

# Back-to-School Newsletter

## Santa Fe Trail High School

Welcome to the September 2025 issue of the Santa Fe Trail High School Newsletter.



2 Contributors





# Message from the Principal

Dear Charger Families,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to you today with so much excitement and pride for our students and staff. The start of the new school year has been overwhelmingly positive, and it's been a true joy to see our hallways and classrooms filled with the energy of learning and collaboration. Our students have jumped right into their studies, and the positive and respectful atmosphere has made for an incredible beginning to the school year.

## Homecoming: September 19th!

This month brings one of the most exciting traditions of the year: Homecoming! I want to extend a warm invitation to all students, families, and community members to join us for a day of celebration on **Friday, September 19th**. This year, we're bringing all the festivities together for an unforgettable evening. The celebration kicks off with our annual **Homecoming Parade in Scranton**, followed by a **Community Pep Rally** to get everyone's spirits high. New for this year, there will be kids' activities and plenty of fun to go around at the high school starting at 3:30 p.m. We will cap off the night with our **Homecoming Coronation Ceremony** and of course, the **Homecoming Football Game**. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support for our students and our school, so please come out and be a part of the fun!

## Stay Connected

We believe that a strong school community is a connected one. Our website and social media channels are the best places to find the most up-to-date information on upcoming events, academic achievements, and athletic schedules. We encourage you to follow us and stay engaged with all the amazing things happening at Santa Fe Trail High School. Your partnership is invaluable, and we look forward to a fantastic year together.

Go Chargers!

Sincerely,

Kyle Ellis

Principal, Santa Fe Trail High School

# Patterson Family Foundation Grant

We are thrilled to share some exciting news. USD 434 has been awarded a large grant from the Patterson family foundation to support school base businesses. Check out the news story here:

[Patterson Family Foundation Grant Press Release](#)

# Social Media

Follow Santa Fe Trail High School's Facebook page for up-to-date postings of athletics and activities using the link below:

[Santa Fe Trail High School](#)







# Message From the Athletics/Activities Director

*Submitted by Kris Henry*

Welcome Back, Chargers!

We're excited to kick off the 2025–26 school year and welcome all students, staff, and families back to Santa Fe Trail High School! A new year brings fresh energy, new opportunities, and a renewed sense of Charger pride.

Fall sports and activities are already underway, with practices starting on Monday, August 18. Our coaches and student-athletes are working hard and preparing for a strong, spirited season across all programs.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, September 19, when we host Lola for Homecoming. This year's Homecoming Parade will take place in Scranton, with more details on festivities coming soon. We hope you'll join us for what is always a great community celebration.

Please come out and support the Chargers whenever you can. Our coaches, sponsors, and student-athletes put in tremendous effort to represent Charger Nation in a positive way each and every time they compete.

Let's start this year strong—both in the classroom and in competition. Here's to making 2025–26 a fantastic year!

Go Chargers!

A photograph of a wooden sign for Santa Fe Trail High School. The sign is made of two horizontal wooden planks with white, serif capital letters. The top plank reads "SANTA FE TRAIL" and the bottom plank reads "HIGH SCHOOL". The sign is mounted on a wall with vertical wooden slats.

# SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL

## Activities Highlights



# Band

*Submitted by McKenzie Rice*

We have hit the ground running in high school band this semester! We are diving right into our music and marching in preparation for our home football games. We can't wait to show everyone what we have been working towards!



*Following a week long camp, the band recently marched in the Overbrook parade on Saturday, August 9, 2025.*



# Choir

*Submitted by Kara Holbert*

SFTHS Choirs are excited to get this school year going. The 2025-2026 Syllabus was sent home at the end of August with any and all information about concerts and other participation requirements. Please contact Mrs. Holbert with any questions!

SFTHS Choirs are also starting to work on music for their first concert of the school year, which is on Wednesday, October 8th at 7:00 PM in the SFTHS Auditorium. Join us for a wonderful evening of music to showcase our amazing singers here at Trail!

