



November Newsletter

Santa Fe Trail High School

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



by Kyle Ellis



Message from the Principal

Dear Charger Families,

As we move into November, I'm reminded of how much there is to be thankful for at Santa Fe Trail High School. Our students continue to show growth, resilience, and character both in and out of the classroom. Whether it's through academic achievement, athletic success, or acts of service, they continue to make us proud every day.

This time of year also brings opportunities to reflect and refocus. With the semester over halfway complete, I encourage all students to stay engaged, seek help when needed, and finish strong. Our teachers and staff are here to support every student on their journey to success, and we are committed to creating a positive, safe, and challenging learning environment.

As the holidays approach, I want to express my appreciation to our families and community members for your continued partnership. Your involvement, whether through attending events, supporting extracurriculars, or encouraging learning at home, makes all the difference.

Let's continue working together to make the second half of the semester our best yet. I wish everyone a joyful and restful Thanksgiving season.

Go Chargers!

Sincerely,

Kyle Ellis

Principal, Santa Fe Trail High School



Message From the Athletics/Activities Director

Submitted by Kris Henry

What a fast and furious October we have had! There are so many things to be thankful for at Santa Fe Trail High School. Our fall sports teams have put our school on the fast track for success this year, and our students continue to represent Charger Pride in so many ways.

Our Girls Golf and Volleyball teams have concluded their seasons after strong showings. Boys and Girls Cross Country are wrapping up their season with the State Competition on Saturday, November 1, at Wamego Country Club. We're proud to have three state qualifiers—Lea Roberts, Bryce Roberts, and KJ Roberts—and we wish them the best of luck! Both the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams were also crowned Pioneer League Champions. The Boy for the fourth consecutive year—an incredible accomplishment!

SFT Football has had an outstanding season, earning titles as both League and District Champions. The Chargers enter the playoffs ranked #5 in Class 3A and will host Girard on Friday, November 7. Good luck to our Boys in Blue and Red!

The cast and crew of "The Little Mermaid", led by Mrs. Holbert, are preparing for a fantastic performance on November 14–16. Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for students per session—don't miss it!

Our new FFA program, under the direction of Mrs. Arnold, has been busy with several hands-on field trips, combining learning and fun. The Concert Choir and Choraliers also gave a wonderful performance earlier this month, and the NHS Powder Puff Football Game was a big success, with the Senior class taking the win in all three of their games.

Our Debate Team is off to a great start this season, competing in several early tournaments and continuing to build strong communication and argumentation skills. Scholars Bowl practices are also underway, with their first meet scheduled for Monday, November 3. All of our programs and clubs are striving for great accomplishments and representing Santa Fe Trail with pride.

Looking ahead, Winter Sports practices begin on Monday, November 17. Student-athletes—please make sure all paperwork is submitted and clearance completed through the office so you're eligible to participate from day one.

Each month, SFT High School stays busy with amazing things happening across our classrooms, teams, and clubs. Thank you to all our staff, coaches, sponsors, and students for your hard work and dedication. Keep reaching for the stars, Chargers—success comes in many forms, and you're all making us proud!

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

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](#)



Band

Submitted by Eduardo Villanueva

The Charger band has had a fantastic marching band season this year. We also had the great opportunity to have a special performance to wrap up the season with a postseason game. We are starting to get into pep band music and even looking ahead to our Christmas concert on **December 15th!** We also have 13 students working very hard for their audition for the ECKMEA District Honor Band coming up. Wish them luck!



Choir

Submitted by Kara Holbert

SFTHS Choirs did a great job at the first choir concert of the school year in October. We are so proud of our students' hard work! They are now working on all new music to perform at their Holiday Concert this December. Come see the SFTHS Choirs on Wednesday, December 17th @ 7 PM in the SFTHS Auditorium for an evening full of Holiday Cheer!



Culture & Cuisine Club

Submitted by Jessica Nicholson

Culture and Cuisine Club Explores Matcha!

