

**SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2017**

**GEMINI PROJECT**

The Building Leadership Team (BLT) has been brainstorming ideas on how to revisit how the traditional school works. The idea that has people talking right now is the four day school week with the fifth day being a day used to work on soft skills. There are a ton of details still to be worked out but there is excitement of the possibilities. All in all, the BLT is off to a great start.

**ADDITIONAL STAFFING NEED**

One of the things that has also come out of the BLT meetings is adding course offerings. A way to do this is to add staff back for the positions we have lost through cuts. SFTHS has 2.5 math teachers and 2.5 social study teachers. I would love to see us add an additional certified staff member that would be able to teach:

- a. The study skills class for Mr. Stanton. He picks up one of the classes when Ms. Alstatt has a plan period. Mr. Stanton could then teach an additional shop class.
- b. The study skills class for Mr. Salyers. He picks up one of the classes when Ms. Alstatt teaches her Financial Literacy class.
- c. In a perfect world, our new certified staff member would teach three study skills classes, one math remediation class, and two sections of Pre-Algebra or Algebra I.

**ACCUPLACER—RETHINKING THE APPROACH**

I recently received news that is making me rethink testing all of the sophomores in the Accuplacer. Allen County College told me with the change to the Accuplacer, students are only allowed to test each section three times in a lifetime. For example, you may only take the reading test three times ever. Right now, we have all sophomores taking all of the tests. We will have to rethink what we do. Students who are currently in Geometry will not take the math test. They will take Algebra II as a junior not ACC College Algebra.

Another piece of information I learned was that the math test is not the same for WU Tech and ACC. It appears, our students are going to have to test for each different pathway they choose.

**FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

The high school parent/teacher conferences will be Tuesday, October 24 and Wednesday, October 25 from 4:00-7:00 pm.

**THE ATTENDANCE RACE OF 2017-18**

The seniors won the first attendance race of the 2017-18 school year. They received a Thundertaker decal for their vehicle and an ice cream bar at lunch.

Results:	Seniors—97.5 %
	Sophomores—97.4%
	Freshmen—96%
	Juniors—95%

The next race will conclude at the end of November. May the best class with attendance win!

### **ACT ASPIRE TEST IN NOVEMBER**

The freshmen and sophomores will be taking the ACT Aspire Test in early November. This is the test that will give them a predicted ACT score.

### **MUSICAL**

Auditions for our fall musical "Little Shop of Horrors" have been held and this year's cast is deep in rehearsals. Playing the part of Audrey is Kylee Burgoon and Seymore is Hunter Maichel, along with lots of other strong actors and singers.

### **TALENT SHOW**

The SFTHS vocal music department will put on their annual talent show/FUNdraiser on October 18th, at 7 pm in the auditorium. There is lots of buzz this year about featured acts, which will be reviewed for content and preparedness on October 11th. It's going to be another great show.

### **ALL-STATE CHOIR DAY**

On October 6th, 6 of our advanced singers will travel for a day of study at Baker University. They will be joined by the top singers from other area 1A-6A schools to prepare for auditions for the All-State Choir in November.

### **TECH THEATRE**

Another year of technical theatre, and another year of great student projects! The students in technical theatre have been working hard; sketching, drawing, drafting and crafting miniature stages and sets that match our fall musical, The Little Shop of Horrors. Students used recyclable materials and their imaginations to create different ideas and versions of what will eventually become a fully functioning musical set.

### **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

#### **Financial Aid**

Seniors – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid for 2018-2019 school year is now open. Remember that some aid is distributed on a first come first served basis, so file early. You can submit up to 10 schools when you file your FAFSA. Go to [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to complete the FAFSA.

#### **PSAT Test**

##### **Juniors and Sophomores:**

Santa Fe Trail will be offering the PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Students interested in taking the test will need to sign up in Student Services and pay the \$15 fee.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are to:

- Receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study.
- Enter the competition for scholarships from National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- Help prepare for the SAT. (the preferred college entrance exam on the east and west coasts)

- Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

Only Junior's scores are eligible for National Merit Scholarship Qualification. Sophomores who take this test do so as a practice.

