

Santa Fe Trail Junior High School

November Family Newsletter
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Better Together!



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

We held our first Site Council meeting of the year and had wonderful parent participation. Highlights of our agenda included a review at the Santa Fe Trail BOE goals and an unveiling of how our SFTJH goals support the BOE goals. We took a look at our staff count and our student count by grade levels. Stepping up to take leadership roles on our Site Council are Amy Huzienga and Julie Smith. Moving forward we plan to invite community members who do not have students in our school district, local business owners, parents of students in all grade levels, and students who are not members of Student Council to join us. Please know Site Council meetings are open to everyone so feel free to join us. Our next meeting is on December 7th at 6:30 pm in our school library. Topics for future discussion include student achievement data, community service projects, booster club, student clubs, student voice and choice, Summit Learning student numbers, and ways in which our students make our school a better place.

The SFTJH building-wide goals are:

SFTJH will implement a positive behavior support system to promote social emotional wellness for students and staff.

SFTJH will implement consistent and positive communication that allows efficient collaboration across all levels in the building and the community.

Academic achievement goal is yet to be written by staff. More info ASAP.

Please be sure to read over the information about Student Council which falls under KSHSAA on page 2. The deadline for student application is this Friday.

At SFTJH we are devoted to providing a high-quality education to our young Chargers. We need parental support to reach the level of quality we all strive for each day. During our recent parent-teacher conferences we were ready to share academic and behavioral information on 100% of our students though only 65% of our students were represented by at least one parent during conferences. This is well below our goal of 90% participation and we are curious to know why. We will develop a survey in the coming weeks so that we can hear your voice on ways we can possibly restructure our schedule. We also want to gain insight into ways we can increase parent participation. The survey link will be shared via email and on our Facebook page. The real numbers for the October, 2021 conferences by grade level was:

Fourth Grade—94% Fifth Grade—89% Sixth Grade—47%

Seventh Grade—54% Eighth Grade—40% Total SFTJH—65%

Though I am new to our school it is incredibly obvious that everyone (parents, staff, students) want wonderful things to happen at school. I am confident that we can work together to increase parent participation in conferences. A great first step is looking at the participation data and developing a survey for parents. In the meantime, I very much appreciate hearing from parents. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at JTesta@usd434.us any time. I am here for you!

Jodi

Positive Office Referrals

Staff members have been busy noticing and celebrating positive student choices by writing positive office referrals. We are celebrating whole-class and individual endeavors in the following areas:

- ♦ Cooperation
- ♦ Highly Active Learners
- ♦ Eagerness to Give Effort
- ♦ Academic Success
- ♦ Ready and Willing to Learn
- ♦ Respect
- ♦ Self-Motivation
- ♦ Goal Focused

Whole-class acknowledgements are celebrated with a special treat from Ms. Testa and a 'shout-out' during our morning assembly. Individual acknowledgements are mailed home to families for your personal celebrations.

To celebrate a staff member send an email to JTesta@usd434.us. Celebrations of staff will be shared at our all-school morning assembly!



Our students man the concession stands at our home games and we are so very thankful for them!

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

We are off to a great year here on the trail. Volleyball ended their season with a whirlwind week of games, ending the season strong at the league tournament. Our cross country runners grew throughout their season, and consistently brought home medal after medal—notably Bryce Roberts has an affection for breaking records! To finish up our fall seasons, our football teams ended with 8th grade league champions and 7th grade splitting the wins with Prairie View to close things out.

Volleyball had a healthy team at just under thirty. Coach Washington didn't even hang her towel up from volleyball before she jumped into basketball with returning coaches Michelle Herren and Lizzy Olorunfemi. We have about the same number of wrestlers out on the mats with Coach Erickson, Coach Schmale, Coach Lyle, and our brand new assistant coach Gulk-er.

We have had some exciting home games with the basketball girls and are looking forward to quality showings from both basketball and wrestling. Pay attention to our social media as we have planned some special nights for concessions.