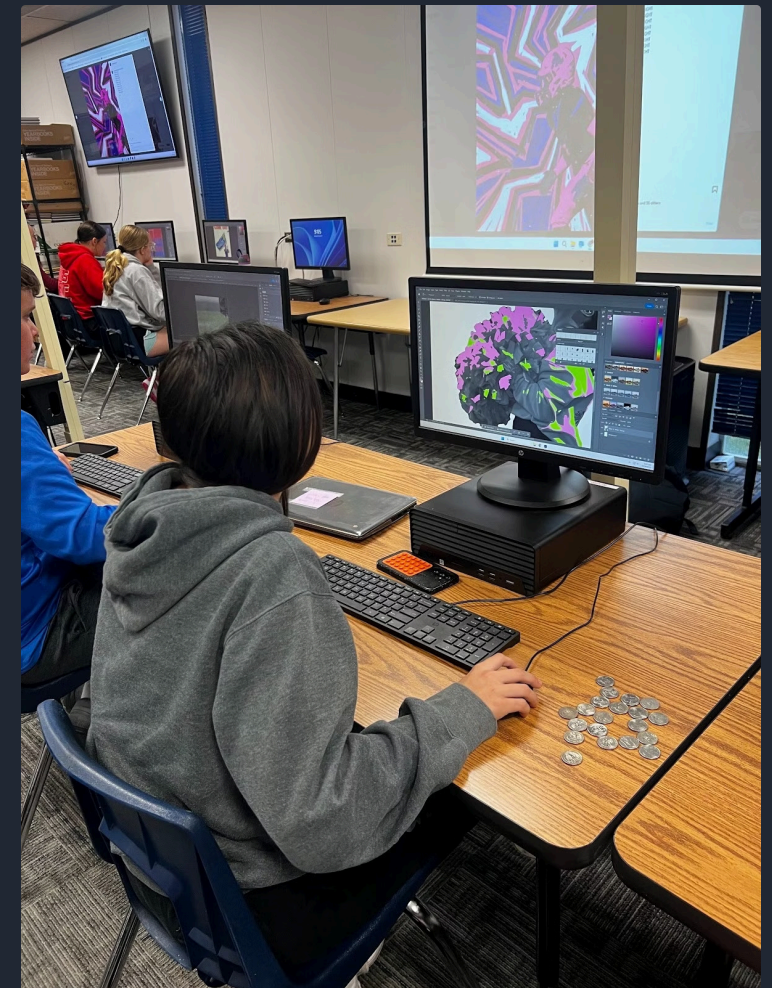
In October, the Culture and Cuisine Club dove into the vibrant world of *matcha*—a finely ground green tea powder from Japan known for its bright color, earthy flavor, and energizing properties. Students learned how matcha is traditionally prepared and enjoyed sampling it in a matcha latte. Many were pleasantly surprised by its unique taste, and several members were excited to finally try something they'd been curious about for a long time!



Design

Submitted by Julie Smith

Design students have been learning Photoshop tools through exploring the application of the four major design principles, CRAP, or Contrast, Repetition, Alignment, and Proximity. Here they're working on emphasizing contrast in a game day hype post for social media using photos taken by our Yearbook staff members.



FBLA

Submitted by Julie Smith

Congratulations to junior Macy Berkley on her appointment to the Active Membership Advisory Council. This council serves with the state leadership team assisting district VP's with voting at conferences, obtaining sponsorships for the state conference, and networking with state officers and members.



Our chapter members also participated in multiple Trunk or Treat events within the community.



