A dark silhouette of a covered wagon pulled by two mules is positioned on top of a stone wall. The background is a clear blue sky with some green foliage visible on the left and right sides. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting a dusk or dawn setting.

December Newsletter

# Santa Fe Trail High School



by Kyle Ellis

SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL



# Principal's Message

Dear Students, Staff, and Parents,

As we approach the end of the first semester, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your hard work and dedication. Our students have shown remarkable resilience and determination, and I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

As we enter this busy time of year, please continue to support our students both academically and by attending their events. Your presence and encouragement make a significant difference in their lives. Be sure to stay connected to keep up with what is going on at Santa Fe Trail High School!

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Website](#)

To our students, please continue to work hard and stay focused on completing your Fall semester courses successfully. Your efforts now will set the stage for a strong finish to the semester and an encouraging start to the Spring semester. Use winter break to reflect on goals and prepare for your next semester. Consider setting academic goals that will push you and your efforts toward your post-secondary endeavors.

I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating winter break. Please stay safe and healthy. I hope you are able to spend quality time with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you back on campus, refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges of the new year.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Kyle Ellis



# Classroom Highlights

## Art

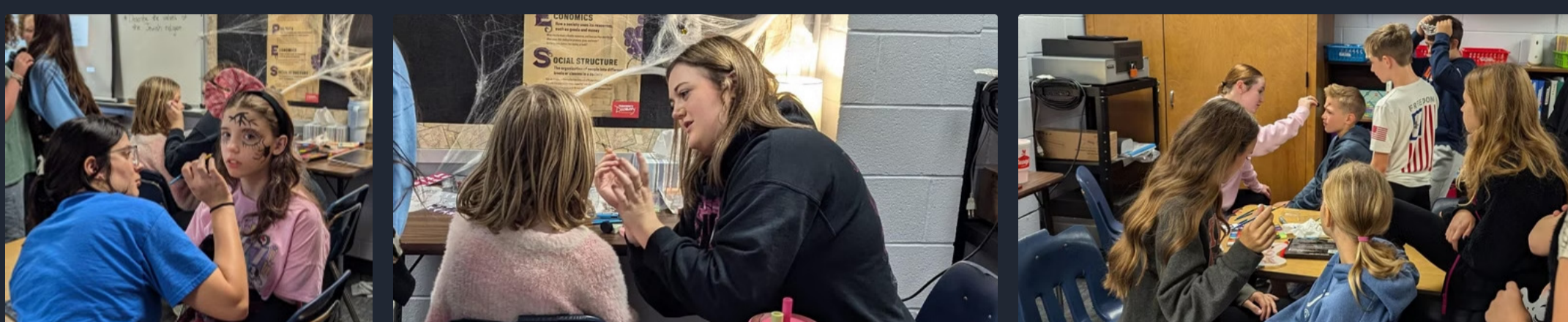
Chargers! Where did the semester go? It has been an amazing year thus far!

Please check out all the FANTASTIC artwork classes created this semester during The Fine and Practical Arts Show on Dec. 12th, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the SFTHS in the Commons and Art Studio 120.

Nov. 15th Advanced Students to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art



Thank you to Morgan, Eva, Emma, and Shelby for helping out CAC at their Fall Festive by painting faces. (Photo's thanks to Mrs. Lattimer)



You can also check us out online at SFTHS Art Department Facebook Page



## Artsonia

The HOLIDAYS are coming! I have uploaded over 425 pieces of art. Support your student and the Art Dept. in one-stop shopping for unique gifts with students' artwork on them. Artsonia donates 20% of your purchases to the SFTHS Art Department. December 11th- Last Minute Stocking Stuffers, 2023 Holiday Shipping Deadlines (December 16th-Last Day Standard Delivery Services, December 19th - Last Day Express Delivery Service). Check it out at <https://www.artsonia.com/>

## Art Calendar of Events

- Dec. 12th end of semester Fine Arts & Practical Arts Show 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the SFTHS

As our semester wraps up a SPECIAL thank you to all the students who have participated in Art and everyone who helps the Art room function properly throughout the semester.

