

**October 2025**

# The Charger

**Mike Maloun, Principal**

**Austin Hershberger, AP/AD**

**1.800.836.9525**

The 2025-26 school year is off to a great start! I wanted to take some time this month to talk about Chronic Absenteeism.

Last school year, our chronic absenteeism rate was around the state average of 19%. My goal is to lower that number this year!

Most children miss a few days of school each year without long-term consequences. However, when students miss many days, the effects are almost always negative. The Kansas State Department of Education classifies a student as being "chronically absent" when they miss 10 percent of school days. This is different from truancy, which counts only unexcused absences.

In the Santa Fe Trail School District, students are considered chronically absent when they miss more than 16 school days in a year for any reason (which is 10% of our 164 school-day calendar).

Over the course of a student's high school career, missing 10 percent of school days would equate to missing almost an entire semester of school.

## What Can Families Do?

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and their careers.

What you can do:

- **Avoid scheduling vacations when school is in session.**
- **Build regular routines for bedtime and the morning.**
- **Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.**
- **Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.**
- **Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomachaches and headaches may sometimes be signs of anxiety.**
- **If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to help them feel comfortable and excited about learning.**
- **Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor, or another parent for help.**
- **Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or if there is no safe path to school.**

## Our Communication Plan

In an effort to help all families keep track of attendance, I plan on sending home letters via email when your student reaches 5 absences this year. I will send another one if your student reaches 8 absences and follow up with a phone call.

According to our attendance policy, once a student reaches 10 absences, we do require a note from a doctor to excuse any additional absences.

Thank you for your help in keeping our kids in school and learning.



# Important Upcoming Dates



A poster for CAC Parent Teacher Conferences. The background is a dark blue banner with a classroom scene. The CAC logo is at the top. The main title is in large yellow letters. Two white boxes show the dates and times for the conferences. A red banner at the bottom states that school is closed on October 23rd and 24th.

**CAC**

**PARENT TEACHER  
CONFERENCES**

**OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**OCTOBER 23<sup>ND</sup>**  
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**NO SCHOOL**  
OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>



A poster for the CAC Veterans Day Assembly. The background features a bald eagle with spread wings over an American flag and a camouflage pattern. The CAC logo is in the top left. The main title is in large blue letters with yellow outlines. Below it, it says 'SAVE THE DATE' and 'NOV 11' with dog tags. A ribbon at the bottom says 'MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!'.

**CAC**

**CAC  
VETERANS DAY  
ASSEMBLY**

SAVE THE DATE  
**NOV 11**

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!**



# Nursing News ...

**WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START THIS SCHOOL YEAR! I AM ENJOYING GETTING TO KNOW ALL OF THE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES HERE AT C.A.C.**

**I AM INCLUDING A VERY HELPFUL LINK FOR YOU TO REFER TO AS WE ARE ON THE CUSP OF ILLNESS SEASON IN KANSAS.**

**SANTA FE TRAIL DISTRICT ILLNESS POLICY**

**[HTTPS://DRIVE.GOOGLE.COM/FILE/D/10S11920SRNSFZDAL\\_FQ99QNDDC8ELZH/VIEW](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10S11920SRNSFZDAL_FQ99QNDDC8ELZH/view)**

**STAY SAFE AND WELL,  
STEPHANIE RN**

## Interventions Update

**Kaytee Deines**

Testing

Throughout the school year, students participate in a variety of district-wide and state-wide assessments. Recently, students completed the fall district-wide math and reading assessments on FastBridge. These two tests are also given in the winter and spring. Data from these assessments helps teachers and interventionists make informed decisions about specific skills individual students need to strengthen, and also help to guide instructional practices. These scores are also the first data point when identifying students for interventions. In October, students will also take interims for the state assessments. Interims are taken twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Interims are given in math and reading for grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade take a Science interim as well. Interims act as a practice state assessment. This allows teachers to gather testing information to guide their teaching throughout the year, and also gives students a chance to experience the testing format. Finally in the spring, students take the state assessments. State assessments are given in the same subjects and grade levels as interims.

# StuCo News

by Tiffany Burget

StuCo is off to a great start! Congratulations to this year's members: Colt Shively, Daphne Roney, James Diggins, Declan Austin, Warner Freerksen, Allison Huffman, Nikki Gregoire, Josie Kesi, Reagan Sunday, Evie Skocny, Krislynn Pickett, AJ Hartford, Karina Fisher, Chevelle Anno, Kate Menke, Ainsley Hastings, Jaela Lopex, Kendall Christensen, Scarlet Hetherington, and Kyra Masters.

# KAY News

by Preston Fordham

In September, KAY started raising funds for wounded veterans through [dav.org/flags](https://support.dav.org/flags). If you follow the QR code or link below, you can help us reach our goal of raising \$500! For every \$250 raised, the Disabled American Veterans foundation sends us 24 flags that we plant at the front of our building to welcome veterans when we hold our Veterans Day Assembly on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

You can donate by accessing this link:  
<https://support.dav.org/participant/SantaFeTrail-JuniorHigh>  
or scanning the QR code below.





