



Message from the Principal

Dear Charger Families,

As we step into April, we find ourselves in the final stretch of the school year, a time filled with excitement, achievement, and preparation for the future. Spring is a season of growth, and here at Santa Fe Trail High School, we see that growth reflected in our students' academic progress, extracurricular achievements, and personal development.

This month brings many important events, including state assessments, spring sports, concerts, and end-of-year celebrations. I encourage all students to stay focused and finish strong, embracing the challenges ahead with determination and pride. To our seniors, graduation is just around the corner—keep working hard as you prepare for this significant milestone.

Parents and guardians, thank you for your unwavering support. Your involvement and encouragement play a crucial role in the success of our students. To our dedicated staff, your commitment to excellence continues to make a difference in the lives of those you teach and mentor.

As always, let's continue to work together to make Santa Fe Trail High School a place where learning, leadership, and community thrive. If you have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for being part of our Santa Fe Trail family. Let's make this last stretch of the school year one to remember!

Go Chargers!

Sincerely, Kyle Ellis



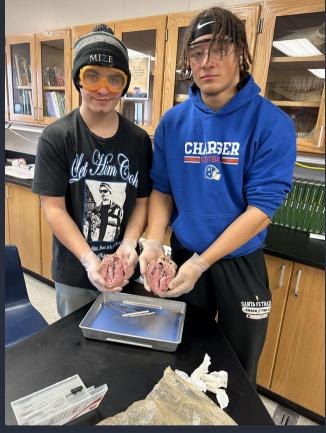
Classroom Highlights

Anatomy & Physiology

Submitted by Michele Herren

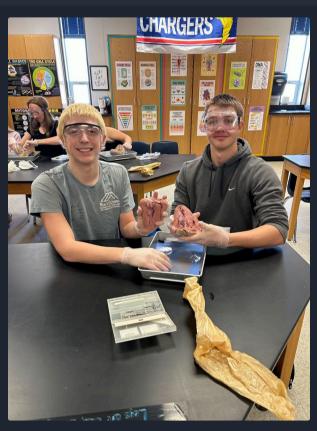
The Anatomy and Physiology classes just wrapped up a unit on the Cardiovascular System. At the end of the unit, students were able to dissect a pig heart. This hands-on activity allowed students to see, touch, and explore the chambers of the heart and the vessels leading into and out of the heart. They were able to identify many of the parts they had only been able to look at pictures of or read about before the dissection.



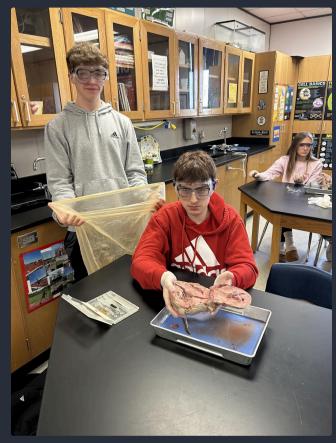
















Art

Submitted by Stephanie Kitten

Spring has Sprung Chargers! I love this time of year! All of the wonderful colors and fantastic activities are going on. It's hard to believe we are in the last quarter of the school year. Parents, please remind students to keep up with assignments and attend all classes.



Spring 25 Printmaking

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: Levi DeHart, Emma Neeleym 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.

Business Communications

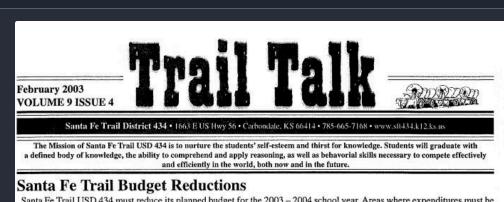
Preserving Our Story

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Students in Mrs. Michaelis' Business Communications class are taking on an important project: scanning and archiving copies of student newspaper publications that ran from the late 1980s through 2009. Why does this matter? Because school newspapers document more than just sporting events and student achievements—they capture the conversations happening in our community. Issues like school funding, facility updates, and curriculum changes have been debated for decades, and looking back at these discussions helps us understand how decisions were made and how they continue to impact our schools today.

Without proper archiving, these records could easily fade into history, but by digitizing these records and making them accessible, we give future generations a chance to learn from the past, understand historical context, and even analyze media bias in a world overflowing with information.

Looking ahead, keeping our rural communities alive means investing in schools, libraries, and digitization efforts. These initiatives don't just safeguard our history—they also inspire students to become informed, engaged citizens who recognize the power of storytelling. After all, today's stories are tomorrow's history.



