

## September Parent Newsletter

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### September Dates To Remember

- September 16**  
Jostens Ring Promo  
FB @ Jeff West
- September 17**  
JV VB @ SFT
- September 19**  
JV FB J West @ SFT
- September 20**  
Girls Golf @ Silver Lake  
CC @ Tonganoxie  
VB R Valley @ SFT
- September 21**  
HS Site Council 6:00
- September 23**  
Homecoming Parade @  
Scranton 1:00  
FB Perry @ SFT
- September 24**  
F VB @ Osage City  
V VB @ Louisburg
- September 26**  
Girls Golf @ J West  
9/10 FB @ Perry
- September 27**  
HS Picture Day  
Girls Golf @ SFT
- September 29**  
CC @ Gardner  
Girls Golf @ J West
- September 30**  
Football @ Hiawatha

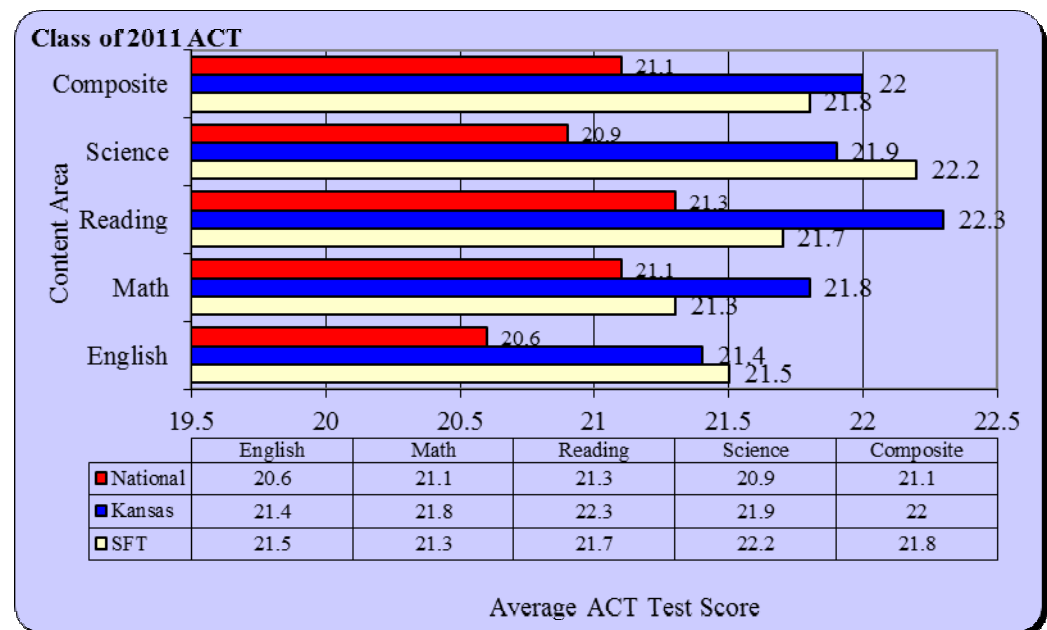
## SFTHS 2011 ACT Report

SFTHS has received the annual report that gives the ACT Scores for the graduating class of 2011. The data shown below represents the average scores for the 48 members of the Class of 2011 who took the ACT.

The ACT tests student knowledge in English, Math, Reading, Science, and provides a Composite score. The graphs below show SFTHS performance in comparison to state and national averages. Also included is the trend data for the high school for the past five years.

Beginning in the 2011 school year, the high school will make available an ACT prep program through virtual learning opportunities. More information will be provided to parents and students as the service becomes available.

<u>Graduation</u>					
Year	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
2007	21.3	21.9	21.7	22.4	21.9
2008	19.6	20.8	21	21.4	20.9
2009	21.3	21.9	23.1	22	22.2
2010	21.3	21.2	22.2	21.8	21.7
2011	21.5	21.3	21.7	22.2	21.8



## 2011-2012 ACT Information

October 22, 2011 @ SFT

Register by September 16, 2011

December 10, 2011

Register by November 4, 2011

February 11, 2012

Register by January 13, 2012

April 14, 2012 @ SFT

Register by March 9, 2012

June 9, 2012

Register by May 4, 2012

## 2011-2012 SFTHS Building Goals

- Make adequate yearly progress in areas assessed by the Kansas Assessments.
- Instill life skills and employability skills in students by teaching character utilizing the eleven Principles of Effective Character Education.
- Promote staff pride by attendance at school activities, staff social activities, and staff support for the work of others.
- Promote school pride by stressing the importance of the appearance of the building.
- Continue to improve and explore technology through the use of various technologies such as My Big Campus, K-12 Alerts, e2020, and social networking as a means to better communicate with students and stakeholders.
- Promote the wellness program in the building by developing appropriate building wide activities throughout the school year.

