



October 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-2 (12:30) CC @ Newton
 10-4 (4:00) 8VB @ Great Bend
 10-5 (3:30) GTN @ Derby North
 10-6 (9:00) Evacuation Drill @ Kansas Wesleyan
 10-6 (12:00) PTO / Site Council Meeting
 10-7 (3:30) CC @ Bill Burke
 10-7 (3:30) FB @ SMS
 10-7 (5:00) 8VB @ Andover
 10-7 (5:00) 7VB @ Derby North
 10-11 (10:00) GTN @ McPherson
 10-11 (2:45) BLT Meeting
 10-11 (5:00) 7/8VB @ SMS
 10-14 End of Quarter 1
 10-14 (4:00) 7FB @ Lakewood
 8FB @ SMS
 10-15 In-Service / No School
 10-18 First Day of WR / GBB
 10-29 (7:00) Halloween Dance @ SMS

GUITAR

GUITAR class has gotten off to a great start this semester! Keep encouraging your student to practice, practice, practice. I would like to remind you about three things – practice sheets, tests, and our concert below. – Mr. Gerry

PRACTICE SHEETS: Practice sheets are due every Friday. The first part of the assignment is a worksheet reviewing what we learned in class for the week. The second section is the practice log. Every day a student practices at home they put an “X” down for that day. They should be practicing at least 4 days a week at home on their own.

The practice sheet and log account for 10% of the student’s overall grade. Nearly every student who ended up with a grade lower than an A was due to practice sheets not being turned in. Remember, they are due EVERY MONDAY (or the first day of the week).

TESTS: There are tests every week in guitar class over the skills we are learning in class. Tests have been GREAT this year! Tests are 50% of the student’s grade in class.

Don’t forget, that students can retake ANY guitar test as many times on google classroom. If you are not happy with your grade in class, please take advantage of retakes to raise your grade. I truly don’t care how long it takes a student to learn – as long as they learn it.

CONCERT—DECEMBER 20th – 7:30

Our winter concert for guitar is **DECEMBER 20th – 7:30** in GYM #1 at SMS. 3 level one guitar classes will perform for around 15 minutes each, and our advanced guitar class will conclude the program. Students are required to attend with the concert being 20% of their grade.

Everyone is invited to come watch! We are excited to show you what we’ve been working so hard on this semester. Please put it on your calendar!

Advanced Guitar Class to meet Collective Soul at the Stiefel Theatre

The **Advanced Guitar** class will be going to see Collective Soul at the [Stiefel Theatre](#) on Friday, October 1st. The class recorded a video message of them playing the CS song “December” that found its way to the band who have invited them to attend their soundcheck! The class will get to meet the band, and ask them questions about being a professional musician.

Follow our social media sites to see pictures and video our time with the band! @gerrysguitars on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

GIRLS TENNIS

It's been an exciting year with girls tennis. New players (even new to the game as many have never played), new coaches and new mindset. The athletes have been up to the challenge and the growth from week 1 to now week 7 has been amazing. We look forward to the next 3 weeks as our season is drawing to a close. We have two meets left in October with one of them being our League meet, which is in McPherson. We are confident that we are peaking at the right time. Next month we will say goodbye to our 8th grade captain, Lydia Gerry and 7 of our 8th graders. Our hope is that they continue their love for the game and that they continue on to high school.

We have our 7th grade captain, Anna Matta and 7 of her classmates that we also hope to see back next year as we work to build and grow our program. If you know of someone that plays tennis, or even knows of someone that may be wanting to try something new and fun- send them our way and be looking for announcements regarding our Girls Tennis meeting for next year's team! Coach Pittenger's parting message for those leaving and those returning- do NOT forget to Fail HARDER!

BAND

Happy October everyone! I hope that everyone is having a good start to their school year. I have some important information that I want to share with you as we move forward with this school year.

I recently sent out an email about a couple of fundraisers that we have coming up. We have two concession stands, October 7 and October 14. The students will work in one-hour shifts. Any student who works at these events will have the money equally distributed into their accounts for their high school trip. All money that is raised will be applied towards their final cost. We will also be selling popcorn in the future, and I will send out more information about that later.

All our homework this year is on Google Classroom again. I have tried to make this as streamlined as possible. I am also trying to make my Skyward Gradebook and Google Classroom look as similar as possible so that if your student is missing any homework, you can easily find it on Google Classroom.

