

HOME OF THE
Chargers

May Newsletter

Santa Fe Trail High School

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



by Kyle Ellis



Message from the Principal

Dear Charger Families,

As we approach the end of the 2024–2025 school year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for making my first year as Principal of Santa Fe Trail High School so meaningful. It has been a privilege to join this vibrant and supportive community, and I am truly grateful for the warm welcome, encouragement, and collaboration I've experienced throughout the year.

Together, we've celebrated achievements, navigated challenges, and built connections that I know will only continue to grow stronger. The dedication of our students, the professionalism of our staff, and the ongoing support from our families and community members have been nothing short of inspiring.

This month is especially significant as we prepare to honor the Class of 2025. Their resilience, leadership, and school spirit have left a lasting impression on our campus. We look forward to celebrating them at our **Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, May 17th at 10:00 AM**. It promises to be a memorable event for students, families, and staff alike.

For our underclassmen, May brings final exams, projects, and reflections on a year of growth. As we look ahead to summer, I encourage everyone to take time to recharge, pursue new interests, and return with renewed energy for the year ahead.

To our teachers and staff—thank you for your hard work, passion, and commitment. And to our parents and guardians—thank you for your trust, your partnership, and the many ways you support our school.

Wishing you all a safe, restful, and rewarding summer. I'm excited for what the future holds and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Sincerely,
Kyle Ellis



Classroom Highlights

80's and 90's

Submitted by Eric Staab

The 80's and 90's class took our yearly trip to OKC to visit the memorial. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the bombing. Students were able to take a guided tour of the grounds, the archives, and do a forensic investigation, seeing how investigators determined who and what caused the explosion before touring the museum. An added stop on the tour this year was a visit to Perry, Oklahoma courthouse where McVeigh was held on a traffic violation and in custody before he would be charged with the bombing.

Anatomy & Physiology

Submitted by Michele Herren

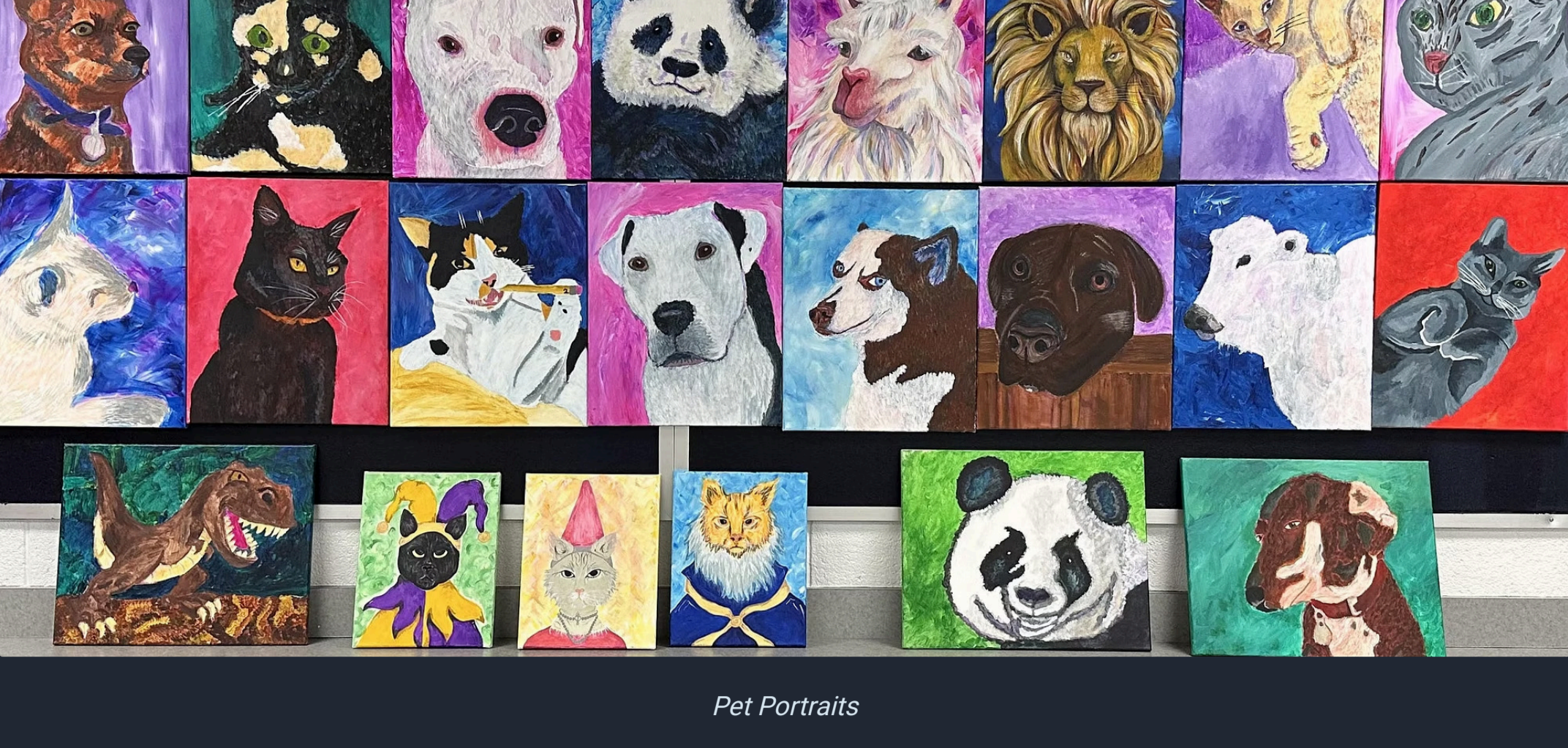
Students in Anatomy & Physiology have been studying the Digestive System. Through a hands-on lab experience, they were able to explore the different digestive organs and the impact those organs have on the food they ingest. In this activity, they used cornflakes to simulate the journey of food through the digestive tract. By guiding the cornflakes through a series of steps that mirrored the actions of each digestive organ—from the mouth all the way to elimination—students gained a deeper understanding of how the body processes and absorbs nutrients.



