



January 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS

***Please look at the school event calendar on the last page of the newsletter for athletic events***

1-3: No School

1-4: Teacher In-Service

1-5: First Day of 2nd Semester

1-5: 12:00 pm PTO / Site Council Meeting - Conference Room

1-10: 2:45 pm BLT Meeting - Conference Room

1-11: 4:00 League Spelling Bee @ McPherson

1-12: Boys Basketball Pictures

1-17: No School

## 8TH GRADE PARENT ENROLLMENT NIGHT

SMS and South High School sincerely apologize for the lack of communication regarding the 8th grade enrollment night in December. Due to the error, South High School will be hosting the 8th grade parent enrollment evening again on **Monday, January 31st at 6:00 pm** in the auditorium at South High. Families can enter the front of the building. South High counselors and administration will be covering course options, graduation requirements and other topics related to enrollment.

## 6TH & 7TH ENROLLMENT

SMS 6th and 7th grade students will begin pre-enrolling with counselors in classes for the 2021-22 school year. Counselors will be visiting classes and explaining course options for each grade. Once a student has made their selections that information will be printed for the student to take home to the parent. That sheet will then need to be signed at brought back and given to their counselor. 6th grade, Mrs. Usher, 7th grade, Mr. Heckethorn, and incoming 6th graders, Mrs. Lauer.

## QUARTER 3 INTRAMURALS

3rd Quarter Intramurals will start on Monday January 24, 2022. We will have it from 2:45-3:45 on Monday and Wednesdays until March 2, 2022. During this time we will be participating in different sporting activities in the gym and going to The Sky. We will also be working the concession stand on January 31st to help pay for the fee at The Sky.

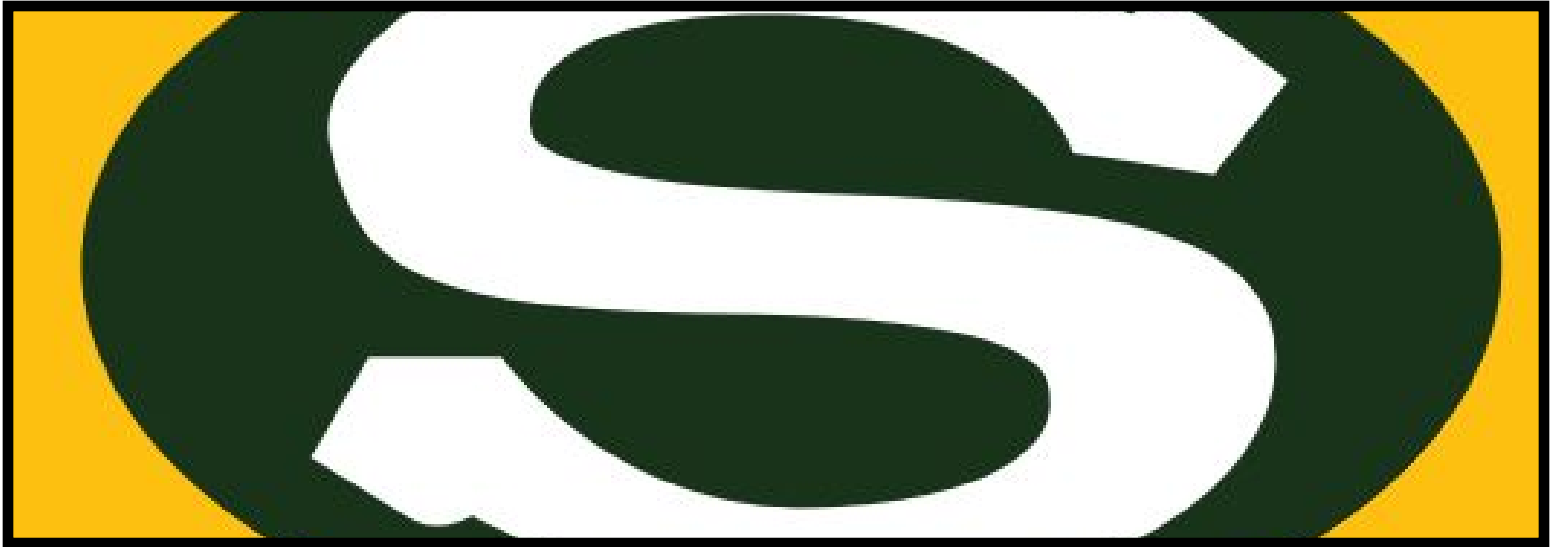
Paperwork for intramurals will be on the website sometime during the week of Jan 11th. They will also be available at school in Mrs. Adamson's room (313) or the office during that same time frame. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Adamson at [jana.adamson@usd305.com](mailto:jana.adamson@usd305.com).