Students have been working hard in their ensembles, some of them seasoned veterans and some of them brand new to choir. Our ensembles are bigger and better than ever this year! We have been discovering and exploring our sounds as individuals and as a group, as well as growing our musicianship skills to prepare for our first concert and our future concerts and contests. We hope you can make it out! Admission is FREE!



**SANTA FE TRAIL  
MUSIC**



# Chargerettes

Submitted by Coach Bevan

The Chargerettes worked hard over the summer with the Washburn Dancing Blues. They learned two new routines and are excited to share them with the Charger community.





# FBLA

*Submitted by Julie Smith*

Membership for FBLA is happening now! Student forms can be found on Mrs. Smith’s hallway bulletin board or in her classroom. Over the summer nine of our students traveled to California for nationals, earning high marks on their rating sheets, but falling short of making finals. Our officer team participated in the Kansas FBLA Summer Leadership Seminar, planning events for the year for our chapter and learning from other officers from across the state.





Submitted by Ciara Arnold

Santa Fe Trail's new FFA chapter has had a great start to the school year! The officer team has worked hard to plan this year's activities.

Over the summer, the FFA officer team served lunch for the Hereford Tour at *Frank Hug & Sons Farm*. They also decorated a float for the Overbrook Fair Parade—and won 1st place in the humorous category!

SFT FFA will continue its involvement in the community and will make a lasting impact on students' lives and the future of agriculture.





# KAY Club

*Submitted by Mary Burgett*

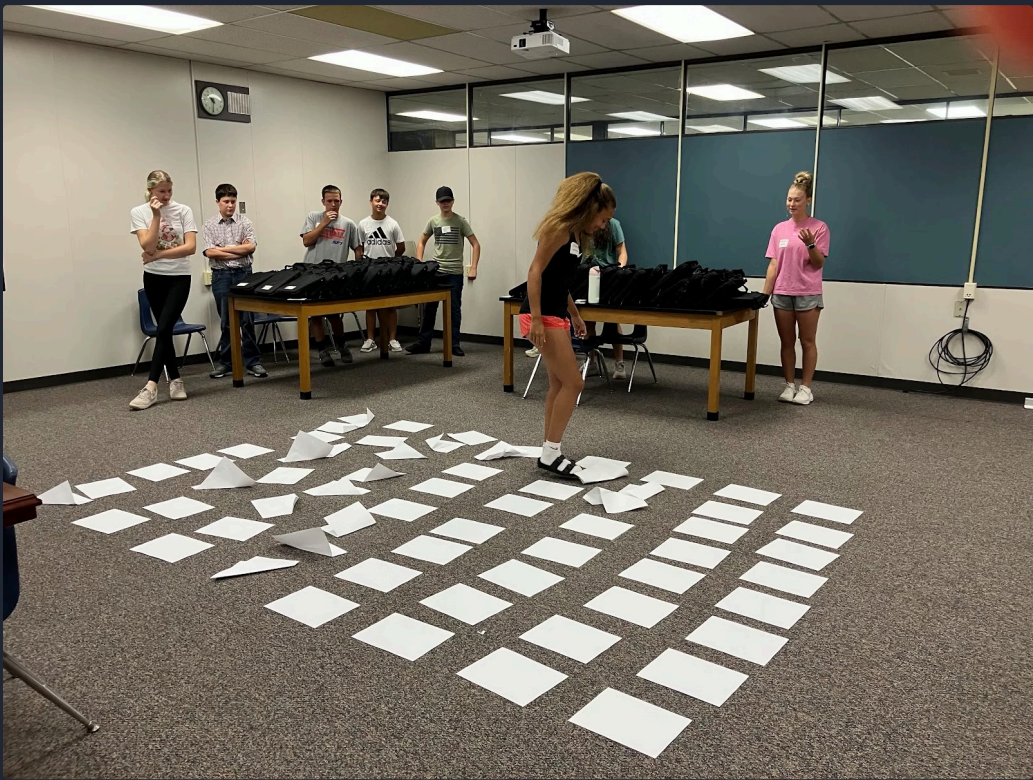
KAY Officers have been organizing possible projects to meet club service goals for this school year. August 29th was an all school Welcome to KAY & Informational meeting. Officers presented a power point telling the history and objectives of KAY as a KSHSAA organization. Officers told about projects that SFTHS completed in past years and opened discussion for ideas. Members are getting excited for an annual favorite which is Coed Volleyball for service & recreation. Bracket play will begin at 6:30 PM September 24th in the Main Gym. September 27th. KAY will hold a “Color Dash & Throw” at the Carbondale Fall Festival. Come be a part of Service-Made-Fun with KAY!