FFA

Submitted by member Macy Berkley

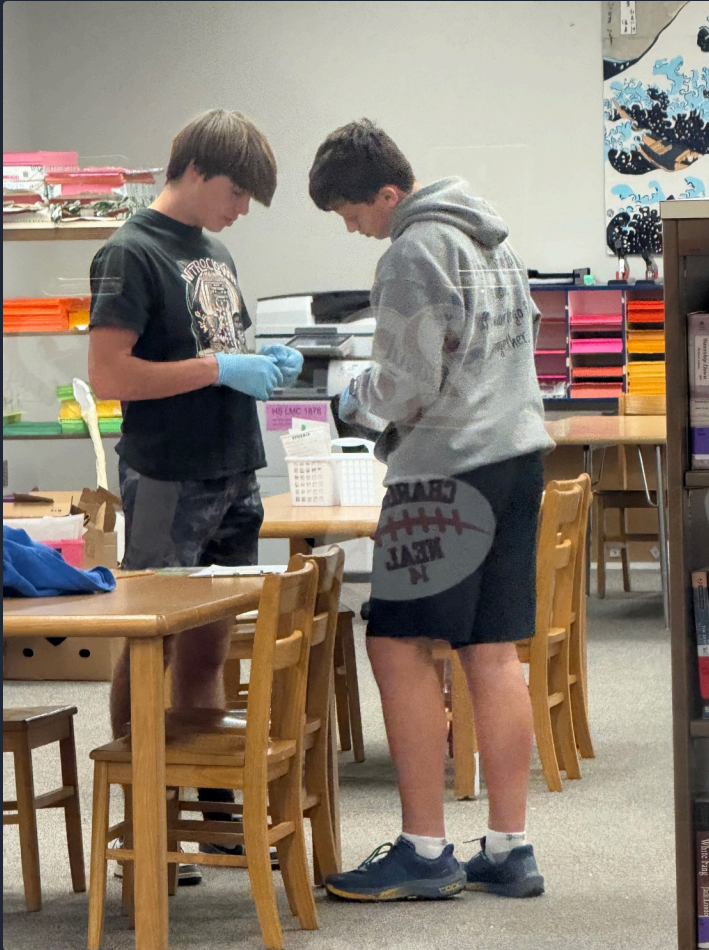
FFA is on their way! Santa Fe Trail FFA members participated in horse judging at Saddle and Sirloin in Kansas City, Missouri on October 15th. They put their knowledge and skills to the test evaluating different classes. Freshman Jaycee Wiscomb took 23rd in the senior division and freshman Marissa Sigwing placed 12th in the intermediate division. Everyone represented their chapter proudly. The October meeting was filled with fall fun. They painted pumpkins, played games, and discussed upcoming events. It was a great mix of learning and creativity!



Forensic Science

Submitted by Kelly Hale

Forensic Science had fun going around the school collecting evidence to solve a case. Thanks to everyone for making it a great experience.



KAY Club

Submitted by Mary Burgett

KAY members participated in the community "Track-or-Treat" event held prior to the home football game on October 31st, along with many other groups and individuals. The organization will also be attending the State Area 1 KSHSAA Regional Conference on November 4th at Leavenworth High School. More next month!



Musical - The Little Mermaid

Submitted by Kara Holbert

The 2025 Fall musical, Disney's ***The Little Mermaid*** is performing this month! Students have been working so incredibly hard and we are so beyond excited to share this production with audiences. 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 our performances later this month!

**** Friday, November 14th @ 7:00 PM**

Saturday, November 15th @ 7:00 PM

Sunday, November 16th @ 2:00 PM

*****In the event of a football game, opening night will be moved up to Thursday, November 13th @ 7:00 PM***

Santa Fe Trail High School Theatre Department
Presents...



Disney **THE LITTLE MERMAID**

Friday, November 14th at 7:00 PM
Saturday, November 15th at 7:00 PM
Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 PM

SFTHS Auditorium

Tickets:

Adults: \$5	Music by Alan Menken
K-12 Students & Seniors: \$3	Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater
Children ages 2 & under: free	Book by Doug Wright

National Honor Society

Submitted by Jessica Nicholson

National Honor Society students visited the elementary school to help with Body Venture, a traveling walk-through exhibit that teaches children about the human body and healthy choices. NHS students guided kids through interactive stations representing organs like the brain, stomach, and heart, showing how food becomes nutrients that fuel the body.



Scholars Bowl

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Varsity Scholars Bowl kicked off their season at West Franklin on Monday.

Seniors Ethan Sigwing and Raleigh Brady along with Juniors Colt Jones and Trevor Moreno are returning squad members, while seniors Mirabella Pierce and Jordan Wood made their rookie debuts.

Overall, Santa Fe Trail demonstrated strong performances in subject content but ultimately were not the fastest at buzzing in first in all of our rounds at times losing in double overtime tie breaking rounds.

Round - Opponent - Score - Result

1. Council Grove - 20 – 15 Win (tiebreaker)
2. Lyndon - 20 – 30 Loss (tiebreaker)
3. Eureka - 20 – 55 Loss
4. Northern Heights - 0 – 60 Loss
5. Osage City - 30 – 40 Loss (double tiebreaker)
6. Waverly - 40 – 30 Win (double tiebreaker)
7. Wellsville - 10 – 35 Loss

Individual Points Scored:

Jordan Wood 10 pts; Raleigh Brady 30 pts; Colt Jones 20 pts; Ethan Sigwing 80 pts.

A big thank you to West Franklin's AD Kris Hassler and Kyle Warner and their Scholars Bowl team for putting on an excellent tournament!

Yearbook

Submitted by Julie Smith

Let's talk about the yearbook.