Have a fantastic winter break! See you in the New Year! Cheers, Mrs. Kitten

## Yearbook

Yearbook staff are hard at work putting together spreads from fall sports and activities. First drafts have been submitted and now we work on refining and building more spreads.



3 Important Yearbook Things:

1. Books are the lowest they'll be all year. Get a form from Mrs. Smith, or order online at [jostens.com](http://jostens.com).
2. Senior tributes are now on sale. Emails went out to all senior parents, if you need more information, or have questions, email [jsmith@usd434.us](mailto:jsmith@usd434.us).
3. Follow us on Instagram and TikTok! @the\_charger\_yearbook

## Graphic Design

Have you ever thought about how typography is used in your daily life? Looked at a font choice for a particular design and wondered why they used it? This is exactly what Graphic Design students have been exploring in our most recent unit. Font types say something to readers and good designers use this to their advantage to communicate ideas better visually. Type is everywhere and an awareness for how type is used is foundational for designers.

Generally graphic design students are immersed in design software, like Photoshop, to create but for this exercise we broke out the glue sticks, scissors, and magazines searching for use of fonts in four main categories of typography: serif, sans serif, decorative, and script.



Students then used Photoshop to design their own magazine covers, applying the principles of design, color relationships, and typography.

## INFAMOUS CRIMES AND CRIMINALS

The SFT Crimes class observed felony court proceedings on December 2nd in Lyndon. Students were able to visit, ask questions and observe Judge Wine and the staff of Osage County Court. The class would like to thank all of those involved as they learned about the judicial process. They look forward to visiting again in the Spring.







# Athletics/Activities Director Message

As the first semester comes to a close, there is much to be thankful for at Santa Fe Trail High School.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our coaches, sponsors, teachers, support staff, and parents who continually support our students in their pursuit of success.

This school year started strong with a successful fall season full of exciting activities and athletic accomplishments. Now, as winter approaches, we look forward to kicking off basketball games, wrestling matches, and other events starting the first week of December.

If you have the opportunity, please visit the **Palace on the Prairie** to cheer on and support all of our students. Your presence makes a difference!

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. ***Go Chargers!***

**Kris Henry**





# Activities Highlights

## Choir

Congratulations to the FOUR Santa Fe Trail High School Choir students that qualified to be a part of the ECKMEA District Honor Choirs. We are so proud of them for showing their hard work and commitment to music, and can't wait to see them perform with over 200 of the best singers from the area in the Honor Choir Festival at Shawnee Mission Northwest on December 7th. Congratulations to Annabella Torneden, Katrina Drury, Cassandra Goodrich, and Lillian Barnes! Way to go Chargers!



SFTHS Choirs have been working hard in the second quarter, and we are so excited to see the growth within our program this year! They are now working on music to perform at our Holiday Concert, which is on Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 PM in the SFTHS Auditorium. Join us for a wonderful evening of festive music to showcase our amazing singers here at Trail, and get you in the Holiday Spirit before Winter Break! We hope you can make it out! Admission is FREE!

## Band

The high school band and jazz band have been working extremely hard for their upcoming winter concert! Our performance will be on Wednesday, December 18th 7:00 PM in the Auditorium. We also have the amazing opportunity to feature Dr. Craig Treinen from Washburn University on jazz saxophone during this performance. Lastly, we would like to congratulate Ainsley Johnson, Isaiah McFreeen, Brian Llamas, Lucy Hatfield, Dana Mohler, Jill Mohler, Skylar Boggs, Vanessa Roberts, and Brynna Perry on auditioning and making our district honor band! They will be performing at Blue Valley High School on Saturday, December 7th beginning at 2:45 PM.

## Musical

Our fall musical, "All Shook Up," was a resounding success! Audiences were captivated by the electrifying performances, vibrant choreography, and toe-tapping Elvis classics that brought the story to life. A heartfelt congratulations to the talented cast and dedicated crew for creating such a memorable production.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support live theater and celebrate our students' hard work and creativity. Stay tuned for our next show—we can't wait to see you in the audience again!

