



## March 2022

### UPCOMING EVENTS

3-1 3:00 pm Cheer Tryouts  
3-1 4:00 pm Math Relays @ Hutchinson  
3-2 3:00 pm Cheer Tryouts  
3-3 3:00 pm Cheery Tryouts  
3-4 9:00 am Vocal Festival @ McPherson  
3-4 3:00 pm Cheer Tryouts  
3-7 2:45 pm BLT Meeting  
3-7 7:00 pm Orchestra Concert @ South HS  
3-10 9:00 am Instrumental Music Festival @ KWU  
3-11 No School / Teacher In-Service & Workday  
3-14 - 3-18 Spring Break No School  
3-31 3:30 pm Boys Tennis @ Oakdale Park  
3-31 3:30 pm Track @ Salina Stadium

### DISTRICT PARENT SURVEY

The mission of Salina Public Schools is to be the best place to learn and work by embracing challenges, creating belonging, fostering pride and inspiring hope.

The following survey will help our district and schools understand how connected families feel to the school(s) their child(ren) attend and should only take a few minutes to complete.

If you have children at multiple schools, we encourage you to complete a survey for each school. Results will be used by the district and schools as they develop plans for strengthening the sense of belonging for students, families and staff. The survey link will stay open until March 4th.

**English:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentFeb2022>

**Spanish:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentSpanishFeb2022>

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

South Middle School had 693 parents / families attend parent teacher conferences out of 826 scheduled conferences. 84 percent of our students were represented. Thanks to all our parents and guardians for attending!

## SPRING ASSESSMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
March 11	Staff Training
March 28 – March 31	KSA Grade 8 Science
April 4 – April 8	KSA Grades 6-8 Reading (During English Class)
April 18 – April 22	KSA Grades 6-8 Math
April 27	ACT Aspire Grades 6-8 Math (Delayed Start Schedule)
May 2 – May 6	BAS Grades 6-8 Reading (Identified Students)
May 11	iReady Grades 6-8 Math (Delayed Start Schedule)

## SPRING ACTIVITY MEETINGS

As we approach the spring, coaches from South Middle and South High School will be meeting with prospective students in various sports. Our activity meetings will be held during advisory on Wednesday's and Thursday's. If your student is interested in participating in any activities next year, either at SMS or at South High, please remind them to pay attention to the morning announcements so they don't miss their meeting.

## 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.

## TRACK AND FIELD

The 2022 Cougar Track season is quickly approaching. We welcome all 7th and 8th grade students that like to compete and strive to get better on a daily basis. There will be two track informational meetings for students in March during Advisory. The boys will meet March 2nd and the girls will meet on March 3rd. The first track practice will be Monday, March 21st from 2:50 to 4:35. The parent meeting will also be Monday, March 21st at 5:15 in the SMS commons. Please see Coaches Dohm, Robbinett, Wittman, and VanDeCreek if you have any questions. We hope to see you at one of the meetings to learn more about SMS Cougar track.



## SPRING BREAK

South Middle School and USD #305 will observe spring break, Monday March 14th through Friday, March 18th. There will not be any SMS staff in the building that week. To contact a staff member please do so by email.

## PICK UP / DROP OFF

We would like to remind all of our families to pay close attention as you drive through crosswalks and on the streets by the building. If families could drop their students off on the curb closest to the school sidewalk that will help deter students from running into the street. Also, please encourage your student to use the crosswalks.

## TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to SMS 6th grade Math teacher, Ben Fetherston for earning February teacher of the month. Mr. Fetherston is an amazing teacher! He takes the time to get to know each student and what they need to succeed. He always goes above and beyond to make sure that students know that he is there for them and cares about them.

## 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

## 4TH QUARTER INTRAMURALS

Intramurals for the 4th quarter will run from March 28th-May 4th. They will be on Monday and Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45. Intramurals will be split into two groups. Group A will tentatively be swimming at the YMCA. Group B will be in gym 2 at the school doing various activities such as Capture the Flag, hockey, maze, etc. We might be outside at times as well, weather permitting. Half way through the quarter the groups will switch. Students will need to be picked up at the school or YMCA at 3:45. Further information and permission forms will be on the website and available to pick up after spring break. If you have any questions contact Jana Adamson at [jana.adamson@usd305.com](mailto:jana.adamson@usd305.com).

## 6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Currently our Sixth Grade Science classes are studying the Earth's 6 major biomes. After researching and gathering informational facts, students will create a Super Hero that could survive in their Biome. With this project, they will remind us what type of animal and plant thrives in their biome using specific adaptations. They will also focus on the main threat to each of these regional areas.