You should buy one. Yes, I'm biased. I still think you should buy one. :) Visit yearbookordercenter.com and enter order number 26731. Or you can pick up a paper form from Mrs. Smith and pay with check or cash. All orders purchased prior to November 30 are entered into a drawing for a \$40 VISA gift card.

There are three important things to know about SENIORS and the yearbook.

1. Seniors get to submit their own photo for the portraits page with the rest of their classmates. These are often professional traditional senior portraits, but they don't have to be. The photos should be in portrait format (taller than they are wide). If a student does not submit a photo one will be submitted for them. Deadline to submit is February 15. Email them any time to jsmith@usd434.us.
2. Seniors need to submit a quote to be printed with their portrait. If they do not submit a quote, or their quote is inappropriate, one will be provided for them. They can submit quotes using this form: SENIOR QUOTES.
3. Parents, grandparents, loved ones can purchase a senior tribute in the book. We have three simple price points and sizes. Visit <https://yearbookordercenter.com>, enter order number 26731, and click on Start Your Ad then follow the prompts to purchase an ad. Deadline is March 1. I know what you're thinking, oh...March...I can just put this off. No, no you can't. March is insane. You should do it as soon as you can if you want to purchase a senior tribute.

Our staff celebrated absolutely SMASHING their ad sales goal, raising \$8,340. Ad sales help keep the book prices low for all students, purchase staff enrichment items, and equipment. Thank you to these community businesses for supporting our school and yearbook program!

These local businesses support YOUR yearbook!

All American Doodles	Crossroads Community Church	Overbrook Family Dentistry
Anderson Seed	Dayhoff Foam Solutions, Inc.	Overbrook Hair Shoppe
Anshutz Law	EKN - Erin's Knots and Needles	Overbrook Public Library
Apex Monitoring	Elevation Earthworx, LLC	Pinecrest Marketing Group
Babbitt Farms	Fawl Ag Sales	Running With Scissors
Barrington Heating and Air, LLC	First Security Bank	S&L Ranch
Big Time Bail Bonds	Flory Family Farms	Santa Fe Trail Meats
Boulevard Billiards	Frenchie's Farmstead	Sassy Topsy Sisters Boutique
Black Excavating, Inc.	Ganger HVAC Services	Saved by Grace News, Inc.
Bombshell Bail Bonds	Gloss Lawn Services	Shannon Engler, Realtor
Briggs Detailing	Guenther Enterprises, LLC	Shively Excavation
Brookside Retirement Community	IBEW Local #226	Sowers Equipment Services
Carbondale Pet Clinic	Kansas State Bank	The Bug Guys Pest Control
Carbondale Tire and Auto	Kneisler Farms, LLC	The Cozy Crumb
Carie's Enterprises, LLC	Land Innovations	The Feed Bunk
Cedar Electric	Legacy Chiropractice and Wellness	The Milk Barn
CH Electric, LLC	Lippert Mechanical	Trailhands Wrestling
Charged Up Nutrition	Madd House Design, Co.	UBA5 Foundation
Chick Fil A Topeka Blvd	Maria Dressman	USD 434 Board of Education
City of Carbondale	Mast Builders	W&W Laundromat
City of Overbrook	McCain Plumbing Co, LLC	Warm Welcome Quilts
Club Four Corners	Midtown Market	Weg's Ice Cream
cohort.digital	Osage Waste Disposal	Well Styled Salon
Copper Moose Market	Overbrook Auto Parts/The Shop	Williams Mobile Service, LLC
Council City Coffee Co.	Overbrook Barber Shop	





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](#)



SCAN ME

Senior Nights

During the home football game on Friday, October 10th, seniors from the football and cross country teams were recognized along with senior cheerleaders, Chargerettes, and band members - a total of 39 individuals. Three volleyball seniors were also recognized the following week at home on Tuesday, October 14th.

Thank you for your support of our seniors and Charger athletics!



Powder Puff

From Facebook Post

NHS hosted the annual “Powder Puff” games on October, where class teams clashed in a battle for bragging rights. The seniors, Class of 2026, totally crushed it, winning all three of their games. Good times were had by all.

The teams would like to express their appreciation to Owen Lattimer, the official scorekeeper, and Bryson Crotinger for his entertaining commentary and announcements. They were also grateful to the referees, Coach Staten, Coach Robb, Coach Gloss, and Coach Soderlund. Your extra time was valued.



