

**March, 2024**

# The Charger

**Jodi Testa, Principal**  
**Austin Hershberger, AP/AD**  
**1.800.836.9525**

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## **The Official Newsletter of SFTJH/CAC**

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The staff and I at Carbondale Attendance Center need your support. Our next Site Council meeting will be on March 26 at 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend including community members, parents, students, and school staff. I ask that you bring with you a passion for our Chargers and their success. The focus of Site Council is broad and always based on learning and growing whether that be for a single grade level of students or our school family of students, staff, and parents. It is important we continue to grow together. I hope you will plan to attend and encourage you to bring celebrations of the great things that are happening at CAC as well as suggestions for consideration.

With the fourth quarter of the school year upon us we are gearing up and making final preparations for the Kansas Assessment Program, commonly known as state assessments. Parents and families have a significant role in the success of our students on the exams. We need you to provide your child with extra sleep, balanced nutrition, abundant water for hydration, and consistent encouragement to try their best in all they do including the state assessments. I ask you to post our testing dates on your family refrigerator and plan ways to make the evening before and the morning of your child's test sessions peaceful and happy. Worries outside the school setting can cause significant distractions for our students. If you wake the morning of your child's test session to find your child is extra grumpy or extra worried and you believe we will not see his/her best on the state assessment, please reach out to me at [JTesta@usd434.us](mailto:JTesta@usd434.us) as early in the morning as possible. We may have some flexibility to make adjustments to your child's testing session. We may be able to postpone testing for a day and/or provide extra breaks and encouragement to your child.

While the state assessments are always an important focus we also place significant focus on creating positive lifetime habits which includes consistent, timely daily attendance for all students. This is another area you can support from home. I encourage you to take just a moment to think about your child's school attendance rate. How often does he/she miss school? How might those absences be avoided? Can a full day absence be reduced to only a couple of hours out of school? Was the reason for the absence significant enough to miss learning and growing academically and socially with friends and peers? Simply put those students who are chronically absent from school (miss more than 10% of the school days) are automatically disadvantaged. Research shows that school absences take a toll on student achievement. Chronic absenteeism can be a predictor of high school drop-out which has then been linked to poor labor market prospects, poor health, and increased involvement in the criminal justice system. Students who are chronically absent are at higher risk for these adverse outcomes. I ask you "Is this what you want for your child, for our Chargers?" I encourage us to work together to focus significantly on creating positive lifetime habits like consistent, timely school attendance for all students. We are happy to partner with families who are experiencing a significant number of school absences. We will continue to reach out to you and look forward to your child's success in the future.

Speaking of success, at CAC we love to celebrate the success of our students. Just this week we celebrated the 30 Trail Hands wrestlers who qualified for the state competition to be held this weekend. I hope you will share with me the success your child has beyond the school setting. Whether it be a 4H project, a volunteer opportunity that made significant impact to others, or a team success, I want to celebrate your child. A quick email notification and explanation is all I need from you. We share celebrations over the intercom and most every student enjoys hearing how others are excelling!

## STATE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR CAC

	<b>ELA</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>4th</b> 88 students/staff	Wed 4/3 Fri 4/5 9:15-10:45	Wed 4/10 Fri 4/12 9:15-10:45	NA
<b>5th</b> 81 students/staff	Tues 4/2 Thurs 4/4 8:30-10:00	Tues 4/9 Thurs 4/11 8:30-10:00	Wed 3/27 Thurs 3/28 8:30-10:00
<b>6th</b> 83 students/staff	Tues 4/2 Thurs 4/4 Periods 2, 4, 6, 7	Tues 4/9 Thurs 4/11 Periods 2, 4, 6, 7	NA
<b>7th</b> 92 students/staff	Mon 4/1 Wed 4/3 Periods 1, 4, 5, 6	Mon 4/8 Wed 4/10 Periods 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	NA
<b>8th</b> 93 students/staff	Mon 4/1 Wed 4/3 Periods 2, 3, 5, 7	Mon 4/8 Wed 4/10 Periods 2, 3, 5, 7	Wed 3/27 Thurs 3/28 Periods 1, 3, 4, 5

**YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE! - - - - Softcover Yearbook \$20**

**Order now at [www.inter-state.com/order](http://www.inter-state.com/order) Enter this code: 83579K**

**Orders due: Sunday, March 17, 2024 or until sold out of all books.**



# Nursing News ...

## What is influenza?

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the respiratory tract. Flu illnesses can be mild to severe and in some cases can even cause death!