*Photos by Yearbook Staffer Hanna Eamigh*



## FBLA

In November's chapter meeting members had a proper handshake and introduction demonstration with time for members to practice. Besides being an important life skill, a solid introduction and handshake is the first step to success in competitive FBLA events. Trail's own Tyler Bolt will organize the district conference in his role as Kansas FBLA District VII Vice President held at Washburn University on January 29. If you're interested in volunteering as an event judge, test monitor, time keeper, or prep room monitor please contact Tyler at [ksfbldistrict7@gmail.com](mailto:ksfbldistrict7@gmail.com).



FBLA Learn to Lead Conference in Oklahoma City was a fun and educational trip for 14 of our members. This conference was organized by SFT alum Brian Ferrell who owns a successful event production company, Factor 110. Megan (Smith) Muir, another SFT alum, spoke on a panel about American Enterprise. Students visited the OKC Memorial and Museum, took in a Thunder game, and heard speakers like Bailey Rae from The Voice, and author Diana Rogers Jaeger who spoke on confidence.



We also hosted a benefit dodgeball tournament, donating all proceeds to the Alzheimer's Association. We had 84 participants compete in the tournament and raised \$252 for the Alzheimer's Association. Team D.O.B. defeated the competition to take home this year's champion title. Left to Right: Gavyn Smith, Hunter French, Breylan Gleason, Jalen Smith, Alex Strother, Owen Lattimer, and Layton Lind.



FBLA members assisted Santa at the Carbondale Library's Christmas in Carbondale event.

## Scholars Bowl

The scholars bowl team is nearing completion of their season. Twenty six members make up the varsity and junior varsity teams. The season culminates with a league competition at Anderson County High School on Wednesday, January 13, 2025 starting at 4:00.

If you'd like to check out a scholars bowl meet, Santa Fe Trail is hosting a junior varsity meet on Wednesday, December 11th. It starts at 4:30 and spectators are welcome. Come support your Chargers!

## KAY Club

### Regional Conference

Four members of the SFTHS KAY Club attended the Area 1 KAY Regional Conference on November 8th in Olathe. The club received the Gold Award (the highest), recognizing their student leadership and service to their school, community, nation and world for the 2024-25 school year.

The Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) is a character-building, leadership training program directed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. This nationally acclaimed organization provides students an opportunity to learn to assume their citizenship responsibilities and to enrich their personalities through well organized programs. These programs emphasize four areas of service: school, community, nation and world.

The theme for the 2024 Regional Conference was "Waves of Service." This conference affords opportunities for student leaders and sponsors from neighboring clubs to share successes and challenges as well as exchange ideas. Sessions in leadership training and organizational skills are also offered. These conferences inspire delegates to return to their clubs to challenge their local members. Local KAY members attending this conference included: Emma Neely, Isaiah McFreeen, Trevor Moreno, Lilly Barnes. Six Santa Fe Trail Junior High members also attended. Accompanying the group was Mrs. Mary Burgett, the club's sponsor.

### Blood Drive

Kay Club hosted their annual blood drive on Monday, November 11th in the Santa Fe Trail gymnasium. The Community Blood Center collected 18 units of blood from dozens of community members, students and staff. There were 11 first time donors. Thank you to everyone who participated - you saved lives!

### Mitten Tree

In mid December, Kay Club will be sponsoring a mitten tree at Santa Fe Trail High School. Anyone can help decorate the tree. New or **gently used** items are acceptable and include not just hats, but mittens, scarves, blankets, bedding or any WARM clothing. New socks can also be donated. Donate those in need and donate to the KAY Club Mitten Tree today!

### Clean Up Crew

Kay members and sponsor Mary Burgett, performed a valuable community service project to assist the custodial staff at SFTHS. Each day following the "All Shook Up" Musical on November 15th, 16th, and 17th, KAY members cleaned up the auditorium. On Saturday night, KAY members stayed until 11:00 PM to be sure it was ready for Sunday's performance. Way to go, Chargers!