Our Winter Concert is on December 7, at 7 pm. Students need to wear white on top and black on bottom, ladies have the choice of wearing black on top as well. As of right now, there are no restrictions on how many may attend the concert. The concert will be in Gym 1 at South Middle School. Students will need to report at 6:30 pm to the band room.

Please keep encouraging your students to practice! This is the time to help your students build healthy practice habits! They have lots of materials that they can be practicing. If your students are confused on anything, I am working on making some more videos for you the parents so that you can help your student be successful.

Thank you for all of your help and dedication to making our programs at South Middle successful!



PICK UP AND DROP OFF

As many are aware student pick up and drop off can be a challenge at SMS. While it is wonderful to be a true neighborhood school, it does present issues for dropping off and picking up students. Parents and guardians can help by dropping off students curbside, closest to the sidewalk. It is dangerous to drop off opposite the curb and have students walk across the street. If a student is dropped off, opposite the curb, please have them use the crosswalk.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

SMS kicked off our school wide fundraiser on Wednesday, September 22nd. We will be partnering with World's Finest Chocolate to sell chocolate bars to families. Students began selling chocolate on Thursday, September 23rd and will sell to Friday, October 8th. For each box of chocolate sold students will earn a prize. We hope all of our families participate and support our SMS students!

DILLONS REWARDS

SMS Families can support the South Middle School PTO by using their Dillon's Plus shopper's card. A percentage of all purchases are allotted to our PTO. Here's how to enroll in the Dillon's Community Rewards program:

- visit www.dillons.com/community-rewards
- sign in to your existing online account or create an account
- find and select South Middle School PTO or Organization #VN011 and click save
- Shop at Dillon's and scan your existing Plus Shopper's Card



FOOTBALL

The injury bug hit this team hard this year, but we couldn't be prouder of the players on this football team. Every week we were faced with some sort of adversity and by working together as a whole middle school unit we were able to accomplish many of our goals and have a very successful season. Our players have learned the fundamentals of football, demonstrated the importance of teamwork, and showed amazing character both on and off the field. The coaches have stressed self-discipline, concentration, friendship, leadership, and good sportsmanship in the classroom, hallways, and practice/game fields. The growth of these players has been truly amazing to witness this season.

ORCHESTRA

Upcoming Orchestra dates:

WKOF – November 19 & 20th @ Central High school

This event is only for 7th and 8th grade students who registered to attend.

SMS Orchestra Concert – Thursday, December 16th

7:00pm at SMS Gym #1

Concert dress for the concert is White on top and black on bottom OR All black!

Please make sure students are taking their instruments home and practicing! This is how students will make the most improvement! Thank you for supporting your students and our orchestra!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Miss Lane

Alyssa.lane@usd305.com (Best way to contact me)

CROSS COUNTRY

Thank you for all of the support you have shown us this season. The weather was toasty early on but our students athletes persevered and showed great growth across the season. We were a small group this year but we were mighty! Coach Pommer and myself are extremely proud. Our final meet will be Oct. 7th at the Bill Burke Complex. Come cheer us on.

LADY COUGAR BASKETBALL

With the 1st Quarter wrapping up, the Lady Cougar Basketball season is just around the corner. The season will start with a flurry of games. The first game for the Lady Cougars is Monday, November 1 at Maize. The Lady Cougars will travel to Abilene on Tuesday, November 2, and will host their first home game Thursday, November 4, when Hutchinson comes to South Middle.

With the beginning of the season so early, the Lady Cougar Basketball tryouts will be immediately following the end of the Fall sports season. Tryouts are scheduled:

Monday, October 18

Tuesday, October 19

Wednesday, October 20

All paperwork must be turned in to the South Middle School office via Final Forms before a student-athlete may participate in tryouts for the Lady Cougar Basketball team.