## Power School Information

SFTHS utilizes the PowerSchool information system for providing parents and students access to student progress.

PowerSchool enables our teachers to make timely decisions that impact student performance while creating information that allows parents, teachers and students to work together for the good of all students. It is expected that teachers maintain and update PowerSchool grades on a weekly basis. It is hoped that all parents become familiar with and utilize the PowerSchool system to track the academic progress of their child. Questions regarding login and access may be addressed to Student Services or the main office.

## Jostens Ring Orders

On September 16, SFTHS sophomores will have the opportunity to view a presentation from Jostens with information about purchasing SFT class rings. Students will have all that week to consider options for ring purchase prior to order day on September 21. Parents and students may access the Jostens website at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com) for more information.



## After Prom

The annual SFTHS Prom activities are scheduled for April 16 this year. While that may seem a long way down the calendar, a very dedicated group of parents and patrons are already beginning the planning stage to promote a safe Prom night for our students. Each year, we have had the opportunity to hold After Prom at the high school. The work throughout the year by the After Prom committee has been tremendous and a great benefit to our students. We thank them for all that they do. The first organizational meeting for the group was held on August 30 at the high school. The September meeting will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the high school. We would encourage anyone who has an interest to attend. Information regarding After Prom may be accessed on the district web page. Melissa Wells may also be contacted for additional information at: [wellsm@kscourts.org](mailto:wellsm@kscourts.org)

## SFTHS Homecoming 2011

The 2011-2012 school year marks the fourth year that the high school will be promoting school pride in the individual communities of the district. On Homecoming Day – September 23, the high school will be holding the Homecoming Parade and pep rally at 1:00 p.m. Scranton will serve as our host for the parade and pep rally this year.

Also on the 23rd, the Chargers will crown a new Homecoming King and Queen before the football game. This will be a very special time and event for the students, staff, communities, and all who are proud to be Chargers.

To celebrate Homecoming, the SFTHS Student Council began meeting in June to plan activities for the week. During that time, students picked a theme, developed ideas for class t-shirts, and planned special building activities for each day of Homecoming week. The “Spirit Week” will be held from September 19 – 23. The annual KAY volleyball tournament will be held that week as well as the bonfire to promote school spirit.

Class Homecoming Shirts on Display



## Counselor's September Information

Each month, SFTHS counselors Joy Schmidt and Linda Wilson provide information via the school newsletter and the K-12 Alert system to parents regarding items of interest. Information from career exploration for our younger students to college information and scholarships for our upper level students is included each month. As the school year begins, our counselors are busy providing parents a listing of all the activities that will occur throughout the year so planning may begin. The information for September is listed below.

### COUNSELORS CORNER

#### **Juniors/Junior Parents Checklist For Post-Secondary Planning:**

Put together a list of 10 worksites or post-secondary institutions you would like to do/attend after high school.

Job Shadow someone in those occupations.

Look at the SFT Counselor web site for information on Scholarships, College Fairs, etc.

#### **Seniors/Senior Parents Checklist For Post-Secondary Planning:**

Visit post-secondary institutions and narrow down to 2 -3.

What are the admission requirements and other admission information: Note deadlines.

Look at requirements for graduation at the institutions and classes required.

Students undecided about post-secondary plans should visit the

[www.kansascareerpipeline.org](http://www.kansascareerpipeline.org) web site.

Visit the Counselors information web site link on the district & HS web site.(see previous info)

Forms Available on the site:

Post-Secondary/Career Visit

Do your Allen County Credits Transfer?

Transcript/ACT Request

Scholarship web site: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

Senior parent night power point will be posted on the site.

#### **SFT gives the ACT in October and April.**

**Juniors** should be taking the ACT test in April, June, or October. Some scholarships are given away in October of the senior year and require ACT scores.

**Seniors** – planning on attending a 4 year college need the ACT test for admission. **October date usually falls on regional volleyball and cross country meets.**

April date usually falls on the vocal contest.

#### **WASHBURN TECH TESTING:**

Washburn Tech will be testing on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> for students interested in attending Washburn Tech next semester and/or next year. Students may sign up for the test in the counselor's office.