# SFT WRESTLING

## Athletics Highlights

### Wrestling

December marks the beginning of girls and boys wrestling. Thirty-six boys and 17 girls will make up the wrestling teams at Santa Fe Trail. The Chargers hosted a season opening on Wednesday, December 4th for varsity girls and junior varsity boys. Teams from Holton, Iola, Osage City, Ottawa, Perry-Lecompton, Prairie View, Silver Lake, and Turner participated in this kick-off.

While SFT will host a girls duals tournament on Saturday, December 14th, the first official season home opener for all wrestlers is Friday, December 20th versus Holton. It promises to be an exciting night showcasing all levels of boys and girls wrestling. We hope to see you there!

If you're looking for some Charger Wrestling fan gear, check out these two links below. Some items are wrestling specific and some have just the Charger logo. It has a pretty quick turnaround time of 7-10 days. Some items are still being added. This store will never close, it will remain open all school year. Items ship to you directly.

<https://santafetrailwrestling.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

<https://bluechipathletic.com/collections/santa-fe-trail-wrestling>

### Basketball

SFTHS basketball season got underway the first week of December. Both boys and girls basketball teams participated in a jamboree with Mission Valley and Lebo on Tuesday, December 3rd. The Chargers first home opener for basketball will be December 6th against Osawatomie. The next home games will not be until January 17th, so come out and support Santa Fe Trail's boys and girls basketball teams.

#### Little Charger Clinic

The basketball team will be hosting a Little Charger Basketball Clinic on both Saturday, December 7th and Saturday, December 21st at the Santa Fe Trail High School. It runs from 9:00-10:00 AM both days. Admission is free for all boys and girls in 1st through 6th grades. Come learn some basketball skills and have some fun!

### Football

The Football team finished their 2024 season with a record of 5-4, including three wins in a row, before falling in the first round of the playoffs to Perry-Lecompton.

The following players received Pioneer All League honors:

Alex Strother - First Team Offensive Linemen

Blake Slavin - First Team Defensive Back

Trevir Hinck - First Team Safety/Linebacker

Trenton Ditty - First Team Defensive Linemen

Julion Daniels - Second Team Running Back

Alex Strother - Second Team Defensive Linemen

The team will wrap up the season with a football banquet on Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 PM at SFT HS. Dinner at 5:00 PM in the Commons, then we will move to the Auditorium for awards. Each family is asked to bring a main dish and a side dish.

# CHARGERS



SFT

## Student Services

Attention all students who are considering post-secondary education for next year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open. Follow the link to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to get started.

If you are having trouble completing your FAFSA, the helpline information is below.

New Contact Center Hours for FAFSA: Early reports are that wait times have been averaging less than 1 minute.

- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
- Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.–10 p.m. Eastern time (ET) – for FAFSA
- Saturdays, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. ET
- Sunday: Closed
- Closed on all federal holidays

# Special Announcement

## Ireland or Bust

Calling all SFT students in 8th grade and up!

Have you ever wanted to see the world and experience another culture firsthand? Well now you can! Pack your bags. We are off to Ireland in summer 2026! Bring yourself and your parents to an in-person information session on December 10th at 6 PM to learn more about this tour to Ireland and how you can be a part of it. Your family can RSVP here: <https://rsvp.eftours.com/cvdpvst> See you all soon!

- Jessica Nicholson





# from the Nurse's Office

Charger Families,

As we continue to move through the fall and into the winter season, I wanted to take a moment and review the Santa Fe Trail Sick/Exclusion Policy for students/staff as we are seeing an increased number of individuals with flu/cold like symptoms.

Most common symptoms being seen are (but not limited to)

- Fever
- Chills
- Fatigue & weakness
- Cough
- Wheezing
- Runny or Stuffy Nose
- Headache
- Chest Discomfort &/or Congestion
- Decreased appetite
- Muscle/Body Aches
- Sore Throat
- Sneezing
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea



All district building nursing offices continue to have onsite Rapid COVID/Flu A&B tests available for students, staff and community members. We also have a large supply of OTC Home testing kits that can be sent home upon request. Unfortunately, we no longer are able to offer Strep Testing.