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

As we begin the second semester in January, we would like to remind all our students and families that SMS offers a robust after school program. The program operates from 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm, Monday through Thursday each week of the school year. Busing to the nearest elementary school is also available if families wish. We have 12 adults on staff and serve approximately 40-50 students on a daily basis. This is a great opportunity for students to catch up on school work or finish work for the day.

## 7TH GRADE READING

First semester has been a whirlwind, so here's hoping for a calmer second semester! Reading students are starting second semester with a unit about persuasion and technology and will be creating a large project by the end of Quarter 3. Students will be reading individual books outside of class to learn about people different from them and doing an assignment over that book. Students should read a minimum of 20 minutes a night to keep flexing their skills and get their books done on time. Quarter 4 is another class novel, *Refugee*, and will be returning to assigned reading and questions due every week. Vocabulary quizzes are still very important this semester and will happen every other week; please continue to support your student by studying the words often. A link to the vocab flashcards is available at the top of the Reading Classwork page in Google Classroom.



### **INTENSIVE READING**

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Modified Reading students have been hard at work this semester trying to improve their fluency, comprehension, and phonemic awareness skills. They have shown so much growth since August and we are so proud of them! Winter BAS testing was conducted from November 22-December 10 and will be repeated again in the Spring. Thank you for supporting your student in their journey to become the best reader possible.

### **TEACHER OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to SMS Functional Learning Teacher, Jill Barber for earning January teacher of the month! Jill does an amazing job with our functional learning population. The gains those particular students make over the course of the school year are amazing. Congratulations Jill!

### **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](http://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

## 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.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys' basketball season will get under way following the winter break. We are in year 2 of the split season model. Tryouts will begin on Monday January 3 @ 3PM with 8th grade being in gym 1 and 7th graders in gym 2. We will have our 2nd informational meeting with the boys on December 16 during advisory. They will be bringing information home regarding tryouts and when and how cuts will be made. Our season runs from January 3 to February 21 and will consist of 15 games. Please double check Final Forms to make sure that your son has all paperwork in as they will not be able to participate until all forms are accounted for. If you have any questions about these forms, please contact Brent Conner (8thGrade), [brent.conner@usd305.com](mailto:brent.conner@usd305.com) or Thaine Willer (7thGrade), [thaine.willer@usd305.com](mailto:thaine.willer@usd305.com). You may also contact Jaime Jackson in the South Middle front office. We are looking forward to a successful season.



## SCHOLARS BOWL

The South Middle School Scholars Bowl team will complete their competition during the month of January. There are seven 7th graders and seven 8th graders participating on the team this year. The team has been preparing for the season this past quarter and are looking forward to competing!

| Date | Time    | Location     |
|------|---------|--------------|
| 1-6  | 3:30 pm | South Middle |
| 1-10 | 4:00 pm | Mulvane      |
| 1-13 | 4:00 pm | Newton       |
| 1-25 | 4:00 pm | Hutchinson   |
| 2-1  | 4:00 pm | Bewton       |





## STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council purchased gifts for 20 children with the money SMS generated from Penny Wars in November. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped out with this project. The image of STUCO and the gifts they purchased is above.

## SPELLING BEE

The league spelling bee will be conducted on Tuesday, January 11th at 4:00 pm in McPherson. When we return from winter break an announcement for tryouts will be made. 8th grade English teacher, Amanda Park will be coordinating the spelling contest for SMS. She can be reached at [amanda.park@usd305.com](mailto:amanda.park@usd305.com).