## Flu Prevention

- cover nose/mouth when coughing/sneezing
- wash hands with soap and water after coughing/sneezing
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home from work, school, and social gatherings if you are sick!!!
- get yearly influenza vaccinations

## How is influenza spread?

- close contact with persons who are sick with the flu virus
- touching surfaces that have influenza virus on them
- can be “caught” when virus contacts the eyes, mouth, or nose.
- breathing in droplets that are in the air

## FUN FLU FACTS:

- Influenza virus can live **48** hours on hard surfaces
- Influenza virus can live **12** hours on clothes, bedding, & tissues
- Typical flu season is October to May

## Influenza Treatment

- fever reducing medicine
- cough drops
- water/fluids (not caffeine)
- rest

## StuCo News

*by Tiffany Burget*

With all the snow days, it has been a slow start back for StuCo. They are still running a snack cart that sells healthy snack options for the student body every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning. All items are on sale for \$1.00 or less. StuCo members have decided that they will split the profit of the snack cart evenly between each grade level to help with quarter 4 field trips.

## Leads on Learning

*by Kaytee Deines*

With winter weather keeping us inside many days and evenings I thought I would share a math games this month that only take a deck of cards.

### Close Call

**Skill: Two-Digit Subtraction**

**Materials: Deck of Cards, Remove 10s, Jacks, Kings, Jokers; Ace=1**

**Queen= 0 Number of Players: 2-4**

1. Shuffle the remaining cards and deal each player four cards.
2. Using their cards, players will create two, 2-digit numbers. The object is to create two numbers when subtracted come as close to 0 as possible, without creating a negative number.
  - a. For example, if you pick 2, 3, 4, and 5, then create the numbers 35 and 24. The difference between these numbers is 11.
3. The player closest to zero will win one point. The player with the highest score after the end of five rounds is the winner.

Variation: Instead of subtracting, students can add two 2-digit numbers to get as close to 100 as possible without going over.

Source (modified from): <https://mathgeekmama.com/2-digit-addition-card-game/>

MARCH 2024 | BY KARA HOLBERT

# CHOIR & MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JH Choir** has been working really hard all semester for their combined concert with the high school choirs. They have been working on some challenging but also very fun music, tackling lots of new literacy skills with ease. Great job, JH Singers!

**6th Graders** have started learning how to read choral music octavos. The music they are learning to read will eventually be performed in their concert at the end of April with the JH Choir! They have been exploring different kinds of choral music, including a song that is sung entirely on Solfege! We are excited to show you what they've learned at the end of the semester!

**5th Graders** did a PHENOMENAL job with their program this last week, "Making the Band!" Mrs. Holbert is so proud of all the hard work they have put in to singing those awesome tunes! We can't wait to have lots of fun with them exploring the ukulele and more for the rest of the school year.

## Coming up:

- JH Choir/HS Choir Combined Concert - March 6th @ SFTHS
- 6th Grade/JH Choir Combined Concert - April 30th @ 7pm



5th Grade Students at their program "Making the Band!" on February 29th

# Congratulations KCDA State Honor Choir Participants!



Lilly Barnes, Kaylen Rutherford-McNeil, Elizabeth Parkhill, Amanda Donley



**The March 4th concert was postponed to allow more practice time together. The new date is Monday, May 6th at 6:00 at CAC. I apologize for any inconvenience and ask you to save this updated date for enjoying with the students.**

**Coming up this quarter: singing, adding harmony part with recorder, singing in a round, learning several ukulele chords, trying out the Orff instruments, and Green Belt 4 for solfege and rhythm learning.**

**-Mrs. Sheri Moore**



# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

## MAR 2024

By: Austin Hershberger



### Winter Sports

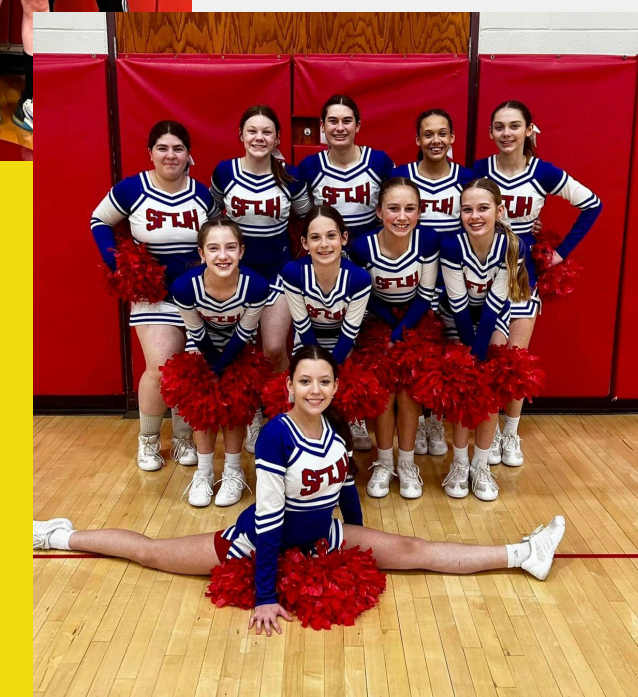
Our Boys Basketball teams finished the season on a high note! The 7th grade team finished with an overall record of 5-11, but finished strong, winning 5 of their final 10 games including a win at Anderson County in the final game of the season. The team got better and better as the season went on. They will be a fun group to watch as 8th graders next year! The 8th grade Boys team made history by becoming the only Undefeated Boys Basketball team in Santa Fe Trail Junior High history! The team finished with a 16-0 record, and claimed the title of 8th Grade Pioneer League Champs! Overall, this group of Chargers left their mark with an astounding 31-1 record over two years. Congrats on an amazing season to all of our Chargers!

We hosted our home Scholars Bowl meet at CAC on February 22. There are 32 students total between 7th and 8th grade that are participating in Scholars Bowl this year at the Junior High. Each student was able to compete at the home meet, by splitting each grade level into separate teams. Our Chargers represented well at home! One 7th grade team finished in 2nd place. In 8th grade, one team finished 1st while the other finished 3rd.

Our Junior High Cheer squad competed at Baldwin Junior High on February 17. The team performed very well, bringing home some hardware! The Varsity squad achieved a 1 rating, while JV achieved a 2 rating. These girls have brought school spirit all year long and deserve all of the accolades!

Junior High Spring sports practices will begin on March 18, when students return from Spring break. We currently have 68 students signed up to participate in a spring sport.

*\*If your child wishes to participate in a Junior High sport, please contact the CAC office to ensure that all required forms are on file.*



### UpComing Events:

**March 5 - Spring Sports Parent Information Night @ CAC 5:45p**

**March 18 - First Day of Spring Sports Practices**

**March 28 - JH Track Pictures**

**April 2 - JH Track @ Osawatomie 4p**

**April 3 - JH Golf @ Iola 3p**

**April 4 - JH Track @ SFT 3:30p**

**April 9 - JH Track @ SFT 3:30p**

**April 11 - JH Golf @ Lamont Hill 3p**

**April 16 - JH Track @ Burlington 4p**

**April 17 - JH Golf @ Anderson Co. 2:30p**

**April 23 - JH Track @ Baldwin 3:45p**

**April 24 - JH Golf @ Topeka Seaman 1:00p**

**April 25 - JH Track @ Rossville 12:30p**

**For more, please visit [usd434.org](http://usd434.org)**

*Inspiring and Empowering  
Every Charger, Every Day!*

MARCH 2024

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## FBLA- Middle Level Chapter

*by Kim Dayhoff & Rob Colvin*



The FBLA members should have all received their district certificates as all of the 14 members placed in at least one event in the top 10 at districts.

Students have already signed up for their state competition events and are continuing to study and prepare themselves for that competition. The state level competition will be held at the Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka on Thursday, April 4th. All students will be able to compete at the state level.

Students who place in 1st or 2nd place at state are eligible to compete at the national level. This will have to be approved by the board of education and students being able to provide/fundraise some extra money to help with their expenses.

Nationals is in Orlando Florida from June 29-July 2nd, 2024.

**Future Business Leaders of America**



KAY members at the Region 1 Conference held at Santa Fe Trail High School.

## KAY News

*by Alicia Amborski*

On January 5th our members enjoyed a time gathering with other KAY members at the Regional 1 KAY Conference held at our very own high school. This day was full of learning more about being a service leader. The members attended sessions that offered service project ideas, heard from local speakers, and even participated in a hands-on service project making Valentine cards and placemats.

At the end of their time here, they learned about KLC. KLC is Kansas Leadership Camp, a camp dedicated to our members held at Rock Springs each July. This year's camp will be held on the week of July 22-26. If any member is interest in gaining more information about camp they should see Mrs. Amborski.

# Technology Classes

## 4th & 5th grade

The students in 4th and 5th grade tech class will continue to focus on learning proper keyboarding skills as they practice in the online program called [typing.com](https://www.typing.com)

Students will continue to design projects that reinforce typing skills and other technical skills they have learned along with building on new ones. They are finishing their stop motion animation as the 4th graders are using "Animate" in [abcya.com](https://www.abcya.com) and the 5th graders are using google slides and adding more details for their stop motion animation.