We have an outstanding group of young ladies that will represent South Middle School this upcoming season, and we are looking forward to a great season for the Lady Cougar Basketball teams!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Upcoming Events:

October 11 - 14 Spirit Week

Monday - Pajama Day

Tuesday - Hawaiiin Day

Wednesday - Twin Day

Thursday - Green and Gold Day

October 29 - Halloween Dance



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED
STUDENT COUNCIL RAISE MONEY FOR:**





AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

South Middle School has an after school program available to all students from 2:45 - 3:30 pm, Monday through Thursday. As we progress into the school year, students who are falling behind academically will be required to attend. We staff the after school program with approximately ten instructors from various subject areas. Also available this school year is busing. Students who need bused will be dropped off at their nearest elementary school. Parents and guardians who have any questions, can contact our two after school program directors, Jill Graff, jill.graff@usd305.com or Carla Gish, carla.gish@usd305.com.

2ND QUARTER INTRAMURALS

South Middle School offers an Intramural Program for all students interested. Intramurals provides students an opportunity to participate in recreational activities on and off campus. It gives students a chance to get involved, learn sportsmanship and make new friends. Our second Quarter will begin October 20, 2021 thru December 8, 2021. It will be held after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45. (Students will need a ride home at 3:45) At this point during the second quarter students will take part in soccer, Taekwondo and going to the Fieldhouse for basketball, volleyball and possibly flag football. Students interested will meet in the commons area for a brief meeting to go over everything and hand out registration forms on October 13th at 2:40. The forms will also be available on the website the same day. If you have any questions, please e-mail jana.adamson@usd305.com.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of South Middle School is to ensure a high quality education for all students in a safe and equitable learning environment. This mission is best accomplished through a partnership including students, family, community, teachers and staff, preparing students to become life-long learners in an ever-changing world.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to 6th grade SMS Social Studies teacher, Jaclyn Crow for earning October teacher of the month.

ELECTION SEASON

This election season, each of us has a vote to cast to help determine our local leaders. Everyone's voice needs to be heard. Voters can check their registration, register to vote or request a mail ballot by going to the Saline County Elections Office webpage, <https://www.saline.org/Departments/Elections-Office>.

ABSENT STUDENTS

We would like to encourage our students to reach out to their teachers, via email, if they are absent or they know they will be absent. Most of the time, the classwork can be accessed via Google Classroom for that particular teacher. As a reminder students have two days per absence to complete their assignments. Also, students can turn in late homework for the duration of the quarter, up until the week before the end of the quarter for a ten percent penalty.

VOLLEYBALL

SMS Volleyball has had a great season so far! The 8th Grade A Team has a record of 10-6 and the B Team has a record of 9-7. The 7th Grade A Team has a record of 6-12 and the B Team has a record of 7-11. Not only have they been successful with their teams, but have also been successful individually. They have each made huge steps in becoming the player that they would like to see themselves being and learning the game of volleyball while doing so. We have embraced the term "Choosing Different" which means encouraging, embracing, and celebrating each other. These girls have been able to see the difference that this makes on and off the court. They have learned that this is what it takes to truly be a honorable cougar athlete!



CONFERENCES

We would like to thank all of our parents and guardians who attended parent teacher conferences. The date was moved up a month in hopes of catching students falling behind, earlier during the semester. Of the 852 students attending SMS, 727 were represented at conferences, for a total of 85%

CHOIR

Upcoming Events:

Sensations will be performing in the Wichita Suburban League Music Honor Festival on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at Hutchinson High School.

North Central KMEA District Honor Choir will be held on November 6 at Junction City Middle School. We are awaiting the roster of students selected for this event. Keep your eye on <https://nckmea.org/?section=mlchoir> for the roster to be posted.

All-State Choir recorded auditions are due by October 19, 2021. Students selected to participate in the 500 member choir will perform with singers from across the state of Kansas on February 25, 2022 at 5:30 pm at Century II, Wichita, KS.

COVID-19 Safety in the Choir Room

Research based guidance regarding the safety measure being taken to keep your student safe in their rehearsal space, can be found at the following website.

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study>

To maintain a safe environment in a choir setting, students need to consistently wear a mask that has 3 layers, fits snugly across the bridge of the nose, and touches the face on all sides. If your student is not wearing a well-fitting mask, they will be asked to go to the office until the issue is resolved.

September '21

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26	27	28	29	30		

Salina South Middle School

October 2021

November '21

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 12:30 CC @ Newton
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17	18 First Day of WR and GBB Practice	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 All School Picture Re-Takes Music Pictures WR, GBB Pictures	28 6:30 WR Intersquad Scrimmage @ SMS	29 7:00 SMS Halloween Dance	30
31 Halloween	1	Notes				