# Link Crew

Submitted by Julie Smith

Nineteen Trail upperclassmen attended two full days of training prior to the school year in preparation for our first ever Freshmen Orientation Day. Link Crew leaders did a phenomenal job welcoming the class of 2029 to SFT and leading them through connection building small group activities throughout the morning. The freshmen also participated in themed tours with their leaders before finishing the day with a run-through of their schedule and an activity fair to learn about the many opportunities we have here for them to be a part of.





# Musical - The Little Mermaid

*Submitted by Kara Holbert*

The 2025 Fall musical, Disney's ***The Little Mermaid*** just finished up auditions and will start rehearsals later this month! Get ready to dive under the sea with Disney's ***The Little Mermaid***! This enchanting musical tells the classic tale of Ariel, a young mermaid who dreams of a life on land. Featuring a fun and heartwarming story that includes beloved songs like "Part of Your World" and "Under the Sea," this show is a must-see for the whole family. Save the date for the performances: November 14th @ 7:00 PM, November 15th @ 7:00 PM, and November 16th @ 2:00 PM. We hope to see you there!



# Scholars Bowl

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

*Students interested in participating in Scholar's Bowl will have an informational meeting on Thursday, September 11th During 2nd half of Trail Time.*







# Yearbook

*Submitted by Julie Smith*

Big news! Our books have finally shipped! Through no fault of our yearbook staff, their adviser, or our school, our books were delayed nearly two months later than normal. We expect to receive them September 2nd, and will communicate the distribution plan once they've arrived.

Other big news! We are forging a new partnership with Varsity to publish our yearbooks. Do not use the Jostens website to purchase your student's yearbook. One of several benefits with this new company is a lower cost of book...without personalization, books are \$43.40 (includes tax), and with personalization, they're \$48.83 (includes tax). Students can pick up a paper form from Mrs. Smith, or you can visit <https://yearbookordercenter.com/> and enter order number 26731.

Questions? See Mrs. Smith or email [jsmith@usd434.us](mailto:jsmith@usd434.us).

Our new staff is busy working on learning the ins and outs of the yearbook making process and recently made their pinky promises, setting and agreeing to expectations for the year.





# Athletics Highlights

# Fall Sports

For Charger Programs and Rosters for both home and visitors, scan QR code or link below:

[SFT Programs/Rosters](#)



SCAN ME



# SANTA FE TRAIL CHARGERS

## 2025 Fall Sports Schedules

\*Bold dates are SFT hosted events.

### FOOTBALL

Sa 8/23 8:00 AM Scrimmage  
F 8/29 TBD Fall Sports Kickoff  
F 9/5 7:00 vs Burlington (V)  
(Little Charger Cheer Night)  
M 9/8 4:30 at Burlington (JV)  
F 9/12 7:00 at Prairie View (V)  
M 9/15 vs Prairie View (JV)  
F 9/19 7:00 vs Iola (V)  
(Homecoming)  
M 9/22 at Iola (JV)  
F 9/26 7:00 at Osawatomie (V)  
M 9/29 vs Osawatomie (JV)  
F 10/3 7:00 vs Wellsville (V)  
(Jr. Charger Football Night)  
M 10/6 at Wellsville (JV)  
F 10/10 7:00 vs Baldwin (V)  
(Senior Night)  
M 10/13 at Baldwin (JV)  
F 10/17 7:00 at Anderson Co. (V)  
M 10/20 vs. Anderson Co. (JV)  
F 10/24 7:00 at Bishop Ward (V)  
M 10/27 vs. Bishop Ward (JV)  
F 10/31 7:00 Playoffs  
F 11/7 7:00 Regionals  
F 11/14 Sectionals at TBD  
F 11/21 Substate at TBD  
Sa 11/29 State at TBD



