

Santa Fe Trail Junior High School

October Family Newsletter
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You Belong Here!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

On behalf of the SFTJH staff I officially welcome you to the 22/23 school year. We're off at a fast pace and have zoomed right into October. Time sure flies when you're having fun! This is a very full month with four main happenings. We hope you can join us as much as possible.

October 10—We will host an outdoor movie night for our SFTJH students complete with popcorn and Kool-Aid. Students are encouraged to bring their own jacket/coat and chair or blanket as it may be a bit chilly. We will gather on the playground just in time for the movie to start at 7:00 pm. Pick up time will be 8:30 pm sharp. This will get staff and students home for a good night's sleep.

October 25 and 26—See newsletter article with all the details pertaining to parent-teacher conferences.

October 28—4th and 5th grade students may bring Halloween costumes to school to put on for the Halloween parade in our school and in the community. Costumes should be G-rated, meaning there is nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence or other matters that would offend parents whose younger children are present. Costumes should be easy to walk in and easy to see out of so everyone is safe. Save the face paint for Halloween night so students can easily and quickly put their own costumes on at school. For more information look for information from your child's teacher. Students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes will have Halloween fun as determined by their teaching teams though they will not wear costumes or face paint to school. Let's save that as a special time to celebrate our younger Chargers!

October 31 through November 4—We will have our book fair set up in the school library. We have been asking students to volunteer to do some extra chores at home to earn money for them to spend at the book fair. Participation is family choice. The hours for the book fair are 8:00 am—3:40 pm.

November 2—SFTJH Site Council Meeting at 6:00 pm in our school library. Site councils exist to monitor school performance, assess needs, set priorities, identify issues and barriers, make recommendations, and advocate for equal education for all children. This year our site council will be comprised of parents, local business community members, staff, school administrators, and students. Parents, students, staff, and business community members can become involved by emailing JTesta@usd434.us. Please include your full name and phone number in the email. Our first meeting will be held on November 2 at 6:00 pm. At this meeting we will establish our meeting calendar for the rest of the school year based on the availability of our members.

I love having families in the school. You can come volunteer, join us for lunch, and even sit in on classes. You belong here!

Jodi Testa

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:

- ◆ Ready
- ◆ Respectful
- ◆ Responsible

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!



ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Past Month:

Our volleyball team recently capped off their season by competing in the Pioneer League tournament in Burlington on October 1st. 7th grade finished 5th place in the league with a regular season record of 2-4, while 8th grade finished 2nd place with a 3-3 record. The girls got better each week as the season went on and we are proud of our Chargers!

Cross Country has had an exciting season to this point, with several students setting new personal best times. New school records have been set on 3 different occasions. Lea Roberts originally set a new 7th grade girls school record on September 1st with a time of 14:50, only to break that record 3 weeks later with a time of 14:03. On September 15, Kale Roberts set a new 7th grade boys record as well with a time of 12:07.

Football is preparing to finish their season by playing their final home game next Tuesday, October 11 at 4pm against Prairie View. The teams will finish their seasons the following week with the 7th Grade Bowl game at Anderson County on October 17, and the 8th Grade Bowl at Wellsville on October 18. Both games will kick off at 4pm. The 8th grade team currently holds a 3-2 record, while 7th grade is 5-0.

Upcoming:

Girls Basketball is underway with practices starting this week. The turnout for the team is positive with 32 girls currently participating. The girls will tip off their season on Thursday, October 20 at Burlington.

Wrestling season is right around the corner. Practices will begin on October 24th at Santa Fe Trail HS. Our team will consist of both boys and girls. If you have a 7th or 8th grade student interested in wrestling, now is the time to ensure they have all forms turned into the office prior to the start of practice. Contact Mr. Hershberger if you have any questions.

Our 7th and 8th grade choir will perform at the Junior High League Choir concert in Anderson County on October 19. The concert will begin at 7pm.

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.

