

February BOE Newsletter

Overbrook Attendance Center



Principal - Mrs. Lorle Bolt

A message from our principal

Dear Charger Families,

As we utilize our new Open Court resources we continue to support instructional practices that build on the science of reading. Below you will find some information in regards to the science of reading.

Science of Reading Parent Information

We know more about how the brain learns to read than ever before and we are beginning to implement these practices into our classroom instruction here in Santa Fe Trail USD 434. The "science of reading" refers to two related concepts: the study of how the brain learns to read and methods for teaching reading that high-quality scientific studies have shown to be effective. In your scholar's elementary classroom, you may have noticed that your teachers are moving away from traditional reading levels (reading level assignments) to direct teaching focused on skills-based instruction. This skills-based instruction includes the following:



- Phonological awareness - the acrobats of language manipulation
 - skills such as rhyming, alliteration, identifying syllables and blending syllables (things students can do with their eyes closed)
- Explicit & Systematic phonics - teaching children sounds (44 phonemes) to letters (graphemes). In English, there are often multiple ways to spell phonemes - for example, the /k/ sound can be spelled -c, -k, or -ck. Our teachers use S.P.I.R.E. phonics instruction in all grade levels. Systematic phonics is also a piece of the Kansas Law, Every Child Can Read under the Dyslexia Legislation
 - Students complete spelling dictation and sentence dictation to practice spelling and phonics skills.
- Students are learning to read with accuracy and expression - their ability to read fluently. When students have the basis of Phonological Awareness and Phonics, decoding becomes more and more automatic.
- Vocabulary and Comprehension are ongoing and taught in the classroom as decoding becomes more and more fluent.

Ways to Help Your Child at Home with Reading

How can you support your child's reading at home?

1. Read with your student at home and encourage him or her to sound out words and help them to sound out unknown words. Encourage your child to look at the letters or known word parts of the word (not the picture), say each sound and blend to make a word.
2. Talk to your child - a lot!! Drown your children in language and expose them to vocabulary. Exposing your child to a variety of words helps develop literacy skills.
3. Read to your scholar. Read literature, fiction and nonfiction, that is above their reading level to expose them to content and build knowledge.
4. Practice phonemic awareness at home! Play language games with your child at home - say a word and then change one sound (went - change /w/ to /s/ and make sent!).
5. Review letter names and sounds.
6. Listen to your child read - if it doesn't sound fluent, have them reread it, focusing on fluency and accuracy.
7. Promote writing and encourage your child to write lists, stories, cards and letters.
8. Ask questions when your child reads - retell the story and explain facts from a nonfiction text.

9. Make reading a regular activity at home!

Here are more resources to continue learning about the Science of Reading.

[Reading 101: A Guide for Parents](#)

[Science of Reading - YouTube Video](#)

[How Do Kids Learn to Read? What the Science Says](#)

Upcoming Dates:

1/31: Parent Teacher Conferences 4pm-7pm

2/1: Parent Teacher Conferences 8am-7pm

2/2: No School

2/6: PTO Meeting - 6:30 p.m. at the Overbrook Public Library

Join the Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sftpto/>

2/12: **Calendar Change School is now in Session**

2/14: Valentine's Day

2/19: No School - Teacher PD day

2/28: Overbrook Town Hall Meeting @ OAC (6pm)

Reminder - Calendar Changes

We are adding the following days to the school calendar as student contact days. This will ensure that we comply with the state requirements for student contact time that we missed due to snow days that were issued. Please plan to have your child at school on the following days. We will change these on the district calendar. Thank you for your cooperation and flexibility during this time.

February 12

March 29

April 8 (no longer a professional development day)

Counselor's Corner

This month all grades will be working on conflict resolution and problem solving. This is a very hard skill for our kids because of their age and where they are developmentally. We are practicing "I Messages" and how to voice what you need from someone else when you are upset with them. This is great to practice at home as well. Practice and repetition is one of the best ways to help kids remember how to use their skills. Below is the message we will be working on in class. This helps with students advocating for themselves and helps eliminate tattling as well.

I Message

I feel _____ when you _____. Please stop.

