

February 2026

The Charger

Mike Maloun, Principal
Austin Hershberger, AP/AD
1.800.836.9525

Parents and Guardians,

We have observed an increase in behaviors related to cell phone use and energy drink consumption that interfere with our learning environment. As we strive to maintain a focused and distraction-free atmosphere, we would like to remind you of the district's cell phone policy and the school's energy drink policy. Ensuring that our students can concentrate on their studies is a priority, and your support is crucial in reinforcing these guidelines at home.

Cell Phone Policy: As a district policy, students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day. All phones should be securely stored in their lockers. If a student is found with a cell phone, they will first receive a warning. A second offense will result in detention, and a third offense will lead to an In-School Suspension (ISS). To facilitate communication, please contact your student through the school office rather than directly calling their cell phone.

Energy Drink Policy: Energy drinks are prohibited on school premises as a school policy. Students found with these beverages will have them confiscated. Please remind your child to leave any energy drinks at home to comply with this policy.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a productive educational environment. By working together, we can ensure that our students have the best possible experience at school. If you have questions or concerns about these policies, please contact Mr. Maloun in the office. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Attendance Update!

As we move through the school year, it's really important to attend school regularly. Unfortunately, we're seeing more and more students miss too many days. This is worrying because going to school often is key to doing well in school. Being there helps students learn better, make friends, and learn important skills like being responsible and disciplined, which are important for growing up and doing well in the future.

We know there are real reasons to miss school, like being sick or having appointments. But it's important to keep these absences as few as possible. If a student is sick or has a medical appointment, we encourage parents and guardians to get a doctor's note. This note helps keep track of absences and allows the school to help with any missed work.

We ask parents, guardians, and students to make going to school a top priority and to talk openly with teachers and school staff if there are any problems. By working together, we can make sure every student gets the most out of their education, building a strong base for their future. Let's make every school day count!

PICTURE DAY



COMING!

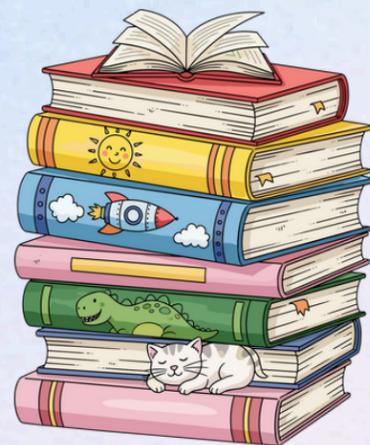
Mark Your Calendar

Picture Day is coming up on Wednesday, February 4th! No order is due now. You may receive an email shortly after Picture Day to view and order the picture. Time to start thinking about the outfit! Tip: Solid colors or patterns look best. Try to avoid green, white, and shirts with graphics.

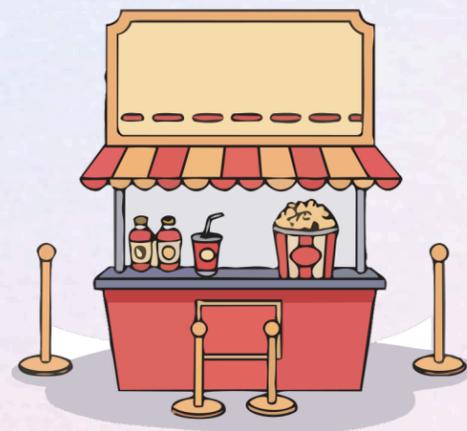
CAC Family Night

Tuesday, February 10th from 5:30-7:30

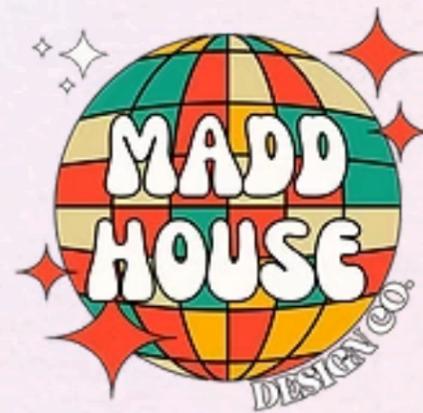
Sponsored by our Title 1 Program



Scholastic
Book Fair



FBLA Fundraiser
Concession Stand



Madd House
Design Co



Tom's Travelin'
Coffee Truck

Bring a blanket, spread out in the gym, and enjoy reading with your child! Madd House will be here with Charger Gear, the book fair will be open, as well as the concession stand, and Tom's coffee truck!

