

**SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2024**

BOARD GOAL #3—RECRUIT AND RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

The third board goal is to recruit and retain highly qualified staff. This goal is as important as any that USD 434 has.

At the time of this post, there are 1,162 active job openings in Kansas on the Educate Kansas website. These are education jobs posted across the state. Every school district in the state is being impacted by the lack of educators.

What are we doing at SFTHS? There is a directed effort to support the educators in the building and to empower their expertise. As for hiring, we try to get out into the market as soon as we can with the attempt to hire the best candidate available. Here are a few specific items that are occurring:

- Saturday, April 6th 2024—TLEC and USD 434 Job Fair
- New Mentoring Program-Highly Qualified Mentors and Training
- Mentor/Mentee/Admin Semesters Check-ins
- 2023-2024 School Year—4% Raise for Staff and the \$500 @ Christmas Break
- Daily Rate of Pay is Competitive with Surrounding Districts
- Bovay Grant for Educators
- Monthly Celebration of USD 434 Staff
- Bovay Paraeducator Grant—Transition to Teach
- Ongoing Training and Support on New Curriculum Items
- Shorter School Calendar
- Friday Jean Days
- Staff SFT Apparel

CLASS OF 2024 ACADEMIC SUCCESSES

Santa Fe Trail High School is proud to announce the following accomplishments from the Class of 2024:

- Owen Michaelis graduated in December and left in January for basic training in the Air Force.
- Drake Graham, the 2024 Valedictorian, has completed his associate's degree from Allen County in December.
- Noah Burgoon, the 2024 Salutatorian, will complete his associate's degree from Allen County in May.
- Hailee Crosland will complete her associate's degree from Allen County in May.
- Sarah Meier will complete her associate's degree from Allen County in May.
- Andrew Parkhill will complete his associate's degree from Allen County in May.
- Alazay Dempsey will complete his associate's degree from Allen County in May.

- Owen Tomlinson completed the diesel technology program at WU Tech in December and graduated from SFT at the same time.
- Trinity Barr will graduate from the graphics technology program from WU Tech in May.
- Corbin Brady will graduate from the diesel technology program from WU Tech in May.
- Caden Cool will graduate from the welding program from WU Tech in May.
- Kaysha Florance will graduate from the electrical program from WU Tech in May.
- Riley Guenther will graduate from the diesel technology program from WU Tech in May.
- Brandon McGregor will graduate from the welding program from WU Tech in May.
- Evan Metzler will graduate from the auto collision program from WU Tech in May.
- Bain Pickett will graduate from the machine tool program from WU Tech in May.
- Chase Seachord will graduate from the engineering drafting and design program from WU Tech in May.
- Jeremy Shreve will graduate from the information systems technology program from WU Tech in May.
- Toni Virgo will graduate from the diesel technology program from WU Tech in May.
- Aaron Welton will graduate from the climate and energy (HVAC) program from WU Tech in May.

HS STAFF OF THE MONTH

December: Cheryl Florance (Classified)
Julie Smith (Certified)

January: At the time of this submission, the January staff members are TBD.

ACT PREP AND TEST FOR THE JUNIORS

SFT hosted an ACT Prep with Carolyn Devane, from PowerPrep, on Thursday, February 15, 2024 for our juniors.

The juniors will be taking the real ACT test during the school day in the new gym on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

ENROLLMENT CONFERENCES

We have kicked them off in preparation of the 2024-25 school year! These are the individual meetings with a staff member and student to determine their Individual Plan of Study.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUATORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2024

Congratulations to Drake Graham and Noah Burgoon. These two seniors are the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2024.

Valedictorian—Drake Graham
Salutatorian—Noah Burgoon

TOP 10

Congratulations to the TOP 10 for the Class of 2024! They are:

Drake Graham—Undecided but plans to attend college

Noah Burgoon—K-State

Abigail Clark—K-State

Sarah Meier—Emporia State University

Chayse Jeanneret—University of Nebraska Lincoln

Whitney Herren—K-State

Kaelee Washington—KU

Chad Robert—Washburn University

Ashley Masters—Flint Hills Tech

Hailee Crosland—Baker University

Athletics and Activities at Santa Fe Trail High School

January has come and gone and February is off to a very fast start. We are getting very close to postseason tournaments in wrestling and basketball. Our coaches and players are working very hard to make a successful run to finish the season and make a strong showing in the postseason. Powerlifting is getting started and has competed in a few meets with more coming up. On the activities side, all activities are working hard and gearing up for a performance or show in the near future. We appreciate all the hard work and dedication everyone shows. We have lots of staff and students doing amazing things!!

