

April 2026

The Charger

Mike Maloun, Principal

Austin Hershberger,

AP/AD

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This is the time in the school year when we start planning for next year. The 8th graders have already started the HS enrollment process and now we are excited to begin the enrollment process for our rising 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students. Middle school is a unique time of growth—a time when students transition from foundational learning to discovering their own unique passions and strengths.

New Opportunities for Discovery

This year, I am particularly thrilled to announce new elective offerings designed to spark curiosity and increase student engagement. We have listened to student feedback and worked hard to diversify our curriculum. Whether your student is interested in the arts, technology, or hands-on problem solving, there is something new for everyone to explore.

Our goal is to provide a "well-rounded" experience where students feel empowered to take risks and try something outside of their comfort zone. From digital media to the creative arts, there should be classes for everyone's interest, these courses are designed to make school a place where every student finds their "spark."

Your Role in the Process

Choosing classes is a significant milestone for middle schoolers. We ask that you take the time to sit down with your student to review the course descriptions together.

- **Discuss Their Interests:** What subjects make them lose track of time? What new skills do they want to learn?
- **Return the Form:** Once you have finalized the selections, you will sign and return the enrollment form to their homeroom teacher.

Your involvement in this process ensures that your student starts the new year with a schedule that truly reflects who they are becoming. We can't wait to see the incredible things our students will achieve in these new programs!

State Assessment Incentives

To encourage kids to do their best on State Assessments this month we have some great incentives for our students. We believe in GROWTH so our incentives are based on growth not just achievement! We believe if each and every student does their best work, with the instruction they have had this year, we will see some great gains in our scores!

State Assessment Incentives:

- 0-20 point increase:

Mystery Miniature/Blind Bag



- 20-30 point increase: *Shopping Cart*



- 30+ point increase OR maintain a level 3 or 4:

Snow Cone and Extra Recess



- *AND a Pizza Party for the grade level with highest growth*

State Assessment Incentives:

- *AND...*



EVERY STUDENT WHO GOES UP A LEVEL OR MAINTAINS A LEVEL 3 or 4 SCORE WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR CUSTOM NIKES. WE WILL PICK TWO WINNERS FROM THE RAFFLE.



Spring has sprung! This is a great time to discuss asthma and allergy management and outdoor safety.

Spring in Kansas: warm weather + pollen and mold = asthma and allergy flareups. Many of us are familiar with this recipe. Symptoms of asthma include persistent wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and coughing. These symptoms often appear with allergy symptoms such as sneezing, itchy eyes and nasal congestion. Preparing ahead of time is an effective strategy to consider. If you suffer from allergies or asthma, make sure you have your routine medications on hand. Inhalers, antihistamines, and nasal sprays are commonly used. Talk to your medical provider now. Some of these treatments can be brought to school and administered to your student when needed. Talk to your school nurse.

Some helpful hints: monitor weather changes, pollen counts and common spring outdoor triggers. Keep your windows closed and secure your home during peak times if your child has asthma or suffers from seasonal allergies.

Outdoor safety during warmer weather is an important consideration. Many of us are now spending more time outside. Here are a few tips to keep you safe.

- Check the weather and dress in layers.
- Prevent tick and bug bites. Protective clothing and insect repellents help with this.
- Stay hydrated; increase water intake.
- Sun protection; protective clothing and sunscreen.
- Practice activity safety; bike helmets, eye protection, proper clothing.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school community healthy. We hope April showers you with fun and good health!



FBLA Kaytee Deines

Hello, Middle School Families!

April brings showers and state testing to CAC grade levels. 4th grade, 6th grade, and 7th grade will take two days of math and reading state assessments, 5th and 8th grade will take two days of science, math, and reading state assessments. Please see the dates below:

March 31 - Science Day 1

April 2 - Science Day 2

April 9 - ELA Day 1

April 10 - ELA Day 2

April 15 - Math Day 1

April 17 - Math Day 2

State assessments are a vital data point to both teachers, the district, and the the state. We will be revisiting valuable test taking strategies and appreciate all of your ongoing support at home!

Congratulations to all the students who excelled at the State FBLA conference and secured their spots for Nationals in San Antonio this summer!