Football

Submitted by Coach Slade

During week seven, Trail Football defeated Anderson County 44-7! This win on October 17th improved Santa Fe Trail to 7-0 overall.



The Santa Fe Trail Chargers (3A, 8-0) closed out a remarkable undefeated regular season with a dominant 54-13 win over Bishop Ward on Friday, October 24th. The Chargers captured both the District Championship and Pioneer League title, establishing themselves as one of the most complete and consistent teams in Class 3A this year. Behind an explosive offense and a physical defense, the Chargers have outscored opponents 340-87 on the year and continue to roll with confidence heading into the postseason.



On Halloween night, the Chargers defeated Perry Lecompton at home for first round of playoffs 20-14 to advance to the Regional Playoffs to be hosted on Friday, November 7.

Season Recap:

9/5 vs. Burlington - W 42-7

9/12 @ Prairie View - W 35-20

9/19 vs. Iola - W 49-6

9/26 @ Osawatomie - W 61-7

10/3 vs. Wellsville - W 13-6

10/10 vs. Baldwin - W 42-21

10/17 @ Anderson County - W 44-7

10/24 @ Bishop Ward - W 54-13

10/31 vs. Perry Lecompton - 20-14

11/7 vs. Girard (TBD)

Cross Country

Submitted by Coach Herren

Cross Country End-of-Season Results

Both Girls and Boys teams were crowned Pioneer League Champions at Anderson County. The boys were League Champs for the 4th year in a row.

League Honors:

All League (Top 10):

- Lea Roberts – 8th
- Holden Tantaros – 8th
- Brenna Heder – 7th
- Rylan Roberts – 6th
- Eva Branstetter – 3rd
- KJ Roberts – 2nd

League Champions (1st Place)

- **Alexa Heder**
- **Bryce Roberts**

2nd Team All League (11–15):

- Josh Wessel – 11th
- Addy Kramer – 12th

Regional Results (medal top 15) that qualified for the 4A State meet:

- Lea Roberts – 11th
- Bryce Roberts – 5th
- KJ Roberts – 10th

All our athletes worked so hard and competed well.

- Alexa Heder 18th
- Eva Branstetter 25th
- Addy Kramer 35th
- Kenna Washington 40th
- Lucy Hatfield 41st
- Holden Tantaros 21st
- Rylan Roberts 24th
- Josh Wessel 28th
- Daniel McKee 35th
- Isaiah Jones 47th

State Results (medal top 20)

- **Lea Roberts - 40th 21:36**
- **KJ Roberts - 29th 17:37**
- **Bryce Roberts - 5th 16:41** - Bryce is a four-time State qualifier. This is the second year in a row for him to medal at State. Bryce finished his career with the 2nd best time on Santa Fe Trail’s All-Time XC list.

As voted on by the team:

- Most Improved JV athlete: Amanda Donley
- Most Inspirational JV athlete: Gabe Smith
- Most Improved Varsity athlete: Brenna Heder
- Most Inspirational Varsity athlete: Rylan Roberts

Cross country is not an easy sport. It takes grit, discipline, and a whole lot of heart. And this group showed those things every single day. They pushed each other to get better. They encouraged one another when it got hard. They set goals and then re-set them when they blew past them. This year we saw so much growth. So many PRs. So much improvement in confidence and toughness. Our boys varsity placed or won 6 of their 7 meets. Our girls won the Wamego meet and placed 2nd at Perry. Our JV teams stepped up again and again, placing in 4 meets. Every runner contributed in some way — whether scoring points, pushing a teammate in practice, or showing up with the right attitude when it mattered. But the season wasn’t just about results. What stood out most was how this team treated each other. They celebrated each other’s big races. They picked each other up after the hard ones. That is what makes this group special. I am incredibly proud of every single runner — not just for their PRs and finishes — but for the way they showed up, supported each other, and chose to compete with heart. Congratulations on an outstanding season.

If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together.

Volleyball

Submitted by Coach Fawl

The high school volleyball team recently wrapped up an impressive season, finishing with a 26–15 record. Throughout the year, the players demonstrated outstanding dedication, teamwork, and growth. Their effort and determination were evident both in practices and on the court, leading to a successful and memorable season.

As the team celebrated their final week, the players organized a series of themed practices, each day they showed their creativity and school spirit. From fun dress-up ideas to team-bonding activities, it was a great way to end the season on a positive note.

