

October Newsletter

Santa Fe Trail High School

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



by Kyle Ellis



Message from the Principal

Dear Charger Families,

This school year is off to such a positive start, and I am proud of the engagement and participation our students have shown in their courses, activities, and athletics. Their commitment to learning and involvement in school life reflects the strong sense of pride and dedication that defines Santa Fe Trail High School.

As we move into the heart of the fall season, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our students, staff, parents, and community members for the tremendous support shown during this year's Homecoming festivities. From the parade and pep rally to the football game and dance, your enthusiasm and involvement made the week a memorable celebration of school spirit. It was inspiring to see the pride our community has in Santa Fe Trail High School and the ways in which we come together to support our students.

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind you of our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences. These conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd, from 4:00–7:00 p.m., and on Thursday, October 23rd, from 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.. Parent-Teacher Conferences are an excellent opportunity to connect with your student's teachers, discuss progress, and work together to ensure success throughout the school year. We encourage you to attend and take advantage of this valuable time to partner with us in your student's education.

As October continues, we are excited for the many fall activities ahead — from athletic competitions to fine arts performances and other student events. These experiences provide wonderful opportunities for our students to showcase their talents and for our community to come together in support of them. I encourage you to attend and celebrate the many successes of our students.

Thank you again for your continued involvement and support. It is through our collective efforts that we provide the best experiences and opportunities for our students. I look forward to seeing you at conferences later this month.

Go Chargers!

Sincerely,

Kyle Ellis

Principal, Santa Fe Trail High School



Message From the Athletics/Activities Director

Submitted by Kris Henry

School and activities are off to a fast and furious start here at SFT! We just wrapped up an absolutely amazing Homecoming Week, thanks to everyone who participated and attended. Charger pride was on full display throughout the week and culminated with an outstanding crowd and performance on Friday night.

Congratulations to our Homecoming King, Trenten Ditty, and Queen, Addalyn Sleichter! It was truly a wonderful night for all.

All of SFT's athletic teams are off to a strong start. September was filled with great competitions and opportunities for growth, and we are setting ourselves up for an exciting October.

Looking ahead:

- The Fall Musical is right around the corner! The cast and crew are practicing hard to deliver a fantastic performance November 14,
 15, and 16.
- Scholars' Bowl is preparing for competitions that begin in November.
- Winter Sports practices begin November 17.
- State Dance & Cheer Competitions will also be held in November. Dance will compete on Friday, November 21, and Cheer on Saturday, November 22, both in Topeka.

Everyone at SFT is working hard, striving to improve, and showing what it means to be a Charger every single day.

Go Chargers!

SANTA FE TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL

Activities Highlights

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



Homecoming 2025

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









If you didn't get a chance to read about the Homecoming Court, click <u>here</u> for the program flyer. Congratulations to all candidates and our newly crowned Homecoming Queen Addalyn Sleichter and Homecoming King Trenten Ditty.



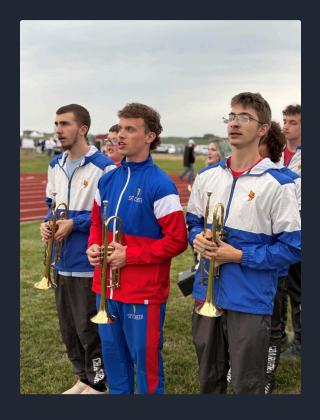
Photo courtesy of Brad Shaffer.

Band

Submitted by McKenzie Rice

The Charger Band has been working extremely hard on their performances this past month! They presented the first half of their "Fire" show at the football games and are excited to present the rest at the next two games on October 3rd and 10th! More surprises will be coming your way in these next couple shows! Hope to see you there!















Biology

Submitted by Michele Herren

The freshmen Biology classes kicked off the year with a unit on Living Systems. As part of this unit, students explored how biotechnology and bioengineering use math and science to solve real-world problems. Their challenge was to apply the engineering design process to a hands-on task: building a water tower that could hold 100,000 gallons of water (represented by 100 pennies) and stand tall enough to provide sufficient water pressure—50 meters (50 cm).

Each group was given a styrofoam cup to serve as the water reservoir, along with a \$40,000 budget to purchase supplies from the "General Store" (the teacher). With just 40 days (40 minutes) to complete the challenge, students had to carefully plan and execute their designs.

Some groups came very close to meeting all the requirements, while others discovered the task was more difficult than expected. Regardless of the outcome, every group successfully engaged in the design process: defining the problem, brainstorming solutions, refining their ideas, and building their model.