Girls Basketball

The SFT Girls Basketball team has had success through this point of the season. We are currently 11-3 and undefeated in Pioneer League play. Our JV team has had a great season so far as well and our younger players are continuing to improve at a fast rate. Our coaching staff loves the closeness of our team and how our players have grown throughout the season, both as individuals and with their teammates. We face Osawatomie this Friday at home and encourage everyone to come out and support our girl's and boy's basketball programs!

Submitted by Coach Kramer

Powerlifting

The SFT Powerlifting Team has attended two powerlifting meets so far this winter. The first was at Basehor-Linwood HS. This meet is always the largest meet we attend, with over 900 lifters there competing from 24 schools 6A to 1A. Our women's team took 2nd, our men's team took 6th, junior men (9th and 10th graders) took 9th, and junior women took 3rd. Our second meet was at Royal Valley HS last weekend. This meet was smaller, with 350 lifters competing. Our women's team took 1st, men's team took 3rd, and junior men's team took 2nd. There was no junior women's division at this meet. This upcoming weekend we head to Fort Scott, followed by North Kansas City the following weekend. Our state meet will be hosted at SFT on Saturday, March 23rd.

Submitted by Coach Kramer

Boys Basketball

Boys' Charger Basketball JV Travels to royal valley on February 10 for a tournament. The jv is 7-3 and looks forward to a great tournament

Boys' varsity Charger basketball sits @ 9-5 and is currently the 3 seed in their Sub-State. They look forward a home game once sub-state play begins

Boys' charger basketball welcomes Osawatomie high school Trojans to SFT for Winter Royalty on Friday February 9th.

Submitted by Coach Decker

Wrestling

The Boys wrestling team currently holds a record of 11 – 5 in Dual Meets. The Boys team has seen themselves in and out of the Top 10 KWCA Team Rankings the last few weeks. The following boys are currently ranked in the latest KWCA 4A Individual Rankings: 106 #1 Tanner Sleichter, 120 #6 Bryce Combes, 285 #4 Alex Strother.

They have recently had the following team finishes at tournaments: Baldwin Invitational Tournament – 2nd Place out of 17 teams, Hays-Bob Kuhn Prairie Senior Classic – 4th place out of 25 teams, Rossville Invitational – 2nd place out of 20 teams. The team is transitioning their focus to the postseason with their Regional tournament at Tonganoxie on Feb. 17th, the top four finishers at each weight class will earn the right to compete at the 4A State Tournament in Salina Feb. 22-24.

The Girls wrestling team currently holds a record of 6-4 in Dual Meets. The Girls team has seen themselves in and out of the Top 10 KWCA Team Rankings this season. The following girls are currently ranked in the latest KWCA 4321A Individual Rankings: 145 #2 Hailee Crosland. They have recently had the following team finishes at tournaments: Baldwin Invitational Tournament – 2nd Place out of 27 teams, Council Grove Invitational - 1st place out of 15 teams; Rossville Invitational Tournament – 2nd place out of 22 teams. The team is transitioning their focus to the postseason with their Regional tournament at Sabetha on Feb. 10th, the top four finishers at each weight class will earn the right to compete at the 4321A State Tournament in Salina Feb. 22-24.

Submitted by Coach Gonzales

Band

The High School Band has some exciting opportunities coming up within the next couple of weeks. The jazz band will be traveling to Ottawa University on February 15th to perform and learn from some of the best jazz educators in the state. The entire band will also be participating in our annual league band day where they will be given a rating and coaching session with a collegiate director. We are very excited for these upcoming performance and learning opportunities for our students!

Submitted by Mrs. Rice

Scholar's Bowl

The SFT Scholar's bowl teams have completed their season. The young teams grew and showed improvement at each meet. The greatest accomplishment by these students was actually beginning to study Spanish- even though none of them are currently in the course just so they could answer some of the questions!