Santa Fe Trail USD 434 must reduce its planned budget for the 2003 - 2004 school year. Areas where expenditures must be reduced or eliminated are identified months ahead of the actual budget development in order to follow contractual responsibilities with the professional staff. Budget reductions are caused by two issues: 1) declining enrollment and 2) reduced State of Kansas financial support. Both are equally important.

Santa Fe Trail schools lost enrollment in all attendance centers for the current school year except at the Overbrook school. The district must make-up for the drop of 40 students that occurred primarily at Santa Fe Trail High School and the Carbondale Attendance Center. The total number of dollars that must be reduced is \$252,500. The Board of Education has determined that cuts will be made in the areas of 1) non-personnel expenditures - \$25,000; 2) extra-curricular programming such as activities and sports - \$50,000 and 3) certified and non-certified personnel positions, \$182,500. These planned and projected cuts are on top of the \$80,000 in budget cuts made in the current budget year.

Since 87% of the district's budget is dedicated to personnel costs, it is apparent that reductions must affect personnel. Attrition will be used to manage most of the personnel costs. The school district likes to keep its elementary classes small at an average of 16 to 20 students each. Some classes in the district have shrunk to not more than 11 or 12 students in selected areas. At the middle level and high school level, class sizes are targeted for 17 to 25 students on the average. In some cases, classroom numbers have dropped to as low as 8 to 10 students. The school district can no longer afford to have pupil-teacher ratios fall to the low numbers now seen.

As a result of the reduction in student numbers, the school district could easily face the loss of four professional positions in 2003 - 04 and as many as three paraprofessional positions. Along with the teaching and teaching support areas under scrutiny, comes the need to reduce the number of activity sponsors, coaches and related programming costs. The district has utilized a study committee in the current school year to examine and recommend any areas where budget savings can be found. It appears the board of education will not need to eliminate any student activity programs, but the number of staff hired as sponsors in extra-curricular programming will be lessened.

When all projected budget reductions are finally approved, Santa Fe Trail USD 434 will continue its educational programming udget cuts is scheduled for Monday, February 24th at 7 pm in the library at Santa Fe Trail High School



Let's recap. 8:46 AM-Flight 11 crashes into the North tower of the World Trade Center. 9:03 AM-Flight crashes into the South tower of the World Trade Centers Within the next thirty minutes, all US airports are put on hold, and all airports around the area of New York City were closed. 9:38 AM- Plane crashes into the Pentagon, and 7 minutes later the White House was evacuated. 10:05 AM- The South WTC tower collapses. Five min. later, the fourth plane crashes in Somerset County, PA. 10:28 AM- The North WTC tower collapses. The rest of the day was full of tears, fear and many more

all of the destruction in the nation, there

Those directly responsible for all of this destruction can never face the consequences, but even worse, can never provide us with answers to our question. Why? That is a common thought to all Americans when we honor that day. Although we all have our own ideas, like an American government conspiracy or a terrorist attack, we still must honor the fallen and respect all of the lives lost.

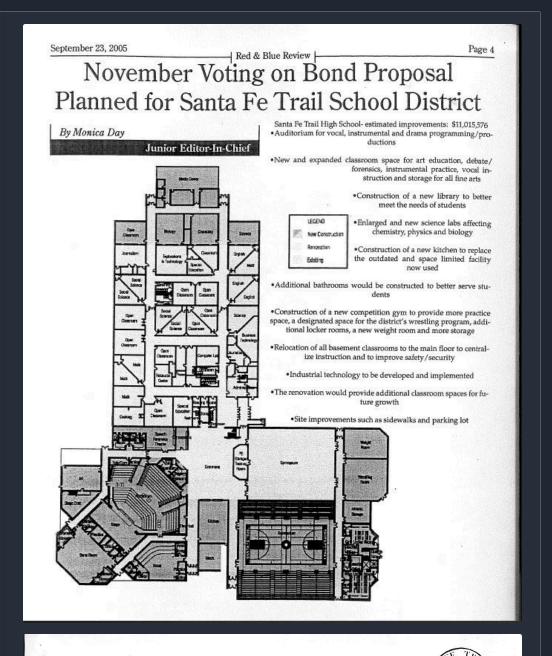
When you think back on Sept. 11, 2001, remember those in the towers, on the planes, in the pentagon and those who rushed in while others were running out. Even with all of our separate views we haven't and never will forget what happened on that day.

how big of a deal this was, and we just watched TV all day." Senior, Janel Clements

I was in fifth grade, at Carbondale in Ms. Harlan's class. She got a TV from one of the Jr. High class rooms so we could see what was going on. Then, we went to football practice and talked about how we hought this was Pearl Harbor all ver again,"

Freshman Greg Faulk

"On my way to Topeka for a Depart



Red & Blue Review

BAKER TRIO GAIN CAREER TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT SANTA FE TRAIL

part of the music department. "I like to work with a good music program such as this."