Cadet Spanish

Submitted by Emma Fernandez

Spanish Teaching Internship class (also known a Cadet Spanish) is a career exploration class at the high school. Thanks to our partnership with Overbrook Attendance Center, students taking this class will be offering a Spanish club once a month to first grade students. We had the very first Spanish club this month of September, and first graders learned the colors in Spanish! We are looking forward to the next club meeting!





Chargerettes

Submitted by Coach Bevan

The Chargerette Dance Team has performed three successful halftime routines so far this year and are looking forward to more! This month we are hosting a Mommy and Me fundraiser dance, keep an eye out for more details!







Cheer

Submitted by Kaitlyn Ball

Our cheer team has been working hard on perfecting our pyramids for game performances, and we're also beginning preparations for our upcoming state competition. The athletes' dedication and teamwork are shining through with every practice. We truly appreciate all the students and fans for bringing the energy at games—it makes a huge difference in creating an exciting and spirited atmosphere!

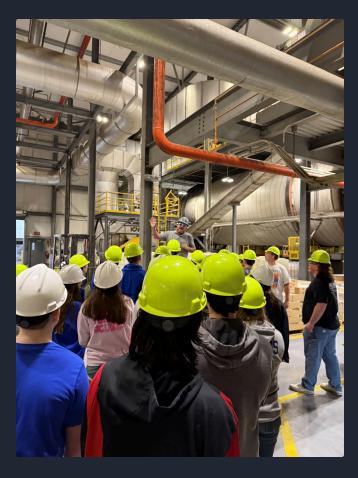


Chemistry

Submitted by Kelly Hale

Chemistry took a field trip to East Kansas Agri Energy. It was great seeing Chemistry out in the real world beyond the classroom!







Choir

Submitted by Kara Holbert

SFTHS Choirs have been hard at 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!



Culinary Arts

Submitted by Mary Burgett

Culinary Arts II, III, IV had a fresh Salsa Contest. Students developed their own recipe with ingredients from the KAY garden project for tomato based salsa. Staff members critiqued their final projects. It was a fun and competitive learning experience. Culinary Students appreciate any extra supplies the community shares with them for enhanced learning opportunities. Contact Mary Burgett, FCS Teacher, if you have any surplus food ingredients, small equipment, or utensils to benefit Culinary students' experiences.







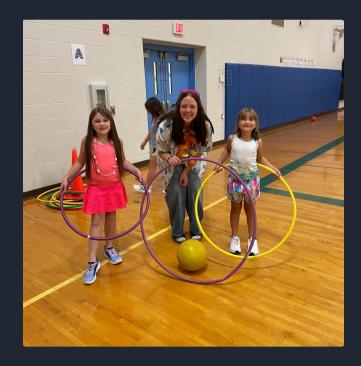




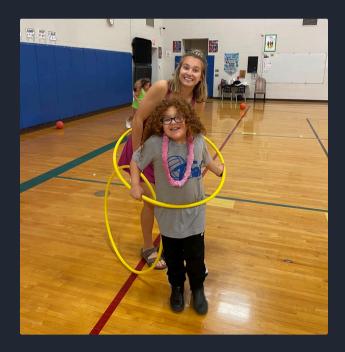
FBLA

Submitted by Julie Smith

Members attended Dot Day at OAC, assisting teachers with a day celebrating a global event inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' children's book, The Dot, that encourages creativity, courage, and collaboration by inviting people of all ages to "make their mark." And speaking of, the national FBLA theme this year is "Make Your Mark." Our chapter is 57 members strong today, and still taking applications for membership. See Mrs. Smith for a form.







FFA

Submitted by member Macy Berkley

This month has been full of exciting activities for our FFA chapter! We started off with a successful Chapter Meeting where members came together to plan upcoming events, share ideas, and continue building a strong community. Our Greenhands also had the opportunity to attend the Greenhand Conference, where they learned more about FFA, leadership, and how to get involved. We wrapped up the month by joining in the Homecoming Parade, where our members proudly represented Trail FFA. Congrats to our chapter member of the month, Lilly Heberling.







Green Team

Submitted by Eric Staab

Green Team decorated the Welcome to Carbondale sign with mums and fall decorations. They are also planning on priming the bleachers at the softball fields. After priming the bleachers, SFT government students will paint the final coat to ready it for spring.



