



January 2023

# South Middle

The mission of South Middle School is to provide a high quality education for all students in a safe, 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.

## A Note from the Principal

We are working hard to prepare for the second semester of the 2022-23 school year. It seems as though the first semester has flown by. When we return in January we will begin pre-enrolling current 6th and 7th grade students into classes for next school year. As we progress in to spring we will evaluate assessment scores and academic work ethic in order to determine which students qualify for our advanced courses. These courses include Advanced Reading and Math at the 7th grade level and Advanced English and Math at the 8th grade level. We will also use data to determine which students need extra support in Reading and Math, which would consist of an Intensive Reading course and / or a Math Foundations course. Counselors will review course options with students and communicate those choices with parents and guardians. We want to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



**SALINA**  
**Public Schools**

## Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Special Education teacher Bianca Adams for earning December teacher of the month. "Mrs. Adams is a kind and caring teacher. If she sees that one of her students is having a hard day she is fast to check up on them and see if they need to talk. She makes her classes fun, and makes everyone laugh and smile. I always look forward to going to Mrs. Adams class, she makes the school better." Congratulations Mrs. Adams!



## January is School Board Appreciation Month

This month, we are saying thank you to our Board of Education(BOE) for School Board Appreciation Month! These seven leaders are committed to the success of every student in our community, volunteering hundreds of hours attending meetings, reading reports and discussing plans and programs to support educational achievement. The members of the board include current Ann Zimmerman, president, Jim Fletcher, vice president, Mark Bandré, Scott Gardner, Gabe Grant, Dana Kossow and Bonnie Schamberger. This January, please join us as we thank our BOE members for their time, for fulfilling this very important civic responsibility and for advocating on behalf of every child in our district.



## Pre-Enrollment

Current 6th and 7th grade SMS students will begin pre-enrolling for their classes for the 2023-24 school year in January. Grade level counselors will visit with classes and explain course options, criteria for advanced courses and other pertinent information. Students will bring home a paper for parents or guardians to sign that will have their choices for classes for the 2023-24 school year. Parent and Guardian notifications for Advanced classes will be mailed in March and April of 2023.

# **Enero es el Mes de Apreciación de la Junta Escolar**

¡Este mes, estamos dando las gracias a nuestra Junta de Educación (BOE) por el Mes de Apreciación de la Junta Escolar! Estos siete líderes están comprometidos con el éxito de todos los estudiantes de nuestra comunidad, ofreciendo cientos de horas de voluntariado asistiendo a reuniones, leyendo informes y discutiendo planes y programas para apoyar el logro educativo. Los miembros de la junta incluyen a la actual presidenta Ann Zimmerman, el vicepresidente Jim Fletcher, Mark Bandré, Scott Gardner, Gabe Grant, Dana Kossow y Bonnie Schamberger. Este enero, únase a nosotros para agradecer a los miembros de la BOE por su tiempo, por cumplir con esta importante responsabilidad cívica y por defender a todos los niños de nuestro distrito.

## **Intramurals**

The Intramural program is getting to start the 3rd quarter on January 23rd. Again we will be conducting Intramurals on Monday's and Wednesday's from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. The last day for quarter 3 Intramurals will be on Wednesday, March 1st. During the 3rd quarter students will be participating in various games at South Middle School and will hopefully be attending The Sky and/or miniature golf. To help raise money for The Sky and minitaure golf, as well as The Alley, some of the students have worked concession stands, which has been busy but also a lot of fun. We will also be working concessions for boys basketball when their season starts in January. Sign up forms for the 3rd quarter will be available for students on the school website and a meeting will be held in early January for interested participants. If you have any questions please contact Jana Adamson at [jana.adamson@usd305.com](mailto:jana.adamson@usd305.com).

## **After School Program**

We would like to remind all of our students and families that the after school program will be available when we return from winter recess. The after school program is an excellent opportunity for students to receive any additional help and support on their assignments they were given throughout the day, as well as an opportunity to catch up on work that is late. We have teachers and para educators available to assist students in different content areas. The after school program operates from Monday's through Thursday's from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. Busing is available for students who need transported after the program.

# 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 Parent Teachers Organization. To enroll in the Dillon's Community Rewards program, please follow the steps below:

- visit [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards)
- sign in to your existing online account or create a new 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

## 6th Grade Reading

Sixth grade students are busy reading a variety of novels, both historical fiction as well as realistic fiction, as well as this year's William Allen White award nominees. Students are examining character development, the value of the setting and how it may change during the course of the novels, author's point of view as well as conflict and resolution. We have discussed how a book can take the reader to places, real or imagined, that we may never have the opportunity to visit. Reading builds vocabulary, confidence, and inspires one to explore. Who can resist a good book with a mug of hot cocoa during this holiday season. Find a favorite spot with your child and enjoy making memories as you read together!