Overbrook Town Hall Meeting

On Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00pm, Overbrook Attendance Center will host a Town Hall Meeting. This meeting will allow the district to meet with stakeholders regarding grade-level reconfiguration. We are in the early stages of this research and are taking time to gain feedback from people throughout our school district and communities.

New Leadership Clubs

We are happy to announce two new leadership clubs at OAC.

1. Baking Crew
2. Reader Leaders

School Concerts - Mark your Calendars for the Future

April 18th - 2nd and 3rd Grade Concert @ the SFTHS Auditorium in the evening
2nd (6pm) & 3rd Grade (7pm)

SPECIALS AT OAC

FABULOUS NEWS IN FEBRUARY

Art- February students will be focusing on landscape. We will be working on a few projects that incorporate foreground, middle ground and background

Explore- Students will learn about the history of The Super Bowl while also learning the logistics of creating a new team. Students will create a helmet and uniform, design their own stadium, and take a Virtual Tour of the Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

Music- Body percussion is on. This type of music promotes rhythm and beat using movement and space. Sound awareness and group cohesiveness are also in these activities of building coordination. To join in the body percussion challenge, go to <https://musicplayonline.com/> and enter code s456512. 3rd graders are invited to practice level 1 recorder songs by accessing the instrument tab. Also, see below, the "I can" poster for what 2nd grade students are learning. For parent/teacher conferences, come visit with cookies at OAC Feb. 1st 4-7 p.m., Feb. 2nd from 8-3:30 p.m. and then at CAC 4-7 p.m.

P.E.- February is heart month and it's trying to raise awareness about heart health and cardiovascular diseases. In PE we will be learning about the heart, how to keep it healthy, and do fun activities to help improve one's cardiovascular health. We are also working with the American Heart Association this month. More information about this will come out soon.

CONTACTS

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EVERY CHARGER EVERY DAY

School Health Care Reminders

I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE HEAD LICE	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
						
Temperature of 100° F or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with oozing, drainage or fever	Check with your school district policy	Redness, itching, and/or pus draining from eye	Hospital stay and/or emergency room visit

I am ready to go back to school when I am...

Fever free without the assistance of medication for 24 hours (i.e., Tylenol, Motrin, Advil)	Free from vomiting for 24 hours.	Free from diarrhea for 24 hours.	Free from rash or fever and have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home.	Free from drainage and/or have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Released by my medical provider to return to school.
 <i>It's ok to have a runny nose and/or small cough.</i>						

If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, he/she should stay home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 24 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider's recommendations about returning to school and other activities.

Super Bowl Spirit Week

February 5th- February 9th



Major Fan Monday

Support the Chiefs in your best fan gear



Team Time Tuesday

Dress like your favorite player, ref, coach, or cheerleader



Dreaming of a Win Wednesday

Wear your pajamas or sweats



Travis and Taylor Era Thursday

Dress to impress



Red Friday

Wear your Chiefs Gear or red

#OAC2024



IT'S A SANTA FE TRAIL PTO SKATING PARTY!!!

When: Tuesday, February 20th 6-8 pm.

Where: Sk8away 815 SW Fairlawn
Road in Topeka

Cost: \$5 Door Charge

Come and skate with us while we raise
money for PTO! It is guaranteed to be a
fun time!

Kindergarten Parents: Mark your Calendars

K Parents Only: There will be no school for Kindergarten students on April 5, 2024.

This allows the incoming preschoolers who will be Kindergarten students in the 2024-2025 to experience Kindergarten round-up! All other students (1st - 3rd) will have school that day as regularly scheduled.

Charger of the Month

Join me in congratulating Chargers of the Month:

December:

Classified: Stephanie Lynch

Certified: Avery Chinn

January:

BOE Goal 3: Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified Staff

This is an outline of many components, please feel free to ask questions.

