

**SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2020**

**2020 CONTINUES TO KEEP US ON OUR TOES**

SFTHS has made a few modifications to meet the demands of 2020 and COVID 19. Here are a few of them:

1. Temperature checks as you enter the building.
2. Face masks are required.
3. Breakfast/Lunch is served “old school.” Our lunch staff will be serving out of the kitchen like they did in the 90’s.
4. The commons area has a ton of tables spread out from end to end with not many chairs at each table.
5. When you enter the school in the morning, you may stop by your locker but will need to then report to the main gym or to the commons area to eat breakfast. Social distancing must occur.
6. The blue benches on the carpet and throughout the building have been put away.
7. Any extra furniture in classrooms has been removed.
8. The school day schedule is going to keep you on your toes this year. We are going to run a modified block schedule this year (Red and Blue Days are back!). Students will have all 7 classes on Monday and then Tuesday-Friday they will have a rotating block. Teachers have taken on each challenge with the new schedule and have a great plan in place to ensure a positive learning environment.

A few advantages of the modified block schedule:

1. Students will worry about fewer classes each day.
  2. Less passing times in the hallways.
  3. We have accommodated the lunch schedule to ensure social distance while eating.
  4. Time to get classwork completed.
9. Grades 6-12 will be using Summit Learning as their platform for their core classes.
  10. We have quite a few new classes this year. They include Geometry in Construction, Broadcast & Video Production, Culinary Spanish, Flexibility and Conditioning, Advanced PE/Weights, ACC Statistics, and ACC American Government.
  11. We’ll be cleaning desks/tables and other high touch surfaces after each class period.
  12. WU Tech students do not attend WU Tech every day. Part of their time is remote learning.

**BALANCING OUR REMOTE LEARNERS WITH IN-PERSON**

It has been a challenge for our teachers balancing both. I wish we had a better solution but right now we don’t.

**OVERBROOK ROTARY**

The Overbrook Rotary received a grant that will provide the high school with 1,200 cloth masks. We should receive them sometime in October.

### **T-SHIRT INCENTIVE MONEY**

I used proceeds from my annual football game hamburger/brat feed to provide every high school student with a cloth mask on the first day of school.

### **COUNSELOR CONNECTION**

Hi! I'm Melissa Strother. This is my 8th year working at SFTHS as a counselor. I'm so excited to be back to school after our long break. 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 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!

Welcome back! I'm Angela Black, and I am so happy to be continuing my career here on the Trail. This year I'll be at the high school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and at CAC on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Here is a little about me: I have three sons who either have or are attending schools in the district. My favorite thing to do is watch my kids and nieces and nephews do all the things they do. And that keeps me fairly busy! I also enjoy going on long walks on the beach looking for seashells, but since I live in Kansas, I settle for taking long walks in the woods looking for morel mushrooms or shed antlers. Deer season opens this month, so I'll be spending many upcoming weekends in a tree. Cooking is something else I really like and I find it super cool to make meals that incorporate food that I have harvested from our garden. This year has a lot of unknowns, but I know that we will get through it all together. All hail the Trail!

### **Other News from the Counselor's Corner**

We are excited to announce that SFTHS has access to a social worker through Drug Free Osage County. Her name is Kelly Hurla, and she will divide her time between SFT, Osage City, Lyndon, and Burlingame. Referral sheets will be available soon.

Hello, my name is Kelly Hurla. I am a licensed master's level social worker and addictions counselor. I graduated from Osage City High School. I received a bachelor of arts in mass media at Washburn University, working as a news editor before returning to Washburn for my MSW. I'm passionate about mental health and am excited to see mental health integrated in various settings. I feel strongly about working in schools and providing a safe space for students from all backgrounds and beliefs. I have worked in community mental health, most frequently working with individuals in crisis. I enjoy working with school-aged children and teenagers, adults with severe and persistent mental illness and those struggling with addiction. I strive to be solution-focused and offer a non-judgmental attitude. I value kindness and honesty. I love cats, horror movies and enjoy long walks to the fridge and back.

### **COVID MONEY FOR THE LMC**

NEKLS School Library Covid Relief Grant Offers Announced--Santa Fe Trail School Library Receives Covid Relief Grant

Santa Fe Trail High School Library was selected to participate in a Covid Relief grant program and was awarded \$2,000.

