



SOUTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

South Middle School Newsletter

January 29, 2023

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Upcoming Events

2-2 Choir 7 Concert 7:00

2-6 – SFAC meeting (parent group) 6:00

2-14 Choir 8 Concert 7:00

2-16 Family/Teacher Conferences 7:45-8:15

2-17 All Schools Closed

2-20 Schools Closed Staff Development Day

SMS Falcon Character Theme
-January-
"Be the rainbow in someone's cloud."
-Maya Angelou

CONNECT SOUTH
SUCCESS
DISCOVER
FALCONS

DREAM **Leadership** *MAKE IT happen*

Lead in a positive direction; Set a positive example; Set a goal and work to achieve it; Show empathy to others; Inspire others

News and Announcements



Free Drive-Up COVID-19 Testing

Beginning December 5, 2022, through a partnership with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, free drive-up testing for COVID-19 for ECASD students, staff and families will be offered Monday-Thursday at the following locations:

- **Locust Lane Elementary, 3:30-6:30 pm**
- **Putnam Heights Elementary, 4:30-7:30 pm**
- **Sherman Elementary, 4:30-7:30 pm**

***Drive-up testing will only take place on days when school is in session.**

Free and Reduced Lunches

You can find answers to your questions regarding the free and reduced price meal application **HERE**. This is a great FAQ page, and you can also see if you qualify for free or reduced lunches.

February 1st

Wednesday, February 1 is an exciting day at South Middle School. We will have an author visit us in the morning and another guest speaker in the afternoon.

Author Visit Schedule (am)

Ms. Linda Blackmon Lowery turned 15 years old when she was the youngest person to walk the entire 54-mile length from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama in the 1965 Voting Rights March. This march took five days to walk the whole way and they were protesting to support voting rights for African Americans.

Guest Speaker (pm)

Mr. Kohlhepp was able to secure a National Speaker who lives in our own backyard. Justin Patchin is an expert and speaks all over the country about social media, use of devices, etc.



Please note the
change of date.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Our school will be taking part in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction the week of February 6. The survey will ask about health behaviors that keep young people healthy, as well as behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries, and tobacco, alcohol, and drug use. The survey will also ask about bullying, sexual risk behaviors, online risk behaviors, stress and anxiety, self-harm, dietary behavior, and physical activity. It also focuses on positive things like strong connections to the school and to other people.

Students will be asked to fill out an anonymous, online questionnaire that takes about 25-35 minutes to complete. They will take the survey during regular class time. Completing this anonymous survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey, and it does not ask for student IDs or any other individual identifiers. The classroom setting will be set up like a test so that students' answers remain private. The school will not have access to individual students' answers, and no class or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results.

Your child will get no benefit right away from taking part in the survey. However, the results of this survey do help students by providing schools and the community with information that is used to improve health and safety programs. We would like all selected students to take part in the survey, but the survey is voluntary. No action will be taken against you, or your child, if your child does not take part. Students can skip any question that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty.

If you have questions, wish to see a version of the survey, or do not want your child to take part in the survey, please email Assistant Principal Eric Gonyea at egonyea@ecasd.us.

Thanks,

Eric Gonyea
Assistant Principal
South Middle School
715-852-5212

Food & Nutrition Workers Needed!

Are you or is someone you know looking for a job with daytime hours only? Weekends and Holidays off? Summer break, winter break, and spring break off and the ability to earn some extra income while still being home with your school age children? If yes, please consider applying to the Eau Claire Area School District Food and Nutrition program as a substitute or regular employee! Some positions are benefit eligible. Food service experience preferred, but not required. Interested candidates should submit an online application. For open positions and application instructions visit our Employment Opportunities section at <http://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Human-Resources/Employment-Opportunities>. Please contact Josh Guckenberger, Food and Nutrition Director, at 715-852-3021, with questions.