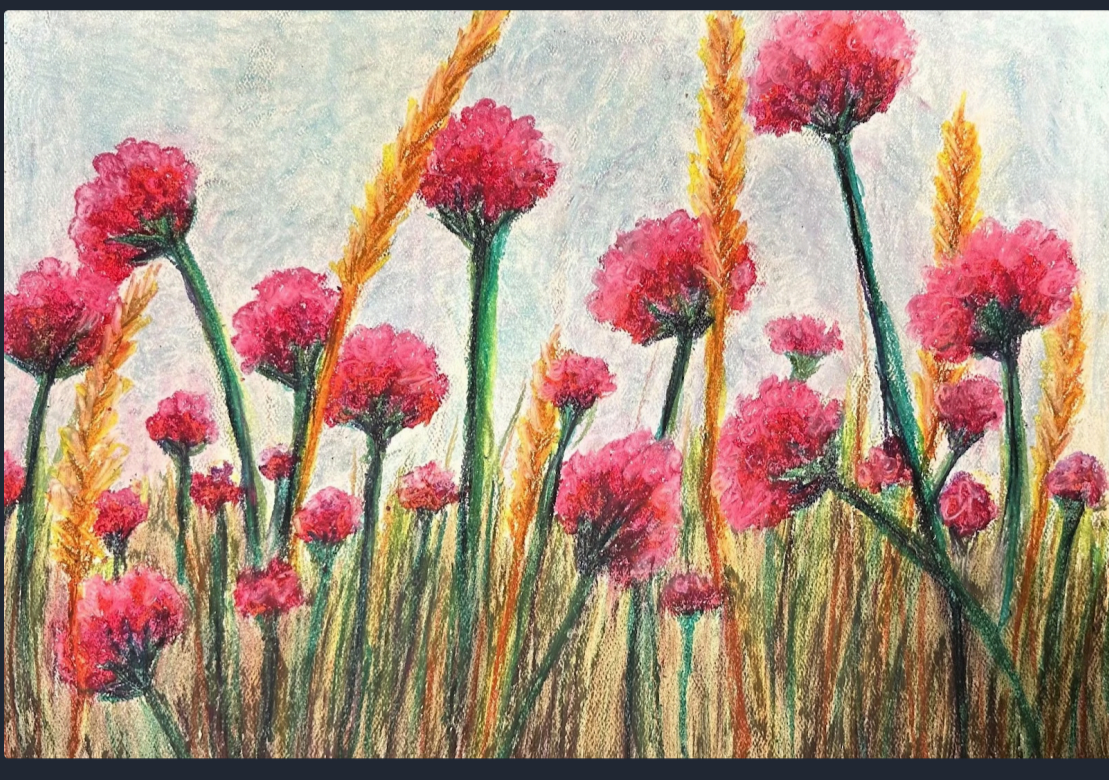
Art

Submitted by Stephanie Kitten

As another school year comes to an end, I would like to give a shout-out to my seniors. It has been an incredible four years with all of you, and I am excited to see what adventures you take on next.



Pet Portraits



Artwork by Mrs. Kitten

Pioneer Art League

What an AMAZING TIME we had at the Pioneer Art League Competition! The theme this year was Exquisite Animals @ Prairie View. SFTHS placed 3rd in 3D on-site and tied for 3rd overall. CONGRATULATIONS to the Art League Team: Reese Phipps, Lauren Kraft, Eva Branstetter, Bailey Anderson, Mirabella Peirce, Morgan Starr, Kryee Herrera, and Tyler Sherve! I couldn't be prouder of their creativity, sportsmanship, and sheer determination.

League Placers:

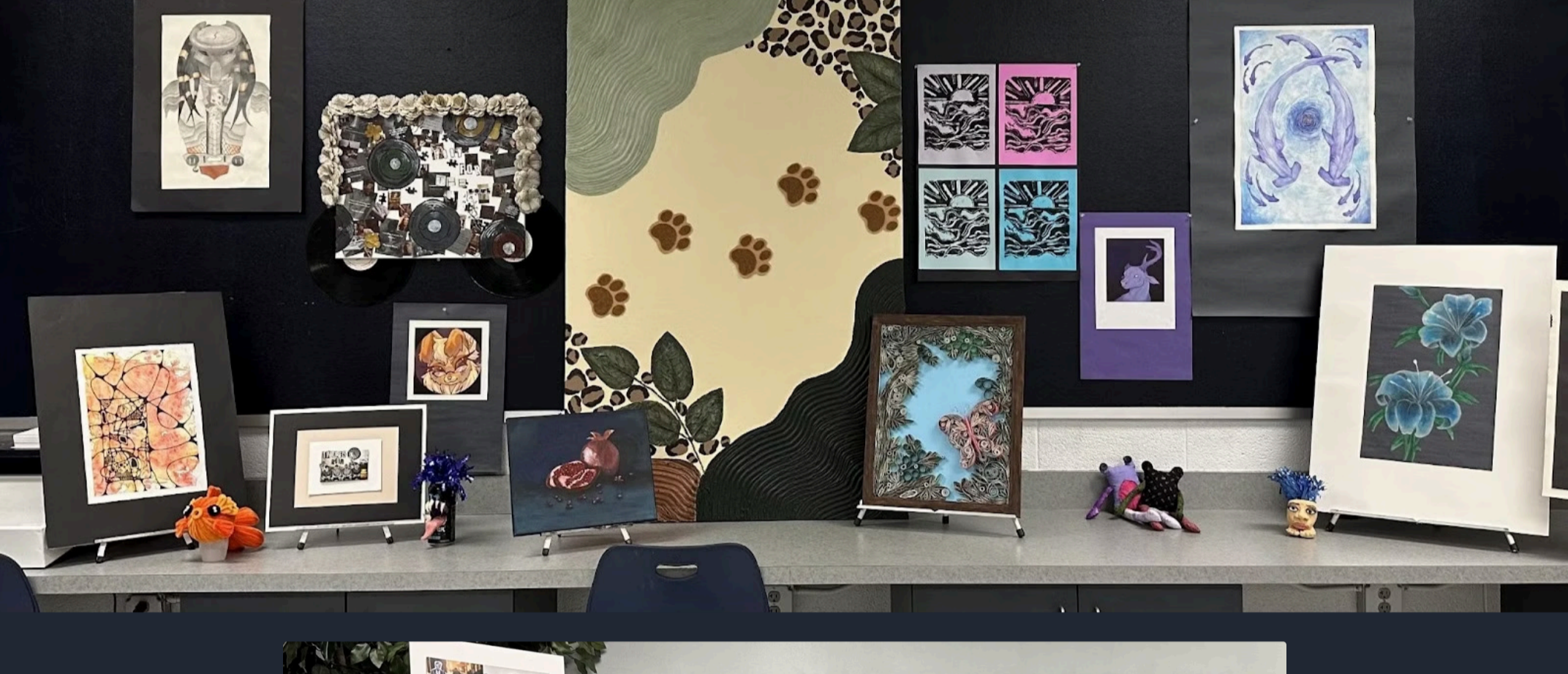
Eva Branstetter - 1st place in Misc. & 4th place in Misc.

Morgan Starr - 2nd place in Misc. & 4th place in Photography

Reese Phillips - 4th place in Digital

Mirabella Pierce - 4th place in Painting

Bailey Anderson - 4th place in 3D Mixed Media



Pioneer League Art Competition pieces



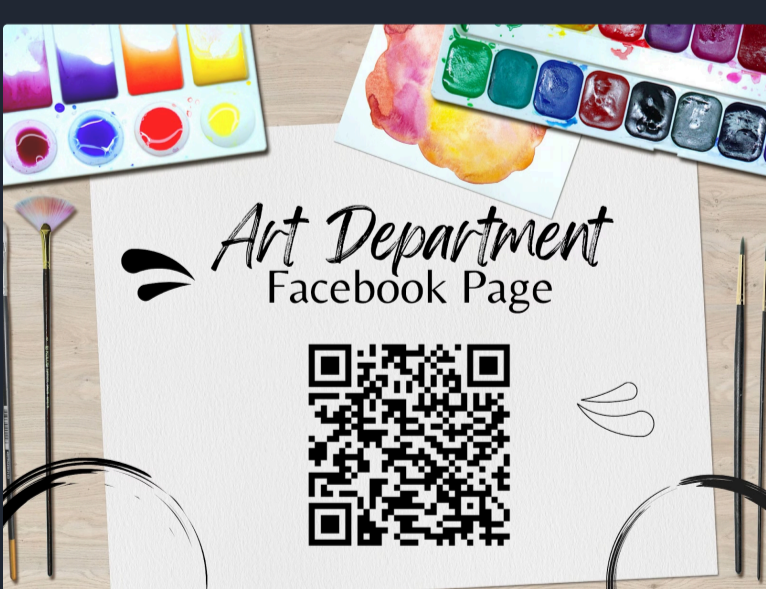
Art League 2D Team onsite creation "Flamingoes"



Art Leage 3D Team onsite creation "Rabfrog"



Art Department Facebook Page



Artsonia

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 the SFTHS's Art Dept. Facebook Page: Levi DeHart, Emma Neeley, Caitlyn McGregor, Willow McNary, Xander Kitten, Reese Phillips, Lauren Kraft
- 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 at SFTHS starting at 10:00 AM

A Final Note

A final note as I get ready for my next chapter - I am both excited and sad to be leaving Trail.

Thank you for all the support over the past seven years of our amazing students, whether it be in person, online, or both! To the students who were brave enough to adventure into the studio, THANK YOU for keeping me on my toes, creating with me, and thinking in new directions!

Deepest GRATITUDE to Marvin Kitten, Aden Kitten, and Xander Kitten for all of their help lifting, hauling, taking down, and putting together for the last seven years. I could not have done it without their love, support, and strength.

A Special Shout Out

- Mary Burgett, Terry Stanton, Allison Folger, a **HUGE THANK YOU** for their mentoring, guidance, and encouragement.
- Mrs. Mayes and all of her wonderful paraprofessionals. What an amazing group!
- HS front office for their help and support!
- Amy, Kaylee, and Rhonda at the district office who help me stay on course!
- Tech. department for their patients, support, and follow-through!
- Maintenance department for helping me keep the art department up and running!
- Transportation for get me and the students where we needed to be!

It has been a great adventure, wishing you all the best. Go, Chargers!