With many talented athletes returning next year, the future looks bright for the program. The team’s commitment, energy, and love for the game have built a strong foundation for continued success. Congratulations to the players on an excellent season!



ALL HAIL THE TRAIL 

Student Services

Senior Announcements

Submitted by Tosha Smith

Order cap & gown set,
copy and paste this link

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productDetail/1071076/SANTA-FE-TRAIL-HIGH-SCHOOL/Cap-and-Gown/2965693883/CATALOG_REPOSITORY/Cap-Gown-Tassel-and-Custom-Stole/2965693889

3-4 childhood/baby
pictures and one senior
picture for the slideshow

- tsmith@usd434.us

Yearbook Photo
Due Feb 15th

jsmith@usd434.us

Complete legal name
form. It can be found
in the enrollment
forms, log into
powerschool Parent
portal

Pay class dues & school
fees or set up a payment
plan with Taleisha
Christensen

Complete FAFSA
Fill out college
applications



Freshman Announcements

Submitted by Erica French

ATTENTION 9TH GRADE STUDENTS & PARENTS

Our 9th Grade students will be taking the PreACT next week!

This important practice test gives students a head start on college readiness and helps them build confidence for future standardized tests.

★ Why the PreACT matters:

- ✓ Gives early experience with the ACT format and timing
- ✓ Highlights academic strengths and areas for growth
- ✓ Connects interests to possible college and career paths
- ✓ Reduces test anxiety before the real ACT

The **PreACT** is **low-stakes** but **high-value** — a great way for students to plan, prepare, and set goals for high school success and beyond! ★