Schools were able to apply for up to \$5,000 in grant funds, to be used to offset the purchase of materials and/or technology to help ease the disruption COVID-19 caused in our education system.

In awarding grants, the selection committee prioritized three aspects:

- e-content (databases and ebooks)
- safety (materials for curbside/classroom book delivery, materials quarantine and social distancing)
- traditional library media (print books)

Santa Fe Trail High School Library intends to use the funding to provide ebooks and to provide for alternative seating to promote learning while social distancing.

According to Eric Lynch the school media specialist the additional funds will allow us to provide students additional options for reading material and provide flexible ways to make students comfortable while learning in the library.

The funding agency is Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS). Headquartered in Lawrence, NEKLS is a publicly-funded entity that supports 118 member libraries, including 51 schools and school districts, in the 14 counties of Northeast Kansas. Through strengthening member schools and libraries, NEKLS annually improves the education of 140,880 students in grades K-12 across the region.

The Northeast Kansas Library System Staff and Executive Board offered \$80,000 in competitive grants to school libraries that serve any combination of students aged K-12. In all, NEKLS received 47 grant applications from schools or districts. Grant offers were extended to 41 applicants, representing 51 schools in 18 districts.

“We are pleased to be able to help these 51 schools improve physical safety and digital library services to their students and to their faculty and staff. A vibrant library is vital to any school community,” said Laura DeBaun, Director of NEKLS.

Each proposal was unique, and NEKLS recognized that each school has unique needs. The program asks that school libraries use funds to the best effect for the learning and safety needs of each particular situation.

Grantees will be required to complete financial and narrative reports to assist NEKLS in evaluating this program.

### **Media contact information**

For more information on this grant program, contact Anna Foote, Youth and School Services Consultant for Northeast Kansas Library System; [afoote@nekls.org](mailto:afoote@nekls.org).

For more information on Santa Fe Trail School Library, contact Library Media Specialist Eric Lynch.

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

Athletic teams began practice on August 17<sup>th</sup>. 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. This year is certainly challenging in many ways. If you are able, I encourage you to come out and support our activities at home or away. The calendar has changed several times already on game times and locations. Please refer to the USD 434 live calendar before heading out to an event.

#### **Football**

The 2020 Charger Football Team consists of 51 players this year. Our Jamboree was canceled this year, but we played a Blue/White scrimmage on August 28<sup>th</sup>, with no fans present. The game was officiated so the Chargers got a taste of a game like experience. The varsity will play host to Prairie View on September 4<sup>th</sup> for their first game of the season. The JV and Freshmen teams will travel to Prairie View and Mission Valley High School respectively on Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, and the freshman again on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the varsity team will travel to Burlington to face the Wildcats.

#### **Volleyball**

Santa Fe Trail will start the season with a varsity tournament on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson West. The entire squad will host Louisburg and Kansas City-Piper on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. There are 17 volleyball players on the roster for 2020, which will allow for 2 levels of play.

#### **Girls Golf**

The Girl's Golf Team has had a great start to the season. The Chargers finished 2<sup>nd</sup> as a team at Jeff West's Invitational at Lake Perry, and also 2<sup>nd</sup> as a team at Ottawa. The squad consists of 7 golfers. Keep up the great work!

#### **Cross Country**

The Santa Fe Trail HS Cross Country roster consists of 8 girls and 8 boys this year. The team's first competition will be at Eudora on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Many Cross Country hosts have eliminated teams to lower numbers and exposure risks, which is why SFT is not running at Anderson County on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The time has changed for their competition in Wamego as they are having 4a-6aschools run at 8am, and 3a and below schools run at 11:15am

#### **Dance Team and Cheerleading**

The dance team has 9 members for the 2020-2021 school year. They provide entertainment at pep rallies, at the halftime of home games, and also compete in dance competitions during the school year.

SFTHS has 15 cheerleaders for the 2020-2021 school year. SFT welcomes new Head Coach Ashley Miles. The cheerleaders are excited to get the season underway and promote spirit at our football games.

### **Band**

The band is finally back together, but unfortunately will not be able to perform at the home opening football game. Because of no summer band, and only getting two classes before Friday the 4th, the Chargers will have to wait until 9/18 for their first halftime performance.

### **Musical**

The Musical process is underway and we are waiting on contracts regarding virtual performances. Stay tuned for more information!