

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

BOE



Principal - Mrs. Lorle Bolt

A message from our principal

Dear Charger Families,

Throughout the month of December, students will begin their Winter FastBridge assessments. Staff will use this data to support academic growth and guide grade-level data meetings. By reviewing the results, we can collaborate as a team to identify next steps that will continue to strengthen student learning.

This process allows us to:

- Support academic growth
- Strengthen our ability to use data to guide instruction
- Identify students who may benefit from additional services



In addition, we will also be reviewing our **Wildly Important Goal (WIG)** with students. Our school-wide goal is for **90% of our K-3 students to show growth in reading fluency and/or maintain benchmark or above**. Each time a student shows growth, they will get to add a sticker to our WIG wall so we can celebrate and visually track our progress together.

★ WILDLY 'IMPORTANT' ★ GOAL (WIG)

“Watch Our Reading Fluency Grow!”

Goal Timeframe:
From Fall to Winter Benchmark



Our Goal:

**90% of K-3 students will
show growth in reading fluency!**

Grades K-1:

We will grow our early reading skills
by improving in:

- ✓ Letter Names
- ✓ Letter Sounds
- ✓ Nonsense Words



Grades 2-3:

We will increase our Words Correct Per Minute
(WCPM) on the CBM Reading Assessment!



Together We'll Reach Our Goal:
90% = 203 out of 225
students growing stronger
as readers!



Counselor's Corner

This month in our counseling lessons, we are learning all about **friendship and handling conflict in positive ways**. Students are practicing how to be good friends, how to use kind words, and how to solve small problems peacefully. We are also learning simple strategies—like taking turns talking, using “I” statements, and asking for help when needed—to help them build healthy relationships at school and at home.

Upcoming Dates:

Mark Your Calendars

- **12/2:** OAC Picture Retake Day

Please call the main office if you would like your child to have a picture retake.

- **12/8:** Holiday Concert @ SFTHS

- Kindergarten – **6:00 PM**

- 1st Grade – **7:00 PM**

Students will travel to SFTHS on this date to practice during their regularly scheduled music time.

- **12/10:** K/1 to Perform at Brookside (1st @ Noon, Kinder @ 1PM)

- **12/17:** 2nd & 3rd Grade Holiday Meal

- **12/18:** Holiday Concert @ SFTHS

- 2nd Grade – **6:00 PM**

- 3rd Grade – **7:00 PM**

Students will travel to SFTHS on this date to practice during their regularly scheduled music time.

- **12/22–1/6:** Winter Break

- **1/7:** School Resumes
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Family Resources

Let's Help in Topeka, KS would gladly like to help out Osage County families that are in need of food or assistance during the holidays. The family is required to bring an ID so they can be put into their system, but will not be turned away despite living outside of Shawnee County.

Let's Help offers emergency services for families that need help paying rent, utilities and paying for medications. They have a clothing bank and food pantry.

Let's Help

200 SE Kansas Ave.

Topeka KS



(785) 234-6208

Recess Weather Reminder

If the temperature or wind chill is **20°F or higher** and the weather is not inclement, students will go outside for recess. Please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat. If your family needs assistance with winter clothing, please let us know—**we are happy to help!**

If a student needs to stay inside for recess due to illness or other medical reasons, please provide a **doctor's note**.

A Note from the Nurse

<div>  <div> Santa Fe Trail USD #434 District Exclusion Policy for Sick Students (according to KDHE guidelines) <small>Questions please contact Kimberly Kesi, RN, District Director of Nursing</small> </div>  </div>	
CONDITION FOR EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL	CONDITIONS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL
Oral Temperature- of 100.4 or with nursing discretion based on symptoms.	Return to school when fever free for 24 hours without use of medication.
Positive COVID/Flu Test-	Return to school when free of fever for 24 hours & overall symptoms are improving. *If a fever develops or symptoms worsen, student should return home until symptoms have improved (at least 24 hours)
Severe Cough- where student gets red or blue in the face or makes high-pitched "croupy" or "whooping" sounds after coughing	Return to school when symptom free or physician's written approval to return to school.
Diarrhea- maximum of two watery stools in a four-hour period	Return to school when free of diarrhea for 24 hours
Vomiting	Return to school when free of upset stomach and/or vomiting for 24 hours
CONJUNCTIVITIS- inflammation of the conjunctiva of one or both eyes	Return to school 24 hours AFTER treatment has been started. Doctors note to be provided to nursing office.
BACTERIAL (PINK EYE)- Swelling of the eyelids and a purulent discharge	
Infected areas of the skin- with crust, yellow, dry area or rash, e.g. impetigo, ringworm, etc.	Return to school 24 hours AFTER treatment has been started.
Severe Itching of body or scalp- or constant scratching of scalp, e.g. head lice or scabies	Return to school after treatment, including free of lice or nits
Fainting or seizures- (other than pre-existing conditions) or general signs of listlessness, weakness, drowsiness, flushed face, headache or stiff neck	Return to school when symptom free or physician's written approval to return.
Streptococcal Infections-	Return to school 24 hours AFTER treatment as been initiated. Doctors note to be provided to nursing office.
Nurse Discretion- based on student's symptoms/presentation	To be determined by nurse based on symptoms.