📅 **When:** November 4-7, 2025

📍 **Where:** Mr. Gloss's English I Classes

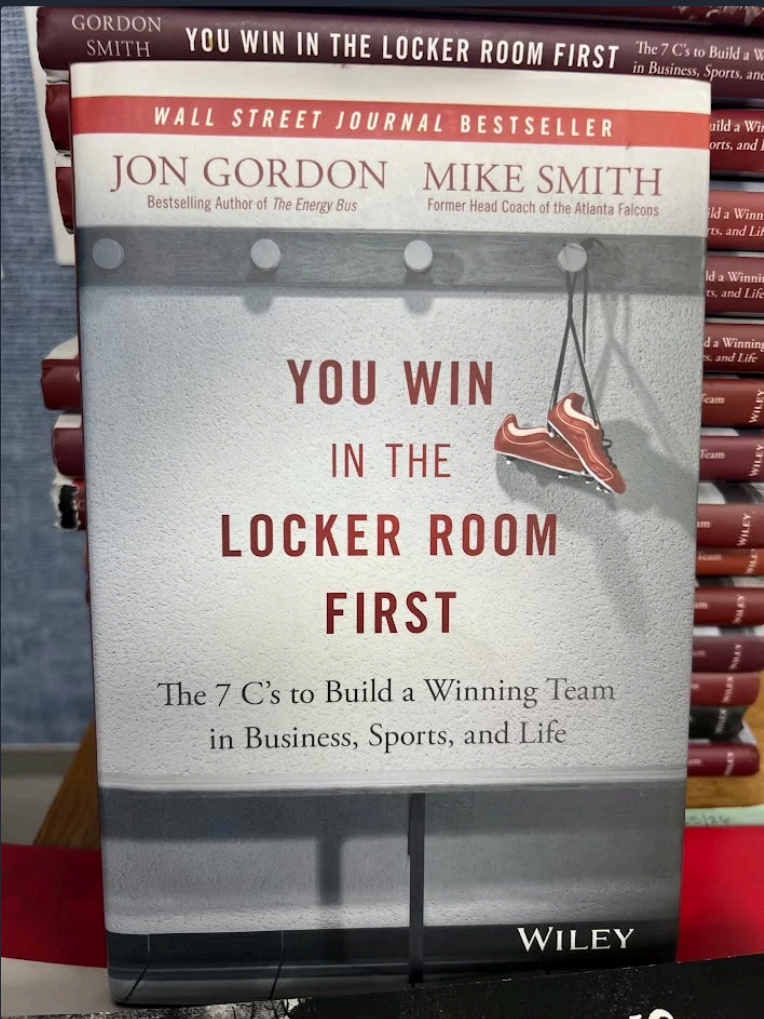
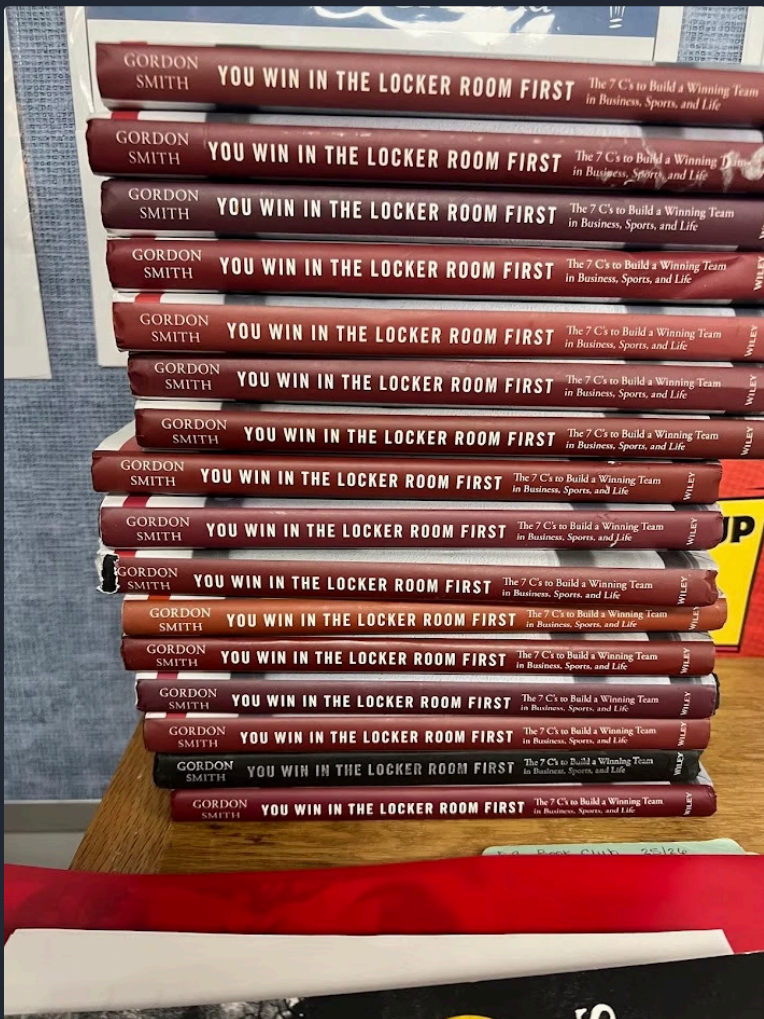
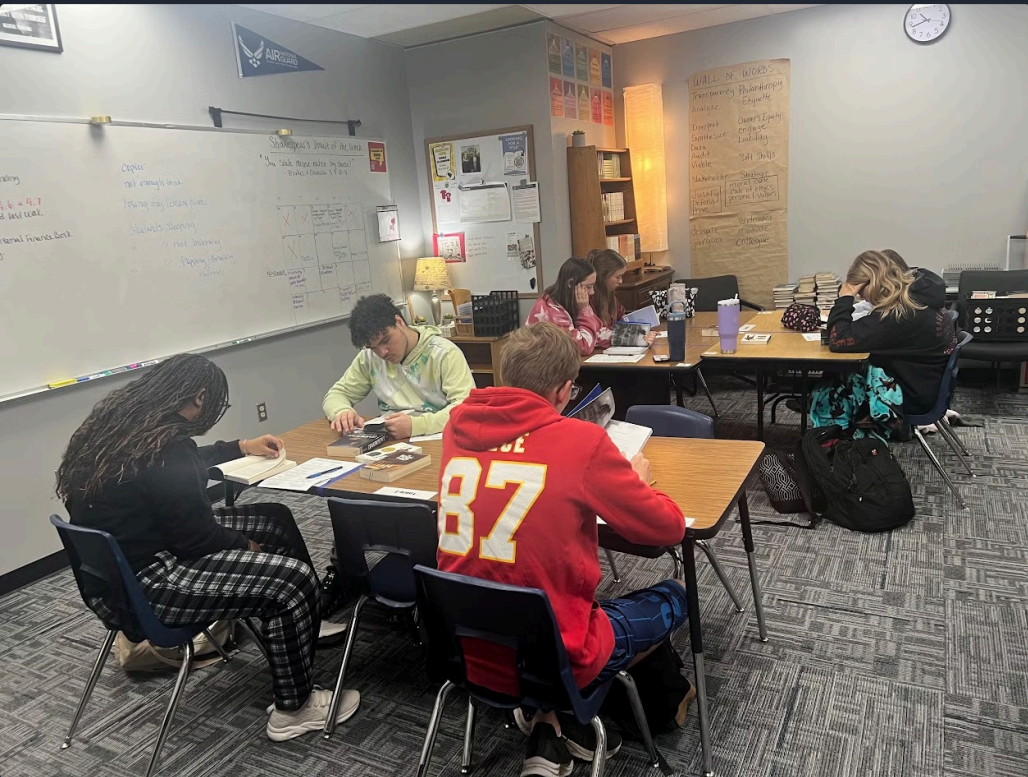
Let's support our 9th graders as they take this next step
toward their future! 💪