Artfully, Mrs. Kitten

Biology

Submitted by Michele Herren

The Biology classes are currently studying genetics and heredity. The students are analyzing how traits are passed to offspring, why offspring of the same two parents look different from each other, and how diversity in traits arises over generations. Students will be using pipe cleaners to model the steps of meiosis and the possibilities of genetic variation. Students will be using Punnett squares to calculate the likelihood of certain traits from two parents. They will also be investigating genetic disorders. Finally, to end the semester, students will get to dissect a frog.

Entrepreneurship

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

SFT Entrepreneurship Charging Station has Merchandise for Sale!

By partnering with our coaches and local vendors, we have items on hand that can be purchased and picked up at the high school. If you prefer to shop online and have items shipped to you directly, check out our Online Mascot Shop page with the following link: [THE CHARGING STATION](#)



Entrepreneur Profiles

They aren't taking Entrepreneurship as a class in school, but they are already Entrepreneurs! Check out our first two student profiles:



USD 434- Santa Fe Trail

STUDENT

ENTREPRENEUR

Junior

Co-Founder of

Flight Lane Waterfowl

businesses type: Bird Hunting

Kaleb enjoys hunting and this inspired him to start this business. Kaleb wants everybody to have a great time for great prices so they can enjoy the fun of water fowl hunting.



Kaleb Portlock

Entrepreneur



<https://msha.ke/flightlane-waterfowl>

 Kansas



USD 434- Santa Fe Trail

STUDENT

ENTREPRENEUR

Junior

Founder of Polished by Presly

Services Provided:

- Nails

-Presly has a passion for nails and plans to go to school for it. She plans on doing this after high school and dreams of having her own salon with employees someday.



Presly Smith

Entrepreneur





D.M Polished by Presly on Instagram to book appointment

Entrepreneurship Students Visit Local Business Owner & Alumni

Entrepreneurship students took a field trip recently to the Corner Cafe, known as "That Place in Scranton, LLC", where they had the incredible opportunity to visit with the owner, SFT Alumni Treas Baker!

Treas shared her journey of launching and running her restaurant, including the challenges she has faced as an entrepreneur. Students gained valuable real-world insight into small business ownership right here in our community!

If you haven't checked out "That Place in Scranton "yet, add it to your "must-visit" list! The portions are **HUGE** - you might need a to-go box! ("That Place" accepts cash only.)

Business Hours:

Thursday - Saturday: 6:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday: 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

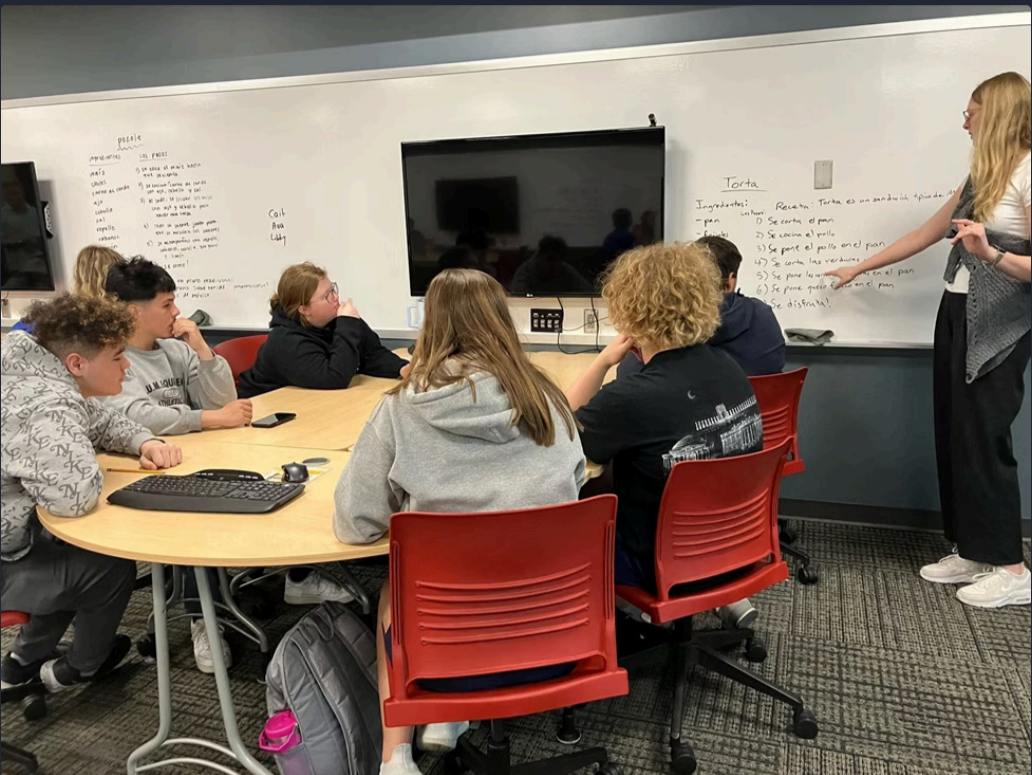
Foreign Languages

Submitted by Emma Fernandez

It has been a great Spring time for the foreign language department!

ACC Spanish

On April 16th , the ACC Spanish class visited the Spanish Department at KU. They were welcomed by GRASP students, toured Watson library, and participated in a Spanish 216 level class, - all in Spanish! The students did awesome and proudly represented SFT!