October 2025 | by Kara Holbert

# CHOIR & MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Choir have been working really hard at navigating how to read a new kind of music - Choral Music! They have been preparing pieces that we will get to perform at their concert in December.

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade are back on the grind, learning lots of new pieces that we will get to perform at our Pioneer League Concert in Iola later in October. More info will be sent out via email & sent home on a permission slip to parents/guardians!

## Upcoming Performances:

- Oct. 22nd @ 7pm - 7th/8th Grade Pioneer League Concert @ Iola
- Nov. 11th - Veterans Day Assembly @ CAC
- Dec. 3rd @ 7pm - 7th/8th Grade Band/Choir Concert @ CAC
- Dec. 4th @ 7pm - 6th Grade Band/Choir Concert @ CAC



# Notes from the Band Room



The bands are officially up and running! We have 5<sup>th</sup> graders making their first beautiful sounds together and learning the ins and outs of band. As for our older students, we have started our concert music and playing tests.

We even have some students switching to new instruments to better fill our ensembles.

## Upcoming Performances:

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day Assembly

November 19<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Band & Choir Concert

December 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band & Choir Concert



# 4th Music Ms. Wendleton

RED DAYS: KUNSCH/WAGNER BLUE DAYS: HAYES/GREGOIRE

## SEPTEMBER LEARNING

-OCTAVES, DESCANTS, PATRIOTIC MUSIC, SINGING TRIADS, AND PART SINGING

## AUGUST REVIEW

-RULES, TRIPLETS, SIXTEENTH NOTES, AND BOOMWHACKERS

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES: WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 11TH 7PM



# ***Technology Classes***

# October

## 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tech

**The tech classes for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade are focusing on typing skills, learning more about the formatting on a google document along with how to use the drawing canvas in google docs.**



## 7th & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tech

**This semester class works on their typing skills on Tuesday and Thursday along with learning more detailed skills in google docs. They also have 7 independent projects that range from using the cricut, 3D pens, 3D printer, pixel art, coding, etc.**

# 6th Grade Tech

**This quarter one 6<sup>th</sup> grade tech class focuses on digital citizenship skills as they learn new vocabulary and how to make positive decisions in their digital world. They use a simulation website called Banzai along with working on their typing skills on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**



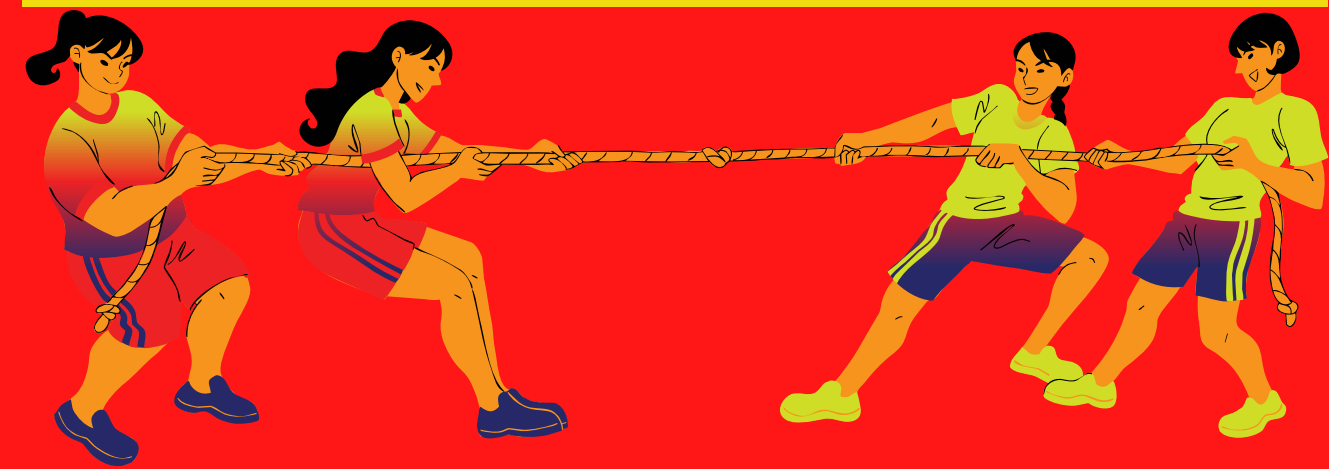


# PE & WEIGHTS



The past couple of weeks have been busy in the PE department. In the weightroom Coach Staten has been introducing the Olympic Lifts: technique, safety, and key words associated with weightlifting. Along with short plyometric workouts, and light dumbbell work.

Coach Duncan has been playing soccer. Build up games with the younger kids, leading into Indoor Soccer with the middle school. As they venture into the month of October expect the weight room to introduce bike riding, along with lift structure. Meanwhile, the gym activities will be introducing racquet sports, Badminton, Pickleball and Eclipse Ball. Aspects such as conditioning, hand eye coordination, rules and regulations and safety will be introduced and practiced.





# MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

The change of seasons, especially the transition into fall, can be a great time to focus on our mental wellness. Here are a few quick tips to help students (and families!) adjust and thrive.

- **Embrace the Routine** - Getting back into a school routine can be a challenge. Help your child by establishing consistent sleep schedules, homework times, and morning routines. Predictability can reduce anxiety and create a sense of security.
- **Connect with Nature** - Fall is a beautiful season for enjoying the outdoors. Spending time in nature can significantly boost mood and reduce stress. Encourage students to take a walk, play outside, or even just spend a few minutes enjoying the crisp air. It's a simple way to practice mindfulness and get a break from screens.
- **Talk it Out** - Open communication is key. Ask your child how they're feeling about the new school year. Use open-ended questions like, "What's been the best part of your day?" or "What's something that's been challenging for you?" Just listening without judgment can make a huge difference and let them know they're supported.
- **Prioritize Self-Care** - Remind students that it's okay to take a break. Whether it's reading a book, listening to music, or doing a favorite hobby, self-care isn't selfish—it's necessary. Encourage them to find an activity that helps them relax and recharge.

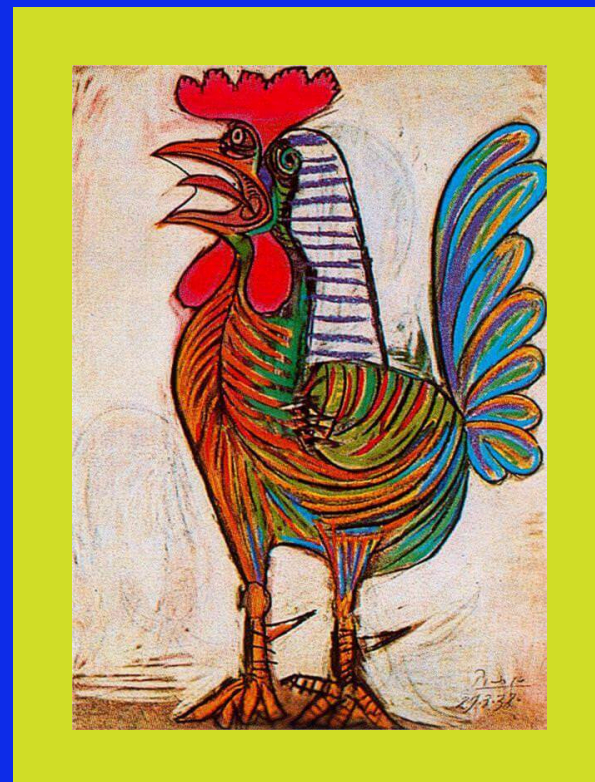


# ART ROOM

Sixth graders just finished drawing their shoes and imagining mini people interacting with them.



While fifth grade studied Pablo Picasso and his influence on cubism.



Pablo Picasso, The Rooster, 1938





# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

## OCT 2025

JH Fall Sports are beginning to wind down. Here is where each team stands.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Football - 2-1 record (currently tied for 2nd)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football - 1-2 record (currently tied for 4th)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball - 2-2 League (T 3<sup>rd</sup>), 5-5 Overall record

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball - 4-0 League (T 1<sup>st</sup>), 8-2 Overall record

Cross Country - all runners have set new Personal Bests at some point this season.

Girls Basketball practices will begin October 6. Boys wrestling practices will begin October 23.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 6 - Football vs Osawatomie @ SFTHS 4p

Oct 9 - XC @ Osage City CC 4p

Oct 14 - Football @ Prairie View 4p

Oct 16 - League XC @ Garnett CC 3:30p

Oct 20 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Bowl @ AC vs TBD 4p

Oct 20 - Girls Basketball vs Wellsville @ CAC 4p

Oct 21 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Bowl @ WV vs TBD 4p

Oct 21 - Girls Basketball - 7<sup>th</sup> @ Baldwin 8<sup>th</sup> vs Baldwin 4p

Oct 23 - Girls Basketball @ Iola 4p

Oct 27 - Girls Basketball vs Burlington 4p

Oct 28 - Girls Basketball @ Osawatomie 4p

Nov 1 - SFT Middle Wrestling Inv @ SFTHS 9a

Nov 3 - Girls Basketball vs Prairie View 4p

Nov 4 - Boys Wrestling @ Perry-Lecompton 4p

Nov 4 - Girls Basketball vs Anderson County 4p

By: Austin Hershberger

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Macy Pfeil, 7th

Social Studies/Mr. Fordham

Kinzie Hansen

Softball

Oklahoma Sooners

Bus rides with my friend Vera

Chicken Quesadillas/Texas Roadhouse

Pickles are the best fruit



Ziven Barton, 8th

Weights/Mr. Staten

Isiah Pacheco

Football

Chiefs

40 yard run to set up game winning TD against Wellsville

Cinnamon Rolls/Chuck Burger

Julion is the best player on the HS team