## Scholar's Bowl

The SMS Scholar's Bowl season will kick-off when we return from winter recess. Scholar's Bowl is a KSHSAA sponsored activity available to 7th and 8th grade students. Below is the schedule for the season.

- |                          |           |                              |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| • Thursday, January 5th  | 3:30 p.m. | @ South Middle               |
| • Monday, January 9th    | 4:00 p.m. | @ Mulvane                    |
| • Thursday, January 12th | 4:30 p.m. | @ Newton                     |
| • Tuesday, January 17th  | 4:00 p.m. | @ Prairie Hills              |
| • Tuesday, January 24th  | 4:00 p.m. | @ Hutchinson                 |
| • Tuesday, January 31st  | 3:30 p.m. | @ South Middle (League Meet) |



# Student Council

One of our Student Council's favorite activities is giving back to the Salina community. Our Student Council uses the funds donated and collected from our Penny Wars competition to purchase and wrap presents for 30 students and their siblings.



## 7th Grade Reading

7th Grade 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 encouraged to read William Allen White books. The William Allen White award is a statewide honor given to books that Kansas students read and cast their vote for. Students should read a minimum of 20 minutes a night to keep flexing their skills and to be able to vote in mid March. 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.



# **SALINA**

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# **Public Schools**

# **Intensive Reading - 7th and 8th Grade**

The end of the semester is always a busy time for intensive reading teachers. We just completed BAS testing. This reading assessment tests a student's progress in their reading fluency skills and their comprehension skills. This semester, we have been working on phonics and comprehension skills with students to help each student make progress in their reading skills. This year we started a new phonics program based on students' instructional reading level, and are teaching various skills to help student's gain the confidence in learning how to decode harder words and also building their vocabulary, so they can begin reading and comprehending grade level text and also apply these skills in their social studies, science, and English classes.

Students seem to like the new phonics program and are starting to see the benefits from what they are learning with the program. This is exciting as intensive reading teachers as we see students using the strategies being taught to help them make individual progress in their reading skills. As intensive reading teachers, we always try to find interesting articles and stories for students to read for comprehension. We would like to continue parents to encourage their child to read outside of school at least 15 minutes each day. They need to read a fiction or nonfiction book they enjoy. Have them share with you what they read about after they read. This is a way to encourage conversation between you and them. Go to the public library with your middle school student over Christmas break and check out a book with them. A book is a great way to escape, especially during the long, winter months.

# **Intensive Reading - 6th Grade**

Over the past few weeks, students in 6th grade intensive reading class have been busy reading and learning about a wide variety of compelling topics. One particular topic that we focused on in class was a topic that is highly favored by many kids—video games. Not only did students get to learn about the benefits that come with playing “Roblox,” but they also learned all about the up and coming competitive sport, “eSports.” Another topic that students got the opportunity to read about in class were the different types of Christmas traditions that are exercised around the world. Many of the students were fascinated by the different ways that other countries celebrate the holiday season. Most recently, students have been reading about different styles of art. So far, students have read about a Spanish street art festival, as well as a British artist named, “Mr. Doodle.”

6	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	31				

# Important Dates in January

2nd - No School

3rd - Teacher In-Service (No School)

16th - No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

25th - Advanced Guitar / Sensations Pictures

26th - Band / Orchestra Pictures

## Contact Us

Dustin Dooley

Principal

Tina Akers

Assistant Principal

Curt Exline

Assistant Principal

Jamie Jackson

Secretary

Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-3900

**#SMSCougars**  
**#305GrowsGreatness**



 South Middle

 @USD305

 School Website

 District Website

Unified School District #305 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning Unified School District #305 compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, ADA, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact the Unified School District #305 Executive Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 797, Salina, Kansas 67402, 785-309-4726.



**SALINA TECH**  
FASTEST-GROWING COLLEGE IN KANSAS!

**No Insurance?  
No Problem!**

# **Dental Hygiene Clinic**



**Services Available for ALL**

**Low-Cost Affordable Care!**

## **HOURS**

**Monday: 12 PM-3:30 PM**

**Wednesday: 8 AM-4:30 PM**

**Closed during Summer**



**Teeth Cleanings ages 4 & up**



**Sealants**



**Whitening**



**Call or stop by  
to schedule appointment  
785-309-3146**

**2562 Centennial Rd Salina, KS 67401**

**Scan for Information**

