

Santa Fe Trail Junior High School

April, 2022 Family Newsletter
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Better Together!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

It's difficult to believe though we are 75% finished with this school year. I truly hope time slows down because I love the days I get with your children! Thank you for trusting me with them and please know I am here to support students, staff, and families. Feel free to reach out any time.

Along with April comes Kansas State Assessments for all students in grades 4-8 at SFTJH. In fact, at this very time, I am in Mrs. Wallace's classroom supporting the sixth grade students on their state English Language Arts assessments. Of course, I cannot help them. My role is simply to tell them "I believe in you." I wish everyone could see what I see right now. Our Chargers are relaxed and confident, doing their very best, and making us proud. While state assessment results do matter, we all know working hard and caring about others will take us all well on our way to success in adulthood. Today I see caring attitudes and hard workers in this classroom. I am proud and am sure you would be, too. Students will finish up state assessments through the month of April.

Summer school is just around the corner. Next week staff will begin identifying students who need summer school and personally inviting them to come. If your child receives a personal invitation, I sure hope you can make arrangements for him/her to attend. We will have summer school for students each day between 5/31-6/17 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Breakfast and lunch will be included. After we attempt to enroll specific students we will fill empty desks with students whose parents request they be enrolled. To request enrollment, please call our school office after 4/19. The remaining summer school desks will be filled on a first come basis.

Eighth grade promotion will take place at 7:00 p.m. on May 13. Please watch for emails to come with more information. To walk in the promotion, eighth grade students need to have a \$0 account balance. Please call the office if you need more information.

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!

NURSE NOTES

Don't forget to enroll your child for our FREE school-based dental program, including dental exams, X-rays, dental cleanings, dental sealants, fluoride and fillings! This program is optional for anyone without a primary dentist or anyone who has not been seen by a dentist in the last six months for regular routine dental care. We accept enrollment forms all year, but to ensure they receive services at the upcoming clinic, please submit consents as soon as possible. Forms are available in the school office or through the online secure forms at the following link <https://heartlandhealth.org/services/>. You may also print the attached form and return to the school nurse or directly to the Healthy Futures Coordinator, Amanda, at the following: healthyfutures@heartlandhealth.org.

Healthy Futures accepts Medicaid, commercial insurance, and the uninsured. There is **NO COST** to you even if your child is uninsured or not fully covered through commercial insurance. This program is open to all students, no restrictions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda at 785-841-7297, ext. 5601

(We still need 2 more students to hold the clinic.)

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Wooooo! A snow day in March and right before Spring break. What a way to kick off the spring activity season!

We have about 75 students out for track at this time. It's great to have big numbers, and their coaches are happy to have all they can get. Our coaches are Eric Lynch (head boys), Angie Portlock (head girls), [Lizzy Olorunfemi](#), [Cyndee Washington](#), and Emily Roberts. Due to the snow day, they may have missed some of you due to a canceled parent meeting. If you have any questions, email Mr. Lynch at elynch@usd434.us or Ms. Portlock at aportlock@usd434.us and they will be able to help you out. Our first meets are this week in Wellsville and at home on Thursday, 4/7.

Ms. Ashley Michaelis and Ms. Kim Dayhoff just returned from State FBLA with our junior high chapter. The students performed very well! Top finishers were:

Critical Thinking Team Event	3rd	Addy Michaelis, Abby Lyda, & Claire Greenfield
Career Exploration	1st	Brynna Perry
Career Exploration	2nd	Gretchen Huizenga
Digital Citizenship	3rd	Gretchen Huizenga
Exploring Computer Science	3rd	Savanna Craig
Exploring Technology	2nd	Gretchen Huizenga
FBLA Concepts	1st	Gretchen Huizenga
Financial Literacy	2nd	Gretchen Huizenga
Running and Effective Meeting	2nd	Claire Greenfield

Counseling Corner

This month Ms. Fuller's guidance lessons will focus on the differences between bullying, conflict, and mean moments. She is also teaching strategies to deal with testing anxiety to better prepare our students for state testing. It is important to remember that if we set the bar high with our expectations for academic greatness, our students will almost always meet them. Research shows that social-emotional competency and academics go hand-in-hand. A study I recently read shows that improvement in social-emotional skills can cause students to leap grade levels when it comes to math and reading.

As we look forward to May, Ms. Fuller is enjoying our last few days with our 8th grade class. In transitioning to high school, it's important to remember that our students are capable of greatness that can be derived from the opportunities that high school provides. Some of them will go out for sports, be in the school musical, learn to drive, and learn life-changing lessons about what it means to be a kind and productive citizen of the world. Ms. Fuller's hope as the school counselor is that our amazing staff, has laid the foundation for success.