

**Santa Fe Trail High School  
October 2023  
Newsletter**

**HS EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to Melissa Strother and Rory Ewing!! They are the high school's employees of the month (certified and classified) as voted on by their peers.

**NHS**

Wednesday, October 11, the Charger Chapter of National Honor Society will be sponsoring the first Powderpuff Brisketball Tournament at the high school. For \$5, girls in grades 9-12 can sign up to join a team. Practice will begin at 6 p.m. on the high school football field with pool play games starting at 6:30. Spectators are welcome. A \$1 admission is suggested as a donation to support the American Cancer Society in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The winning team will be provided with pizza.

**Santa Fe Trail High School  
Building Goals  
2023-2024**

**GOAL AND PLAN FOR SEL (GOAL #1)**

<b>GOAL</b>					
USD 434 will reduce the chronic absenteeism of 25% rate by 5% for students.					
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources	Desired Outcome	Measurement
Identify the students.	Student Services	October 1st	PowerSchool	Students improve their attendance at school.	Attendance Log
Complete a connections survey with students.	Student Services	October 5th	PowerSchool	Identify which students are involved and	Survey Response

				those that are not.	
Create quarterly benchmarks.	Student Services	End of 9 Weeks	PowerSchool	Identify targeted students.	Attendance Log
In April 2024, establish a transition meeting with CAC staff for those students who are chronically absent.	Student Services	April 2024	CAC Staff	Knowledge is Power!	Attendance Records
Make appropriate referrals to Truancy Court as needed.	HS Admin and Cheryl Florance	As needed	PowerSchool	Accountability	Attendance Log

**GOAL AND PLAN FOR ACADEMIC GOALS (GOALS #1)**

GOAL					
The Classes of 2025 and 2026 will demonstrate 10% academic growth from their 8th grade State Assessment scores in all assessed content areas (ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science) through rigorous instruction.					
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources	Desired Outcome	Measurement
Provide MTSS support in ELA for	Tyler Gonzales	Ongoing	Fastbridge Scores Rewards	Students improve reading skills.	Fastbridge Scores

students in the bottom 30% nationally on Fastbridge					
Provide Tier 1 support for ELA in all content level courses for identifying central idea.	All Teaching Staff	Ongoing	Lesson Material	Students will be able to identify the central idea in the material presented.	Fastbridge Scores
Incentivize performance	All staff	Ongoing	Food	Best efforts from our students.	Test Scores

**GOAL AND PLAN FOR ACADEMIC GOALS (GOALS #2)**

<b>GOAL</b>					
100% of students in high school will show growth in the Fastbridge Universal Screener from the fall to spring.					
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources	Desired Outcome	Measurement
Administer the Fastbridge Fall Assessment	Content Area Teacher	August/September 2023	All Teachers	Student Data	Fastbridge Test Scores
Implement high impact instructional strategies	All teachers	Fall 2023 through Spring 2024	All Teachers	Improved disciplinary literacy	Fastbridge Test Scores

across all subject areas.					
Administer the Fastbridge Spring Assessment	Content Area Teachers	April/May 2024	All Teachers	Growth shown for student learning	Fastbridge Test Scores

**GOAL AND PLAN FOR ACADEMIC GOALS (GOALS #3)**

<b>GOAL</b>					
USD 434 will improve its Post-Secondary Effectiveness by 5% for our graduating students as measured by the accountability report.					
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>DESIRED OUTCOME</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Modify the required Exit Survey for graduating seniors. (Personal Email, Phone Number, Plans for Work/School)	Student Services	September 2023	Exit Survey	Maintain communication with our HS graduates	Completed database
Create a database to hold information. (Personal Email, Cell Phone Number, Address for Parent Information, Social Media)	Student Services	September 2023	Exit Survey	Maintain communication with our HS graduates	Completed database

Develop the lessons for the Scope and Sequence IPS for each grade level.	IPS Team	Ongoing	Xello	Students are equipped	Number of students who complete the lesson of Xello
Promote more students to enroll in CTE courses based on student interest with certificate completion opportunities.	All Staff	March 2024	Enrollment Conferences	Increased enrollment in CTE courses.	Individual class enrollment numbers
1:1 Mentoring for all students	All Staff	Starting in October 2023	Questions	Get to know your students	Completion of the task

**MATH AT THE HIGH SCHOOL**

Students are collecting data on their reaction time and will explore and compare their results.



## FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

### **Fall is in the air ART Lovers**

Things are getting spooky at the HS Art Department. There are a lot of activities to get involved in. Art is sponsoring a HS door and locker decorating contest this year. Rules and Participation will be posted around the HS.

Huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who voted for Mirabella's "Hulk Bolt" last month. Unfortunately, she didn't get first during the contest, Mirabella158 received **210** votes, while the winning artist Olivia56512 received 943 votes.



Shout out to everyone who contributed to the homecoming decorations it looked amazing. The Juniors won best overall. Way to go Red Team!



I wanted to thank Josh & Corbin McCain for their donation of a deer skull to the Art department it was a great addition to the Advanced Art Still Life.



### **ART CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 23-24**

- **Parent-teacher conferences this semester are**  
Oct 18th, 4-7 pm & Oct. 19th, 8-7 pm.
- **Halloween Door Decorating Judging Oct. 31st.**
- **End of Semester Fine & Practical Arts Show**  
**Dec. 14th from 6-7:00 pm in Art room 120**

### **ONLINE**

Maintaining the **SFTHS ART DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK** page (If you haven't already please like and follow us at



**ARTSONIA** (*Artsonia is the world's largest collection of student art, published by teachers and students from around the world. Parents and family can view the art online, leave comments, and order keepsakes featuring the artwork.*) **You can order special items from Artsonia as gifts. A portion of the purchases goes to the Art Department.** <https://www.artsonia.com/>

Please feel free to contact me via email with any questions. **Create ON!!!**

## HOMECOMING 2023

Homecoming 2023 was a great success. The Student Council met during the summer to decide on a theme for homecoming and spirit week. Each day the students came dressed relating to the Disney theme. Monday was related to Lion King and the students wore khaki or camo clothing; Tuesday was Moana and students wore tropical clothing; Wednesday was Toy Story day students wore western clothing; Thursday students had the opportunity to purchase t-shirts with each class having a different color to wear; finally, Charger Spirit was Friday with students wearing all Charger apparel. Overbrook hosted the Homecoming parade and pep rally. The student body elected 8 candidates to represent the homecoming royalty. At half time, Cole Flory and Whitney Herren were crowned king and queen. After a winning football game, over 100 students participated in a dance in the school commons. This was definitely a fun-filled and exciting week for the students. The Student Council would like to thank everyone for helping make Homecoming 2023 memorable for all.

## FROM THE LIBRARY



**Welcome to Teen-Tober**

Things are getting spooky in the library with our displays featuring materials available pertaining to True Crime, Mysteries and Thrillers. What a great way to start sinking into the fall season by curling up with a cup of pumpkin spiced coffee and a good "Whodunit."

If a student states they don't like reading, I would challenge they probably just haven't found the right book yet. Finding a topic of interest and book that is written in a way that makes it hard to put down can change even the toughest reading skeptic.

**SFT Library NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 1-7th is FREEDOM TO READ WEEK:**  
"Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored. Intellectual freedom encompasses the freedom to hold, receive, and disseminate ideas."  
- American Library Association

**BANNED BOOKS WEEK**

**Sora**  
The student reading app  
soraapp.com

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Mr. Gloss appreciated that I included “Glossophobia” on the list of scary words across from his classroom. It is the fear of public speaking.

## **FBLA**

September 15, 9 FBLA members traveled to OAC to participate in a community service project, helping the specials teachers celebrate DOT Day with the students. Thank you to OAC teachers and admin for giving us the opportunity to serve!

Membership is continuing to grow and we are still accepting new members, so if your student missed the first of the school year window to sign up, there's still time! They can grab a membership form from Mrs. Smith in Room 102.