SFTJH SCHOOL GOALS

1. SFTJH STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE 10% ACADEMIC GROWTH FROM LEVEL 1 TO LEVEL 2 AS EVIDENCED ON STATE ELA, MATH, AND SCIENCE ASSESSMENTS.
2. SFTJH WILL IMPROVE THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT SYSTEM TO PROMOTE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF.
3. CAC STAFF WILL DECREASE OUR SAEBRS HIGH RISK GROUP STUDENT NUMBERS BY 5% BEFORE THE END OF THE 22/23 SCHOOL YEAR.
4. By May 2023, CAC STAFF WILL DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF A MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT (MTSS) FRAMEWORK THAT USES COMMON AND RELIABLE DATA TO PROVIDE MATH AND READING INSTRUCTION THAT IS RESEARCH-BASED AND DIFFERENTIATED TO MEET THE LEARNING NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS. THIS IMPLEMENTATION WILL DECREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING TIER 2 AND TIER 3 SERVICES IN GRADES 4-8 BY 15 PERCENT.

WAYS PARENTS CAN SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS

1. Write a positive office referral. See sidebar on page 1.
2. Consistently follow your child's academic progress via PowerSchool or hold your child accountable to debrief you on his/her academic progress. Call or email your questions to the teacher involved in the subject.
3. Provide a portion of a sandwich meal and a Casey's pizza meal for staff working 11-hour days during parent-teacher conferences. Sign up here. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoF4CAAAD2FA2F8C43-sftjh>
4. Shout out to all of the parents who have donated items from our 'Giving Tree.' If you have not seen our tree yet, we have apples you can pick with items we are wanting for our staff and students. Those donations will be used throughout the year to spread some joy! If you are interested in donating here are some items we are asking for...

Paper plates—any size

Plastic forks/spoons

Napkins

Granola bars

Bagged snacks like chips, peanuts, pretzels,

Keurig coffee pods

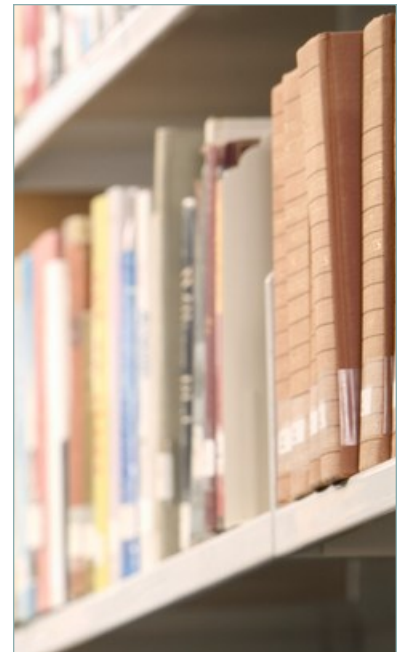
To go coffee cups w/ lids

Bags of candy

Cocoa packets

Sweetener packets

WELCOME OFFICE MANAGER SHELLEY SCHMALE



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Our parent-teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 25 and 26 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Teachers of students in 4th and 5th grades will hold scheduled meetings with families while teachers of students in 6th, 7th, 8th, and electives classes will hold meetings on a drop in basis.

Parent-teacher conferences are designed to help you understand what your child is learning at school, their progress both academically and social-emotionally, and what you can do to support them. They are also designed to provide you an opportunity to share input you have regarding your child as his/her first educator. Every child has strengths and focus areas. Parent-teacher conferences give you and the teacher time to plan how you can both help them best.

We encourage our students to attend each parent-teacher conference and to be an active participant in the conference, too. We purposefully do not hold any after school activities on parent-teacher conference days so our students can be available to attend.

Teachers are already preparing for confer-

ences. Below are some questions you might consider asking your child's teachers and some points we would appreciate knowing from you. Of course, feel free to bring your own questions!

1. How will you respond when my child struggles or excels in class?
2. What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
3. How can we further support our child's school success at home?
4. How are creativity and innovative thinking used in your classroom?
5. What am I not asking but should be?
6. My child's strengths are _____.
7. My child enjoys _____.
8. My child struggles with _____.
9. My child's hopes are _____.
10. Hopes I have for my child include _____.
11. You might be surprised to know my child _____.