Journalism

Submitted by Derek Terry

SFT Journalism has been actively working in the field and developing articles on a range of timely topics, including 9/11 remembrance and Homecoming at SFT. See student work below:

<u>Ainsley Johnson</u> - Show Up and Show Out (Band)

Mirabella Pierce - Ash Covered and Stunned: The Face of Survival

<u>Jessica Pelkey</u> - The Falling Man: A Symbol America Struggled to Face

Avery Ramsdell - Teachers vs. Students: A Perspective on Homecoming

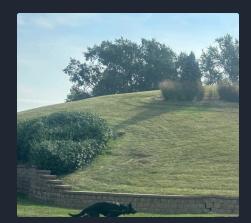
Law & Order

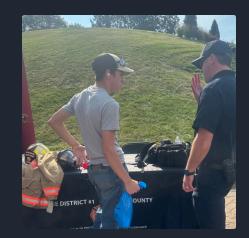
Submitted by Eric Staab

Law & Order students traveled to KC where they attended Public Safety Day at Johnson County Community College. Students at JCCC were treated to a K-9 demonstration, met with various police, fire, EMT, bomb squad, etc, from around the KC area. They learned about various programs and what steps are needed to work for the agency. Afterwards, a visit to Union Station, as well as the Federal Reserve. While at the Federal Reserve, they learned about counterfeiting, lifted a gold bar, and were able to take home a sample of some of the nearly 5+ million dollars the Reserve shreds each day.





















Musical - The Little Mermaid

Submitted by Kara Holbert

The 2025 Fall musical, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is in full swing! Rehearsals have been a lot of fun and we cannot wait to share this production with an audience in November. 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!

Pictures from the Homecoming Parade (photos by Mrs. Holbert and TH Peterson).







Photo Imaging

Submitted by Julie Smith

Students are in the middle of our unit on understanding the three main players of exposure: aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. This week we're practicing shutter speed skills with props in motion. This week we'll continue experimenting with shutter speed and new props.







Scholars Bowl

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Scholars Bowl season is on! We had an incredible turnout for the Scholars Bowl info meeting on September 25th, with **over 40 students** expressing interest in joining the team this year! **Mrs. Michaelis** is currently crunching schedules to make sure practices work around everyone's other activities. Look for Scholars Bowl sessions to kick off in **early October** during Trail Time, Activity Period, and through optional before/after school practices.

If you're ready to prove you have the fastest buzzer finger and the sharpest mind—it's not too late to join! We're building a competitive team this year.

Yearbook

Submitted by Julie Smith

Yearbooks are on sale! 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. All orders purchased prior to November 30 are entered into a drawing for a \$25 VISA gift card.

Questions? See Mrs. Smith or email jsmith@usd434.us.

Staff have been hard at work narrowing down a theme (to be released soon!) and selling ads. This year's staff met their ad sales goal of \$6,000 in record time this year, meeting it on September 26! Ad sales keep the cost of our book low, fund staff team building, and upgrade camera equipment. Thank you to all of our advertisers for helping The Charger to build a better book! Our staff learned the art of thank you notes last week when we sat down to hand write and sign thank you cards to our advertisers.





Athletics Highlights

Fall Sports

For Charger Fall Sports Preview, Event Programs and Team Rosters for both home and visitors, scan QR code or link below:

SFT Programs/Rosters



Senior Nights

During the home football game on Friday, October 10th, seniors from the football and cross country teams will be recognized along with senior cheerleaders, Chargerettes, and band members - a total of 39 individuals. The recognition ceremony will begin at 6:30 PM followed by varsity football vs. Baldwin at 7:00 PM.

Three volleyball seniors will be recognized the following week at home on Tuesday, October 14th. The Chargers will play their final home matches against Anderson County, Burlington and Wellsville starting at 4:00 PM.

Come out and support our seniors and Charger athletics!

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)

Sa 9/27 11:45 at Rim Rock (V)

Th 10/2 5:00 at Hummer Sport Park (JV,V)

(hosted by Perry-Lecompton)

(Pioneer League Meet)

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)

Th 10/9 4:00 at Osage City (JV,V)

Th 10/16 3:30 at Anderson Co. (JV.V)

Sa 10/25 Regionals at TBD

Sa 11/1 State at Rim Rock

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

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)

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

Charger Raffle

Purchase a chance to win a great collection of Charger apparel and accessories at one of our fall home events. It also includes a red YETI cooler and a pass for free admission to all home regular season events for the 2026-27 school year. All profits to benefit the Santa Fe Trail High School Athletics Department.





Football

Submitted by Coach Slade

The Charger varsity football team is off to a fantastic start of the season with a record of 4-0 with wins over Burlington (42-7), Prairie View (35-20), Iola (49-6) and Osawatomie (61-7).

The team would like to thank the fans and community for their ongoing support. Come out and cheer on the Chargers!