## **YEARBOOK**

In September, Yearbook staff members brainstormed and selected the theme for the 2024 publication of The Charger. Staff also attended the Jostens One Day Workshop at Washburn Tech with speaker Mitch Eden, MJE. He retired in 2023 after 27 years advising, most recently at Kirkwood H.S. in Missouri. Eden is a National Scholastic Press Association Executive Board member and former Dow Jones News Fund National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year. The Yearbook staff walked away with several fresh ideas to incorporate into the publication and promotion of the book this year, including beginning a tradition of breakfast Thursdays and creating social media accounts to highlight event photos and promote sales for the book.

### **\*3 Important Yearbook Things:**

1. Order a yearbook prior to November 24, when it's the lowest it'll be all year, and have your student's name placed into a drawing for a \$25 gift card.
2. Senior tributes are now on sale. Emails went out to all senior parents, if you need more information, or have questions, email [jsmith@usd434.us](mailto:jsmith@usd434.us).
3. Follow us on Instagram and TikTok! @the\_charger\_yearbook.

## **KAY**

Blood Drive November 8, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.

The KAY (Kansas Association for Youth) is actively working on service projects and being a welcome group where students can belong to a school organization and get involved at SFT. KAY began their 2023-24 project year with four officers attending KAY State Leadership Camp at Rock Springs Ranch for five days in July. All of them would like to attend again, as they gained leadership skills, networked statewide, served, and had fun.

Members enjoyed playing in the annual co-ed volleyball tournament during Spirit Week and had a truck-float in the SFT Homecoming Parade. KAY held a Color Throw as an activity for all ages at the Carbondale Fall Festival September 30. KAY will be hosting a Blood Drive in the gym on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Registration is now open at [https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/80275](https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/80275) . Anyone in general good health age 16 or older may donate blood. Knowing many are first time donors, the Community Blood Center staff takes extra effort to make sure donors are reassured and comfortable during the donation process. Adults from our community may also register to donate whole blood or double red cells. You can help KAY save lives by being a donor and encouraging your eligible students to donate; right here right now (Nov 8) at SFT HS.



### **Athletics and Activities at Santa Fe Trail High School**

All Fall Sports and some activities are well underway for the 2023-24 school year. SFT HS has been off to a great start this fall. Sports are in the middle of their

seasons and the postseason is just on the horizon. Regionals and Sub State sites have been announced and can be found on the KSHSAA website. Activities are preparing for their performances that are just around the corner. The support from the students and fans this fall has been amazing. Senior and Pink Out Night will be Friday, October 13 for the varsity football game vs Wellsville. Come hungry and support the NHS with a grilled brats dinner.

### **Homecoming**

Homecoming 2023 was a great success. The Student Council met during the summer to decide on a theme for homecoming and spirit week. Each day the students came dressed relating to the Disney theme. Monday was related to Lion King and the students wore khaki or camo clothing; Tuesday was Moana and students wore tropical clothing; Wednesday was Toy Story day students wore western clothing; Thursday students had the opportunity to purchase t-shirts with each class having a different color to wear; finally, Charger Spirit was Friday with students wearing all Charger apparel. Overbrook hosted the Homecoming parade and pep rally. The student body elected 8 candidates to represent the homecoming royalty. At half time, Cole Flory and Whitney Herren were crowned king and queen. After a winning game, over 100 students participated in a dance in the school commons. This was definitely a fun-filled and football exciting week for the students. The Student Council would like to thank everyone for helping make Homecoming 2023 memorable for all.

\*Submitted by Ms. Arlene Mayes

### **Football**

Currently, the varsity Chargers are 4-1 on the season. The Chargers have Bishop Ward, Wellsville, Iola, along with a final game TBD yet to play this year. We are currently 2-0 in district play, defeating Osawatomie and Baldwin. The Chargers have assured a top 3 finish in districts and will advance to the playoffs. With a win over Bishop Ward, we will host the TBD game, and with a loss we will travel.

The JV football team is also enjoying a successful season, and are currently 4-1.

\*Submitted by Coach Erikson

### **Volleyball**

Volleyball season is quickly wrapping up with only 3 weeks left before substate.

We have one more home game on October 10th which is also senior night! We would love to fill the stands and send those seniors out in style! We will play prairie view and Anderson county, two teams we've met before and are ready to beat. So save the date and join us to cheer on the SFT charger volleyball team! See ya there

\*Submitted by Coach Potter

## **Girls Golf**

Girls Golf has seen many successes this year. Player participation has increased. There are four new girls on the team who had no golf experience but now can make ball contact and have learned how to navigate a golf course. The returning girls bring a range of experience individually from minimal work to many days and hours of private practice and competitions during the off season. Their results during competitions this fall season have reaped many accolades. Several have earned Individual Medals in competitions and collectively they have placed above fifty percent of other teams in tournaments. Post season for Girls Golf begins Monday October 9 where SFT will compete in the 4A Regional at Wamego. Recently the Chargers competed in the first Pioneer League Women's competition. The SFT team was the runner up for the 2023 Pioneer League championship team. Three Charger lady golfers earned All Pioneer League Individual Honors. They are 8 th Ashley Masters, 3 rd Bailey Anshutz, and 2nd Braegan Buessing as All Pioneer League Women Golf honorees. SFT family wishes all the golfers continued success and smooth fairways on their life course journeys.

\*Submitted by Coach Burgett

## **Cross Country**

SFT XC-

- The Cross Country team has been hard at work this season. With the league and regional meets fast approaching the team is getting excited for the championship portion of their season.
- The boys team is led by sophomore stand out Bryce Roberts, who has earned a medal in 4 of his 5 meets this season.
- The girls team has a stand out of their own in Maria Ham who has also earned 4 medals this season.
- The league meet this season will take place at Wellsville High School on October the 12th. Both boys and girls teams look to finish well.
- The regional meets were announced last week, and will take place on Saturday, October 21st. The Chargers are heading back to Council Grove to compete against 15 other 3A schools for a chance to head to state at Rimrock.

\*Submitted by Coach Ramsey

## **Dance Team**

Cheer and Dance will sponsor the annual Pink Out Game on October 13th. Wear all your pink gear and come cheer on Chargers Football!

\*Submitted by Coach Switts

## **Cheerleading**

Cheer will be attending Washburn Rural Spirit Showcase on November 4th this year. We will also be traveling to Emporia on Nov 5th to attend KCCA Cheer Combine. We have three seniors - Ashlyn Lester, Bryce Torkelson, and Olivia Adams - who are all hoping to be picked up by colleges to continue cheering next year. Unfortunately this year cheer has been waitlisted for KSHSAA Game Day Showcase - however we are the first team on the waitlist and are anticipating being moved up to the active performance order. And lastly, cheer will be holding open practice from 6:00-7:00 pm in the dome gym on 10/9, 10/16, 10/20, and 10/27 for anyone interested in joining basketball season cheer.

\*Submitted by Coach Ashley Miles

## **Band**

The Santa Fe Trail High School Band has been working extremely hard this semester! They have successfully performed at 3 football games including all of the homecoming festivities. This next month, we will perform our entire Back in Time Show at the Football game on October 13th, compete at the Holton Marching Band Festival on October 23rd, and we have several students preparing to audition for the district honor band on November 4th. We are beyond proud of all of our students and hope you can make it out to the last football game to support us!

\*Submitted by Mrs. Rice

## **Choir**

SFTHS Choirs are gearing up for their first concert of the school year, which is on **Wednesday October 4th at 7:00 PM in the SFTHS Auditorium**. Join us for a wonderful evening of music to showcase our amazing singers here at Trail! Students have been working hard in their ensembles, some of them seasoned veterans and some of them brand new to choir. We have been discovering and exploring our sounds as individuals and as a group, as well as growing our musicianship skills to prepare for our first concert and our future concerts and contests. We hope you can make it out! Admission is FREE!