### **Anxiety Lunch Group**

Melissa Strother (school counselor), Braden Mayes (school psychologist), and Macey Gooden (social worker) have started a lunch group for students who deal with anxiety. This group meets every 3 weeks on Monday and is open to any student who feel like they might benefit. The goal is to teach students skills to help when they are feeling anxious. The first meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> focused on calm breathing, October 2<sup>nd</sup> we talked about mindfulness. Future topics will include journaling, relaxation, test anxiety, and more. If you believe your student would benefit from learning these skills talk to them about joining us at our next lunch meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **ENGLISH I**

On Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> the Santa Fe Trail High School Library hosted four of Mrs. Hoffsommer's English I classes. The students feasted on "lane cakes" and "scuppernong juice" from the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Over 200 pancakes were served (some were caught) to more than 70 students throughout the morning. As he was handing out the cakes Mr. Lynch asked the students questions about the book.





### **Mr. Salyers' Class**

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, students participated in the first Career Friday of the school year. Career Friday will be done twice a month where Mr. Salyers' will have a career related lesson and activities. The focus on the 29<sup>th</sup> was assessing student's understanding of basic career knowledge, brainstorming possible career options, listing the skills they would need to be successful in that career, and taking a career interest inventory to match their interest with their strengths and careers.

Future Career Friday topics include: interviewing, resumes, social media, developing goals, bringing in guest speakers, and developing soft/hard skills.

### **FBLA**

FBLA on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> volunteered after the home football game to assist with cleaning up the stands and surrounding area.

On Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, FBLA is preparing to attend the Business Career Day at Emporia State University. At the Business Career Day, students will learn more about careers and the path needed to take to be in a business career field.

In the Month of September, FBLA held two chapter meetings to recruit members to join FBLA.

### **Yearbook**

Yearbook has been busy staying up to date with the plethora of events hosted at Santa Fe Trail from athletic events, club meetings, and other special events. The goal of the Yearbook staff is to be more visible at events to have a more inclusive yearbook.

Students have been working on marketing and brainstorming ideas to be implemented in the yearbook. Many days in September, Yearbook students were out of the classroom practicing their photography skills with a variety of modes and methods.

### **Industrial Education Classes Expands New Career Skills**

For thirty three years I have been teaching about construction technology through building furniture and designing individualized cabinet selections. Students have been making cabinets, beds, tables, dressers and anything that could be taken out of the classroom/shop door. My students have designed and made so many projects through the years, it is hard to remember who made the coolest pieces.

Job opportunities are in high demand and there is a shortage in skilled trade's personnel. The need for construction workers, plumbers, electricians, HVAC and welders is even greater after two major hurricanes hit the United States including Puerto Rico. In August, the board of education approved to add building construction skills to the current selection of classes. It was later decided that we would build the much needed baseball shed for our campus. We are currently working on a 12 x 16 portable baseball storage shed. This will provide our students many opportunities to learn about these skills. Building construction tools were needed and purchased. The students put the new equipment together by learning to read schematics. Needless to say, it has been a very busy start to the school year.





12 x 16 Baseball shed being built by the students putting together new equipment

Last year the industrial education classes were designing tiny homes and learned of a Veteran's Community project in Kansas City. During the month of May, several students went to visit that project. When we came home from the field trip we were excited to start our very own plans of building tiny homes for the veterans and others. The veteran's project in KC hit some infrastructure road blocks. We would still like to do something for the veterans even though the project in KC had issues.

Other projects we are currently working include:

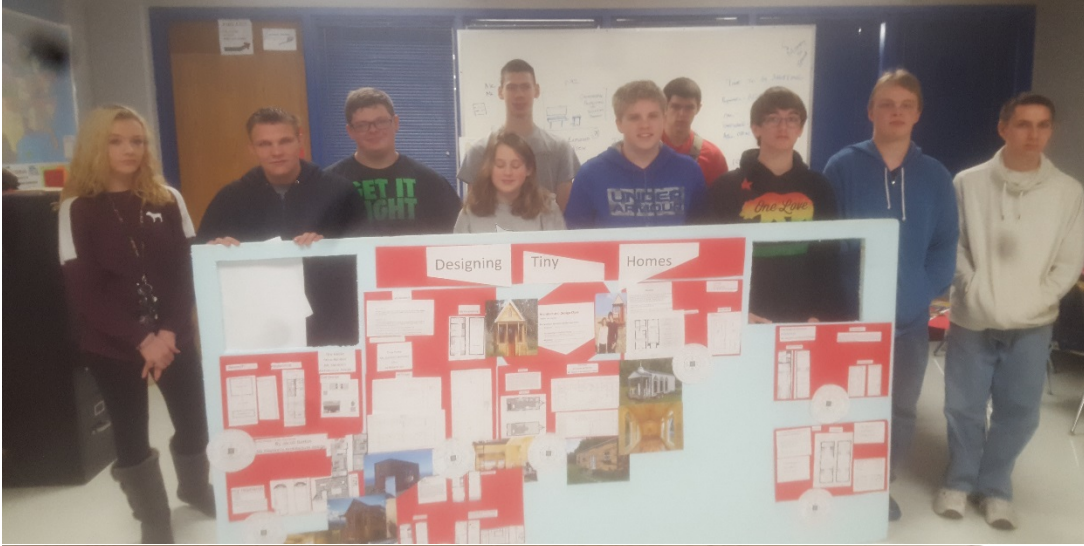


Installing tuba hangers in the band room



Tuba hangers are done in band room

Students in my last years drafting class who designed the tiny homes



General Industrial technology class



## **Athletics and Activities at Santa Fe Trail High School**

The Activities at Santa Fe Trail have gotten off to a GREAT start in 2017!! This year the weather cooperated very nicely for the Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally in Carbondale!! A big THANKS goes out to everyone that made the day a success!!

### **Football**

Currently, the varsity Chargers are 4-1 on the season and have been ranked as high as 4<sup>th</sup> in the state in 4A Division III!! The Chargers have Topeka-Hayden, Jefferson West, and Holton in their district this year. The top 2 in districts will advance to the playoffs. The junior varsity is 4-1 on the season while the freshmen have competed well, and are 2-2. Based on enrollment numbers and KSHSAA classification changes, Santa Fe Trail will drop to the 3A Classification the next 2 years for football. On Wednesday in Salina, our 6 team district was set for 2018 and 2019. Those schools are Topeka-Hayden, Perry-Lecompton, Wellsville, Kansas City-Bishop Ward, Meriden-Jefferson West, and SFT.

### **Volleyball**

As of October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Santa Fe Trail Charger varsity volleyball team is 7-1 in league, and 22-6 overall and ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the state in 4A Division II. SFT has performed well in 2 of their 3 tournaments. They took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Jefferson West and 1<sup>st</sup> at Wellsville. Piper Johnson, Marrit Mead and Kelsey Simmons were named to the all-tournament team at Wellsville. The varsity team will travel to Council Grove this weekend for their final regular season tournament. The freshmen travel to Perry-Lecompton for their final tournament. Santa Fe Trail has 1 home host night remaining; Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> against Burlington and Anderson County. This night will be our Teal Night, much like Pink Night, but building awareness of cervical cancer. On Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, the Chargers will travel to Hayden for Sub-State action. The other teams involved in that Sub-State will be Jefferson West, KC-Bishop Ward, and Topeka-Hayden. State volleyball will be played in Salina, October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bicentennial Center.

### **Girls Golf**

The girls' golf team continues to improve on their individual scores and places as the season rolls on. Santa Fe Trail hosted our tournament on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Hidden Springs Golf Course. We will attend regionals on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> hosted by Spring Hill at Sycamore Ridge Golf Course, 21731 Clubhouse Drive, Spring Hill, KS 66083. State girl's golf will be Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at [Topeka-Lake Shawnee Golf Course](#), 4141 East Edge Road, Topeka, 66609.

### **Cross Country**

The Santa Fe Trail cross country team continues to work hard and gather momentum as the season progresses. The boys have been led by many young runners this year and on the girl's side, senior Hannah Honeyman has two 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes this season. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the cross country team will travel to Wellsville to compete in the Pioneer League meet and on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, they will compete in regionals at Lansing (**Wyandotte County Park**). State Cross Country will be at the Wamego Country Club on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Scholars Bowl**



The Scholar's Bowl team will see their first action on October 17<sup>th</sup> at Bonner Springs. Coach Eric Lynch is very excited for the upcoming season and has 25 students on the team roster.

### **KAY**

The KAY volleyball tournament during homecoming week was once again a big success this year!! Those attending were asked to bring canned goods or non-perishable food items. KAY plans to host a blood drive at the high school on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am – 1:30 pm.

### **Student Council**

The Student Council once again, did a wonderful job of planning for this year's Spirit Week!! Each day was filled with some type of theme for dressing up. The Homecoming Parade was well planned and laid out. Beautiful weather greeted those who participated in and attended the homecoming festivities on Friday night.

### **Debate**

On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> the SFT Debate team began their season with a tournament at Washburn Rural. On Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. Terry and the Debate squad hosted our first tournament in many years!! This year the Debate team is much larger, and on many Saturday's will be sending 2 teams to different tournaments. In October, the team will participate in tournaments at Seaman, Baldwin, Silver Lake, Desoto, Bonner Springs and Spring Hill.