Karli DaPrato - 1st place, Career Research

Deni Roney - 2nd place, Career Research; 1st place, Exploring FBLA

Andrew Baughman, Nate Baughman, and Colton Anderson - 1st place, Exploring Website Design

Waylon Masters, Max Orwig, Jonah Ramsdell - 3rd place, exploring business issues

Caleb Goltz - 1st place, Exploring Customer Service

Jacob Combes - 4th place, Career Exploration; 3rd place, Exploring Parliamentary Procedure; 4th place, Exploring Personal Finance

Levi Smith - 1st place, Digital Citizenship

Nate Baughman - 2nd place, Exploring Accounting and Finance

Colton Anderson - 1st place, Exploring Computer Science; 2nd place, Exploring Marketing Concepts; 2nd place, Exploring Technology

Andrew Baughman - 2nd place, Exploring Computer Science; 3rd place, Exploring Personal Finance

Marlee Saric - 4th place, Exploring FBLA

Jonah Ramsdell - 4th place, Exploring Parliamentary Procedure

StuCo News

by Tiffany Burget

StuCo had a brief meeting where we took our picture for the yearbook. The vending machine has brought in a significant amount of money which allowed us to donate money to every grade level for their 4th quarter reward trip and donate some money for state testing incentives.

KAY News

by Preston Fordham

KAY has had a quiet March, but is preparing for the end of the school year and beyond.

Please see the pamphlet to the right with more information about KAY Leadership Camp; an opportunity for all KAY members to participate in this summer.

Let Mr. Fordham know if you have any questions via email: pfordham@usd434.us



The pamphlet features a central illustration of a monkey hanging from a vine next to a sun. The title 'KAY LEADERSHIP CAMP 2026' is prominently displayed. The right side contains contact information for Junction City KS and the dates July 27-31, 2026. A 'WHAT TO EXPECT' section lists activities like Banquet, Campfire, and Fun Night. A 'KLC Timeline' details the daily schedule from arrival to farewell. A table at the bottom outlines 'GENERAL SESSIONS', 'LEADERSHIP LABS', and 'AREA MEETINGS'. A 'HOUSING' section provides details on wake-up times, shared cabins, and packing lists.

**1168 KS-157
JUNCTION CITY KS
66441**

**JULY 27-31
2026**

**PROVIDED BY THE 2026
KAY AREA PRESIDENTS**

KLC Timeline

- Monday-
Arrival
Introduction
- Tuesday-
Staff Speakers
- Wednesday-
Fun Night
Dance
- Thursday-
Banquet
Campfire
- Friday-
Farewell

WHAT TO EXPECT

BANQUET: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time to dress up• Planned and prepared by campers• Time to recognize and thank the staff members for the amazing week	CAMPFIRE: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native American tradition• Every color group, area president, Sarah get to make a wish for this coming year• Reflection on everything we've learned at camp	FUN NIGHT: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time to show everyone what each color group has worked on• You can coose from any of these activities: Swimming, dance, snack bar, or just hang out with friends• Color group skits!• Have a picnic with your color team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIGH energy, bring yours!• Lots of singing and dancing• Long, fun packed days!• Amazing meals• Getting out of your comfort zone• Making connections with people from all over!• Disconnect from electronics for a bit• New roomates = new friends!
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GENERAL SESSIONS	LEADERSHIP LABS	AREA MEETINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about what the day holds• Hear many inspirational speeches• Fun energizers <p>Color Teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a Skit• Learn how to work as a team• Find true colors• Serve a meal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn more about your position in your club• Swap experiences and projects <p>Laugh Love Lift</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time to connect with others• Service projects• Play games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet your area president• Learn about your area project• Select your area project <p>Creative Periods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help make a certain part of camp special• Build Teamwork• Learn time management