International Night

Also on April 16th the 8th International Night was held at the high school library. The event was sponsored by Ms. Burgett, Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Fernandez. Our high school students prepared over 25 different international dishes, and there was a big crowd in attendance. The event had the special presence of our foreign exchange student Francesco Cardone. Francesco talked about his experience being a student in our school this semester, and answered questions from the audience. It was a great night and it was very exciting to celebrate food and culture at Trail!



Law & Order SFT

Submitted by Eric Staab

As we wrap up the year we took a field trip to KC to visit with JCCC criminal justice professor to learn about the opportunities for careers in the criminal justice field. Our next visit was to Union Station, the site of the 1933 KC Massacre. We ended our day with a tour of the KC crime lab.

Leadership

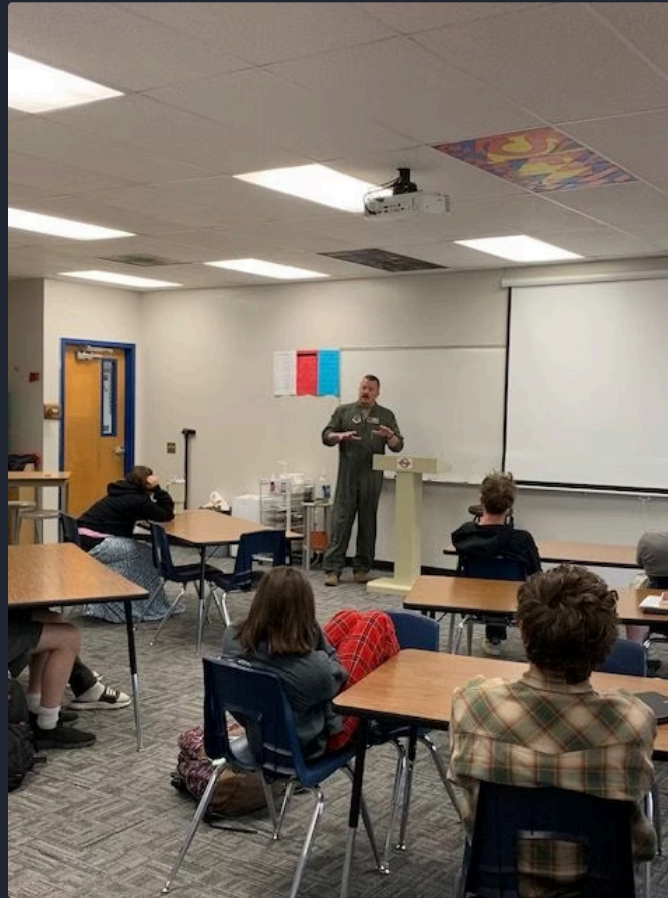
Submitted by Eric Staab

On Friday, May 9th, the leadership class will be doing a paint-a-thon at the Carbondale ball diamonds. They will be painting the dugout roofs as well as the newly installed boards on the bleachers.

War in Literature

Submitted by Allison Folger

The War in Literature class had the opportunity to listen to stories from Chief Master Sergeant Nathan Neidhardt; Chief Boom of the 117 ARS. His reflections and experiences added a personal voice to many of the same concepts and realities students have read about this semester.





Message From the Athletics/Activities Director

Submitted by Kris Henry

The month of April flew by, filled with a whirlwind of activities and athletic events. From rescheduling to adjusting start times, we've done everything possible to make sure our spring season runs smoothly. I truly appreciate the flexibility and teamwork from everyone involved—spring always brings its own set of challenges, but together we've handled them with determination and cooperation.

May marks both new beginnings and meaningful conclusions. Regional and State Championships are just around the corner, end-of-year concerts are taking shape, and our seniors prepare to close one chapter and begin the next. Graduation celebrates the culmination of 12 years of hard work and growth, and it's always a special moment to honor.

Exciting times are ahead! Best of luck to everyone as we finish strong and leave a lasting mark on the 2024-2025 school year.

Go Chargers!

A photograph of a wooden sign with white lettering that reads "SANTA FE TRAIL" on the top line and "HIGH SCHOOL" on the bottom line. The sign is mounted on a wall with vertical wooden slats.

SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL

Activities Highlights

Band

Submitted by McKenzie Rice

This school year has flown by! We are beyond proud of every high school band members' contribution and accomplishments this year.



Please join us in celebrating all of our amazing accomplishments at our spring band concert on Friday, May 9th beginning at 5:30 PM in the high school gymnasium. There will be hot dogs, chips, and water for everyone provided by our wonderful band booster board members!

Band Concert (5th-12th Grade)

Friday, May 9th - 5:30 PM

SFT High School Gymnasium

Choir

Submitted by Kara Holbert

KSHSAA Contest Results

The Santa Fe Trail High School Choirs have had a remarkable season, participating in several Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) events. All results from each event are below.

- Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival:** Choir students showcased their individual talents and small group performances, earning commendable evaluations.

**Regional
Solo & Ensemble Results**

I - Outstanding

Choraliers
Lillian Barnes, vocal soloist
Jacob Neil, vocal soloist

II - Excellent

Shelby Garrison, vocal soloist
Morgan Starr, vocal soloist
Annabella Torneden, vocal soloist
Elizabeth Parkhill, vocal soloist
Katrina Drury, vocal soloist
Brian Llamas, vocal soloist
Ainsley Johnson, vocal soloist (comments only)

- State Large Group Festival:** For the first time since before COVID, SFTHS Choirs performed at the State Large Group Festival held at Prairie View. Both ensembles did a fantastic job and showcased all their hard work!