### VOLLEYBALL

W 8/27 4:30 Jamboree at Burlingame (V)  
F 8/29 TBD Fall Sports Kickoff  
Th 9/4 5:00 at Lyndon (C,JV,V)  
Sa 9/6 8:00 at Jeff West (V)  
Tu 9/9 4:30 at Burlington (C,JV,V)  
Th 9/11 5:00 vs Osage City (JV,V)  
Sa 9/13 9:00 at Highland Park Tourney (JV)  
Tu 9/16 4:00 vs AC/Iola (C,JV,V)  
Sa 9/20 8:30 at Sabetha (JV)  
M 9/22 5:00 at Burlingame (JV,V)  
Tu 9/23 4:00 at Osawatomie (C,JV,V)  
Th 9/25 5:00 at ACCHS (JV,V)  
Tu 9/30 4:00 at Burlington (C,JV,V)  
Sa 10/4 8:00 at Jeff West (JV)  
Sa 10/4 9:00 at Wellsville (V)  
Tu 10/7 4:00 at Iola (C,JV,V)  
Th 10/9 4:00 at Anderson Co. (C,JV,V)  
Sa 10/11 9:00 at Osawatomie (V)  
Tu 10/14 4:00 vs WV, BT, AC (C,JV,V)  
(Senior Night)  
M 10/20 Regionals at TBD  
Sa 10/25 Substate at TBD  
F 10/31 State at TBD  
Sa 11/1 State at TBD

### CROSS COUNTRY

F 8/29 TBD Fall Sports Kickoff  
Th 9/4 3:15 at Anderson Co. (JV,V)  
Th 9/11 4:00 at Holton (JV)  
Sa 9/13 8:30 at Wamego (V)  
Th 9/18 4:00 at Wellsville (JV,V)  
Tu 9/23 4:00 at Royal Valley (JV)  
Sa 9/27 11:45 at Rim Rock (V)  
Th 10/2 5:00 at Hummer Sport Park (JV,V)  
(hosted by Perry-Lecompton)  
Th 10/9 4:00 at Osage City (JV,V)  
Th 10/16 3:30 at Anderson Co. (JV,V)  
(Pioneer League Meet)  
Sa 10/25 Regionals at TBD  
Sa 11/1 State at Rim Rock

### GIRLS GOLF

Th 8/28 1:00 at Forbes GC (V-9)  
F 8/29 TBD Fall Sports Kickoff  
Tu 9/2 3:00 at Ottawa CC (V-9)  
Tu 9/9 1:00 at Lamont Hill GC (V-9)  
Th 9/11 3:00 at Osage City CC (JV-9)  
Tu 9/16 3:00 at Lamont Hill GC (V-9)  
Th 9/18 3:00 at Osage City CC (V-9)  
Tu 9/23 3:00 at North Topeka GC (V-9)  
M 9/29 1:00 at Village Greens GC (V-18)  
Tu 9/30 3:00 at Council Grove CC (JV-9)  
Th 10/2 1:00 at Lamont Hill GC (JV-9)  
M 10/6 9:30 at Lake Shawnee GC (V-18)  
M 10/6 1:00 at Garnett CC (V-18)  
Tu 10/7 1:00 at DeerTrace GC (V-18)  
(Pioneer League Meet hosted by Prairie View)  
M 10/13 Regionals at TBD  
M 10/20 State at Carey Park  
Tu 10/21 State at Carey Park

\*\* Schedules are subject to change. Consult USD 434  
Google calendar for updated information.