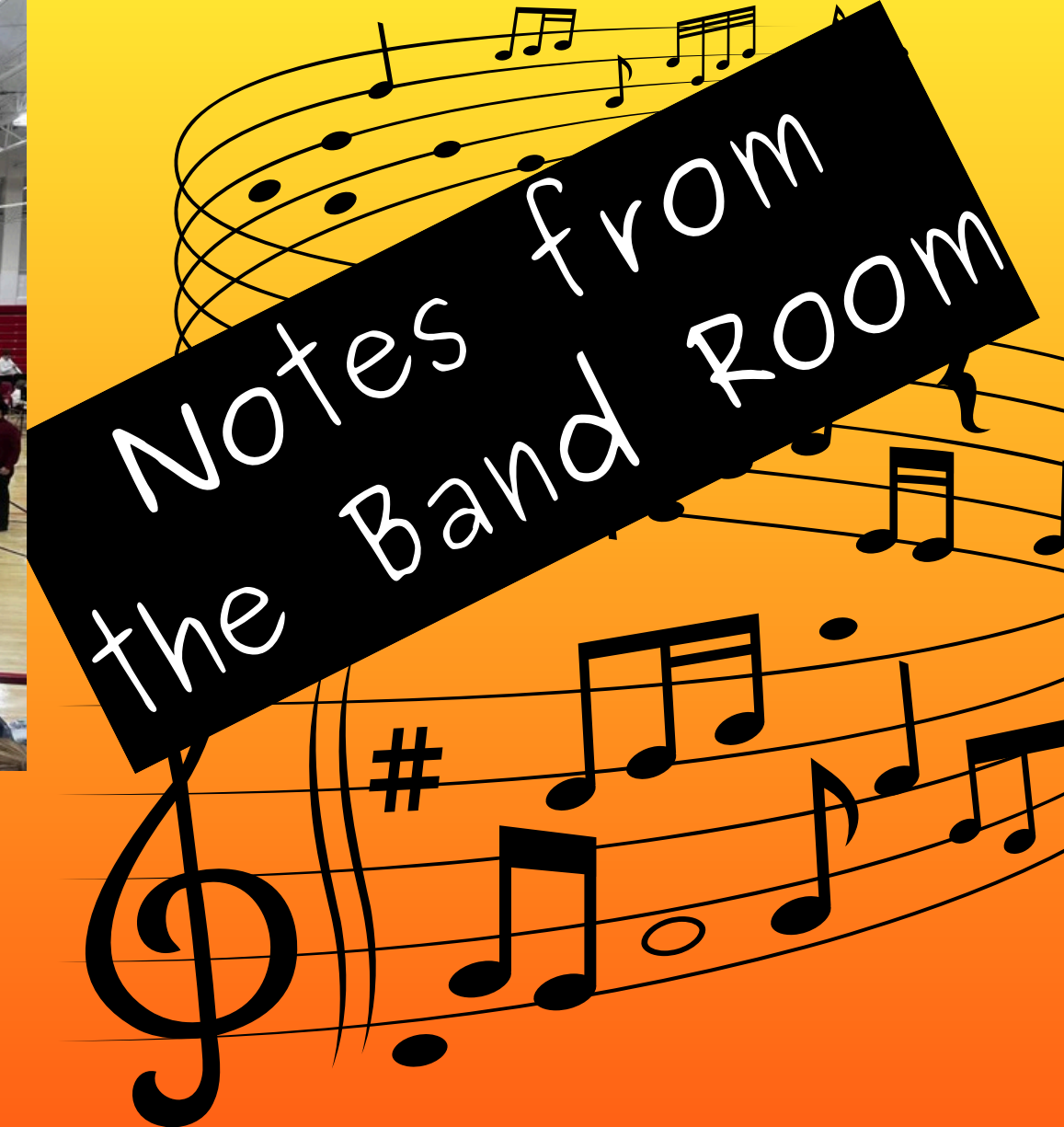
HOUSING

- Wake Up: 6:30am Bed time: 10:30pm
- Campers stay in shared cabins with roommates and about three camp staff per cabin.
- Bring sandals for showers
- Cabins are a short walk from activities.
- There will be nightly cabin meetings before lights out at 10:30 PM.
- Bring your bedding (twin size)
- Come ready to make new friends and great memories!
- See KLC brochure for packing list



Upcoming Performances:
5-12 Band Concert 05/08 @ HS Gym
5:30

The 7th and 8th graders had a blast performing at the Junior High League Band on March 2nd. This was an all-day event where all the schools that are in our league rehearsed all afternoon with a concert in the evening. Every school performed one piece then combined to make one massive band with 400+ students. The 5th and 6th graders have started looking ahead to their concert in May. This is where all the bands in the district will get a chance to perform.



Technology Classes

4TH AND 5TH GRADE TECH

The 3rd Nine week tech classes are 4th grade Mrs. Hayes and Ms. Kunsch and the 5th grade has tech every 3rd day.

Students are continuing to work on their typing skills and are encouraged to slow down and use fingers on home row every time they are in front of the keyboard.

They have created a 10 image design using the website autodraw.com along with reviewing their home row keys and learning tech terms using blooket.

6TH GRADE TECH

The new 4th Quarter's 6th grade tech class will focus on digital citizenship skills as they learn new vocabulary and how to make positive decisions in their digital world.

The students have started off with creating a poster that shows what their digital world looks like with all their apps, devices, websites they use on a daily or weekly basis.

