

SFT band students keep the music flowing during the summer

While some of their classmates were relaxing in the sun, several Santa Fe Trail (SFT) Band members had little idle time this summer.

With the help of community members and local organizations –the Scranton Lions, Carbondale, Overbrook and Wakarusa Masonic Lodges, SFT Band Boosters, Brookside Retirement Community, and the TJ Kemble Memorial Fund – the band stayed very busy.

“Thanks to the support from our great communities, our band students had the opportunity to participate in some amazing band workshops this summer,” said Lance Quilling, SFT director of bands. “All these experiences have helped them improve their music and leadership skills and will contribute to a successful band program for the 2018-19 school year.”

In June, Ellie Coltrane, senior, and Dakota Garrison, junior – through funding from the TJ Kemble Memorial Fund – attended the Kansas State University (KSU) Leadership and Auxiliary Camp. The camp was led by KSU faculty and allowed them to learn conducting skills and guard and percussion techniques, as well as leadership skills and teamwork.

In July, the Scranton Lions Club sponsored Seniors Harris Hamit and Reagan Sisson for the 2018 Kansas Lions State Band. As part of this, they attended the Concert Band Camp at Friends University in Wichita, Kan., and performed with other students from around the state.

The Carbondale, Overbrook and Wakarusa Masonic Lodges sent eight students to the Kansas All-State High School Marching Band Camp and the Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game at Pittsburg State University. The students were: Cameron Koger, Megan Mentzer, Kaylyn Prettyman and Audrey Ward (recent graduates), and Dakota Garrison, junior, Hunter Shannon, senior, and Alexis Isabell and Sabetha McClendon, sophomores.



The Santa Fe Trail High School Chargers Band performed for a large crowd at the annual Overbrook Osage County Fair parade this summer.

“The students worked on marching drills and songs in preparation for their pre-game and half-time performances at the Shrine Bowl, but one of the best experiences for them was having the opportunity to meet some of the kids from the Shriners Hospital for Children,” Quilling said.

Finally, the band students finished up their summer with the annual parade and Battle of the Bands during the Overbrook Osage County Fair.

“The band spent many hours working on the fall marching show and preparing for the parade and battle of the bands,” Quilling said. “The band won \$1,000 and had a great performance. A big thanks to Scott and Susan Averill from Brookside for sponsoring the battle of the bands.”

Seven recent SFT graduates are continuing their music education in college: Ashleigh Boyd, KSU Marching Band; Maddie Foster, University of Omaha Band; Megan Mentzer, Pittsburg State Marching Band; Sarah Ralston, Pittsburg State Concert Band; Tara Turner, Wichita State Concert Band; RaeAnne Vancamp, Washburn Marching Band and Audrey Ward, KU Marching Band.



A message from the Superintendent



Welcome to the start of a new school year, and welcome back to – after being so well-received during the 2017-18 school year – *Charger Connection*, the district's bimonthly newsletter.

Although school was not in session, Santa Fe Trail (SFT) School District stayed busy over the summer, addressing vital equipment needs and making necessary enhancements to our schools.

As you become reacquainted with our district facilities, you may detect some subtle changes, but you also will see some major ones. Those of you familiar with the Carbondale Attendance Center will notice the painting we accomplished this summer, primarily in the entrances and main hallways. The office entrance has been rearranged and remodeled to allow for a better flow of traffic. You also will notice the cafeteria has changed slightly, with the addition of new round tables.

Over at the Overbrook Attendance Center (OAC), parents and other community members helped install additional playground equipment. The soffits, or the underside of the entrance, of the building also have been repaired and look good.

We are in the process of adding murals to the OAC's walls. The murals align with the building's The Leader in Me® initiative – a program being implemented at our schools that is based on Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*® and teaches students 21st-century leadership and life skills and creates a culture of student empowerment, based on the idea every child can be a leader.

At the SFT football field, the repairs and enhancements to the press box have been completed, and the new stadium lighting has been installed. And the early reviews are in: The new lights are amazing!