Her main goal as a teacher is "to teach everything I know."

Suzanne Neff, teaching the observed the observed.

Suzanne Neff, teaching the physical education classes of Susan Averill, feels the students are "easy to talk to and very friendly."

She thinks the student teacher program is a great experience. "It allows you to decide it you actually want to become a teacher."

(As a gwm instructor, she wants to help her students "learn the fundamentals of sports, and show them a wide warriety of ennes they can

SANTA FE TRAIL Carbondale-Overbrook-Scranton

that the students here
"have potential and are
hard workers,"
Ms. Murphy said of
hr. Jordan, "I am lucky thave a teacher
who cooperates."
She believes the
student teacher program
works well because, as she
student teacher program
works well because, as she
student teacher program
works well because, as she
students are "very
mortivated and enjoy
working."
She enjoys being a

HIGH SCHOOL

Wade Sisson

Three student teachers, all from Baker University, are presently completing their training at Santa Fe Trail.

Sonya Murphy, teaching the math classes of Marion Jordan, feels

Chemistry

Submitted by Kelley Hale

In the month of March Chemistry had a great time with hands on freezing point depression lab making ice cream in a bag. We wanted to give a great big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed supplies for the experiment.











Entrepreneurship

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Entrepreneurship students are interviewing classmates that have been, or are trying to become, entrepreneurs while in high school. We have a lot of hard working go-getters in our community that aren't afraid of hard work and taking on all the risks and rewards associated with self-employment. After conducting interviews, our class will create digital profiles of the student entrepreneurs as a way to promote and celebrate the products and services they are offering. Keep an eye out for our updates in future correspondence.



Message From the Athletics/Activities Director

Submitted by Kris Henry

Spring sports are off and running! We are excited for the spring season as we get outside to enjoy some nice weather and take advantage of great opportunities to compete and improve each day. Our participation numbers are up, and we are thrilled with the number of student-athletes who have joined a spring sport this year. Our coaches have done an outstanding job of building relationships and encouraging students to come out and compete.

Beyond athletics, our Forensics, Band, Choir, Art, and FBLA students are also preparing for their upcoming spring shows, performances, competitions, and concerts. These students have been working hard to represent Santa Fe Trail at a high level, and we look forward to seeing their dedication and talent on display.

It is shaping up to be an exciting spring season for the Chargers. Be sure to get out and support these incredible students whenever you have the chance!

Go Chargers!





SFT Boys Golf Team

SFT Girls Softball Team

SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL

Activities Highlights

Band

Submitted by McKenzie Rice

The high school band students have been working diligently preparing for our upcoming competitions and spring concert. We have 23 students performing a solo or small ensemble competition on April 5th at Benedictine College. The students that receive a 1 (superior) rating will continue on to perform at the state level on April 26th. The entire band will be competing at La Cygne on April 9th for their state rating. Lastly, our jazz band has been given the opportunity to perform at the Washburn University Jazz concert on May 1st!

Below you can find all of our upcoming performances and we hope to see you there!

Wednesday, April 9th

State Large Group Competition

Prairie View High School - during school day

Thursday, May 1st

Jazz Concert

Washburn University's White Concert Hall - 7:30 pm

Friday, May 9th 5th-12th

Band Concert

High School Gymnasium - 5:30 pm



Choir

Submitted by Kara Holbert

Students in SFTHS Choirs have been working all semester, preparing music to perform for recognition at KSHSAA Music Festivals in the month of April. All students in Choir have combined and will be taking two ensembles to perform music for adjudicators at KSHSAA State Large Group Contest on Wednesday, April 9th at Prairie View HS. Students in Choraliers, our auditioned choir, will be performing this weekend at KSHSAA Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest on Saturday, April 5th in Atchison, KS. Additionally, we have many students who are taking solos to perform as well. Lots of music happening this month at Trail!



FBLA

Submitted by Julie Smith

Santa Fe Trail FBLA had 48 members attending and competing at the Kansas FBLA State Leadership Conference on Monday, March 30-31st. Senior Tyler Bolt completed his duties as District VII Vice President, and sophomore Gabe Smith was inducted as the next District VII VP.