Students have created a table to organize their vocabulary and definitions to a variety of digital citizenship vocabulary. Students will also continue to work on their typing skills too.

APRIL



7TH TECH

The 2nd semester 7th grade classes are continuing to learn more about google sheets and creating formulas and creating line graphs.

They will continue to work on their typing skills on Tuesdays and Thursdays along with their independent projects such as 3D pens, 3D design and printing, photo editing, cricut, etc. After the students finish their independent projects they will learn how to program a robot.

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 been working on robots. They had to assemble their robot as they are working with a partner. They are learning how to code and accomplish the task of programming their robot to follow a specific path around a track.



PE & WEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

MAY 12th

CAC FIELD DAY SCHEDULE

8:45 - 8:55 Report to Starting Spot

9:00 - 9:20 - Team Sports (Obstacle course/ Volleyball) (GYM)

9:25 - 9:45- Team Running (Sack Races/3 Legged)

9:50 - 10:10- Specialty Skills (Flag Football/ Home Run Derby/)

10:15 - 10:35- Country Club (SNAG Golf/ Soccer)

10:40 - 11:00 - Tailgate Games (Cornhole/SpikeBall/Frisbee Golf)

11:05 - 11:25- Tag Games (Sharks and Minnows/ Survivor)

Classes will rotate, students will have their pick of activities during rotation

11:30 - 12:25 Lunch outside or in your Room

12:30 to 1:30 DodgeBall and Tug of War in the gym

1:30 to 3:15 Sports Movie

3:15 Dismissal



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

MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

April often brings a spike in social friction, causing friendships to be unpredictable. As students spend more time together outdoors and on social media, small misunderstandings can quickly turn into significant drama. We have been focusing on relational resilience—teaching students how to handle disagreements with kindness and how to set healthy boundaries.

When drama starts, whether in the cafeteria or a group chat, it gains power from the audience. We are teaching students that they have the power to stop the drama by:

- **Refusing to vent-spread:** Encouraging them to respectfully talk to the person they have a problem with, rather than about them to five other people.
- **Exiting the chat:** Giving themselves permission to silence a group text when it turns negative.
- **Use empathy:** Encouraging them to put themselves in the other person's shoes and think about how you would feel if it were happening to you.

A Quick Tip for Parents: If your student comes home with drama, try the Listen-Validate-Empower approach. Listen to the story, validate that their feelings are real, and then ask: "How do you think you want to handle this tomorrow?"

ART ROOM

Seventh grade explored form versus function while building towers. They talked about the physics of form and practiced the skills learned with a tallest tower challenge. Congratulations to Maddie, Annabelle, Kayleigh, and Nikki for building the tallest towers.



Eighth grade learned that art can represent the values and needs of a culture. They worked collaboratively to identify these needs and create objects for their made up societies.



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2026

By: Austin Hershberger

Spring Sports season is underway at the Junior High! Track and golf practices began on March 23. Track is practicing from 3:30 to 5:00 at the High School track Monday through Friday. The JH Track team is coached by Garrett Staten and Emily Roberts (Head Coaches), and assisted by Lizzy Olorunfemi, Stetsyn Roberts, and Josh Whittaker. The team has 49 Junior High student-athletes participating in track this Spring. They will begin their meet season on April 7 with a League Triangular at SFT, and will host the SFT Invitational on April 14.

Golf is practicing Monday and Wednesday's at Lamont Hill Golf Course, Tuesdays at Lake Shawnee Golf Course, and Thursdays at Forbes Golf Course. The team is coached by Kaytee Deines, and assisted by Mary Burgett and Skylar Kunsch. They will begin competitive play on April 8 at Iola, and will host 2 home meets this season. April 16 is designated for experienced golfers, while the home meet on April 24 will provide a competition experience for golfers that are new to the sport. The team has 21 students participating this Spring, spanning a wide range of skills sets and experiences.

Good luck this Spring, Chargers!