<u>Upcoming Varsity Games (home events in red):</u>

Friday, October 3rd vs. Wellsville (Pink Out & Jr. Charger Football Night)

Friday, October 10th vs Baldwin (Senior Night)

Friday, October 17th at Anderson County

Friday, October 24th at Bishop Ward







Girls Golf

Submitted by Coach Burgett

Girls Golf is preparing for League and Post Season play Oct 7 & 14. Makenna Moeller was the 12 place Individual Medalist at the Osage City JV Tournament. Individual scores are improving at every competition as they grow with each golf day's experience.



Remaining Tournaments:

Thursday 10/2 1:00 JV at Lamont Hill GC

Monday 10/6 9:30 Varsity at Lake Shawnee GC

Monday 10/6 1:00 Varsity at Garnett CC

Tuesday 10/7 1:00 Varsity at Deer Trace GC (Pioneer League Meet hosted by Prairie View)

Monday 10/13 Regionals at TBD

Monday -Tuesday 10/20-10/21 State at Carey Park



Cross Country

Submitted by Coach Herren

Cross Country season is in full swing, and our teams are off to a fantastic start! The boys varsity team earned 2nd place at both the Anderson County and Wamego meets, while the girls varsity team claimed 1st place at Wamego. Our girls JV team also started strong, finishing 2nd at Anderson County and then capturing a big win at the Holton meet.

Saturday marked the halfway point of our season, and our varsity athletes rose to the challenge at the prestigious Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence. With nearly 400 competitors in the girls' division and more than 500 in the boys' division, the meet proved to be both highly competitive and demanding. The Rim Rock course is known for its toughness, making it an excellent test of endurance and grit.

Out of our 14 varsity runners, 7 achieved personal records—a remarkable accomplishment on such a challenging course. A special highlight goes to Bryce Roberts, who placed 3rd in the Blue Division against a field of over 500 runners.

Congratulations to all of our athletes for their outstanding effort and achievements!

In practice, we continue to emphasize consistent effort and hard work, striving to improve each day. What makes this group special is the way they support and encourage one another—not just in races, but daily at practice.















<u>Final Meets:</u>

Th 10/2 5:00 JV & V at Hummer Sport Park (hosted by Perry-Lecompton)

Th 10/9 4:00 JV & V at Osage City

Th 10/16 3:30 JV & V at Anderson Co. (Pioneer League Meet)

Sa 10/25 Regionals at TBD

Sa 11/1 State at Rim Rock



Volleyball

Submitted by Coach Fawl

The volleyball season is off to a successful start. The varsity team placed 3rd at the Jeff West tournament and the JV team earned 1st place at the Highland Park tournament. Both teams have demonstrated hard work and determination, setting a positive tone for the season ahead. We also had a great time celebrating Homecoming on the float and cheering on the football team in their big win! Our next home game is October 14th, which will also be Senior Night.

<u>Upcoming Tournaments:</u>

Varsity plays at Wellsville and JV plays at Jeff West on October 4th

October 11th Varsity plays at Osawatomie

Senior Night:

October 14th VB is at home with Wellsville, Burlington, and Anderson County









ALL HAIL THE TRAIL

Student Services

Hearing & Vision Screenings

Submitted by Kim Kesl, RN, BSN & USD 434 Director of Nursing

The Santa Fe Trail Nurses will be conducting hearing and vision screenings this September/October for grades Pre K, K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. Once completed parents/guardians will find results of these screenings on their student's PowerSchool in the Health section under screenings.

If your student does not pass the screening, a second screening will take place within 2-4 weeks. If your student does not pass the second screening, a referral will either be sent home or mailed. No paper results will be sent home with students who pass.

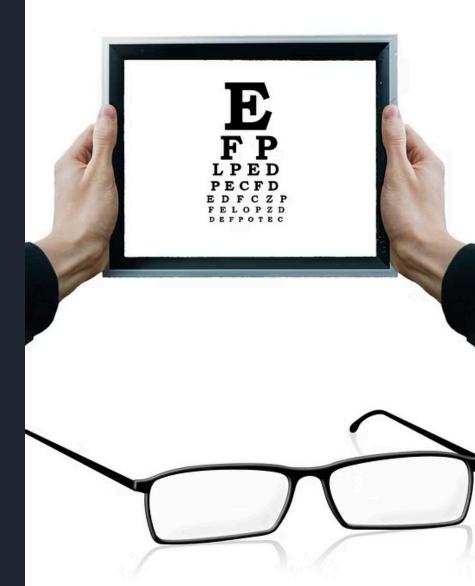
If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

SFTHS - Kimberly Kesl, RN kkesl@usd434.us

CAC - Stephanie Lang, RN slang@usd434.us

OAC - Faith Schreiner, LPN <u>fschreiner@usd434.us</u>

SAC - Kaitlyn Ball kball@usd434.us



Library Media Center

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

New Books, New Club: Thanks to Dollar General!