Students competed in 9 tournaments ending at our League tournament in Anderson County. While our win- loss percentage has not been amazing, our students have showed steady growth in their percentage of number of questions attempted and answered correctly.

Members who competed on the team this year were: Willow McNary, Addison Harmison, Bailey Anderson, Raleigh Brady, Colton Zoch, Kynlee Ard, Ainsely Johnson, Scott Garcia, Ethan Sigwing, Whytli Hammond, Trevor Moreno, and Owen Lattimer.

Submitted by Mrs. Chiddix

NHS

Members of National Honor Society are hard at work completing their individual service projects and reflecting on what they learned from their experiences. They are also preparing activities for their visit to the preschool for Read Across America Week in March.

Invitations to join NHS will go out to all eligible sophomores and juniors at the end of February. To be invited to apply, students must have a 3.75 or higher cumulative GPA. Prospective members then must meet all of the additional requirements of the application process for selection. New member induction takes place in April.

Submitted by Mrs. Folger

FBLA:

FBLA members competed at Washburn University on January 31, in the District VII Conference. The chapter earned 2nd place overall and had a multitude of top 10 finishes. Tyler Bolt was elected the new District VII Vice President and will organize the Conference in 2025.

Four members earned the distinction of 1st place in their events: Gretchen Huizenga in Accounting I, Noah Burgoon in Agribusiness, Jeremy Shreve in objective tests Cyber Security, Management Information Systems, and Networking Infrastructures, and Molly Herren in Client Service.



FBLA members competed in the District VII Conference held at Washburn University in Topeka.

Santa Fe Trail's FBLA District VII Conference
Speeches, Role Play & Interview Results
 January 31, 2024

Speeches, Role Play & Interview	
Client Service	Herren, Molly (1st)
	Smith, Gabe (5th)
Impromptu Speaking	Strother, Alex (10th)
Intro to Public Speaking	Black, Reese (3rd)
	Crotinger, Bryson (7th)
Job Interview	Gallagher, Jr., Michael (7th)
	Cooper, Cody (9th)
Public Speaking	Smith, Gabe (4th)
	Perry, Brynna (5th)

Santa Fe Trail's FBLA District VII Conference
Individual Objective Test Results
January 31, 2024

Individual Objective Tests	
Accounting I	Strother, Kyle (9th)
Accounting II	Huizenga, Gretchen (1st)
Advertising	Strother, Alex (9th)
Agribusiness	Burgoon, Noah (1st)
	Crotinger, Bryson (9th)
Business Calculations	Jeanneret, Chayse (4th)
Business Communication	Jeanneret, Chayse (6th)
Business Law	Strother, Alex (6th)
Cyber Security	Shreve, Jeremy (1st)
	Smith, Gabe (3rd)
Health Care Administration	Burgoon, Noah (7th)
Intro to Business Procedures	Shreve, Tyler (2nd)
Intro to FBLA	Perry, Brynna (3rd)
Intro to Information Technology	Smith, Gavyn (2nd)
Networking Infrastructures	Shreve, Jeremy (1st)
Organizational Leadership	Crosland, Hailee (2nd)

Santa Fe Trail's FBLA District VII Conference
Objective Test Plus Role Play/Interview Results
January 31, 2024

Objective Test Plus Role Play/Interview	
Banking and Financial Systems	Team: Graham, Drake and Bolt, Tyler (4th Performance, 6th Written)
Business Management	Team: Bolt, Tyler and Washington, Kenna (6th Performance, 4th Written)
Entrepreneurship	Team: Bolt, Tyler and Gallagher, Jr., Michael (3rd Performance, 5th Written)
Help Desk	Greenfield, Claire (3rd Performance, 3rd Written)
	Kuhlmann, Addison (Performance 5th, Written 4th)
Hospitality and Event Management	Team: Black, Reese and Herren, Molly and Perry, Brynna (4th Performance, 5th Written)
International Business	Team: Bolt, Tyler and Sheley, Leo (3rd Performance, 3rd Written)
Intro to Event Planning	Team: Greenfield, Claire and Kuhlmann, Addison and Washington, Kenna (5th Performance, 5th Written)
Management Information Systems	Shreve, Jeremy (2nd Performance, 1st Written)
Marketing	Team: Bolt, Tyler and Crosland, Hailee and Herren, Whitney (3rd Performance, 5th Written)
Network Design	Shreve, Jeremy (2nd Performance, 2nd Written)
Sports and Entertainment Management	Team: Amborski, Logan and Jeanneret, Chayse and Smith, Gabe (6th Performance, 5th Written)