Library Media Center

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Thanks to support from the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation**, the *Charged Up Book Club* is off to a powerful start this semester, with **21 students and two staff members** diving into *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness — a moving story about grief, courage, and healing. Through this shared reading experience, participants will be able to engage in thoughtful discussions about resilience and empathy.

Our literacy initiative has expanded beyond the library to include several of our **athletic coaches** who received copies of *You Win in the Locker Room First* and *The Energy Bus* by Jon Gordon. These titles will help inspire **team-building, leadership, and growth mindset development** among our Charger athletes — extending the power of reading from the classroom to the field and beyond.



Mascot Shop

Submitted by Ashley Michaelis

Show Your Charger Pride with Our Jostens Mascot Shop!

Looking to gear up in Charger apparel? We're excited to partner with Jostens to bring you an easy way to shop for official SFT merchandise! From hoodies and t-shirts to hats and accessories, you'll find everything you need to show your school spirit.

Special November Offer: Get **20% OFF** orders of **\$125 or more PLUS FREE SHIPPING** when you use code **MASCOT20** at checkout!

Visit themascotshop.jostens.com/1071076 to browse the collection and place your order today. Whether you're shopping for yourself, your student, or looking for holiday gifts, now is the perfect time to stock up on Charger gear!

Go Chargers!



Santa Fe Trail High School

Make every occasion count with looks built by you! Show your team spirit all year long with custom looks for game days, special events and every day in between. The Mascot Shop has everything you need to stand out any day.



November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 No School: Professional Development Day 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Prairie View 4:00pm:HS V Scholars Bowl at West Franklin	4 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Anderson County 4:00pm:JH Boys Wrestling @ Perry-Lecompton	5 4:15pm:HS JV Scholars Bowl at Eudora	6 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Iola	7 7:00pm:HS V FB (Regionals)	8 HS ECKMEA District Honor Ensemble Auditions 9:00am:JH Boys Wrestling @ Emporia
9	10 JBuffer Week 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball @ Wellsville 4:00pm:HS V Scholars Bowl at Council Grove 6:00pm:High School Winter Sports Parent Meeting	11 Buffer Week 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Abilene 4:00pm:JH Boys Wrestling @ Iola	12 Buffer Week6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting	13 Buffer Week 3:30pm:JH Boys League Wrestling @ Osawatomie 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball @ Burlington 4:00pm:HS JV/V Scholars Bowl at Mission Valley	14 JBuffer Week 7:00pm:HS V FB (Sectionals) 7:00pm:HS Musical	15 Buffer Week 8:15am:JH Boys Wrestling @ Silver Lake 7:00pm:HS Musical
16 Buffer Week 2:00pm:HS Musical	17 HS First Day Winter Sports Practice 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball vs Osawatomie	18 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball @ Anderson County	19 HS League STUCO at Osawatomie 4:15pm:HS V Scholars Bowl at Eudora	20 4:00pm:HS JV Scholars Bowl at Anderson Co. 4:00pm:JH Girls Basketball @ Prairie View	21 HS State Dance Competition in Topeka 7:00pm:HS V FB (Sub State)	22 HS State Cheer Competition in Topeka 9:00am:JH Girls Basketball League Tournament - 7th @ Iola, 8th @ Osawatomie
23	24	25 4:30pm:HS Boys JV/V BB at Mission Valley 4:30pm:HS Girls BB at SFT	26 No School: Thanksgiving Break	27 No School: Thanksgiving Break	28 No School: Thanksgiving Break	29 7:00pm:HS V FB (State)