

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hello South Families!

We are getting close to the holiday break! Thank you all for your partnership to start our year. It's been a fun and productive school year. Your children have been wonderful to work with, and we are fortunate to have such great kids in our schools. Our staff want to thank our parents for helping in our efforts to ensure that students are respectful, ready, and responsible.

To ensure that we have all students prepared and learning at high levels, we need to have the correct behavior management strategies in place. Our staff have common expectations at each grade level and review these on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, to reinforce these behavior expectations, our admin team recently spoke to all of our students about expectations moving forward.

We covered the following ...

Hallway Expectations, Being on Time, Restroom Reminders, Being Nice to Substitutes, Classroom Behaviors, Lunchroom Expectations, After-School Activities, Cell Phone Reminders, Physical Aggression Zero Tolerance, Staying Engaged, and Utilizing Falcon Time.

Additionally, please take some time over the next few days to celebrate your student(s). Overall, our student body has reacted very well to our system changes. In fact, over 85% of our students have not had a MAJOR behavior referral, and only 9% of our students have had more than one Major referral. This is really great news.

Finally, we are officially in construction, and we would like to apologize for the inconvenience. Our staff have been remarkable and very flexible with learning spaces. We appreciate them and we appreciate the students and parents for your flexibility as well. Please be reminded that we will try to update you as much as possible along the way. Ultimately, we have A LOT of projects going on, and you'll start to see several areas get "changed" over the next two years. We hope to have a completion date of Fall 2025.

If you ever need anything, please be sure to contact me or anyone on our administrative team.

Thanks,




Caleb Hundt
South Middle School Principal
chundt1@ccas.us
O- 715.852.5210
C- 715.492.2577
He, Him, His

**WORK HARD
BE NICE**
@hundtcaleb #GoFalcons



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW MAIN ENTRY IS DOOR #8 BY THE GAGA PIT.
PARENTS WILL STILL NEED TO BUZZ IN TO ENTER THE
SCHOOL.

**SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DECEMBER 25TH-JANUARY
2ND. SCHOOLS RESUME ON JANUARY 3RD. HAVE A
GREAT WINTER BREAK!**



MHS Orchestra Cookie Walk & Carnival

**December 9, 2023
Noon to 2:30**

Memorial High School Cafeteria

FREE ADMISSION—Everyone welcome

Homemade Cookies—sold by the pound \$9.00

**Holiday Music—Performed by MHS Orchestra and
friends**

Kid's Crafts, Games, Instrument Petting Zoo

Upcoming High School Registration Dates For Students currently in the 8th Grade:

January 5th- Memorial Counselors visit South Middle School during Falcon Time to discuss upcoming registration. Students receive the ACP guide (registration catalog) and registration worksheet.

January 8th- Course Preview Night in the Memorial High School auditorium for adults and students. Break out sessions to follow.

January 12th- High School registration at South Middle School during 8th grade Science classes.



WHAT IS AVID ELECTIVE?

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college readiness system offered at SMS in 6th – 8th grades to support students to succeed in middle school, high school, and beyond. South offers a year-long AVID Elective class that focuses on academic skills and strategies for success. The elective course allows students to develop and practice skills to become better students. We talk about WHY the learning is important and HOW it will help you in the future. Our goal is to prepare students for their current and future world.

An AVID Student...

- Has desire and determination
- Might currently be earning Bs and Cs
- Wants to be challenged in school with support
- Might be the first person in their family to go to college
- Might be learning English as a second language
- May desire an “AVID Family” support system
- Could benefit from guidance at school to become college and career-ready

If you think your student is a candidate for AVID, reach out to Cindi Syverson, csyverson@ecasd.us, for more information.



Advancement via Individual
Determination



Having Small Talks to Make a Big Impact

Short, frequent conversations with your kids about preventing underage drinking and other drug use can make a big impression. This winter holiday season, talk with your kids about the risks of substance use and set expectations for them.