KAY Club

Submitted by Mary Burgett

KAY Club hosted another Blood Drive on March 31st in the SFTHS gym. If you haven't donated before, please consider making a life-saving donation, and for encouraging others to donate blood right here at Santa Fe Trail High School. Your blood donation could save three lives!









Student and staff blood donors.

SFT KAY Club hosted over 200 KAY members from 15 area KAY Clubs in a KSHSAA KAY Unit Conference at SFT HS on Wednesday, March 26th. SFT KAY planned speakers, led leadership-lesson group activities, organized the day's program, provided refreshments and were all around welcoming hosts for everyone attending.



















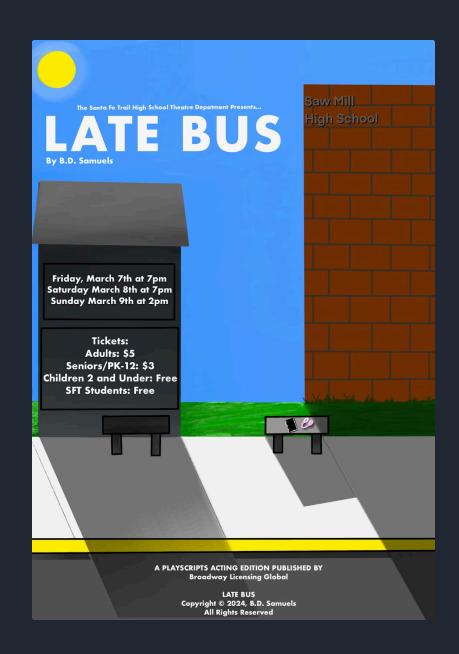
School Play

Submitted by Kara Holbert

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to see our spring play, Late Bus! Your support means the world to our talented cast and dedicated crew. Congratulations to our incredible students for their hard work, creativity, and teamwork in bringing this production to life. We are so proud of their dedication and passion for storytelling. Bravo to all!









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.



Athletics Highlights

Baseball

Submitted by Weston Gloss

The SFT baseball team has an abundance of games in April. We love seeing big crowds of support. Come on out and cheer on the Chargers!

Upcoming home games at Jones Park in Overbrook (all games begin at 4:30)

Monday, April 7 - Varsity vs. ACCHS

Thursday, April 10 - Varsity vs. St. Mary's

Tuesday, April 15 - Varsity vs. Osawatomie

Thursday, April 17 - Varsity vs. Eudora

Monday, April 21 - JV vs. Burlington

Tuesday, April 29 - Varsity vs. Wellsville (Senior Night)

Monday, May 5 - JV vs. Anderson County

Thursday, May 8 - JV/V vs. Baldwin (Senior Night makeup)

Monday, May 12 - JV vs. Iola



Track

Submitted by Coach Herren

Track and Field is off to a great start. We have 63 athletes along with 3 managers out for Track this year. Our athletes have been working hard and are gearing up for another exciting season of competition and growth. We will open the season with a meet at Silver Lake on April 3 at 3pm. This will be both a JV and Varsity meet. We are excited to begin our competitions and can't wait to see what our athletes will accomplish.







Student Services

Sports Physicals

Submitted by Kim Kesl

Mark your calendars! Cotton O'Neill Sports Medicine will be sponsoring \$20 sports physicals on Saturday, May 3rd at their 3rd & McVicar location in Topeka. Be sure to mention that the athlete attends Santa Fe Trail High School and they will donate \$10 of the physical fee back to the Santa Fe Trail Athletic Department.



Library/Media Center

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Mrs. Michaelis was able to process 54 new books into our High School Library Collection and with the help of Mrs. Betty Doss, who volunteered over three hours of her time, they were able to barcode, label and reinforce the covers of the materials for student checkout.



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

Autism Awareness & Para Appreciation Day

Submitted by Arlene Mays

World Autism Awareness Day is an annual event observed every year on April 2nd. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 to shine a light on autism as a growing global health issue and to encourage worldwide support for individuals with autism and their families. It highlights the need for increased awareness and understanding of autism spectrum disorder. Autism affects millions of people worldwide. The Special Ed. Staff of Santa Fe Trial High School are wearing shirts to celebrate and support the unique perspectives and talents of people with autism.

