



February 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 off to a solid start to the second semester of the school year. As we enter February, I would like to remind all our families about Parent-Teacher Conferences in the middle of February. Conferences will be held Wednesday, February 15th and Thursday, February 16th. Advisory teachers will be scheduling conferences with students. As we approach the spring, we will also be preparing students to be as successful as possible on our Kansas State Assessments. We will begin assessments the week after spring break (March 20-24) and conclude the last week of April. All 6th through 8th grade students will be assessed in English-Language Arts and Math. 7th grade only will be assessed in Social Studies and 8th grade only will be assessed in Science. As we approach the date, information will be provided regarding the assessments.



SALINA
Public Schools

Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Special Education teacher Carla Gish for earning Teacher of the Month. One of her students shared, "Ms. Gish is the best teacher ever, she is so kind and helps me succeed. I love being in her class. Congratulations Ms. Gish!" Ms. Gish teaches in the ALC department at South Middle School working with students with learning and physical disabilities. She has taught at South Middle for six years.



Winter Weights

Winter weights started in January. Weightlifting sessions will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday's, Monday's and Wednesday's at South High School. The weight room is open to ALL 7th and 8th grade students at South Middle School. Students, do not have to be a part of an athletic team to participate. This is a voluntary program and students are not required to attend. Students who elect to participate will need to attend at least two sessions a week.

To sign up for updates text @89h99db to 81010.



Pre-Enrollment

Current 6th and 7th grade SMS students pre-enrolled for their 2023-24 classes in January. Grade level counselors visited with classes and explained course options, criteria for advanced courses and other pertinent information. Students should have brought home notification of their top six elective choices for next school year. Parent and Guardian notifications for Advanced classes will be mailed in March and April of 2023.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

South Middle will conduct Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, February 15th from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. and again on Thursday, February 16th from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. On the 16th, we will not schedule any conferences from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parents/guardians will schedule a conference time with their student's advisory teacher. After meeting with the student's advisory teacher, parents and guardians may visit other teachers on the student's schedule. Sixth grade conferences will be in the commons, 7th and 8th grade conferences will be in gym #2.

Quarter 3 Positive Behavior Celebration

Our Quarter 3 Positive Behavior Celebrations will be March 1st, 2nd, and 6th. In order for students to qualify for the event they will need to maintain A's, B's and C's, have no tardies, hours 2 through 8 and follow our SMS HONOR Code by earning no referrals. Students who accomplish these tasks January 9th through February 24th will participate in Bingo and Beach volleyball as their reward.



After School Program

We would like to remind all of our students and families that the after school program is available. 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 3:30 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
- 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

Career and Life Planning

When students leave Career and Life Planning at the end of the semester, they may not know exactly what they will be when they grow up. However, they will understand that they have a future that is yet to be written, and creating a career plan is an important journey. In Career and Life, we focus on helping students set a plan for their high-school years and developing soft skills that will make them a successful employee. Students will also complete a personal project of their own interest that is called the 20 Time Project. Lastly, students are challenged to volunteer at school and in the community with a goal of at least 10 service hours.



Celebrating Public School Week

February 27 - March 3

February 27 marks the beginning of Public Schools Week, an annual celebration for recognizing the greatness happening in our schools. When we say we're #HereForTheKids, we mean we're here to support public education and the incredible educators and staff who support children in so many ways. Check out our social media during Public Schools Week to learn about our dedication to students and what #HereForTheKids looks like at SPS!

Celebración de la Semana de las Escuelas Públicas del 27 de Febrero – 3 de Marzo

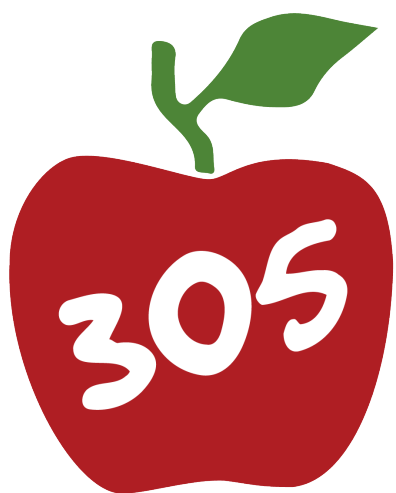
El 27 de Febrero marca el comienzo de la Semana de las Escuelas Públicas, una celebración anual para reconocer la grandeza que ocurre en nuestras escuelas. Cuando decimos que estamos #HereForTheKids (aquí para los niños), queremos decir que estamos aquí para apoyar la educación pública y los increíbles educadores y personal que apoyan a los niños de muchas maneras. ¡Vea nuestras redes sociales durante la Semana de las Escuelas Públicas para conocer nuestra dedicación a los estudiantes y cómo se ve #HereForTheKids en las SPS.

Track and Field

The 2023 Cougar Track season is quickly approaching. We welcome all 7th and 8th grade students that like to compete and strive to work hard and get better on a daily basis.

There will be two track informational meetings for students in February

during Advisory. The boys will meet February 22 and the girls will meet on February 23 in the commons. The first track practice will be Monday, March 20th from 2:50 to 4:35 p.m. The parent meeting will also be Monday, March 20 at 5:15 p.m. in the SMS commons. Please see Coaches VanDeCreek, Robbinett, Elliott, and Heckethorn if you have any questions. We hope to see you at one of the meetings to learn more about SMS Cougar track.



SALINA

Public Schools

SPIRIT WEEK

SMS spirit week will be Monday, February 6th through Friday, February 10th. We will host basketball against Lakewood on Thursday, February 9th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Our boys also travel to Hutchinson on Monday, February 6th of that week.

- Monday: Movie Star Monday
- Tuesday: Twin / Triplet Tuesday
- Wednesday: Decades Day
- Thursday: Green and Gold Day
- Friday: Pinkout / Redout



Valentine's Dance

South Middle School will host a Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 10th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Gym #2 and the Commons at South Middle School. We will sell tickets the week of the dance for \$5.00 during student lunch times. Tickets will be \$7.00 at the door. We are encouraging students to wear jeans, pants or casual dresses, please no sweats or gym shorts.

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				

Important Dates in February

2nd - Mid-quarter late work cut-off date

6th - 10th - Spirit Week

10th - Valentines Dance (7:00 p.m.)

15th - Parent Teacher Conferences

16th - Parent Teacher Conferences / No School

17th - No School

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.