Visit these resources to get tips on how to starting talking:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/small-talks

Why Small Conversations Make a Big Impression

- ✓ Short, frequent discussions can make a real impact on your child's decisions about alcohol.
- ✓ Talking can build an open, trusting relationship with your child.
- ✓ Many little talks are more effective than one “big talk.”

South Falcon Advisory Council

(OUR PARENT GROUP)

YOU'RE
INVITED

FIRST MEETING

Our first parent meeting of the year will be held on Monday, January 8th at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the library. We hope to see you there!



You're invited to a benefit for

South Middle School Falcon Advisory Council!

Date 12/11/23

Time 4pm-8pm

Come to Burrachos Fresh Mexican Grill
in Eau Claire when **25% of Sales** will be donated to
Falcon Advisory Council!



5314 Prill Road Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone 715-834-1843 www.burrachos.com



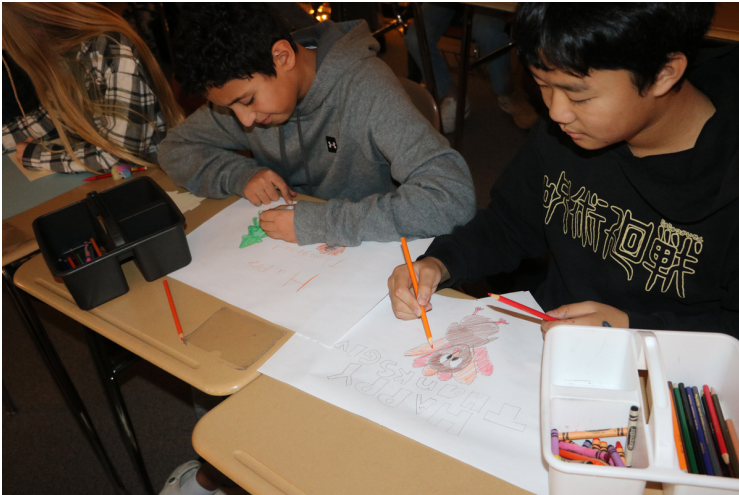
FUNDRAISER

South Middle School

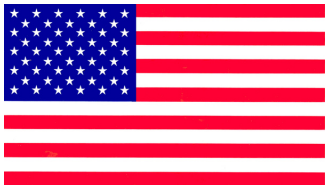
Monday, December 19th
4pm-7pm

4008 Commonwealth Ave. #3
Street Address
Eau Claire, WI 54703

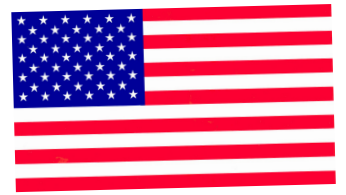




**6TH GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A DAY OF GIVING.
THEY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB AT GIVING BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY.**



VETERAN'S DAY





For Winter and Holiday Assistance
please click [HERE](#)



Contact Jen Whatley (jwhatley@ecasd.us or 715-852-5207)
if you want food from our food pantry or weekend meals.

SMS Falcon Character Theme
-December-

YOU HAVE A CHOICE
EACH AND EVERY SINGLE DAY.

I CHOOSE TO FEEL BLESSED.

I CHOOSE TO FEEL GRATEFUL.

I CHOOSE TO BE EXCITED.

I CHOOSE TO BE THANKFUL.

I CHOOSE TO BE HAPPY.

Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts.

DAVID O. MCKAY

SHOWING GRATITUDE
IS ONE OF THE
SIMPLEST YET MOST
POWERFUL THINGS
HUMANS CAN DO FOR
EACH OTHER.

ATTITUDE every THING. **Gratitude** *CHOOSE joy*

Express appreciation to others; Give a gift to someone; Be thankful for who you are and what you have; Share the goodness in your heart

Student Services



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

Revised September 2023



Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

IMPORTANT LINKS

[December Lunch Menu](#)

[ECASD Family Service Webpage](#)

[South Middle School Website](#)

[My School Bucks](#)

Check balance and deposit money into
your child's lunch account

[ECASD School Calendar](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Family Tech Support Information](#)

[Skyward Family Access](#)



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL