

March Newsletter

Santa Fe Trail High School

Welcome to the March issue of the Santa Fe Trail High School Newsletter.



2 Contributors

SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL



Message from the Principal

Dear Charger Families,

As we step into March, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for our students, staff, and parents who make Santa Fe Trail High School such a vibrant and supportive community. The past few months have been filled with hard work, dedication, and achievement, and I am excited about what lies ahead.

Spring brings a flurry of activities, from academic competitions and athletics to fine arts performances and end-of-year planning. I encourage all students to stay engaged, take advantage of available resources, and finish the school year strong. Parents, your continued support plays a vital role in your child's success, and we appreciate your involvement in their academic journey.

As we approach spring break, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to rest, recharge, and return refreshed for the final stretch of the school year. Let's continue working together to make this semester one of growth and achievement for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Santa Fe Trail High School. Go Chargers!

Sincerely,
Kyle Ellis



Classroom Highlights

Art

Submitted by Stephanie Kitten

Cheers, art lovers! The energy is buzzing in the Art Department. We are in full swing of creating, competing, and showing.


Artwork below By Lauren Kraft



Zentangle Artwork above by Kyree Herrera & Skylar Boggs

Check out the SFTHS Art Department Facebook Page.





[Teachers](#)[Parents](#)[Students](#)[Gift Shop](#)

Check out Artsonia at <https://www.artsonia.com/> Support your student and the Art Department in one-stop shopping for over 30 unique gifts with student artwork. Everything from mugs, magnets, snap jewelry, T-shirts, quilting blocks, kitchen towels, garden flags, golf towels, etc. Artsonia donates 20% of purchases to our school arts program for new art supplies!

Art Calendar of Events

- Senior Showcases will start on SFTHS's Art Department Facebook Page. Featuring: Caitlyn McGregor, Willow McNary, Xander Kitten, Reese Phillips and Lauren Kraft
- Feb 27th - March 23rd - Kansas Youth Art Month Exhibit @ Topeka Shawnee County Public Library.
- April 16th - International Night @ the SFTHS LMC from 6:00 - 7:00 PM.
- April 30th - Pioneer League Art Competition @ Prairie View at 9:00 AM
- May 7th - End-of-Semester Fine Arts & Practical Arts Show from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the SFTHS Commons and Art Studio 120.
- May 17th - Graduation @ SFTHS starting at 10:00 AM.

Have a great Spring Break! Mrs. Kitten

Business Essentials

Submitted by Julie Smith

In our recent unit on Entrepreneurship groups of students participated in a mock Shark Tank. Students had to invent their own fictional product to sell to a panel of sharks (the class). Brainstorming, cooperation, research, presentation theme and design, and professional presentation were all key components of this project.





Message From the Athletics/Activities Director

Submitted by Kris Henry

It was an exciting February at Santa Fe Trail High School! We have had an **action-packed February** here at the **Palace on the Prairie**, with our students excelling in **academics, athletics, and the fine arts**. As winter activities such as **Wrestling and Girls & Boys Basketball** near their conclusion, our sports teams are pushing for **strong finishes**, demonstrating their hard work and dedication.

The **Santa Fe Trail Cheer Squad** showcased their hard work and spirit at the **Baldwin Cheer Competition** on **Saturday, February 22**. The team delivered an **outstanding performance**, earning a **2 rating** for their routine. Their dedication, teamwork, and energy were on full display, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

The **Band and Choir** are fine-tuning their performances in preparation for the **Pioneer League Contest** on **March 3** at Osawatomie. Their countless hours of rehearsal will be on evident as they compete against other talented musicians in the league.

Excitement is also building for the **spring play**, set to take the stage on **March 7, 8, and 9**. The cast and crew have been working tirelessly to put together an unforgettable performance, and we encourage everyone to come out and support their efforts.

Meanwhile, **cheer and dance tryouts** are right around the corner, giving students the opportunity to showcase their skills and enthusiasm for the upcoming school year.

As we transition into a new season, **spring sports** will officially begin practice on **Monday, March 3**. Athletes are eager to hit the fields and courts, preparing for what promises to be an exciting and competitive season.

With **Daylight Savings Time** approaching, we're all looking forward to warmer weather, longer days, and more sunshine. Thank you to our students, staff, and community for making Santa Fe Trail a place of excellence!

Go Chargers!



Activities Highlights

School Play

Submitted by Kara Holbert

The SFTHS Theatre Department presents "Late Bus" for its Spring Play! At Saw Mill Public High School, the late bus picks students up at 6:30 p.m. It just never comes on time. Over the course of a school week, we meet Saw Mill High’s collection of mavericks and misfits with no other way to get home: the chaotic valedictorian, the big-brained transfer, the detention heads, the band geeks, the athlete, the anxious ones, and the one quietly observing it all. With some magical music, vicious rumors, breakups, and more than one breakdown, Late Bus is a close look at what it means to be in high school in our messy world. Together, this group of teens in a hurry to grow up might just learn a little bit more about what it means to be here, now.

We can't wait to see you there!

- Friday, March 7th @ 7 PM
- Saturday, March 8th @ 7 PM
- Sunday, March 9th @ 2 PM



National Honor Society (NHS)

Submitted by Allison Folger

The Charger Chapter of the National Honor Society will participate in Read Across America Week with the preschool on Tuesday, March 4. Members of NHS will read stories, plan and help the preschools create art projects related to the books they read, and just have a great time with the preschoolers!

This past week, invitations to join NHS were sent out to all sophomores and juniors who met the minimum GPA requirement for admission. They were invited to pick up an application packet if they were interested.

Qualifications for selection are:

- 3.75 cumulative GPA or higher
- Sophomores: at least 9 leadership/service points; Juniors: at least 15 points
- 8 references with total ratings averaging of 3.3 or higher on a 4.0 point rating scale (3.5 is defined “above average”)
- Exemplify four pillars of National Honor Society (Character, Leadership, Service, and Scholarship)

Students must also fill out a leadership/service survey and write a short response for consideration. All application materials must be returned to Mrs. Folger by March 25, 2025.

Choir

Submitted by Kara Holbert

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 12th 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 Prairie View in April for the KSHSAA Large Group Contest and to sing music they have been preparing for a judge. More info to come soon!





Yearbook

Submitted by Julie Smith

3 Important Yearbook Things:

1. Books are still up for sale but our limited supply is getting low. Get a form from Mrs. Smith, or order online at jostens.com.
2. Please email senior portraits to jsmith@usd434.us. Photos must be in portrait orientation.
3. Seniors fill out the quotes form in your Google Classroom. If you do not submit a quote, one will be submitted for you by Mrs. Smith.

CHARGERS

Athletics Highlights

Cheer

Submitted by Coach Kaitlyn Ball

Our highschool cheer team hit the mats at Baldwin Cheer & Dance Showcase on Saturday, February 22, 2025, leaving with a 2 rating! They participated in one group routine, two individual stunt groups and eight individual events. We are so incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication to our cheer program!



Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team won their first round of playoffs against Atchison County Community High School on Friday, February 28th. The Chargers outscored the Tigers 69-24. Next up is Perry-Lecompton on Wednesday, March 5th. Gametime is 7:00 PM. Come out and support the Chargers on their journey to state!



Wrestling

Submitted by Coach Tyler Gonzales



2025 Boys 4A State Qualifiers:

Tanner Bolt (106) – 5th Place

David Neal (113) – DNP

Tanner Sleichter (120) – 5th Place

Bryce Combes (126) – DNP

Blake Slavin (132) – 6th Place

Atticus Guenther (138) – DNP

Ryder Bond (144) – DNP

Bryson Crotinger (150) – 6th Place

2025 Girls 4A State Qualifiers:

Audrey Johnson (100) – DNP

Sydnee Sleichter (115) – 6th Place

Peyton Ganger (120) – DNP

Morgan Pickering (135) – 4th Place

Gretchen Huizenga (140) – DNP

Kendall Baird (145) – DNP

Girls Basketball

Submitted by Coach Hedke

The JV girls basketball team ended their season strong with a 2nd place finish at a tough Royal Valley tournament. They beat Anderson County 30-18 and lost a heartbreaker in the championship to Rock Creek 34-30. The Chargers finished the season with a record of 12-5. Congrats on a great season ladies!





Track

Submitted by Coach Michelle Herren

It's finally Track & Field season and I am so excited to get started!

Our practices started Monday, March 3. We will be practicing over Spring Break on the 19th, 20th, and 21st. Times for those practices will be announced shortly.

Our picture date is Friday, March 14th during practice.

Our fundraiser this season will be selling beef sticks. There are a variety of flavors made from top quality Wagyu and Angus beef. They are MSG free and are individually wrapped and make great "on the go" snacks. More info will be coming soon!

Finally, our first meet will be Thursday, April 3rd at 3:00pm at Silver Lake High School. This is both a JV and Varsity meet.

Let's go Chargers!!

Santa Fe Trail HS

TRACK & FIELD

2025 SCHEDULE:

- 4/3 V/JV 3:00PM @ SILVER LAKE
- 4/8 V 4:00PM @ OSAGE CITY
- 4/10 V 5:00PM PRE-STATE MEET @WSU
- 4/11 V 9:00AM PRE-STATE MEET @WSU
- 4/15 V 3:00PM @ ROYAL VALLEY
- 4/22 V/JV 3:30PM @ JEFF WEST
- 4/25 V/JV 2:00PM @ ROSSVILLE
- 4/29 JV 4:00PM @ OSAGE CITY
- 5/1 JV 4:00PM HOME
- 5/2 V 3:00PM @ SEAMAN
- 5/6 V 3:00PM @ BURLINGTON
- 5/8 JV (V) 4:00PM @ ROYAL VALLEY
- 5/15 V LEAGUE TBD @ WELLSVILLE
- 5/22 REGIONALS TBD TBD
- 5/30 STATE TBD @ WSU
- 5/31 STATE TBD @ WSU

Baseball

Submitted by Weston Gloss

The SFT baseball team starts their season this month with high hopes of continuing their success from the past several years. Coming off back to back 20 plus win season, the Chargers look to continue that success this year. The Chargers open with their first game on March 24th vs. Heritage Christian. Come on out and cheer on the Chargers!





Student Services

Enrollment

Submitted by Tosha Smith

Parents/Guardians, please keep an eye on your email for important information regarding the upcoming Enrollment Conferences for the 2025-2026 school year. You will receive an email from one of our Enrollment Conference team members to schedule a time for you and your child/children.

Senior Announcements

Class of 2026

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please send one senior picture and 3-4 baby/childhood pictures for the slide show, send them to Tosha at tsmith@usd434.us
(reminder senior pic also goes on the grad composite board in the commons)

If you have not....Please order cap & gown set (the shipping and handling get more expensive the longer you wait)
Contact Tosha if you need the help.

*Senior Class Sponsor,
Tosha Smith*

ACT Testing



On Monday, February 24th, 21 juniors completed the ACT offered at Santa Fe Trail High School. This group definitely did their very best and should receive their scores in about 3-5 weeks.

Library/Media Center

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

MARCH IS NATIONAL READING MONTH! Read Across America Day is coming! Started in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA), Read Across America Day was created to inspire a love of reading in students of all ages. It's celebrated every year on March 2nd - Dr. Seuss's birthday! - and many schools extend the fun into a full week of reading adventures. Additionally, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is encouraging Military-connected students and their families to participate in events at DoDEA schools around the world.

It's a day for school communities to join each other and the nation in celebrating the importance of literacy for all ages.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 1st Day of Spring Sports Practice 8:00am:HS League Choir and Band at Osawatomie	4 4:00pm:JH League Scholars Bowl @ CAC 7:00pm:Girls HS BB Semi Finals TBD	5 7:00pm:Boys HS BB Semi Finals TBD	6 SAC PK Picture Day SFT End of 3rd Quarter	7 SFT Teacher Prep - No School 7:00pm:HS Play in Auditorium 7:00pm:Girls HS BB Sub State Finals at Hiawatha	8 9:00am:HS Forensic League at Wellsville 5:00pm:Boys HS BB Sub State Finals at Hiawatha 7:00pm:HS Play in Auditorium
9 2:00pm:HS Play in Auditorium	10	11 5:00pm:HS Pre Cheer Tryout Parent Meeting in the Auditorium 6:00pm:Cheer r Tryout Closed Practice- Main Dome Gym	12 HS V BB State Tournament Days 6:00pm:Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm:JH/HS Combined Choir Concert @ HS Auditorium	13 HS V BB State Tournament Days 4:30pm:G V/JV SB Jamboree at Royal Valley 6:00pm:Cheer Tryout Closed Practice- Main Gym	14 HS V BB State Tournament Days 6:00pm:HS Cheer Tryouts- Dome Gym Closed Tryout	15 HS V BB State Tournament Days
16	17 Spring Break	18 Spring Break	19 Spring Break	20 Spring Break	21 Spring Break 1:00pm:Baseball Jamboree at Paola	22
23	24 JH Track Practice Begins 4:30pm:V BSB at Overbrook vs Heritage Christian	25 4:30pm:V Only Girls SB at Carbondale vs Holton 6:00pm:JH League Band @ SFTHS	26 6:00pm:Dance Tryout Practice Main Gym- Closed Practice 7:00pm:Parent /Student Informational Driver's Ed Meeting 7 pm in Auditorium	27 4:30pm:V Baseball at Silver Lake- 1 Game 4:30pm:JV BSB at Spring Hill	28 4:30pm:V BSB at Overbrook vs Perry Lecompton 4:30pm:V/JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs Perry- Lecompton	29 HS Powerlifting 3A State Meet at Iola HS Forensics at Ottawa 3:00pm:Dance Tryout Practice Main Gym- Closed Practice
30 FBLA State Leadership Conference	31 FBLA State Leadership Conference 1:00pm:V Boys Golf at Firekeeper- Royal Valley 4:30pm:JV Baseball at Prairie View 4:30pm:V Baseball vs Louisburg at Overbrook					