

**SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2019**

CHARGER DAYS

The high school has made some modifications to our Charger Days for the upcoming school year. We took from what we learned as a staff and from the input of our students to come up with a better plan.

We reduced the total number to 9 and started the school year off with one.

Our next Charger Day will be on Homecoming, September 13th. Planning, building, and getting organized for the event has already started.

All in all, the year looks very promising on what we have planned. There will be more details as we get closer to each month's Charger Day.

BELL SCHEDULE—WE ONLY HAVE ONE NOW!

After meeting with our students and staff over the summer, it was determined that the need to meet more regular on a few topics became obvious.

In order to make this happen, we had to adapt on what we were doing for Activity Period. Therefore, the high school is running only one schedule this year. We will have Activity Period every day.

We plan to meet with our Leadership Groups once per week. (The students selected their group to be in.) Then, we will rotate meeting on the student's Individual Plan of Study and do a school wide grade check. Having these meeting each week will take up two of the five Activity Periods. The rest will be available for club meetings. This is certainly a nice trade-off for our students.

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

Hi! I'm Melissa Strother. This is my 7th year working at SFTHS as a counselor. Prior to starting at SFT, I taught PE at Campus High School and Biology at Baldwin High School. My favorite part of this job is seeing students grow toward adulthood. I especially love when I get the chance to check in with former students to see how things are going for them. I have a husband and three boys ages 13, 12, and 6 that keep me very busy. My favorite way to spend time is supporting kids doing what they love, both my own kids and the students at SFT. Between kid events, I enjoy reading, cooking, and traveling when I get the chance. I'm looking forward to another great year on the Trail!

Hey there! My name is Angela Black, and I am excited to begin my 2nd year as a counselor in USD 434. I will again be splitting my time between Carbondale Attendance Center/SFT Jr. High and Santa Fe Trail High School. Previously, I taught English at SFTHS, and I am a 1994 Santa Fe Trail High school graduate. When I'm not chasing my kids around watching them do their things, I like to fill my free time with family and friends. I also enjoy archery,

gardening, cooking, and reading. This is going to be a fantastic year! It's great to be a Charger!

Also from the Counselor's Corner:

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 10 and 24. It is considered a "Silent Epidemic". September is **National Suicide Prevention Month**; in recognition of such, Santa Fe Trail students will get information on awareness and prevention of youth suicide.



New Class - Career & Life Planning

The biggest class this semester from all the Business & Digital Media classes is the new-ish class Career & Life Planning. This was taught as one of the freshmen rotations a few years ago. My main reason for bringing it back as a semester long class because many parents felt their children needed to learn these skills.

Major things that are happening in that class is we are participating in a classroom economy where students get paid for classroom jobs and other various activities. But they also have expenses like rent for their desks, electricity, and internet usage. Plus other fines. They are getting real life experience handling their money. We will add other parts to this economy as learn about them in class like banking, saving, investing, and throwing in some life events. Kansas State Bank has also helped with providing sample checks and registers for the students to use.

FBLA

FBLA hosted the Annual Back to Dance on Friday, August 23rd. The officers worked really hard to plan extra activities for students to do like games, competitions, and a photo booth. It was highly attended a great way to end the first week of school.

The officer team also has been working hard planning and preparing for the upcoming school year. Very proud of all the ideas they have and the initiative they take.

Other Classes

All the other classes have started and all the students are excited to learn about the different content that class entails. Many will have real world application projects they will work on to

apply what we have been learning in class. Stay tuned as the year progresses to see what those are about.

ART

SFT ART DEPARTMENT is excited to announce OPEN Art Studio for any SFTHS student. Needing help with an unfinished project or just need more creative time? Come ready to engage in creativity and art discussion on elements, principles of design and art history.

It will be on Tuesdays after school until 5:00 pm in Art Room 120. The first day will be on Tuesday, August 27th.

HEARING AND VISION TESTING AT SFT

Hearing and vision screens for all 9th, 11th, new students and students with an IEP will be on Tuesday, September 10th and Thursday, September 12th. Any student that fails an exam will be given the results as well as a referral. A passed exam result is available to parents/guardians upon request. We are fortunate as a district to get a SPOT vision screener. These screens are much more accurate and take approximately 3 seconds to capture results. This screening device is especially helpful in our young students and those with disabilities.