Congratulations to the Junior High Cheer Squad! They competed at the Baldwin cheer competition on February 28 and received a 2 rating for their team routine, which is outstanding! This spirited group of girls, coached by Natasha Dahl, put in a ton of work throughout the year and brought energy to each and every home event! This award is well deserved!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7 - Track League Tri w/ Oz & Wv @ SFTHS 3:30p
April 8 - Golf @ Iola 2:30p
April 14 - Track Inv. @ SFTHS 2:00p
April 16 - V Golf Home Meet @ Lamont Hill 2:30p
April 21 - Golf @ Lake Perry GC 10:00a
April 21 - Track @ Prairie View 3:30p
April 22 - Golf @ Garnett CC 2:30p
April 23 - V Track @ Wamego 12:00p
April 23 - JV Track @ Royal Valley 4:00p
April 24 - JV Golf Home Meet @ Lamont Hill 2:30p
April 28 - Track @ Eudora 3:45p
April 29 - Golf @ Rolling Meadows 10:00a

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Zander French, 7th

PE & Mrs. Burget

Tiger Woods

Golf

K-State

Winning a 3rd Place trophy in golf

Burgers & Olive Garden

More people should play golf



Elin Staab, 8th

Favorite Class/Teacher

I have too many favorite teachers! PE/Weights

Role Model

My Dad

Favorite Sport

Softball

Favorite Team

Washburn Softball

Favorite Sports Memory

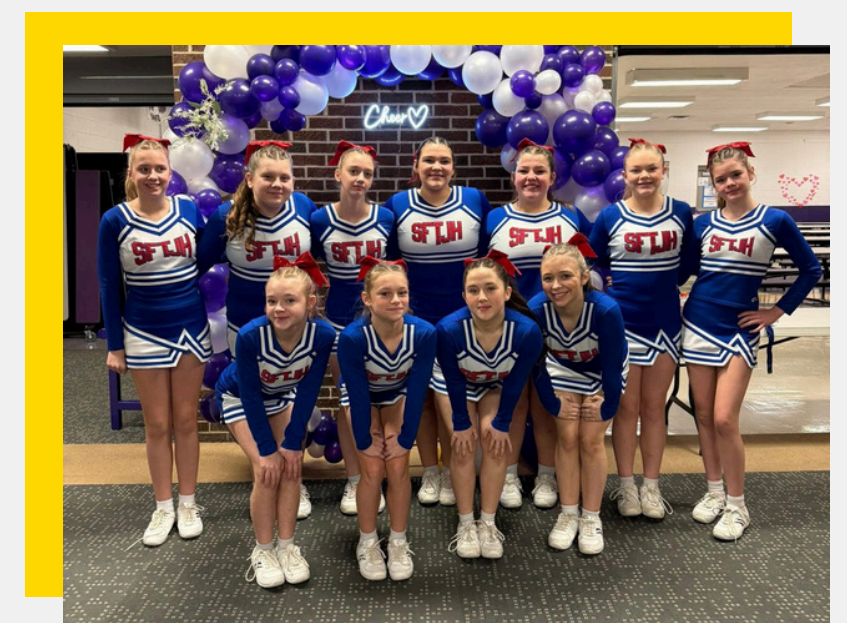
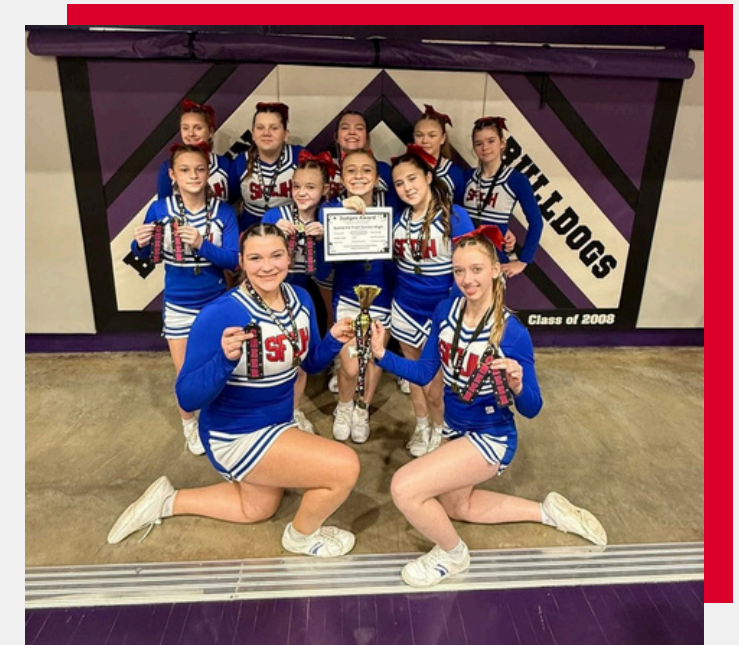
All of 7th grade Track season

Favorite Food/Restraunt

Mac-N-Cheese & Red Robin

Hot Take

The worst part of track is the track events





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