Nursing News ...

Influenza A is our focus as we begin the month of February. This virus has arrived in our community and is affecting many of you currently. Influenza A is highly contagious. You will be most contagious during the first 3-4 days of the illness. Influenza is spread through respiratory droplets (coughing, sneezing, talking). You can get it from touching contaminated surfaces. Here is some helpful information...

Symptoms of Influenza A can be slightly different from that of a common cold. In fact, the main difference is the sudden onset of symptoms; fever (above 100.4) and chills. Body aches, severe fatigue and weakness are all common symptoms of Influenza.

Although both influenza and the common cold virus cause respiratory issues, Influenza A will typically present with a dry cough. Sore throat and Nasal congestion (stuffy or runny nose) are also common symptoms. Children are more likely than adults to have vomiting, nausea and diarrhea in addition to respiratory issues.

We are encouraging hydration, rest, and consulting a doctor/medical provider about being tested for Influenza A within 2 days of symptoms starting. There is an antiviral medication called Tamiflu that is commonly prescribed. Talk with your doctor/provider about this medication.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school community healthy this season. Wishing you a happy and heart-healthy February!

FBLA Kaytee Deines



Hello, Middle School Families!

FBLA is an incredible organization dedicated to helping students bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world. Our members develop leadership skills, learn about the business industry, and build the confidence they need to succeed in any career path they choose.

We are hitting the ground running this semester! Our first major event is the District Competition, which will take place on January 28th at Washburn University in Topeka.

Our dedicated students have been preparing to showcase their talents in a wide variety of competitive events, including:

- **Objective Testing: Demonstrating knowledge in business fundamentals.**
- **Public Speaking: Delivering powerful, prepared speeches.**
- **Presentations: Showcasing creative projects and business solutions.**

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to represent our school, meet peers from other districts, and experience a collegiate environment at Washburn University. Please join me in wishing our competitors the best of luck as they prepare for the big day!

StuCo News

by Tiffany Burget

StuCo has not been able to have a meeting yet this semester. However, they are still running their vending machine in order to raise money for each class for their fourth quarter reward trips.

KAY News

by Preston Fordham

KAY is preparing for our Unit Conference in February in Holton, Kansas. Students are excited to share their ideas (and learn new ones) with students from other schools.

In the meantime, we are continuing our weekly recycling program and planning community service projects for the end of the school year.

February 2026 | by Kara Holbert

CHOIR & MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS



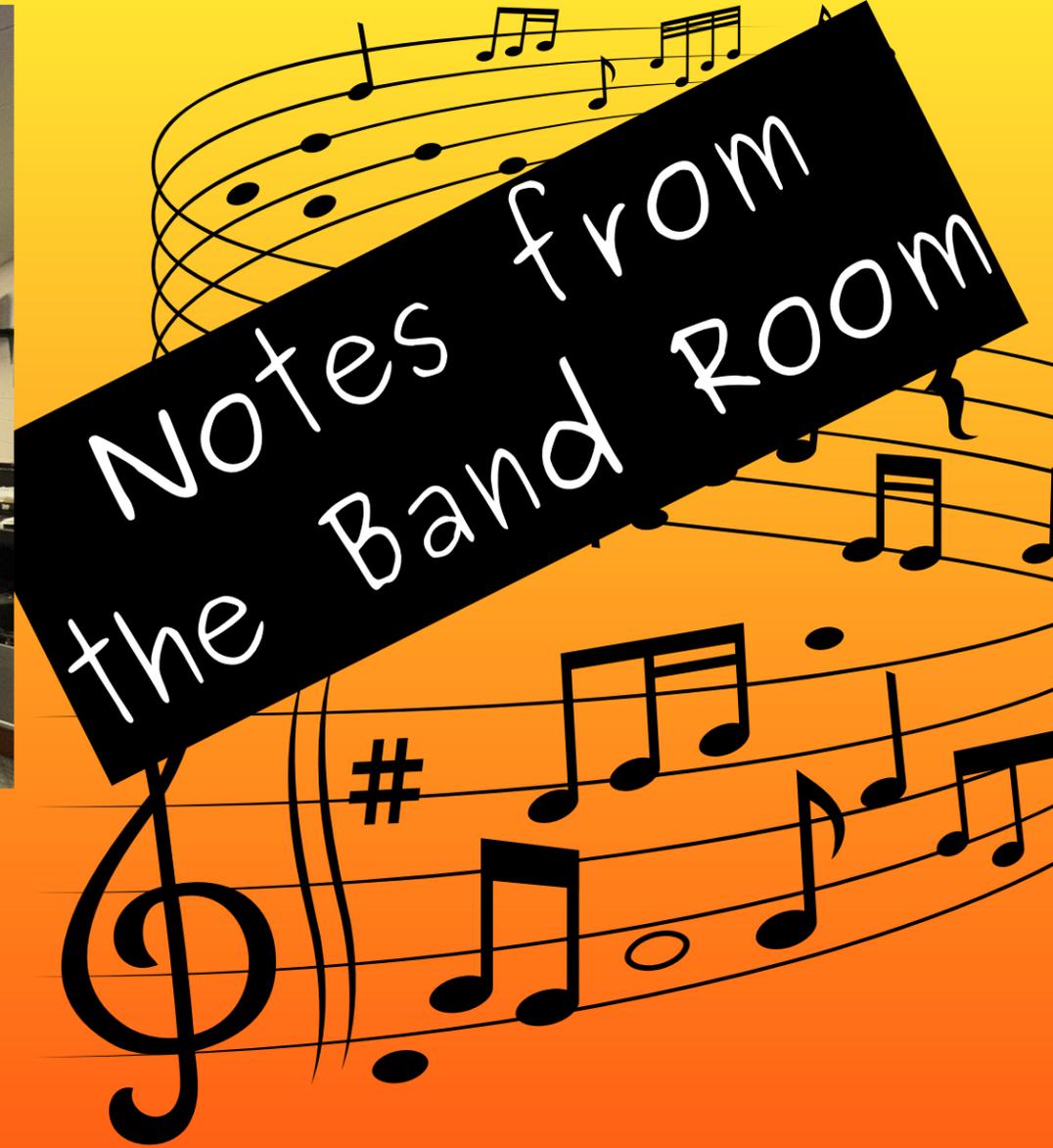
We've been having fun with a new group of 6th graders trying Choir for the first time this semester! Students in 6th Grade Choir will be learning how to read Choral Music this semester, preparing for a performance towards the end of April! Syllabi were sent home at the beginning of January.

Students in 7th and 8th Grade Choir are doing a great job learning how to navigate sight-reading using Solfege, which is a great tool to support music literacy. They are now preparing music for our Combined Concert with the High School Choirs in March.

5th Graders have started preparing for their program later this semester. "Lights! Camera! Action!" will perform on April 1st @ CAC.

Upcoming Performances:

- March 10th @ 7pm - JH/HS Spring Choir Concert @ SFTHS
- April 1st @ 7pm - 5th Grade Program @ CAC
- April 20th @ 7pm - 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Spring Concert @ CAC



Upcoming Performances:
Junior High League Band 03/02 @
Osawatomie. Time TBD
5-12 Band Concert 05/08 @ HS Gym
5:30



The bands have gotten back into the swing of things this year. We've started preparing our music for the Junior High League Band coming up on March 2nd for the 7th and 8th graders. This event will have all the schools that are in our league perform 2 songs then combine to make one massive band. We also ended the month of January by starting our playing tests. If you haven't heard your kid practicing for those, hopefully you will soon!