Submitted by Mrs. Smith

Yearbook:



Yearbook Staff L to R back row: Ellie Sowers (9) Accountability and Motivation, Piper Flory (9) Co-Director of Bring the Fun, Nora Bond (10) Social Media Specialist, Corvin Lucas (10) Design Editor. L to R front row: Macy Berkley (9) Social Media Specialist, Gretchen Huizenga (10) Grammar Police, Audry Johnson (10) Grammar Police, Toni Virgo (12) Editor in Chief, Kenzie Galyean (10) Accountability and Motivation, Eva Branstetter (10) Design Editor

The yearbook staff has grown! Each student brings a unique set of skills and strengths to the production of the book and they are gaining real world soft skills in the areas of teamwork, being accountable for their work load, and meeting deadlines.

Books are on sale now for \$55 plus tax. Get a form from Mrs. Smith at school, or [click here to order and pay online directly from Jostens.](#)

We've also received word our 2023 publication of The Charger is a Gold Level Winner of the National Yearbook Program of Excellence. Our staff works hard to provide great coverage of the student body and historically accurate records in a professional format. It's great to be recognized!

Submitted by Mrs. Smith

Choir:

SFTHS Choirs have been hard at work this semester already learning their music to prepare for their concert in March and Contest later this spring. The Junior High/High School Combined Choir Concert is on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 PM in the SFTHS Auditorium. Join us for a music-filled evening featuring all of the SFT District Choirs! Students have been working hard in their ensembles, learning their music in new and exciting ways. We hope you can make it out. Admission is FREE! SFTHS Choirs will also travel to Atchison in April to sing at the Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest, to sing their music they have been preparing for a judge. More info to come soon!

Submitted by Mrs. Holbert

Play:

The Spring Play, "Check Please" is now in full swing! We have a cast of amazing actors from every grade level that are excited to put on a fun show for you! More about the show... Dating can be hard. Especially when your date happens to be a raging kleptomaniac, or your grandmother's bridge partner, or a mime. "Check Please" follows a series of blind dinner dates that couldn't get any worse -- until they do. Could there possibly be a light at the end of the tunnel? You'll be laughing your way through to find out! Shows are March 22nd @ 7pm, March 23rd @ 7pm, & March 24th @ 2pm. We hope you can make it out for an evening or afternoon of laughs!!

Submitted by Mrs. Holbert

Art:

Want to support the SFT HS Art Department but don't know how? You can check us out online on Facebook, Artsonia, and in-person exhibitions. We are gearing up for a BIG semester. There are numerous activities and competitions taking place. Seniors are preparing for graduation, scholarship applications, and what comes next.

Trinity Barr will be representing SFTHS in this year's YAM Competition with "Tasty Treat".
Kansas Youth Art Month Exhibit Feb 27th-March 23rd @ Topeka Shawnee County Public Library.



You can check us out online at [SFTHS ART DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK Page](#)



ARTSONIA



Check it out at <https://www.artsonia.com/> Support your student and the Art Dept. in one-stop shopping for unique gifts with student's artwork on it. Artsonia donates 20% of purchases to our school arts program for new art supplies!

ART CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 23-24

- Senior Showcases will start on SFTHS's Art Dept. Facebook Page
- **Kansas Youth Art Month Exhibit Feb 27th-March 23rd @ Topeka Shawnee County Public Library**
- 8:00 am: Pioneer League Art Show @ Anderson County
- **May 8th the end of semester Fine Arts & Practical Arts Show 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the SFTHS Commons and Art Studio 120.**
- Graduation is May 11th, 10:00 am @ SFTHS gym

Submitted by Mrs. Kitten

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!!!