State
Large Group Results

II - Excellent

SFT Combined Treble Choir
SFT Combined Tenor/Bass Choir

- State Solo & Ensemble Contest:** Building on their Regional success, many students advanced to the state-level contest, demonstrating their dedication and musical excellence.

State
Solo & Ensemble Results

II - Excellent

Choraliers
Lillian Barnes, vocal soloist
Jacob Neil, vocal soloist

These achievements reflect the hard work and passion of our choir members and the unwavering support from our school community. Congratulations to all involved!

Pops Concert Invitation

Join us for an evening of music, energy, and celebration at the Spring Pops Concert! Come support our talented students as they perform a lively mix of pop favorites and more. It's a night you won't want to miss – bring your family, friends, and your love for great music. We can't wait to see you there!



SFTHS Choirs Present...

*Spring Pops
Concert*

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025
7:00 PM | SFTHS Auditorium

FBLA

Submitted by Julie Smith

SFT FBLA crowned three State Champions, all advancing to the National Leadership Conference this summer.

- *Molly Herren* earned first place in Client Service.
- *Gretchen Huizenga, Brynna Perry, and Gabe Smith* took top honors in Local Chapter Annual Business Report.
- *Reese Black, Ethan Ellis, and Gabe Smith* captured first in Public Service Announcement.

In addition, *Tanner Bolt* qualified for nationals with a strong 4th place finish in Cyber Security.

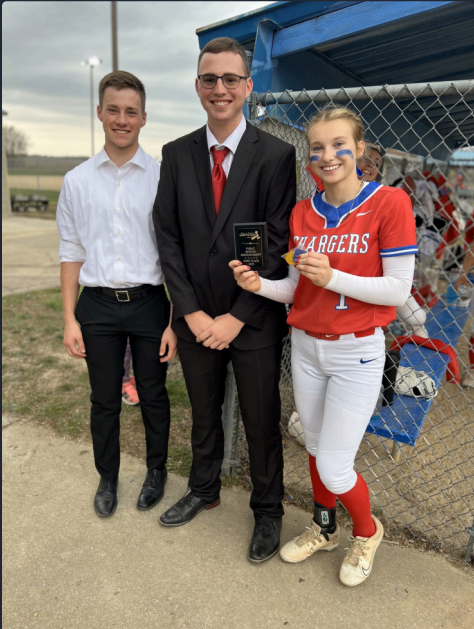
Several other students earned Top 10 finishes, taking the stage during the awards ceremony:

- *Gabe Smith, Tyler Bolt, and Leo Sheley* – 5th place in Business Ethics
- *Tyler Bolt* – 6th place in Business Management
- *Kolbi Burlew* – 6th place in Health Care Administration
- *Alexa Heder* – 8th place in Health Care Administration
- *Morgan Starr* – 7th place in Organizational Leadership

The chapter also earned a prestigious 2nd Place Outstanding Chapter Award, recognizing year-long engagement in leadership activities, community service, and performance at the state conference. With 101 chapters in attendance, this award highlights Santa Fe Trail’s commitment to excellence and student involvement.

Senior Tyler Bolt was awarded the \$1,000 Lindell-Ferrell scholarship, endowed by Ms. Connie Lindell long time business teacher at SFT, and Brian Ferrell, SFT alum class of 1999 and founder/CEO of Factor 110.

A final highlight of the day included Gabe Smith’s official induction onto the 2025 Kansas FBLA State Officer Team as District VII Vice President.