- April 6th - TLEC and USD 434 Job Fair
- 2024-2025 school year current open positions have multiple applicants
- New Mentoring Program - Highly Qualified Mentors & Training
- Mentor/Mentee/Admin Semester Check-Ins
- 2023-2024 School Year - 4% Raise for Staff - \$500 Christmas Bonus
- Daily Rate of Pay is competitive with large districts, higher than many local districts
- Bovay Grant for Educators to obtain Master Degree
- Paraprofessional Bovay Grant - Grow Your Own
- Jones Foundation for Para Educators - Grow Your Own
- Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Modules - .50 hourly increase incentive
 - WIN Coaches (Title): yearly evaluations and feedback
 - New for 2024-2025 - create Title paraprofessional handbook to outline roles, responsibilities and processes
- Monthly Celebration of USD 434 Staff - Charger of the Month
- Ongoing Training and Support on New Curriculum Items
- Nominations for Kansas Teacher of the Year
 - Ms. Olorunfemi on KSTOY group. Tours KSTOY buildings, brings ideas and fresh perspectives back to USD 434. KSTOY visits USD 434 on March 19, 2024

Internal Culture Building Items:

- All staff fills out All About Me Form for gifts, thank you's and kindness gestures
- Back to School gift
- Pop-Up Surprises in the Teachers Lounge (i.e., I "ceral-sly appreciate you")
- Sunshine Boxes for those out on extended leave
- Secret Pals
- Quarterly Staff Gatherings
- Social Committee to honor all staff appreciation days
- Thematic Birthday Potlucks
- When applicable team building activities on PD days
- All staff has ownership in building if they would like to opportunity to run a student club

Staff Survey

Certified Staff were given a survey with the following questions -with 23 responses

- My administrator treats me like a professional.
- I believe my administrator feels I am an effective teacher.
- My administrator demonstrates a solid understanding of effective teaching practices.
- My administrator visits my classroom often enough.
- My administrator helps me get the resources I need to do my job well.
- I feel comfortable going to my administrator with my concerns.
- My administrator regularly seeks input when making decisions that impact the work the staff does.
- My administrator supports my decisions about student behavior.
- My administrator supports me when conflicts arise with parents.
- I feel empowered to make decisions about my teaching.

- I enjoy coming to work most days.
- I feel we have a positive school culture.
- My administrator communicates regularly with the staff (expectations, schedules, agendas).

I will use the data collected from this survey to reflect on my leadership practices, make changes as needed and reflect on our building/district practices. Additionally we will review this data during our Building Leadership Team. A quick summary of the survey reflects that 100% of the teachers are neutral or above on all areas of the survey except:

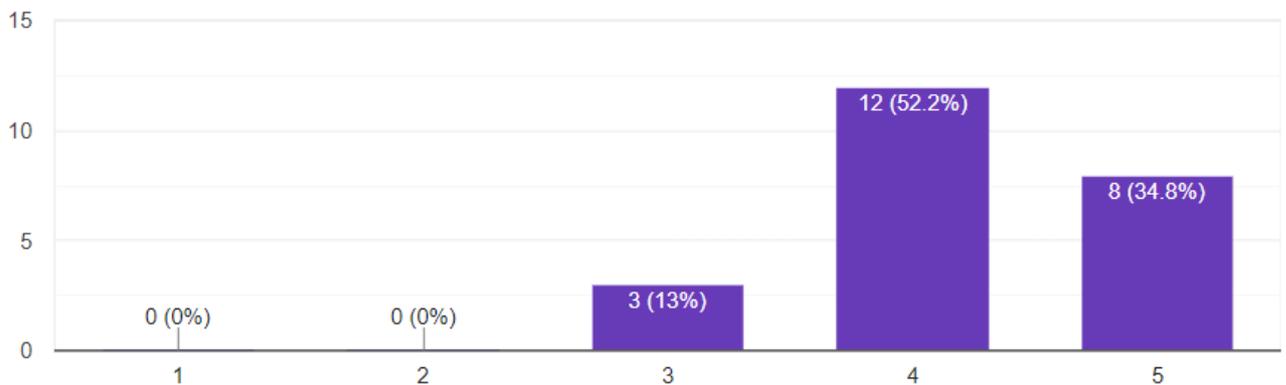
- My administrator regularly seeks input when making decisions that impact the work the staff does. (1 vote, 4.3% - 22 votes three and above -95.7%)
- I feel comfortable going to my administrator with my concerns. (2 votes, 8.6%, 21votes 91.4%)
- My administrator visits my classroom often enough. (1 vote, 4.3%, 22 votes three and above 95.7%)

However, it should be noted that ALL staff believe we have a positive school culture and coming to work each day!

I feel we have a positive school culture.



23 responses



I enjoy coming to work most days.



23 responses

