

Santa Fe Trail Junior High School

March, 2022 Family Newsletter
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Better Together!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Whether you watch the groundhog or the lion and the lamb, March has very rapidly come upon us at school. We have been enjoying the time we get to spend outside and look forward to longer days with sunshine and warmer temps to come. Students and staff alike feel the season changing and it is refreshing! Outside recess and class sessions held outdoors give us the opportunity to get a little vitamin D therapy.)

With the season changing we are taking final strides in preparation for state assessments in grades 4-8. Students in grades 4-8 will all take the state reading and math assessments. Fifth grade students will also take the state science assessment while seventh grade students will also take the state social studies assessment. Each assessment will consist of two test parts which will take approximately 45 minutes for each part. As we finish the testing dates/times I will email those to parents/guardians with a request for you to support these important tests by making sure your children get a little extra rest, hydration, and nutrition before and during the testing timeframes.

With the warmer temps upon us I am sure most of our Charger family members find themselves rummaging through closets in search of shorts for the season. Spring is always when it was obvious to me that my own children had grown because the shorts always showed more leg than I remembered showing the last summer. Please do know that our students need to wear shorts that cover their entire bottom. We also require their shorts to show below the top/shirt.

Parent-teacher conferences at Santa Fe Trail Junior High will be held on 3/28 and 3/29 from 4:00-7:00 pm. In October we met with 61% of our families. We hope to significantly increase parental participation this time. Please fill out this survey to help us with our planning. The survey will be open through Wednesday, 3/9.

<https://forms.gle/BoqpYAWZxBKcg5R77>

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!



MUSIC IN THE NEWS!

Our fifth graders presented "Go Green," a musical performance under the direction of Kara Mason.

With more and more events coming back since the beginning of the pandemic, the 7th and 8th grade band students will be performing at League Band in Burlington on March 31st! This will be a tremendous experience for the students to experience and all are welcome to attend the evening concert at 7:00pm. A note went home with your students earlier in the week with more details, but if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact McKenzie Rice or Lance Quilling.

Counseling Corner

This month, we have been asked to participate in a Drug Free Osage County initiative where our 4th and 5th graders will participate in activities to encourage our high schoolers to make safe and smart decisions around prom and graduation. This week we have been writing notes to them about not texting and driving, not drinking or vaping, and not using drugs or tobacco. We have also been centering our regular guidance lessons around Kindness Week and respectful communication with peers. As for our junior high friends, I continue to expand my small group sessions, teach coping skills, and have assisted teachers in getting our students to feel successful and confident going into state testing.

Please watch for an email with information regarding ordering a yearbook!

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

February is a slower month. Things get a little gray and drawn out, even though the month is short. Our Chargers have been going strong for several months now, so a little rest is well-earned. We close down our winter activities and prepare for the spring to come.

Boys basketball roared to a close midway through the month. Shout out to Isaiah Jones for the most exciting shot of the season: a three point buzzer beater that won the game... the last game of the season. Thank you to our coaches, Chris Prost, Rob Colvin, Chris Gulker, and Sam Hendee for the time they put into the basketball program.

Each morning we gather for announcements in the gym. Recently, we have had time for students from Cyndee Washington's Charger Time to share their STEM activity with us--a robot that they code to do moves to music of their choice. It has been fun to see them show off with the entire school to cheer them on.

Scholar's Bowl competed in a virtual League Tournament hosted by Iola on Tuesday, March 1st. They have had two other virtual meets and one in person competition. Scholar's Bowl provides a special competitive opportunity for students to showcase their trivia knowledge. Think of it like real-life game show competition for students. Coaches [Tiffany Burget](#) and [Ashley Michaelis](#) have had success so far in their maiden voyages into Scholar's Bowl, we are proud of all their work.

Track season will be upon us very soon. Eric Lynch and [Angie Portlock](#) are returning as head coaches. [Lizzy Olorunfemi](#) and [Cyndee Washington](#) will be assisting. There will be a 7th grade Track Orientation followed by a Parent Meeting on March 9th, and a 8th grade Track Orientation followed by a Parent Meeting on March 10th. Practices will be held at the high school and will officially begin on March 21st. Keep an eye out for more information through School Messenger notices and in our grade level newsletters.