# Football

Submitted by Coach Slade

The football team celebrated their progress with a watermelon feed on Monday, August 25th, inviting the cross country and volleyball teams to join them after practices.



Football players and coaches enjoyed some watermelon after a great practice on Monday, August 25th.



The football team has been hard at work preparing for an exciting season. The fall sports kick-off scrimmage on August 29th showcased their many talents. The team boasts 39 athletes including 11 seniors.





# Girls Golf

Submitted by Coach Burgett

The high school girls golf team opened their season with the Jeff West Invitational at Forbes Golf Course on August 28. The 2025 team is made up of all freshmen. This was the first varsity competition for most of the team. SFT girls finished the day with pleasing thoughts of how they played in tournament competition. Charger Proud! The next tournament will be the West Franklin Invitational at Lamont Hills.





# Cross Country

*Submitted by Coach Herren*

The Cross Country season is officially underway, and our team of 27 hardworking high school athletes is already showing great dedication and spirit! From the very start, they've been pushing through tough workouts in the summer heat, and now we're enjoying the cooler weather that's made practices even better. One of the things that makes this group special is the way they encourage and support each other every day, creating a positive and determined team atmosphere. We're looking forward to our first meet on September 4th at Anderson County, starting at 3:15 PM, and are excited to see all of the training pay off. With our boys aiming to repeat as League Champions and our girls team continuing to grow stronger, it's shaping up to be another exciting season for Cross Country!





# Volleyball

Submitted by Coach Fawl

The high school volleyball season is off to a great start! Our athletes have come out strong, showing dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm both on and off the court.

To build momentum, we recently held a Media Day, giving our players the chance to represent their team and school with pride. We also hosted a team lock-in, which was a fantastic opportunity for bonding, setting goals, and creating lasting memories together.

We're excited for the season ahead and proud of the positive culture these student-athletes are building. Looking forward to sharing more updates as the season progresses!



Volleyball players enjoy an invitation from the football team to a watermelon feed following practice on Monday, August 25th.





# Homecoming 2025

Homecoming 2025 will take place on Friday, September 19th. This year, the celebration will look a little different for our district. All students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. Families are welcome to take their students and attend the parade and pep rally together.

The parade begins at 1:00 p.m. in Scranton, followed by a community pep rally. Families are encouraged to line the streets, cheer on our Chargers, and enjoy the festivities!

After the parade and pep rally, we will gather at the high school, where food trucks and games will be available for the community to enjoy prior to the coronation, gates will open at 3:30 p.m. To help make this event a success, we are looking for volunteers to assist with activities for students.

Please use the SignUpGenius link below to view opportunities to help. Each activity includes a short description and the number of volunteers needed. <https://www.signupgenius.com/.../4090B4FA8AA28A5FE3...>

Thank you for supporting our students and helping us celebrate Charger Pride at Homecoming 2025!



**ALL HAIL THE TRAIL** 

## Student Services



# Success Strategies

*Submitted by Erica French*

We are excited to announce that we have implemented a new class this year! All high school students have been assigned to a Success Strategies class. The goal of the Success Strategies class is to support individual student needs in preparation for academic challenges throughout high school and successful life work. Some students have been identified as needing to strengthen reading fluency and comprehension skills, while others will work to improve executive function, social-emotional, and other real-world applicable skills. Progress monitoring will be conducted regularly to ensure students are assigned to the Success Strategies class that is most applicable to their individual needs. Our students thrive most when the adults in their lives cheer them on, and your support makes a huge difference. Together, we can make this program a meaningful growth opportunity for every student.



# Food Services

*Submitted by Kim DeHart*

Students at SFTHS have really enjoyed the school meals since school resumed. The goal of the kitchen crew this year is to get students involved with food service with some fun activities such as baking cookies, planning menus, and maybe some food safety tips. Stay tuned for more information!