Also, Paraprofessional Appreciation Day is observed annually on the first Wednesday of April. Paras work tirelessly each day to support students & teachers, so today we honor them for their service. Paraprofessionals perform a variety of teaching-related jobs and often assist teachers in classrooms. They may help students' complete assignments. They often work with students with special education needs and a variety of disabilities. We are most grateful and appreciative of the paraprofessionals we have at Santa Fe Trail High School. (They were also treated to breakfast and lunch today).



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Widitay			·		
	FBLA State Leadership Conference 1:30pm:JH Track @ Baldwin - Throwing Events @ BHS; 3:45 All other events @ Liston Stadium 4:00pm:V Baseball at Overbrook vs Prairie View 4:00pm:V/JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs Prairie View	5:00pm:8th Grade Class Registration Meeting at SFT HS 7:00pm:5th Grade Music Program @ CAC	1:00pm:V Boys Golf at Emporia Municipal 3:00pm:V/JV Track at Silver Lake 5:00pm:Special Board of Education Mtg re: district reconfiguration 6:30pm:8th Grade Class Registration Meeting at SFT HS	1st grade science city CAC 24/25 Yearbook Orders Due Today - see Feb/March newsletter for more info Kindergarten Round Up NO PK CLASSES - SAC Screening Day 2:30pm:V BSB at St. Marys 4:30pm:V/JV Girls SB at Rossville	HS Regional Solo & Ensemble TBD
4:30pm:V BSB at Overbrook vs ACCHS- 1 Game 6:00pm:OAC Parent Night State Assessment/SIT E Council	3:00pm:JV Boys Golf at Village Greens 3:30pm:V Track at Osage City 3:30pm:JH Track @ Wellsville 4:30pm:JV/V BSB at Baldwin 1 game each 4:30pm:JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs Mission Valley	HS State Large Group TBD 6:00pm:Board of Education Meeting	V Track WSU Pre State Track Meet 3:00pm:Forensic s at Wamego 4:30pm:V Girls SB at St. Mary's 6:00pm:OAC 2nd Grade Spring Concert 7:00pm:OAC 3rd Grade Concert	V Track WSU Pre State Track Meet 4:30pm:V BSB at lola	8:00am:Forensic s at Tonganoxie 8:00pm:Prom in Topeka
1:00pm:V Boys Golf at Manhattan CC 4:30pm:JV BSB at Osawatomie	2:00pm:JH Track, SFT Inv @ SFTHS 3:00pm:V Track at Royal Valley 4:30pm:V BSB at Overbrook vs Osawatomie 4:30pm:V/JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs Osawatomie	6:00pm:HS International Night in the LMC	2:00pm:V Boys Golf at Osage City 2:30pm:JH Golf @ Lamont Hill Golf Course 4:30pm:V BSB at Overbrook vs Eudora 4:30pm:V Girls SB at Carbondale vs Ottawa	GOOD FRIDAY SFT No School - Snow Makeup if Needed	19
NO SCHOOL. Professional Development Day 2:00pm:JV Boys Golf at Anderson County 4:30pm:JV G SB at Carbondale vs Burlington 4:30pm:JV BSB at Overbrook vs Burlington	1:00pm:JH Golf @ Village Greens 1:00pm:JV Boys Golf at Lamont Hill 3:30pm:JH Track @ SFT (BURL, PV, OZ) 4:30pm:V Track @ Jeff West 4:30pm:V BSB at Burlington 4:30pm:V Girls SB at Burlington	1:00pm:V Boys Golf at Lamont Hill 2:30pm:JH Golf @ Anderson County 6:00pm:Prescho ol Music Program	10:00am:V Boys Golf at Sycamore Ridge, Spring Hill 12:00pm:JH Varsity Track @ Wamego 4:00pm:JH JV Track @ Royal Valley 4:30pm:V BSB at Ottawa 4:30pm:V/JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs Rock Creek	2:00pm:V/JV Track Meet at Rossville	HS State Solo & Ensemble TBD
28 10:00am:V Boys Golf at Lake Shawnee 4:30pm:JV Girls SB at Wellsville- Dbl Header 4:30pm:JV BSB at Wellsville 4:30pm:V BSB at Louisburg	4:00pm:JV Track Meet at Osage City 4:30pm:V BSB at Overbrook vs Wellsville 4:30pm:JV BSB at Mission Valley 4:30pm:V Girls SB at Carbondale vs Wellsville	30 6:30pm NHS/FBLA/KAY 9:00am:HS League Art Show at Prairie View 10:00am:JH Golf @ Junction City (Rolling Meadows Golf Course)			

vs Wellsville