To participate in KSHSAA activities, including sports and KAY, students must maintain academic eligibility standards. Any student who has less than a 60% average, cumulative for the quarter, in more than two subjects will be ineligible for the next week. Weeks will run Sunday 6:00 a.m. through Sunday 5:59 a.m. Information about your child's academic grades can be found in PowerSchool. If you need support in accessing PowerSchool please do call our school office at 1.800.836.9525 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Mr. Bachura has been busy designing our Student Council which will involve one elected class representative from each class in grades 4 and 5 and one elected class representative from each 6, 7, and 8 grade homeroom. This will give us a total of 20 members of the Student Council from which members will elect a 7 or 8 grade officer for the following positions: president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary. To run for Student Council interested students will fill out and return an application to Mr. Bachura before 4:00 pm on Friday, November 5. The following week students will vote for their homeroom or classroom representative in a secret ballot manner which will include the child's application responses and not his/her name. Voting in this way will ensure the election is a purpose-driven election with a focus on improving our school. The 20-student list of Student Council representatives will be announced at our morning assembly on Tuesday, November 16. Student Council representatives will be required to maintain high academic and behavioral standards throughout the school year.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

LEARNING AT ITS FINEST

Focus Areas: Social Awareness, Relationship Skills

Please join us in celebrating these positive office referrals for staff provided by students to Ms. Testa.

I want to make an office referral to Ms. Jossierand because she is always nice to kids and she always helps us.

Ms. McKitterick is paying for kids who don't have enough money to buy books and I think that deserves a positive office referral.

Mrs. Washington is always nice. She understands works and makes it fun.

Thank you, Ms. Testa, for being a nice principal and for making Wednesday's more exciting.

Mrs. Fuller is always so kind, and always listens to what I'm saying. She is also understanding and is never in a bad mood.

Mrs. Zheng always helps me when I don't understand the lesson. She is kind and caring.

Ms. Christi (Eastman) helps us. She is nice and funny. She is the best!

Mr. Prost is always by our side and he is really nice.

I believe Ms. Bauske should get a positive office referral because I tell her about things and she congratulates me. She is fun to be around.

Ms. Mason helped us put on an awesome concern. She is always nice.

Nurse Sam deserves this for being nice, kind, respectful, and always helpful.

Mr. Bachura makes learning fun!

Ms. Vandevord is always nice and she never yells either.

Mrs. Wallace is patient when we don't understand the new lesson. She helps us go over our work.

Mrs. Burget is very nice. She keeps us in line and helps me keep my grades up.

Mr. Fordham is a great teacher and makes learning fun!

Ms. Chelsie (Masters) is always a hard working person. She is kind to me and all the students. She is always calm.

Our cooks make amazing food and it tastes delicious!

NEWS FROM SCHOOL NURSE—MRS. CAROTHERS

September saw the start of our Test to Stay, Learn, Play, and Participate policy. Children identified as close contacts or those returning after home quarantine from a positive household member are given the option to stay in school during their 10-day quarantine period by masking and having a rapid antigen test performed daily. This policy has been successful in allowing multiple students the ability to stay in class and participate in sports during their modified quarantine.

Fall has arrived and with that allergies are bothering many of our children. Cold and flu season is quickly approaching as well and this can make identifying COVID19 symptoms difficult. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has listed the common symptoms found with COVID-19, colds, the flu, and allergies to help in differentiating symptoms. While this is a great resource, keep in mind that seeking your doctor's advice is always the best route.

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
FEVER	Common (100F or higher)	Rare	High (100-102F), can last 3-4 days	No
HEADACHE	Sometimes	Rare	Intense	Sometimes
GENERAL ACHES, PAINS	Sometimes	Slight	Common, often severe	No
FATIGUE, WEAKNESS	Sometimes	Slight	Common, often severe	Sometimes
EXTREME EXHAUSTION	Sometimes (progresses slowly)	Never	Common (starts early)	No
STUFFY NOSE	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
SNEEZING	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
SORE THROAT	Rare	Common	Common	No
COUGH	Common	Mild to moderate	Common, can become severe	Sometimes
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	In more serious infections	Rare	Rare	Common
RUNNY NOSE	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
DIARRHEA	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No

Source: KDHE

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

This month Ms. Fuller has been continuing her mindfulness series and has been teaching our students a little bit more about how our brains work, grow, and develop. The students were introduced to neuroplasticity. We hope to continue to learn more about how to be proactive in our decision making and how to have more positive interactions with peers. She continues to work with students one-on-one and in small groups to discuss how to become better friends and better students.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be moving on to learning how to "think win-win." With our students in fourth and fifth grades, that means being able to recognize our feelings as they come up. The ability to utilize useful coping

skills and learning how to be our own self-advocate is a major goal for our school this year. With the students in grades 6-8 we will learn to work with everyone (not just our friends) efficiently in order to achieve academic and social success. Our students will be able to see their school as a cooperative arena where we support one another all day.

Ms. Fuller is available to parents at MFuller@usd434.us. Feel free to reach out to share celebrations and concerns.