Technology Classes

February

4TH AND 5TH GRADE TECH

2nd semester 4th grade classes are Mrs. Hayes and Ms. Kunsch and the 5th grade has tech every 3rd day.

They are continuing to focus on their typing skills along with creating a stop motion animation project using google slides and the theme is winter. In this project students are learning how to find and create images that are transparent with no backgrounds along with Ctrl + D, ordering images and a handful of other skills.

6TH GRADE TECH

The 2nd Quarter's 6th grade tech class continued to focus 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.



7TH TECH

The 2nd semester 7th grade classes are working on a variety of tech topics, such as Ai and using google docs with advanced skills.

They will continue to work on their typing skills on Tuesdays and Thursdays along with their independent projects.

The students will continue to work on some review skills in google docs along with advanced skills such as bullets, auto numbering and many formatting skills.

8TH GRADE TECH INNOVATIONS

This 2nd semester's 8th grade class is dealing with innovative tech skills. The students will work with a partner on many projects and learn through tutorials on the new skills.

The students have completed projects with Ai, pixel art, 3d Paint and just starting animaker.com

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several yellow brushstrokes of varying lengths and directions, radiating from the top left towards the center.

MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

Building a Culture of Kindness at Home

School is a season of incredible growth. As students navigate who they are and where they fit in, they are learning a vital lesson: their actions matter. Kindness isn't just a feeling; it's a skill we practice. To celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb 14-20) we invite your family to try these three mini-challenges:

- The digital positivity challenge: Challenge your child to send three positive texts or comments this week.
- Kindness teaches empathy challenge: Challenge your child to find ways they can be kind to others throughout their school day.
- Family acts of service challenge: Make it a goal to do a kind act of service for someone in your family.

“Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change.” – Bob Kerrey

ART ROOM



Kansas Day is just around the corner. Fourth grade studied Kansas sunset photography and observed how the Kansas landscape is unique with its stunning silhouettes. Then they chose how to make their own silhouettes.



WANTED:

Fourth grade is looking ahead to a large collaborative Earth day project. Please bring all your recycled water bottles to the ART ROOM.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

FEB 2026

Boys Basketball season is ramping up, as we are about halfway through the year. Currently, the B team squad holds a 4-4 record, 7th grade is 7-1, and 8th grade is 2-6. The boys have made impressive strides both skill-wise and mentally from the start of the season until now. They will wrap up the season on February 21st at the League Tournament.

Scholars Bowl practices began after we returned from winter break. 7th grade has 14 students participating, while 8th grade has 16 students. They will host their lone home meet of the season on February 19 at CAC.

FBLA has 30 students participating this year. They attended districts at Washburn University on January 28, and will compete at State FBLA at the end of March.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2 - Boys Basketball @ Osawatomie 4pm
- Feb 3 - Scholars Bowl @ Burlington 4pm
- Feb 5 - Boys Basketball vs Iola 4pm
- Feb 9 - Boys Basketball vs Anderson County 4pm
- Feb 12 - Boys Basketball vs Burlington 4pm
- Feb 19 - Boys Basketball @ Iola 4pm
- Feb 19 - Scholars Bowl HOME @ CAC 4pm
- Feb 21 - Boys Basketball League Tournament - 7th Grade @ Wellsville, 8th Grade @ Iola - Time TBD
- Feb 23 - Scholars Bowl @ 4p
- Mar 2 - League Band @ Osawatomie 4p
- Mar 3 - League Scholars Bowl @ Wellsville 4p

By: Austin Hershberger

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Bryar Wells, 7th

Art & Mrs. Swanson

Josh Allen

Basketball

K-State

1st Touchdown in Flag Football

Steak & Texas Roadhouse

Michael Jordan is the GOAT



Madi Heinz, 8th

Social Studies & Ms. Van Aalst

My Dance Coach

Dance

Chiefs

When I won a National Title in Dance

Ribs & Raising Canes

Our Girls Basketball Team is better than the Boys

Favorite Class/Teacher

Role Model

Favorite Sport

Favorite Team

Favorite Sports Memory

Favorite Food/Restraunt

Hot Take





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