KAY Club

Submitted by Mary Burgett

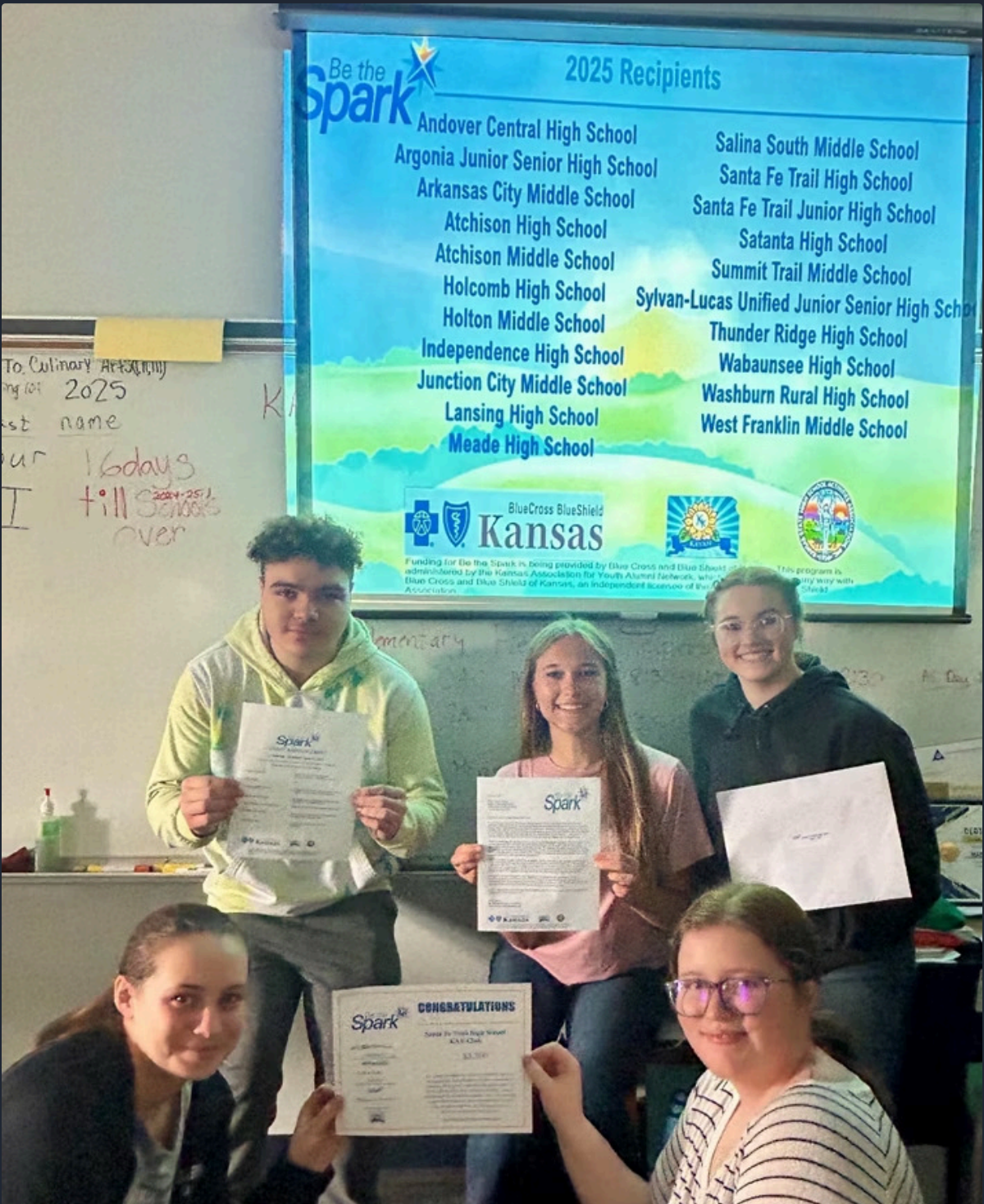
Pennies for Patients

The Santa Fe Trail KAY Club sponsored a Pennies for Patients drive collecting spare change for patients with Leukemia & Lymphoma. Staff members volunteered to get a cream pie to their face if they collected the most money. Students and staff donated pennies and other spare change into the person’s box they wanted to see get Pied-for-Patients. The winners were Mr. Slade and Mr. Ellis. At the last moment Mr. Ellis doubled the donation and let the student body select his replacement - Mr. Quilling. Thanks to all who donated and to Mr. Ellis for his doubled donation and for making time for the assembly. The student body got to see officer manager, Cheryl Florance, smash cream pies into the faces of the winners. Cheryl graciously donated homemade chocolate cream pies to the winners following the pie-smashing. SFT KAY Club collected \$131.76 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



Be the Spark

The High School KAY club applied for a Be the Spark Grant from BCBS Kansas and KAYAN (KAY Alumni Network). Members surveyed and found a large percentage of our building population wanted a calming room. This led to finding sensory and movement items to relieve stress. Some of the items that can be purchased with this grant are a soft motion lamp, SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) lamp, under desk elliptical for movement, and supplies to make therapy putty, marble mazes, and a portable sensory board. Santa Fe Trail High School KAY Club was awarded a total of \$3300 for their 2025-26 Sensory Project proposal.



National Honor Society

Submitted by Allison Folger

Wednesday, April 30th the Charger Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual ceremony to induct new members and install new officers. The Charger Chapter will honor its outgoing seniors - Tyler Bolt, Madison Cook, Lauren Fund, Kinsey Garcia, and Lexsey Heberling - during the Celebration of Success on Wednesday, May 7th.



The new members of National Honor Society. Front row (l to r): Brynna Perry, Macy Berkley, Piper Flory, Ellie Sowers, Tyler Shreve, Claire Greenfield Abbagail Lyda, and Ainsley Johnson. Back row (l to r): Kenna Washington, Reese Black, Ethan Ellis, Gabe Smith, Molly Herren, Cody Cooper, and Trevor Moreno



The 2025-2026 officers are Bryson Crotinger (Treasurer), Gretchen Huizenga (President), Taylor Long (Vice President), and Addalyn Sleichter (Secretary).



The members of the Charger Chapter of National Honor Society for 2025-2026.



Yearbook

Submitted by Julie Smith

Our staff submitted a large portion of the yearbook for publishing, and have already covered 82% of the student body at least 3 times. We expect that number to increase with our 21 remaining spreads yet to go to publish. There are only 33 books left. You can order online at jostens.com, or you can get a form from Mrs. Julie Smith and send to the school with cash or check made out to SFTHS.



Athletics Highlights

Spring Sports

Be sure to follow Santa Fe Trail High School's Facebook page for up-to-date postings of athletics and activities (link below):

[Santa Fe Trail High School](#)

Baseball

Submitted by Weston Gloss

The SFT Baseball Team currently has a week and a half left of the regular season. We are currently 9-11 and are starting to play well at the right time. We are battle tested and look forward to making a run in regionals.

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

Thursday, May 8 - JV/V vs. Baldwin

Monday, May 12 - JV vs. Iola

Track & Field

Submitted by Coach Herren

Track & Field News

With 9 meets down, the Track & Field team will be finishing strong with 4 more regular season meets. The varsity will be attending the Wildcat Classic in Burlington on Tuesday, May 6, while the JV will be attending the Royal Valley May Invitational on Thursday, May 8. The JV will have their final meet on Monday, May 12 at the Iola Invitational. Finally, the season will wrap up with our Pioneer League meet hosted by Wellsville on Thursday, May 15.

