Option to upload documentation
- ✓ Ability to view previously reported absences

Help us keep attendance records accurate by reporting absences through Infinite Campus whenever your student will be absent, arriving late, or leaving early.

Fast. Convenient. Available 24/7.
Report your child's absence with just a few taps in Infinite Campus!

[LOGIN LINK HERE](#)



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!



Chromebook Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting student well-being and healthy habits, we will be implementing additional measures to encourage students to be offline during overnight hours. Beginning soon, internet access on all district-issued middle school Chromebooks will be disabled between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This step is intended to help promote healthy sleep routines and create a supportive home environment that balances technology use with student wellness.

Thank you for partnering with us to help students thrive in and out of the classroom.

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!



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 is 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.



MONEY PERSONALITIES

Have you ever wondered why some people love to save money while others enjoy spending it right away? Everyone has different attitudes and habits when it comes to money.

Take this quick, fun personality quiz to discover how your attitudes and habits influence the way you handle money. Learn whether you're a Saver, Spender, Giver, Safe Seeker, Risk Taker, or Flyer, and gain insights that can help you make smart financial decisions in the future. <https://rcu.enrich.org/personality>



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.



Family/Teacher Conference Meals for Staff

South Middle School families have a wonderful tradition of providing a staff meal during Family/Teacher Conferences. We are offering pizza, salad, snacks, and dessert. If you're able to contribute toward this meal, your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us show our staff how much they are valued!

Any donations should be dropped off at the school by Wednesday, October 14. Enter door 2 (main entrance) and drop off in the attendance office. Use the link below or the QR Code.

[**SIGN UP LINK**](#)



RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week inspires our kids to be brave, be happy, and be drug free. Each year, Red Ribbon Week takes place from **October 23 through 31**. Join us in our mission to help keep kids drug-free. This year's theme is "Make A Difference. Be A Hero. Stay Drug Free.™" Being a hero doesn't require superpowers—it starts with smart, healthy choices. When you choose to stay drug-free, you're standing up for your future and showing real strength. Every hero's journey begins with one good decision.

Student Council is sponsoring dress-up days for each day of the week during Red Ribbon Week!



Dress-Up Days

Monday, October 26: Comfy Day

Tuesday, October 27: Support your Sport Day

Wednesday, October 28: College/Falcon Pride

Thursday, October 29: Superhero Day

Friday, October 30: Costume Day

A few reminders:

- Costumes cannot distract from the learning process and participation in school activities throughout the day is expected--students must change for PE
- Costumes cannot advertise alcohol or tobacco products
- Footwear is required
- No masks or face coverings are allowed
- No props that resemble weapons
- Students need to wear their costume to school--restrooms will not be used as dressing rooms (this includes any hair spray or other accessories)
- Costumes should not portray stereotypes of different cultures

Wear BLUE on October 5!

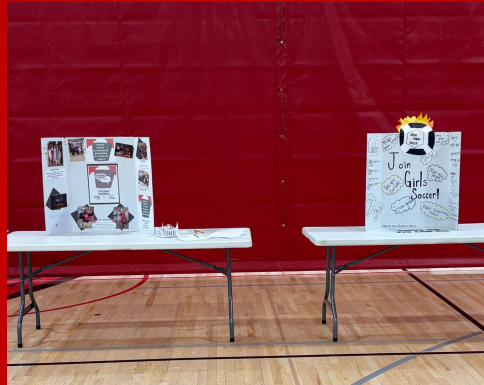
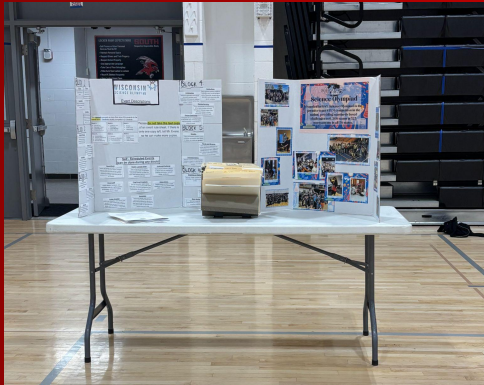
Join us on Monday, October 5 and wear BLUE for World Bullying Prevention Day. Let's get back to kindness and resist judging others. Be respectful of all people because the world needs all of us!

**STOMP
Out
Bullying®**
End The Hate...
Change The Culture

Activity Fair PHOTOS



Students found out what extracurricular activities South has to offer!