The full policy is posted on the school website, but a few quick reminders:

Students and staff can return to school with:

- Overall Symptom improvement
- Fever free without use of fever reducing medications for 24hours
- Symptom free after a positive COVID/Flu test
- Vomit/Diarrhea free for 24 hours without use of medications
- Able to conduct daily routine in the classroom

If you have any questions or would like to be tested or obtain home tests, please contact one of the nursing offices.



# Hello December

## Upcoming Events

The school calendar is full of exciting events for December! Following the holiday season, classes will resume on January 8th.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	<a href="#">SAC PreK Picture Retakes</a> <a href="#">OAC Picture Retakes</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:V/JV Boys BB</a> <a href="#">Jamboree at SFT both Gyms</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:V/JV Girls BB</a> <a href="#">Jamboree at Lebo</a>	<a href="#">4:00pm:JV B and G Wrestling Tournament at SFT</a> <a href="#">7:00pm:7th/8th Band &amp; Choir Concert @ CAC</a>	<a href="#">4:00pm:V Scholars Bowl at Lyndon</a> <a href="#">6:00pm:OAC Kindergarten Winter Concert</a> <a href="#">7:00pm:OAC First Grade Winter Concert</a>	<a href="#">NO PK CLASSES - Screening @ SAC</a> <a href="#">2:00pm:V B Wr at Spring Hill Duals</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS BB at SFT vs Osawatomie</a>	<a href="#">ECKMEA Festival @ SMNW</a> <a href="#">ECKMEA District Honor Ensembles</a> <a href="#">9:00am:JV B and G Wr at Highland Park Tourn.</a> <a href="#">8:00pm:NHS Winter Formal</a>
9	<a href="#">4:00pm:JH Girls Wrestling @ Wellsville</a>	<a href="#">6:00pm:HS BB at West Franklin (Central Heights Tournament)</a>	<a href="#">3:00pm:HS BB at West Franklin (Central Heights Tournament)G</a> <a href="#">3:00 and B 4:30</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Girls Wrestling @ Osawatomie</a> <a href="#">5:30pm:V B Wr at Holcomb Dual</a> <a href="#">6:00pm:HS Fine and Practical Arts Show</a>	<a href="#">V HS BB at Central Heights Tournament</a> <a href="#">2:00pm:V B Wr at Colby 2 Day Tournament</a>	<a href="#">V HS BB at Central Heights Tournament</a> <a href="#">C Team Boys BB at Wellsville Tournament</a> <a href="#">8:00am:V B Wr at Colby 2 Day Tournament</a> <a href="#">9:30am:V Girls Wr Duals at SFT</a>
16	<a href="#">Rock Your School 2024 - OAC</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Girls Wrestling vs AC, Iola @ CAC</a>	<a href="#">7:00pm:HS Band Concert - @ HS Auditorium</a> <a href="#">7:00pm:4th Grade Music Program</a>	<a href="#">4:00pm:JH Girls League Wrestling @ Burlington</a> <a href="#">7:00pm:HS Holiday Choir Concert @ HS Auditorium</a>	<a href="#">SFT End of Q2</a> <a href="#">3:00pm:JV B Wr at Council Grove Tournament</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:Wr at SFT vs Holton</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS BB at Anderson County</a>	<a href="#">9:00am:V G Wr at Basehor-Linwood</a> <a href="#">10:00am:V B Wr at Abilene Tournament</a>
23	<a href="#">KSHSAA Winter Moratorium- Non Practice Dates</a> <a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>	<a href="#">KSHSAA Winter Moratorium- Non Practice Dates</a> <a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>	<a href="#">KSHSAA Winter Moratorium- Non Practice Dates</a> <a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>	<a href="#">KSHSAA Winter Moratorium- Non Practice Dates</a> <a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>	<a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a> <a href="#">Wrestling Tournament Setup</a> <a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>
30	<a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>	<a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>			
	<a href="#">SFT Winter Break</a>				