Flu Notice.docx

Here is a separate note that directly addresses the flu.

[Download](#)

334.2 KB

Holiday Spirit Week

OAC Winter Wonders Week

December 15-19

Merry
Morning
Monday

Wear your
coziest PJs
or winter PJs!



Winter
Wear
Tuesday

Wear scarves,
mittens, beanies,
flannels, or
festive socks!



Wrapped up
Wednesday

Wear bows,
ribbons, or lots
of layers - come
'wrapped up' for
winter!



Ugly
Sweater
Thursday

Wear your
funniest,
brightest, or
most festive ugly
sweater!



Festive
Flash
Friday

Wear sparkles,
bright colors,
lights, or school
colors with a
festive twist!



Music Concerts – Mark Your Calendar

- **December 8:** Kindergarten & 1st Grade Music Concert

Location: **SFTHS Auditorium**

On the day of the concert, students will travel to SFTHS to practice during their regular music class time.

- **December 18:** 2nd & 3rd Grade Music Concert

Location: **SFTHS Auditorium**

On the day of the concert, students will travel to SFTHS to practice during their regular music class time.

Reminder: If a student is absent from school due to illness, they may **not** attend an evening school event.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Concerts



2nd & 3rd Grade Concerts

OVERBROOK ATTENDANCE CENTER PRESENTS

A VERY MERRY HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**18TH
DEC**

MUSIC BY

**2ND GRADE (6PM) &
3RD GRADE (7PM)**

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR UPCOMING HOLIDAY PROGRAM IN
DECEMBER FEATURING OUR AMAZING 2ND AND 3RD GRADE
STUDENTS!

Santa Fe Trail High School Auditorium
15701 S California Rd, Carbondale, KS 66414

Questions? Contact Mrs. Nelson at anelson@usd434.us



Dear Families,

I am excited to share that our students will have the opportunity to take a short field trip to the Brookside Retirement Community on Wednesday, December 10th.

During our visit, students will share music and spread holiday cheer with the residents.

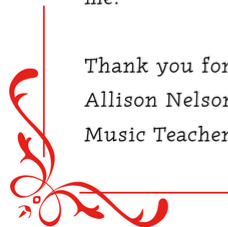
This field trip will take place during your child's regularly scheduled Special's class time.

- Kindergarten will travel at 1:00 PM
- 1st Grade will travel at 12:00 PM

Students will travel to and from the retirement community by bus. We will return to school before the end of their Specials period, and no additional supplies or preparation will be needed from home.

This visit is a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with our community, practice their performance skills, and brighten someone's day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



Thank you for your support,
Allison Nelson
Music Teacher



BOE Goal 2: Improve teaching and learning through research-based strategies that support students' postsecondary success.

2.1 Increase Student Learning Opportunities

To highlight new areas of growth, we have implemented IPS (Individual Plans of Study) at the end of the school day this year, with grade levels rotating quarterly. Within this framework, each grade level focuses on one of the Kansas Career Clusters:

- **Kindergarten–Second Grade:** Developmental focus includes career recognition, number sense, safety, and natural forces.
- **Third Grade:** Developmental focus includes problem solving, fractions and decimals, coding, and types of energy.

2.4 Analyze and Improve Current Student Achievement Levels

OAC staff and students consistently set building WIGs, classroom WIGs, and individual student WIGs. This year, we are collaborating with the State Department and Mrs. Grienke on the PRISM model to learn how to effectively use KITE interims, with the goal of better preparing our students for state assessments.

2.5 Develop and Align an Effective Curriculum for All Core Subjects K–12

Current walkthrough data as of 12/2/2025 shows that fidelity to the core program or other SFT-approved resources is at 88% (84 of 96 observations). It is important to note that at the beginning of the year, teachers may focus on rules and procedures, which may not always align with approved instructional resources.



Lorle Bolt

Lorle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