# September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <a href="#">NO SCHOOL - Labor Day</a>	2 <a href="#">3:00pm:HS Girls Golf vs Ottawa at Ottawa Country Club</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball vs Jefferson West</a>	3 <a href="#">5:00pm:JH Cheer Fundraiser/Bake Sale @ 4 Corners</a> <a href="#">6:00pm:Band Instrument Display Night</a> <a href="#">6:30pm:Little Charger Cheer Clinic at SFT HS Main Gym</a>	4 <a href="#">3:15pm:XC Meet at Anderson County V, JV, Jr. High</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Football vs Wellsville</a> <a href="#">5:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at Lyndon</a>	5 <a href="#">6:30pm:Little Charger Cheer Night</a> <a href="#">7:00pm:HS V FB at SFT vs Burlington</a>	6 <a href="#">8:00am:HS Girls V Volleyball Tourney at Jeff West</a>
8 <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball vs Prairie View</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS JV FB at Burlington</a>	9 <a href="#">1:00pm:HS Girls Golf vs West Franklin at Lamont Hills</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball @ Baldwin</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS Girls VB at Burlington vs Jayhawk Linn, SFT</a>	10 <a href="#">6:00pm:Board of Education Meeting</a>	11 <a href="#">3:00pm:HS JV Girls Golf at Osage City CC</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:XC Meet at Holton JV , Jr. High</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Football @ Anderson County</a> <a href="#">5:00pm:HS Girls VB at SFT vs Osage City</a>	12 <a href="#">7:00pm:HS V FB at Prairie View</a>	13 <a href="#">9:00am:V XC Meet at Wamego</a> <a href="#">9:00am:HS Girls JV Volleyball Tourney at Highland Park</a>
15 <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball vs Anderson County</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS JV FB at SFT vs Prairie View</a>	16 <a href="#">3:00pm:HS Girls Golf at Lamont Hills</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:HS Girls VB at SFT vs Anderson Co, Lola</a>	17 <a href="#">2:50pm:Sophomore Ring Meeting in Auditorium</a>	18 <a href="#">3:00pm:HS Girls Golf vs Osage City at Osage City Golf Course</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball @ Osawatomie</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Football vs Osawatomie</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:XC Meet at Wellsville V, JV , Jr. High</a> <a href="#">6:00pm:Steering Committee Meeting</a> <a href="#">6:00pm:Reconfiguration Steering Committee</a>	19 <a href="#">12:00pm:All schools dismiss at 12 noon. High School Homecoming</a> <a href="#">1:00pm:Homecoming Parade in Scranton</a> <a href="#">3:30pm:Homecoming Carnival</a> <a href="#">7:00pm:HS V FB at SFT vs Lola</a>	20 <a href="#">8:00am:JH Volleyball A Tournament @ Perry-Lecompton - 8th Grade 8am, 7th Grade 12:30pm</a> <a href="#">8:30am:HS Girls JV Volleyball Tourney at Sabetha</a>
22 <a href="#">School Count Day</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball @ Burlington</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS JV FB at Lola</a> <a href="#">5:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at Burlingame</a>	23 <a href="#">3:00pm:HS Girls Golf vs Silver Lake at North Topeka Golf Center</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:XC Meet at Royal Valley JV , Jr. High</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball vs West Franklin</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at Osawatomie vs Prairie View, SFT</a>	24	25 <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Football @ Lola</a> <a href="#">5:00pm:Preschool Family Night Sept 25th</a> <a href="#">5:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at ACCHS vs Valley Falls, SFT</a>	26 <a href="#">7:00pm:HS V FB at Osawatomie</a>	27 <a href="#">9:00am:JH Volleyball B Tournament @ Jefferson West</a> <a href="#">10:00am:HS XC at Rim Rock G 10:20, B 10:55</a>
29 <a href="#">1:00pm:HS Girls Golf vs Jeff West at Village Greens Golf Club</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:JH Volleyball vs Lola</a> <a href="#">4:30pm:HS JV FB at SFT vs Osawatomie</a>	30 <a href="#">3:00pm:HS Girls JV Golf at Council Grove</a> <a href="#">4:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at Burlington vs. Wellsville, SFT</a>				