## 6th Grade

The students in the 3rd 9 weeks class are learning about digital citizenship which includes new vocabulary and all the do's and don'ts when living in a digital world.

Students will continue to practice and work on their typing technique on Tuesday and Thursdays using [typing.com](https://www.typing.com).

The students are also learning real life situations through [banzai.org](https://www.banzai.org) which is a digital citizenship simulation program.

**Mrs. Dayhoff**



## 7th/8th Grade

This semester's new combo class of 7th and 8th graders started off with some basic google doc skills and then will advance those skills as they will also learn the rest of the google apps suite: google sheets, google slides and forms.

They have typing lessons twice a week using [typing.com](https://www.typing.com) website and they will then continue to practice through all their daily lessons.

Students are also working on independent projects that provide them a very wide variety of technology and innovative programs, skills and interests.

Students are learning 3D design, using the 3D pens, coding, use of the Cricut and how to use google sheets for pixel art or a wordsearch creator. I encourage the students to think outside the box and if they can tie their project to a technology skill or many skills then I allow their project idea. The students work on these projects when they are done with their regular assigned work and most Fridays are set aside for project work time too.



# Band Announcements

*by McKenzie Rice and Lance Quilling*

Happy March! This school year has been flying by and we are amazed at the progress the CAC band students have made! We have finished up our playing test and focusing on a lot of our fundamentals, and now we are diving into our concert music! During the spring semester, we have a lot of fun pulling out some pop tunes for the students to play, and they will also be getting to choose some of the songs they perform as well. Below you can find our required concerts for the semester.

Tuesday March 19th: 7th/8th League Band Day at Prairie View

Friday May 3rd: 5th-12th Spring Band Concert

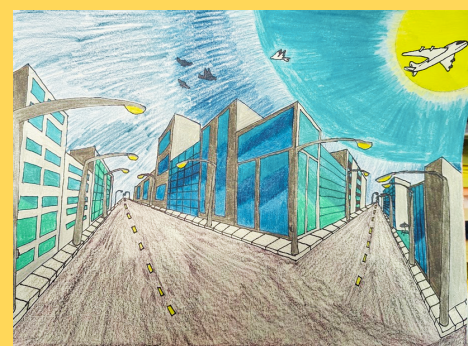


4th and 5th grade students have been learning about optical illusions, and how our brains can perceive information that our eyes don't really see. Students have been working on "zig-zag" portraits. Depending on the perspective of the viewer, two different images can be seen.



Ryker A. (4th)

Junior High and 6th grade students have been applying elements of perspective to create realistic depth and volume in their drawings. Both classes are wrapping up Perspective City projects. 6th grade is jumping into Color Theory by working in groups to make color wheels. Junior High will begin their unit on color when students return from Spring Break.



Makenna M. (7th)



Ryker J.-C. (6th)

Art Chopped: Transportation theme

# Weights VS PE

## WEIGHTS

Trininty Fawl (aka 1/2 Pint:

"I like to workout, get stronge,r see my improvements, and it is fun. Plus the PE teacher has to be crazy."

Which do you like better?



Draw

## PE

Addison Barrington:

"I like to play all the games and it keeps me in shape and Duncan is my favorite teacher."

Chloe Cannon:

"It's the most fun class."

Rigley Sleichter (aka Lil Sleicky: "I like being physical in weights and I like the oppurtunity to whip old man Duncan in PE."

Blayne Lind (aka Cowboy) : "I like to get stronger in weights, In PE I like to use my athletic ability and play brisketball."

Grayson Orwig (aka Big Bird) : "I like both, I enjoy both teachers and they make it fun. I like the strength in wieghts and the skill work in PE."

# Mental Health Minute



## *Mental Health Clinician*

It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose that I introduce myself as the new USD 434 Mental Health Clinician! My name is Michelle Schwartz and I am honored to be joining this educational community and getting the opportunity to serve the well-being of our students, families, and community.

With warm regards,

Michelle Schwartz LSCSW, LCSW

Your paragraph text

## *School Counselor*

In February, 4th and 5th grade students will continue learning emotional awareness and how to manage big emotions through healthy self-expression. Students will learn to identify when they are experiencing emotions such as anger, sadness, or frustration, along with strategies to express their feelings appropriately. To extend their learning at home, encourage your child to name their emotions, practice simple breathing exercises, and find creative outlets such as drawing, listening to music, or journaling.