These enhancements and upgrades to the district would not be possible without the continued support of you, the school district's taxpayers. I, for one, would like to personally thank our patrons for allowing us to continue making these repairs and improvements – all of which will help us to continue providing the best education possible for our students.

Cordially,

Dr. Steve Pegram
Superintendent of Schools

District begins The Leader in Me®

Developing a student's full potential is the basis for a new and exciting program being offered to Santa Fe Trail (SFT) PreK-8th grade students this school year.

The school district is adopting the Franklin Covey Leader In Me® school transformation process. Scranton, Overbrook and Carbondale Attendance Centers will be implementing this program with all students and staff.

The Leader in Me® promotes 21st-century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment, based on the idea every child

can be a leader. This process reinforces the philosophy that schools must not merely focus on academics but rather support the whole child and provide opportunities for students to develop their full potential. The schools will utilize best practices and

universal principles to teach all students and support the social, emotional, and character needs of everyone. The district looks forward to this journey.



All SFT students benefit from safety improvements

At Santa Fe Trail (SFT) School District, we take our responsibility to keep students safe, from preschool through 12th grade, very seriously, which is why we want to provide an update on the new safety enhancements the district will be adding this academic year.

The first of these improvements involved laminating all glass doors and windows with security film to prohibit anyone from entering the buildings by breaking glass windows or doors. The district has also entered into a contract with an architect to plan the redesign of the entrances of each building, so all individuals entering the buildings will funnel through the administrative offices. This allows staff to better monitor who enters our buildings and to keep out potential threats.

An additional School Resource Officer (SRO) was hired and now all K-12 district buildings have formal police security. Osage County Sheriff deputies will also be on-site to provide advice on school safety practices and have daily interactions with students in and out of the classroom.

In several of the buildings, we installed additional security cameras to help monitor the building environment. The cameras will also provide recorded footage in the event an incident needs to be reviewed and evaluated.

A new intruder alert system will be installed, which will sound and alert people in the building differently than a fire alarm will. The system can only be activated by an authorized adult's fingerprint. When an intruder activates the system, it sends an immediate text message to law enforcement and administration, which will save valuable time should a situation arise.

School safety drills will also be changing this year. In the past, the state annually required nine fire and three tornado drills. This year, the state is requiring four fire drills, three tornado drills and nine building security, intruder, and lock-down drills in every building. The emergency preparedness drills also have more emphasis on building security.

The last safety enhancement the district added is a security module called AppArmor. This system allows the district to monitor, communicate and provide access to district resources and features:

- Mobile app
- Bully reporting and suicide prevention portal
- Access to all school social media
- Access to district website and calendar
- District and building alerts
- Staff directory
- Student and parent resources
- GPS tracking of mobile devices (friend walk)
- District emergency plans
- Emergency contacts
- Local weather

"Many of these enhancements came at the suggestions of community members," said Dr. Steve Pegram, superintendent of schools. "Our goal is to strengthen the integrity of our schools' security management systems in order to be best prepared in the event of an emergency."



Upcoming Events

Sept. 10 SAC Fall Pictures

Sept. 12 Preschool Family Night, 6 p.m.

Sept. 24 OAC Dental Clinic

Sept. 26 CAC Dental Clinic

Sept. 27 SFT/SAC Dental Clinic

Sept. 28 Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m., Scranton

Oct. 4 Senior Graduation Order, 11 a.m.

Oct 10 FBLA Dodgeball Tournament

Oct. 17 Veteran Educator and Retirement Workshop, 4:15 pm, HS 17

Oct. 17 HS Supercharged Talent Show, 7 p.m.

CHARGER SAFE

USD 434 Santa Fe Trail



Say Something



Kansas School Safety Hotline



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

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In an effort to keep the community informed, the *Charger Connection* goes to every home in the Santa Fe Trail School District, even those without students in our schools. Thank you for your support of your community's schools!

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Our mission is to support individual student needs in preparation for successful lifework.

Snap shots from summer...



After a week at the KAY Leadership Conference, these KAYs are ready to Lead, Build, Achieve the SFT KAY Club.



Lane Workman, 7th-grade student, won the 2018 Thrivent Financial City Junior Championship.