FIELD TRIP



6th grade going to Beaver Creek Reserve!

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

VISIT WITH GOVERNOR EVERS



Dropping Off/Picking Up Students

SMS Pick Up / Drop Off Procedure:

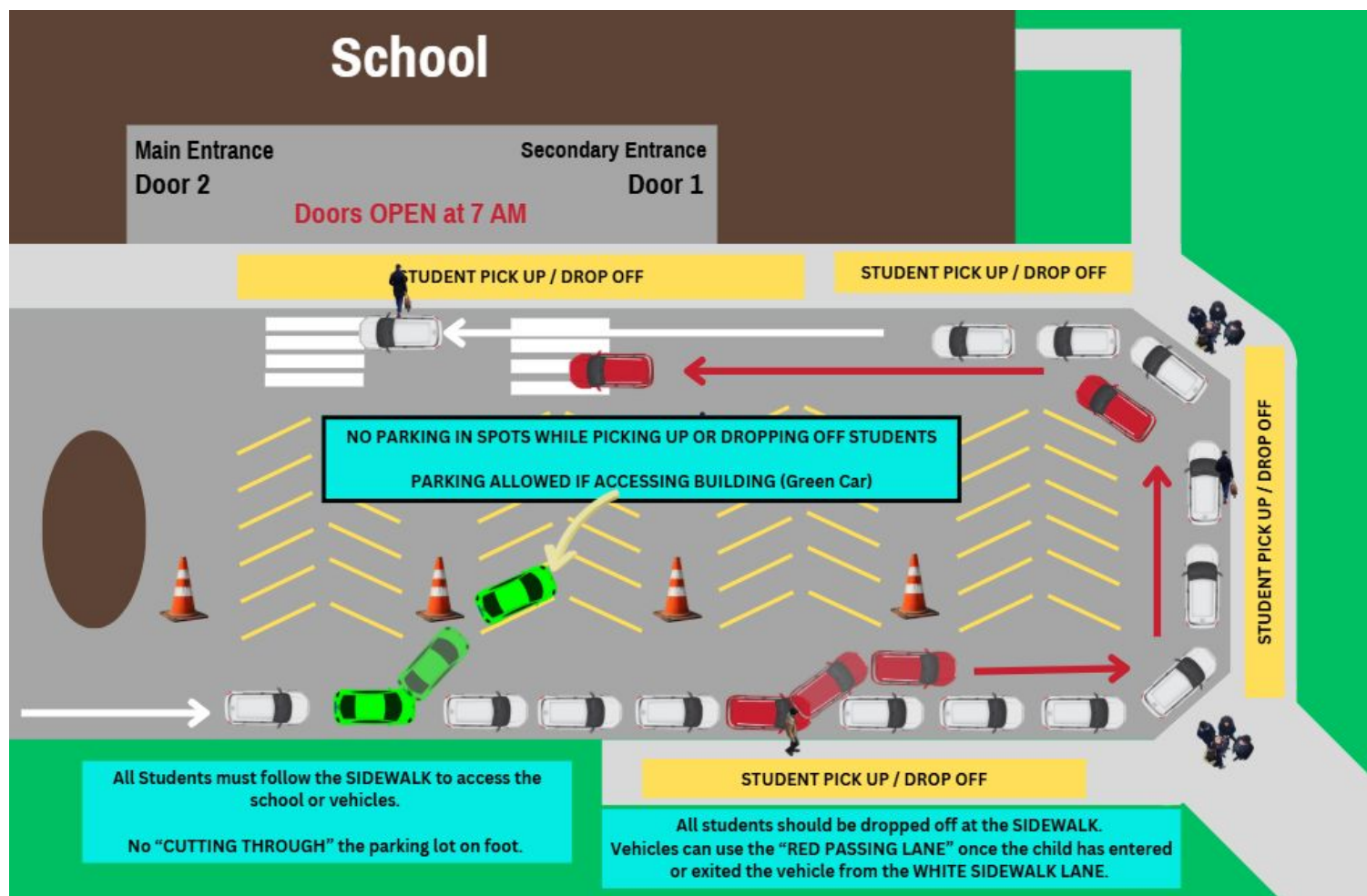
The following procedures will ensure a **SAFER** and more **EFFICIENT** Pick-Up/Drop Off. The diagram below will help with understanding these procedures.

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

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[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](#)

[Infinite Campus
Information](#)

[Infinite Campus
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