

**SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2015**

A New School Year

It's been a great start to the 2015-16 school year at SFT. Anticipation of getting into the new domes is growing every day. Hopefully, SFT will have full usage of both buildings at some point this month.

Reading Plus

Freshmen and sophomore reading classes will be piloting a new computer-based reading intervention program this semester. Reading Plus is Common Core aligned and has been proven to produce substantial gains in reading rate and comprehension. In fact, research has shown that students who spend approximately 40 hours in the program achieve significant grade-level growth. Reading Plus allows students to practice and develop good reading skills by focusing on rate & stamina and vocabulary & comprehension. Students remain engaged in reading because they have the opportunity to self-select informational and literary texts.

ACT Results from 2015-16

2015: 49 students tested from SFT

English (SFT): 20.4	English (State): 21.3
Mathematics (SFT): 20.6	Mathematics (State): 21.6
Reading (SFT): 21.3	Reading (State): 22.4
Science (SFT): 20.8	Science (State): 21.8
Composite (SFT): 21.0	Composite (State): 21.9

SFT tested more students in 2015 on the ACT than in the past 5 school years. For example, in 2012, SFT had a composite score of 23.6 but only tested 33 students.

FBLA

The SFT-FBLA chapter had four members and one adviser attend the National FBLA conference in Chicago, IL in late June. Even though SFT-FBLA did not have anyone place in their events, the chapter received many national recognitions, which include: Seven Up (increasing membership by 7 or more members), Super Sweeps, Outstanding Chapter (Top 10% of nation), Gold Seal, Action Awareness, and Non-Stop November membership recruitment challenge. The SFT-FBLA chapter will be participating at the Sunset Stroll in Overbrook, September 23.

Compass Test

Friday, September 25, the entire sophomore class will travel to Allen County Community College in Burlingame to take the Compass Test. Passing test scores on the Compass Test will allow students to enroll in ACCC classes and also at Washburn Tech.

Aspire Test Day (Part of the ACT family)

There are plans being made to have the entire freshman and sophomore class take the Aspire Test, which is part of the ACT family, on Wednesday, October 28.

Homecoming for SFT

SFT Homecoming will be on Friday, October 2. The SFT Chargers will play the Wellsville Eagles at 7 pm. The Homecoming Parade will be in Overbrook starting at 1 pm.

American Government

Mr. Staab's government classes took an online quiz designed to determine, based on a series of about 50 questions, both the political party they most affiliate with and also which 2016 presidential candidate that most side with on the issues. The quiz can be found on www.isidewith.com and can be completed by anyone free of charge to see which candidate most closely adheres to your beliefs.

Applying math and measuring concepts in Industrial Education!

When was the last time you measured a room and figured how many square yards of carpet you needed for the room? How about the last time you painted a room and you were debating how many cans of paint you needed for the room?

Mr. Stanton has designed a scavenger hunt for his classes to measure different items around the school and find square feet, radius and diameter calculations and make estimations based on information needed to complete the job. The items needed to complete the scavenger hunt are a simple tape measure, knowledge about how to read the tape measure and the math formula to complete the equation.

If you know how to measure the width and length of a room, it is pretty easy to figure the carpet needed to cover the floor. By taking and measuring of all the walls in the room, it is easy to look on the side of the paint can and figure how many cans of paint are needed to cover the surface area. But what if you had a round room or a room that was not square? I will keep you posted how this fun activity measures out!

OSHA Training at SFT

On September 3 and 4, SFT hosted, for our Flint Hills Tech students, a mandatory two day training session. The session was for SFT students currently enrolled at Flint Hill Tech School.

ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK

Congress has declared September 13-19 "Arts in Education Week" to promote the important role art education has in assisting students to become more engaged, successful, and prepared for college and careers. Sometimes it's hard for students to see the connection between themselves and art. They know art's fun, but how can they use it? Aside from increasing creativity, critical thinking skills, and problem solving, art teaches students cooperative learning, how to express themselves, self-evaluation, perseverance and how to innovate. Students in Art 1 are doing a fun exercise (called Link the "Artitude") to help them recognize the relevance of art in their own lives by identifying how they can use art in their future vocations or lives. They record these answers on strips of paper, creating a large paper chain stretching half-way around the art room. They are also brainstorming with their

parents, family, or support groups to find out how they have used art. It's a great way to help kids and parents communicate and talk about the future and art.

The High Schoool Musical

The SFTHS Drama Department is very excited about the upcoming musical. At this time, what show we are doing is still being kept top secret, awaiting final contract confirmation. What we can tell is that it will be a fabulous opener for our new Fine Arts facility. If all goes well, auditions will be held the second or third week of September, with rehearsals starting soon after. Show is in November, we can't wait!

SFT's New and Improved Weight Room

SFT students are taking advantage of the new additions. One advantage is the weight room, it has moved into the former band room, giving the students more space and a variety of choices. With an expanded weight room and extra gym space, SFT has over 200 students in the physical education program this semester. Sophomore Brett Masters, says "There is a lot more room and space, and new options, this gives us the opportunity to make ourselves a lot stronger".

Athletics and Activities at Santa Fe Trail High School

Athletic teams began practice on August 17th in very mild temperatures and conditions for a typical August. Santa Fe Trail is proud to encourage all of our students involved in activities in their quest to support our school and community in a positive way. If you get the opportunity, please come out and support them.

Football

The 2015 Charger football team, coming off of a trip to the state semi-finals, consists of 50 players. SFT is able to support a schedule consisting of freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity teams. The annual Blue/White scrimmage was held on August 28th allowing the coaching staff to see the team in a setting other than the practice field. The Chargers will travel to Iola on Friday, September 4th in what should prove to be a pivotal game in for Pioneer League supremacy. The JV will host Iola on Tuesday, September 8th and the freshmen will host Burlington on Thursday, September 10th to open their seasons. The varsity team will debut at home on Friday, September 11th against Central Heights.

Volleyball

Santa Fe Trail will start the season in a varsity tournament on Saturday, September 5th at Jefferson West. All levels; freshmen, junior varsity and varsity will travel to Louisburg on Tuesday, September 8th to take on Burlington and Louisburg. There are 26 volleyball players on the roster for 2015. We look forward to an exciting season on the court!!

Girls Golf

The girl's golf team will be one of the first athletic teams to represent Santa Fe Trail High School this fall season. They will participate in a tournament hosted by Jefferson West on September 3rd. There are 2 members on the girl's golf team this year. Santa Fe Trail will be hosting our tournament on September 29th at Hidden Springs Golf Course just outside of Overbrook, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Cross Country

The Santa Fe Trail Cross Country roster is comprised of 4 girls and 14 boys. The team will compete at Anderson County on September 3rd. One change for this year; the girls will also run a 5K, just like the boys. We will host our meet on September 11th at Cross Country Field just south of the high school.

Dance Team

The dance team has 13 members for the 2015-2016 school year. They provide entertainment at pep rallies, at the half time of home games, and also compete in dance competitions during the school year.

Cheerleading

Our cheerleaders have been working hard all summer to increase the amount of spirit at our athletic events. They also coordinate and are in charge of all pep rallies' providing a positive atmosphere for all students and fans. This year we have a total of 11 cheerleaders and the ThunderTaker.

KAY

Kansas Association for Youth is boasting a membership of about 60 students this year. This year's theme for KAY is "Hooked on Service". The KAY volleyball tournament during homecoming week is always a big part of the weekly festivities.

Band

The band participated in the "Battle of the Bands" at the Overbrook Fair Parade on August 15th and provided great enthusiasm and entertainment along the parade route! The band will perform at halftime of the home football games. There are seventy-nine members in this year's band.