#### **PSAT TEST:**

Juniors

The fee \$14 – Bring the money to Student Services

Test Date – Oct. 12 The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are to:

- Receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study.
- See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- Enter the competition for scholarships from NMSC (grade 11).
- Help prepare for the SAT.

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## SFTHS Social Studies Focus

### SFTHS Social Studies News

Psychology, the study of human behavior and mental processes is a course offered through Allen Community College. For the first two weeks of the year, students have been exploring the basic seven perspectives of psychology, its history as well as occupations and subdivisions of the discipline. Following that, students were introduced to the basics of research, observation, correlational studies, case studies, and the experiment. Also covered was the importance of ethics in conducting research. The essay question at the end of their second test posed a very interesting question: “Would Reality TV shows pass the requirements of ethical review boards if put to the test?” The students read about institutional review boards and responded using their criteria. As a final note, the most recent development in psychology is the emergence of what is currently known as “positive psychology.” Positive psychology is the use of psychological information and methodology to improve lives focusing on the benefits of health and wellness. Much of psychology in the past has been based upon sickness and pathology. This new approach is both interesting and refreshing. Our 2011 text, *The Science of Psychology* by Laura King includes many topics from the area of positive psychology. Finally, S.F.T. psychology courses are presented and updated on the “My Big Campus” website.

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ACC American History will be studying the period of early exploration of America to the Civil War era during the fall semester. Next spring the course covers the period following the Civil-War through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Field trips to historical Lawrence, the Negro League Baseball Museum and the Harry S. Truman Library are in the planning stages.

In Mr. Hug’s Old West classes, students will learn about the westward expansion era of American history, beginning with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 through the days of western settlement into the 1880s. Some of the key topics covered in the course include the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Battle of the Alamo, the Texas Rangers, the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, the Gold Rush, the Pony Express, Cattle Drives, Kansas cow towns, the American Cowboy and some the famous lawmen and outlaws of the American West.

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This year in Mrs. Flory’s room we will continue our journey back in time learning about the progression of the US and the Vietnam War. We will also target character education not only in my freshman courses, but school wide as a team effort. We hope to build an environment that teaches kids how to be better students, citizens, and individuals. I hope to integrate our new MY BIG CAMPUS program in all of my classes in order to engage students using social networking and technology skills. All of my students are logged in and ready to go! We will also be taking a few field trips this year. US History will be venturing to KC to spend a day at the Liberty Memorial WWI museum. Sociology will take its yearly trip to the Topeka Correctional facility. Both these field trips have been an eye opening experience for students and has allowed them to learn outside of the classroom in new environments and with challenges.

This year I also have made a goal to focus on economic education as an integral tool for post high school endeavors. Our students will be going out into a pretty scary world in a few years and many are unprepared and unsure of our economic status. Jobs are hard to come by, taking out a loan isn’t a given any longer, and buying a house can be an overwhelming process. I hope to educate students on the current status of the US economy and the real world challenges that may be ahead of them.

Overall I look forward to a brand new year and encourage all students and parents to communicate with me throughout the school year on MY BIG CAMPUS or by email. Let’s put these great tools to use! I wish everyone a happy and healthy year full of learning and new experiences.

## SFTHS Activities

### Big 7 League Schools

#### Links to Big 7 League Schools

Hiawatha USD # 415 - <http://www.hiawathaschools.org/>

Holton USD #336: Wildcats - <http://www.holton.k12.ks.us/>

Jefferson West USD # 340 - <http://www.usd340.org/>

Nemaha Valley USD # 442 - <http://usd442.org/>

Perry-Lecompton USD #343: <http://www.usd343.net>

Prairie Hills USD #113 - Axtell, Bern, Sabetha, Summerfield, Wetmore, -  
<http://www.sabetha441.k12.ks.us/vnews/display.v>

Royal Valley School District # 337 - <http://www.rv337.com/>

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### September Activities Report

#### Activity Passes for SFT

As we begin the 2011-12 school year, USD 434 patrons have the option of purchasing a district wide activity pass for \$50 that will allow them into all the home activities. Student activity passes are \$25. They are available in either the high school office or the district office.

There are few perks to this opportunity:

- \*If you attend all the activities, you will save money.
- \*You don't have to carry cash on you to get into the ball games.

Gate Fees:

- \*Adults \$4
- \*Students (Grades K-6) \$3
- \*Students (Grades 7-12) FREE

#### All Sports Trophy

SFT begins the second year in the Big 7 League and will again aim to claim the Big 7 League All Sports Trophy. Last year, we finished 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Holton and Royal Valley. This year we strive to improve upon that finish.