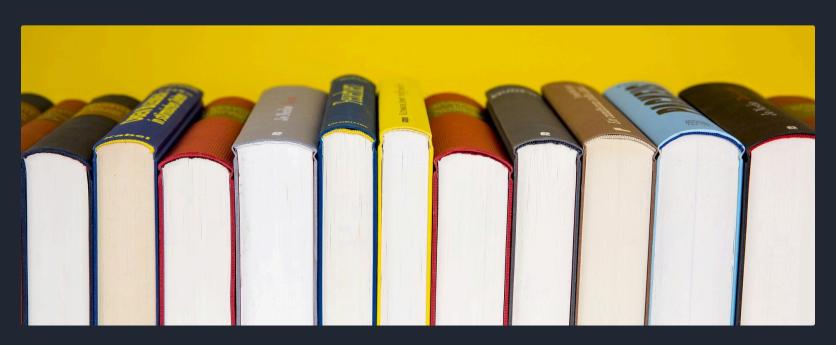
Get ready to read! SFTHS is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new high school book club, made possible by a generous \$4,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation!

This isn't your average book club. Thanks to the grant, we've loaded up on a fantastic selection of high-interest printed and digital audiobooks. This means we have the stories you *want* to read, in the format that works best for you.

This club will provide a fun way to:

- **Discover amazing books** and build your reading confidence.
- Increase your independent reading time.
- Sharpen your critical thinking skills through great discussions.

The club is coming soon and is open to any high school aged student in our area, including homeschooled and private school students. Stand by for more information on how to sign up and what our first read will be. In the meantime, you can reach out to the activity sponsor, Mrs. Ashley Michaelis, with any questions at amichaelis@usd434.us.





October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	3:00pm:JH/HS XC at Hummer Sports Complex 4:00pm:JH Volleyball @ Wellsville 4:00pm:JH Football vs Burlington	NO PK Classes: Screening at SAC 7:00pm:HS V FB at SFT vs Wellsville- Jr. Charger FB Night	8:00am:HS Girls JV Volleyball Tourney at Jeff West 9:00am:JH Volleyball League Tournament @ Burlington 9:00am:HS Girls V Volleyball Tourney at Wellsville
9:30am:HS Girls Golf vs Silver Lake at Lake Shawnee 4:00pm:JH Football vs Osawatomie 4:00pm:C Team Volleyball vs Anderson Co at SFT HS 4:30pm:HS JV FB at Wellsville	1:00pm:HS Girls Golf League at Prairie View 4:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at Iola vs Anderson Co, SFT	Preschool Picture Day 12:00am:HS Girls Volleyball at lola vs Anderson Co, SFT 4:00pm:PDC Council Meeting 6:00pm:Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm:HS Choir Concert	4:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at Anderson Co vs Prairie View, Osawatomie, SFT 4:00pm:XC Meet at Osage City V, JV , Jr. High	7:00pm:HS V FB at SFT vs Baldwin- Senior Night	9:00am:HS Girls VB Tourney at Osawatomie
No School: Professional Development Day HS Girls Golf (Regionals) 4:30pm:HS JV FB at Baldwin	4:00pm:HS Girls Volleyball at SFT vs Wellsville, Burlington, Anderson Co. 4:00pm:JH Football @ Prairie View	OAC Picture Day	End of 1st Quarter 2:50pm:Senior Grad Meetings- Auditorium 3:30pm:JH/HS XC League at Anderson Co. 6:00pm:Reconfig uration Steering Cmte Meeting	No School: Teacher Prep 7:00pm:HS V FB at Anderson County	18
HS Girls V Volleyball (Regionals) 7th Grade Football Bowl @ Anderson County - Time TBD HS Girls Golf (State) 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Wellsville 4:30pm:HS JV FB at SFT vs Anderson County	8th Grade Football Bowl @ Wellsville - Time TBD HS Girls Golf (State) 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Baldwin - 7th @ Baldwin, 8th vs Baldwin	JH League Choir @ Iola - Time TBD Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 - 7 pm School in Session	No School: Parent/Teacher Conferences 8 am to 7 pm 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball @ Iola	No School 7:00pm:HS V FB at Bishop Ward	HS Girls V Volleyball (Substate) XC Regionals
27 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Burlington 4:30pm:HS JV FB at SFT vs Bishop Ward	28 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball @ Osawatomie	29 6:00pm:Special BOE Meeting - District Reconfiguration	30	31 HS Girls V Volleyball (State) 7:00pm:HS V FB (Districts)	