\*Submitted by Mrs. Holbert

## **Musical: (see below cast list and crew list)**

Congratulations to the Cast and Crew of the fall musical, "Shrek The Musical"! We are well into the swing of rehearsals and cannot wait for the performances of this production. "Shrek The Musical" is a one-of-a-kind, hilarious fairy tale in which curses are reversed, monsters get the girls, donkeys and dragons find love, and princesses are beautiful in all shapes and sizes. Grumpy, gruff, green ogre Shrek lives alone in his swamp. The world is fearful and mocking of him, and he is more than happy to leave

the world to itself, in turn. Suddenly, his hermit existence is thrown open, when a group of homeless fairy tale characters — Pinocchio, the Gingerbread Man, the Three Little Pigs, and more — burst upon his swamp, seeking refuge from the persecution of the cruel, vertically-challenged Lord Farquaad. Shrek seeks out Farquaad, who offers him a deal: if Shrek rescues the Princess Fiona (whom Farquaad wishes to marry for her crown), then Farquaad will ensure the return of Shrek's swamp by returning the fairy tale creatures to their homes. In a desperate attempt to regain his swamp's hermetic piece, Shrek enters the world for the first time in his life. He travels to Princess Fiona's prison, rescues her from a fire-breathing dragon, and then — scariest of all — is forced to get to know the princess as he tries to bring her back to evil Farquaad. To the determinedly unsocial ogre's dismay, Fiona is very different from what he expected a princess to be. She may even provoke Shrek's most novel experience yet: Love. With a larger-than-life cast, high energy dance numbers, and laughs by the minute, "Shrek The Musical" transforms the popular animated feature film into a stage musical that is sure to entertain and make audiences believers in happy endings for all. Save the date for the performances: November 10th @ 7:00 PM, November 11th @ 7:00 PM, and November 12th @ 2:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

\*Submitted by Mrs. Holbert

# ***Crew List***

## **Backstage Crew (Hair and Makeup, Costumes, Set)**

Alora Barr  
Trinity Barr  
Courtney Galyean  
Makenzie Galyean  
Katrina Drury

## **Light and Sound Crew**

Benjamin Dinger  
Bo Greene  
Konnor Heinz

## **Student Choreographers**

Morgan Starr  
John Nievar

# SHREK

## THE MUSICAL

### *Cast List*

Shrek.....	John Nievar
Princess Fiona.....	Abby Dinger
Donkey.....	Jo Ramirez
Lord Farquaad.....	Wylie Young
Dragon/Mama Ogre/Blind Mouse/Duloc Citizen.....	Whitney Herren
Pinocchio/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Olivia Ralston
Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy/Dancing Rat.....	Macy Berkley
Teen Fiona/White Rabbit/Blind Mouse/Dancing Rat.....	Raven Hinck
Papa Ogre/Captain of the Guard/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Gavyn Smith
King Harold/Papa Bear/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Alex Strother
Queen Lillian/Mama Bear/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Gretchen Huizenga
Young Shrek/Baby Bear.....	Ryan Strother
Young Fiona/Gretel/Dwarf.....	Macy McCain
Wicked Witch/Blind Mouse/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Vanessa Roberts
Big Bad Wolf/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Justin McKnight
Pig 1/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Morgan Starr
Pig 2/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Brooklyn Brown
Pig 3/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Addy Michaelis
Elf/Blue Bird/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Addie Harmison
Ugly Duckling/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Molly Herren
Fairy Godmother/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Tyler Shreve
Peter Pan/Thelonius/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Owen Lattimer
Mad Hatter/Guard/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Isaiah Jones
Little Red Ridinghood/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Gabby Suchi
Goldilocks/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Olivia Adams
Alice/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Brynna Perry
Queen of Hearts/Duloc Citizen/Dancing Rat.....	Shelby Garrison
Pied Piper/Guard/Knight/Bishop.....	Aden Kitten
Guard/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Hunter French
Guard/Knight/Dancing Rat.....	Brian Llamas

**Exciting things are happening at The Palace on the Prairie! We all look forward to seeing you and supporting our students, athletes, coaches and sponsors. Go Chargers!!!**