After spring break, we will start to focus on Earth's Human Activity which will include alternative energies, natural disasters, and human impact.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

SMS students put their creativity to work by participating in the Valentine bag decorating contest! Congratulations to the winners of the following categories:

Mrs. Munk's and Mr. Rasette's class for "cozy classic"

Mrs. Moon's class for "seriously satisfying"

Mrs. Alley's class for "future artist"

Mrs. Vidrine's class for "hot mess express"

Mr. Andres class for "at least you tried"

Mr. Willer's class for "punny bag"

Student Council is working on a March Madness Challenge! More information will be available soon.

Thank you PTO for sponsoring the monthly challenges!

## BOYS TENNIS

We are really looking forward to Spring and Boys tennis! Mr Pittenger is entering his second season as Boys head Coach. Our Assistant Coach is the veteran with years of coaching and 5 years at South Middle as the Boys Assistant Coach. We are looking forward to a year of growth and are hopeful to continue building our program. While winning is fun, the goal is growth.





## 7TH GRADE SCIENCE

The 7th grade science department has some fun and exciting learning taking place. This quarter we are studying life science, more specifically about adaptations and relationships with animals and their environments. Part of this study is planning some activities that will emphasize how we interact with those environments. Part of the 7th grade Science experience is the dissection of frogs and the Trash to Treasures project in honor of Earth Day. The dissection of the frog is going to be happening during the 4th quarter. Many of the students are looking forward to this with excitement as well as some apprehension. It is guaranteed that the students will remember this for many years to come.

## 8TH GRADE SCIENCE

8th grade physical science classes will be coming back from Spring Break to finish our year out with 2 projects. Students will be using their knowledge of speed, acceleration and force to create a slow coaster. Groups will be competing against each other to design, build and test their creations. Students have the challenge of only using recycled paper and tape to build their coasters. The team that is able to keep their mechanism on their coaster the longest, without stopping, will be declared the winner.

Our last unit of the year will be over Newton's Laws of Motion. The unit will conclude with our egg drop activity. The students will have a budget and will be required to purchase their supplies from our classroom store. They will build a device that will protect their egg from cracking, doing so without going over their budget. For this project, the students will need to use their skills of gravity during a free fall, and ways to counter balance that force.

# S COUGARS

# Attendance Matters

Build Good Habits Today to Help Your Child Succeed in School Tomorrow



## Did you know?

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% or about 18 days can make it harder to learn to read.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

## What Can You Do?

- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Introduce your child to their teachers and classmates to help the transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.





**REGISTER TODAY FOR  
FREE CAPS PARENTING  
EDUCATION CLASSES**

Click on the button to register,  
visit [capsosalina.org](https://capsosalina.org) or call the  
CAPS office at 785-825-4493.

**Helping Children  
with Loss**

Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm  
**Jan. 10, 24, 31; Feb. 7**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IF SOCIAL DISTANCING CANNOT BE MAINTAINED,  
MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED

**The Parent Project®**  
*Español*

Jueves, 5:30-8:00pm  
**Jan. 20 y 27; Feb. 4, 11, 18 y 25;  
Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 y 31**

[REGISTRESE](#)

IF SOCIAL DISTANCING CANNOT BE MAINTAINED,  
MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED

**The Explosive Child**

Monday nights, 7:00-8:30pm  
**March 21, 28; April 4, 11**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Winter/Spring 2022  
Parenting Classes**  
**Free | In Person | zoom**

**How to Talk With Your Kids  
About the Birds and the  
Bees Without Getting Stung**

Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm  
**Feb. 21, 28; March 7**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Internet Safety**

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00pm  
**Feb. 22; March 1 & 8**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IF SOCIAL DISTANCING CANNOT BE MAINTAINED,  
MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED

**Love and Logic for  
Teens®**

Thursdays, 6:00-8:00pm  
**April 14, 21, 28; May 5**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**How to Make it Calmly  
Through the Summer**

Wednesdays, noon-1:00pm  
**April 27 and May 4**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



CHILD ADVOCACY & PARENTING SERVICES, INC.

Contact us at 785-825-4493 or visit our website at [capsosalina.org](https://capsosalina.org) to learn more about CAPS programming.





February '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		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					

Salina South Middle School

# March 2022

April '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1 4:00 Math Relays @ Hutchinson	2 12:00 Site Council / PTO	3	4 9:00 League Vocal Festival @ McPherson	5
6	7 7:00 Orchestra Concert @ South High School	8 7:00 Band Concert @ South Middle	9	10 End of Third Quarter 9:00 League Instrumental Festival @ KWU	11 No School In-Service / Teacher Workday	12
13 Daylight Saving	14 No School Spring Recess	15 No School Spring Recess	16 No School Spring Recess	17 St. Patrick's Day No School Spring Recess	18 No School Spring Recess	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 3:30 Track @ Salina Stadium 3:30 BTN @ Oakdale Park	1	2
3	4	Notes				