Athletics and Activities at Santa Fe Trail High School

Athletic teams began practice on August 19th and for the most part, for those practicing outside, the weather has been very cooperative. Santa Fe Trail is proud to encourage all of our students involved in activities in their quest to represent our school and community in a positive way. If you get the opportunity, please come out and support them at home or on the road.

Football

The 2019 Charger Football Team consists of 39 players this year. An inter-school Jamboree has taken the place of the annual Blue/White scrimmage this year. This year the Jamboree was held on August 30th at Royal Valley High School. Santa Fe Trail scrimmaged Holton and Royal Valley. This was a unique experience and allowed the coaches and players to experience a game like setting. The varsity will travel to Prairie View on Friday, September 6th for the first game of the season. The JV will host Prairie View on Monday 9th. As of now, the freshmen are scheduled to open their season on Thursday, September 19th at Eudora. The varsity team will host Osawatomie on Friday, September 13th, which will be homecoming for the Chargers!!

Volleyball

Santa Fe Trail will start the season with a varsity tournament on Saturday, September 7th at Jefferson West. The entire squad will host Louisburg and Kansas City-Piper on Tuesday, September 10th. There are 23 volleyball players on the roster for 2019, which will allow for 3 levels of play.

Girls Golf

The Girl's Golf Team will participate at a tournament hosted by West Franklin on Tuesday, September 10th. There are 6 members on the girl's golf team this year. Santa Fe Trail will be hosting our tournament on September 17th at Hidden Springs Golf Course just outside of Overbrook, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Cross Country

The Santa Fe Trail HS Cross Country roster is comprised of 9 girls and 13 boys this year. The team is scheduled for its first competition at Anderson County on Thursday, September 5th.

Dance Team and Cheerleading

The dance team has 6 members for the 2019-2020 school year. They provide entertainment at pep rallies, at the half time of home games, and also compete in dance competitions during the school year.

Our cheerleaders have been working hard all summer to increase the amount of spirit at our athletic events. They also coordinate and are in charge of all pep rallies' providing a positive atmosphere for all students and fans. This year we have a total of 14 cheerleaders.

Both the Dance and Cheer Squads participated in the KSHSAA Summer Spirit Camp in Coffeyville in July. They are working together to enhance the spirit levels at our sporting events.

Band

The band participated in the "Battle of the Bands" at the Overbrook Fair Parade on Saturday, August 11th and provided great enthusiasm and entertainment along the parade route! This year the band placed 1st!! The band will perform at halftime of the home football games. There are 106 members in this year's band!!

Debate

The Debate Team begins their season on September 21st at Emporia. There are 13 students participating in debate. SFT will host a debate tournament on Saturday, September 28th.

Musical

The Musical for this year will be Fiddler on the Roof! Tryouts will begin soon and the shows are scheduled for November 15th, 16th, and 17th.

Baseball and the Overbrook Ballfields

In April of 2019, the SFTHS Head Baseball Coach, Jim Duncan contacted the city of Overbrook about the possibility of the school taking over the maintenance of the north diamond. This is the diamond that SFTHS play varsity and junior varsity home baseball games. In May, Patrick Graham and Keith Johnson met with members of Overbrook Parks and Recreation (OPR) about the possibility of SFTHS taking over the field maintenance during the high school playing season doing prep work each fall. This would entail prepping the field for games and keeping it in playing shape from the fall to the end of the high school playing season. Over the past few years, OPR hasn't made this field a priority for the high school season. OPR has made a commitment to change the infield playing surface to all

screenings in lieu of the grass infield and red dirt, plus put in some drainage tile. We feel this will allow the high school teams to play on those days where pooling water has stifled us from playing in the past.

During the off-season, SFTHS plans to do the spraying, fertilizing, and seeding to enhance the field. The costs for the product will be split 50/50 between SFTHS and OPR. OPR will continue to be responsible for the mowing and purchase of the lime dust to line the field.

The total cost for fertilizer, seed, and spray for the fall and spring would be approximately \$800. This cost would be split 50/50 with OPR, making our costs about \$400 from fall 2019 through the end of spring 2020.