

SAC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



End of Semester Wrap Up

We have had a great first semester of preschool! Below are the skills that all classes have been working on. We will continue to work on these skills during the second semester.

Social-Emotional Development

Children are learning how to feel comfortable in the classroom and build relationships with teachers and peers. They are practicing sharing, taking turns, following classroom rules, and expressing their feelings appropriately. We are also working on independence, confidence, and kindness toward others.

Fine Motor Skills

Students are strengthening their hand and finger muscles through activities such as coloring, drawing, painting, cutting, and using small manipulatives. These skills help prepare children for writing and other classroom tasks.

Gross Motor Skills

Through active play and movement activities, children are improving their balance, coordination, and body control. They enjoy running, jumping, climbing, dancing, and playing games that build large muscle strength and confidence.

Pre-Academic Skills

Children are developing early learning skills by listening to stories, following directions, participating in group activities, and exploring through hands-on play. They are learning to sort, match, problem-solve, and focus during teacher-led and independent activities.

Alphabet / Early Literacy

Students are being introduced to letters through songs, stories, and play. Many children can recognize some letters, especially those in their own names, and are beginning to understand that letters have sounds and are used to make words.

Numbers & Counting

Children are learning about numbers by counting objects, recognizing numerals, and participating in number songs and games. They are also beginning to understand basic math concepts such as more, less, and same.

We are very proud of the progress your child has made this semester and look forward to continued growth in the months ahead. Thank you for your support and partnership!

Upcoming Dates

- 12/22-1/6: Winter Break
- 1/7: Classes Resume
- 1/19: No School



DECEMBER FUN



USD 434 Santa Fe Trail

Inclement Weather Procedures:



USD 434 recognizes that having snow days can be both exciting and difficult for families based on their various needs. Please have a proactive plan in place for childcare when our district makes the decision to close due to weather. The district wants to emphasize that student, staff, and family safety is our TOP priority. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation are monitoring the road conditions in a very large geographic district that spreads 201 square miles, over 4 different counties, and 3 communities. We also have numerous staff members who commute from Topeka, Lawrence, Kansas City and other surrounding cities. Our city sidewalks, parking lots, temperatures, district busses/vehicles, and forecasts are also monitored for decision-making. All of these factors are taken in consideration when our safety is a stake. Thank you for understanding our process and procedures during these difficult decisions.

School Closures due to weather conditions:

- The Superintendent of Schools makes the decision to close school due to weather. School closures will also likely cancel all school activities and community groups that use our facilities on those days. If the weather significantly changes throughout the day it will be at the discretion of the administration to allow activities to be held as optional for students. We will communicate time changes, transportation supports, and other information that may apply to those activities.
- Winter weather communication will be sent out via text, email, social media, school website, and area news media such as WIBW and KSNT. We will communicate before 10 pm if confident of weather conditions otherwise by 5:30 am on the morning of closure. Our goal is to inform you the night before to support families. Please make sure that current phone numbers and email addresses are on file in PowerSchool. Please contact sfthelpdesk@usd434.us if you need support making those changes.
- If there is a need for a delayed start, we will let families know as early as possible. A delayed start will only be an option if we have appropriate staffing, roads are driveable but extra time is needed for some routes, and scheduling is conducive.
- Parents may choose to keep their children home for health and safety reasons. Please contact your child's school to report their absence.

Early Release due to weather during school hours:

- The district will try to avoid unexpected early dismissals. On occasion, early dismissal is unavoidable. Parents should make prior arrangements for the supervision of their children.
- It is important for schools to be able to reach parents and designated childcare providers during daytime hours. Please make sure that current phone numbers and email addresses are on file in PowerSchool. Please contact sfthelpdesk@usd434.us if you need support making those changes.
 - When it is necessary to dismiss children early during a regular school day, the district will contact parents via text, email, and area media outlets. If weather conditions worsen and

schools remain open, parents may choose to pick up their children early after informing school staff.

Snow Routes: Important Information for Parents

- **Purpose:** Ensure the safe transportation of students during winter weather conditions.
- **Activation:**
 - Snow routes will be implemented when weather conditions make normal routes unsafe.
 - Parents will be asked to meet the bus at a designated pick-up area.
- **Designated Pick-Up Areas: Determined by Drivers**
 - Located as close as possible to the original route.
 - Reduce the need for buses to turn around in driveways or risky areas.
- **Safety Goal:**
 - Minimize the risk of buses getting stuck while students are onboard.
- **Communication:**
 - Route drivers will contact affected families soon to share specific pick-up area details.

Employee Duties:

Only staff who are performing weather-related or time-sensitive tasks, as directed by their supervisor, report to work when schools are closed.

Please review these winter weather safety tips from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

[WinterSafety.pdf](#)

Connect With Us!

Stay informed and engaged with the latest updates, events, and announcements from our schools.

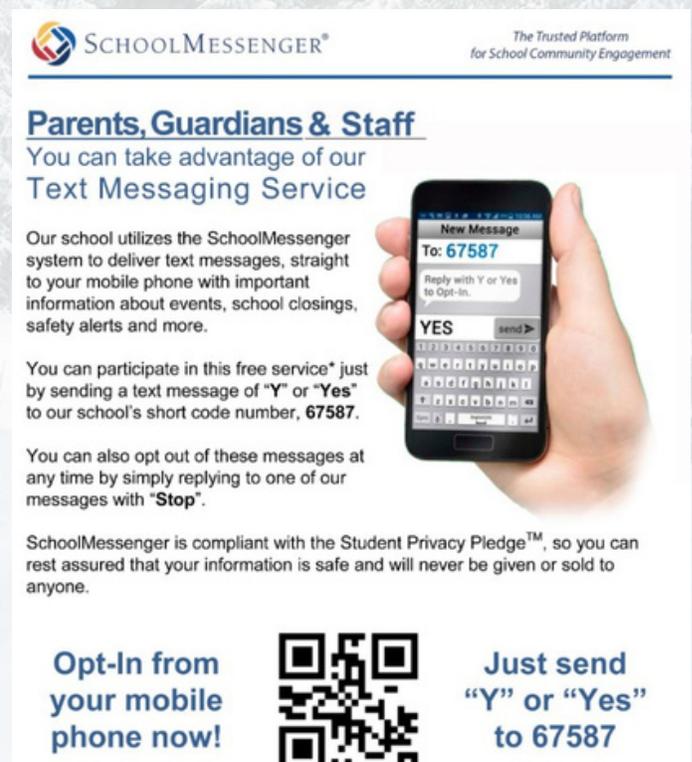
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- Santa Fe Trail High School: [@434HS](#)

Connect with School Messenger:

Stay updated through our Text and Email Mass Communication System. Learn more about how to sign up here: [School Messenger Info](#)

Stay connected with your school community!



SCHOOLMESSENGER®
The Trusted Platform for School Community Engagement

Parents, Guardians & Staff

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from your mobile phone now!



Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587