Our post-season will begin with Regionals on Thursday, May 22 at Royal Valley, followed by KSHSAA State meet at Wichita State University on Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31. Qualifications for the State meet will be slightly different this year. Athletes winning the first three places in each regional will qualify for the State Meet. The next four best performances from all the regionals in each event, class and gender will also qualify.

I am excited for our postseason possibilities, with many athletes competing at a very high level at this point in the season.

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



Volleyball

SFT VOLLEYBALL CAMP

July 14th - 16th



HS GIRLS (9TH - 12TH)

JULY 14TH - 16TH

7AM - 11AM

GRADES 3rd - 8th

SIGN UP



SCAN HERE

3RD - 6TH GRADE

JULY 14TH - 16TH

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

7TH - 8TH GRADE

JULY 14TH - 16TH

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

CONTACT COACH FAWL @

afawl@usd434.us

WITH ANY QUESTIONS

LOCATION: SFT HIGH SCHOOL

ALL HAIL THE TRAIL 

Student Services

Senior Announcements



Important Dates



Wednesday, May 7 @ 7pm

Celebration of Success
Award Local Scholarships



Thursday, May 15th

Seniors Last Day



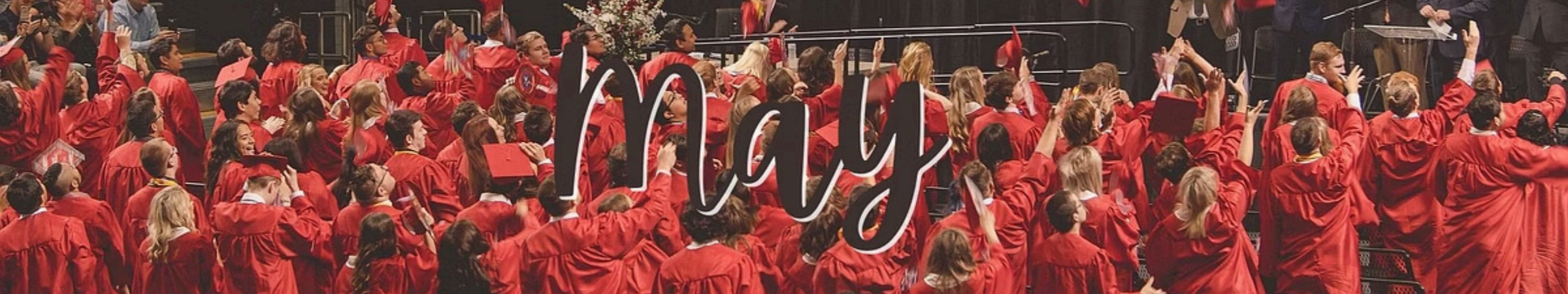
Friday, May 16 @ 8:30am

Graduation Practice
Be on time! Start on time! Be done sooner!



Saturday, May 17 @ 10am

Graduation Ceremony
Arrive @ 9am



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 3:00pm:JV Boys Golf at Burlington 4:30pm:JV BSB at Overbrook vs And. Co 4:30pm:JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs Anderson Co. 6:00pm:Board of Education Meeting - District Reconfiguration Discussion & Exec Session	6 10:00am:JH Golf @ Wamego CC 3:00pm:V Track at Burlington 4:30pm:V BSB at Anderson Co. 4:30pm:V/JV Girls SB vs Baldwin at Carbondale 7:00pm:6th, 7th & 8th Choir Concert @ CAC	7 3:00pm:JV Boys Golf at Lamont Hill 6:00pm:Fine and Practical Arts Show 7:00pm:HS Celebration of Success	8 10:00am:JH Track - League @ SFTHS 1:00pm:V League Boys Golf at Burlington-Rock Creek CC 4:00pm:V Track Meet at Royal Valley 4:30pm:JV/V BSB at Overbrook vs Baldwin 1 Game Each 4:30pm:V/JV Girls SB at Anderson County	9 OAC Field Day (Rain Date) 5:30pm:5th-12th Band Concert @ HS Gymnasium	10
12 3:30pm:JV Track Meet at lola 4:30pm:JV BSB at Overbrook vs lola 4:30pm:JV Girls SB at Carbondale vs lola	13 CAC Field Day - grades 4 to 6 - AM only 4:30pm:V Girls SB at lola	14 6:00pm:Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm:HS Pops Choir Concert @ HS Auditorium	15 SFT HS Seniors Last Day of School 1:00pm:V Boys Golf at Prairie View- Deer Trace 3:00pm:BSB 1/4 Finals TBD 3:30pm:HS League Track at Wellsville	16 OAC Talent Show 8:00am:SFT HS Graduation Rehearsal 7:00pm:8th Grade Graduation	17 10:00am:HS Graduation @ SFTHS
19 V Girls SB Regionals at Wellsville 10:00am:V Boys Golf Regionals Site TBD	20 V Girls SB Regionals at Wellsville SFT Last Day of School & End of 4th Quarter 12:00am:V Boys Golf Regionals Site TBD	21 SFT Teacher Prep 2:00pm:V Baseball Regionals at Homefield KC 6:00pm:District SITE Council	22 1:00pm:V Regional Track at Royal Valley- Field 1 pm Prelims 4 pm	23	24
26 Memorial Day	27 Boys 3A State Golf at Buffalo Dunes, Garden City.	28 Boys 3A State Golf at Buffalo Dunes, Garden City.	29 State Girls SB at Topeka Envista Complex State Baseball at Manhattan	30 State Track Meet at WSU State Girls SB at Topeka Envista Complex State Baseball at Manhattan	31 State Track Meet at WSU