Dear Families,



AVID is an acronym for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Its mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

South is a Certified AVID School! This means that we have met AVID's implementation expectations to support program effectiveness and student progress, bringing us closer to our goal of closing opportunity gaps and supporting the district's goal of preparing students for post-secondary success! The AVID Elective is a yearlong 7th and 8th grade elective that prepares students in the academic middle for admission to a four-year college or university. Students in an AVID Elective course are provided with skills needed to be successful in advancing academically. For more than 30 years, AVID has been instrumental in preparing students for higher education. AVID Elective is a yearlong elective that will replace other elective(s).

The AVID Elective supports students who challenge themselves in more rigorous classes. Students are taught study skills, note-taking, time management, writing, and research skills while being immersed in a college-going culture. The class also includes tutoring sessions that are led by peers and/or college students and provide support for success in the academically rigorous curriculum. Additionally, the AVID Elective provides access to information about colleges and universities through guest speakers and campus tours.

AVID Elective students are motivated to do well and are serious about their academic future. Please complete the application, family information, and short answers on the following pages to help us better know your child and family circumstances.

Application process:

February - 1st week Sign up on Registration Card then a counselor will share the application with you

February 10 by 3 pm Students submit completed AVID Application
IF you have ANY questions, PLEASE reach out

February 21-24 Students participate in interviews (Ms. Syverson will contact you via email)

All information shared on this form will be used for the recruitment and selection of future AVID Elective students and will be held confidential. If you prefer to share this information in person or have additional questions prior to completing the form, please contact me.

Thank you,
Ms. Syverson
AVID Site Coordinator
csyverson@ecasd.us

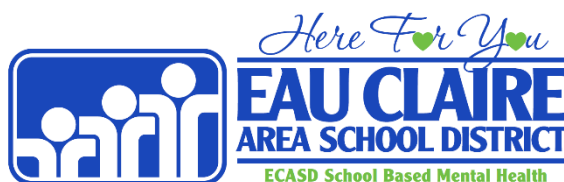


COUNSELOR'S CORNER

It's that time of year when we are talking about and actually selecting classes for next year. On Thursday, January 26th the High School Counselors came to South Middle School to register the 8th grade students. If your student missed this we will get those classes selected soon.

6th graders were provided with course selection information for next year on January 25th while 7th graders got this information on January 26th. If your student was absent their school counselors will work to get them that information as soon as possible. Next week students will turn in their course selection sheets and enter that information into Skyward either on February 2nd or 3rd. Please work with your student to select a course they truly are interested in as changes are often hard to do in the fall. If you are looking for more information on Academic and Career Planning, check out the Student Services page to see what is out there.

[https://www.ecasd.us/South-Middle-School/Student-Services-\(1\)](https://www.ecasd.us/South-Middle-School/Student-Services-(1))



Winter Blues

It's not uncommon to feel down or unmotivated in the winter. Decreased social activities, time outdoors, and sunlight exposure can affect mental health. While feeling down can be normal, sometimes it can turn into something more serious.

Watch for symptoms such as:

- Feeling sad or down most of the time
- Losing interest in activities once enjoyed
- Having low energy or difficulty concentrating
- Changes in eating and sleeping patterns

If you or someone you [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

know are experiencing any of these symptoms, help is available. Call or text the 988 Lifeline for support 24/7 or go to 988lifeline.org.





Dear Falcons and families,

In an effort to make conferences more accessible, we would like to inform you of some changes made to South Middle School's Spring Conferences. It is our hope the new format opens up more opportunities for our Falcon families to learn more about how we Connect, Discover, and Succeed here at South.

South will be offering an open house concept from **12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.** and **6:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m.** We will still offer one-on-one, traditional conferences (in-person or virtual). Families that need to connect with a teacher to discuss specific concerns are highly encouraged to book a one-on-one conference- this will be available starting next week.

The open house is a chance for you to explore the school and classrooms as your student shares what they are or will be learning this semester. This option is ideal for families that want to learn more about what we do here at South but do not have specific concerns about their student's performance.

Again, classroom staff will be only available during the open house from **12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.** and **6:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m.** You are welcome to explore throughout the conference day from **7:45 a.m.-8:15 p.m.**, but staff will likely be in conferences outside the open house hours and unavailable.

If you would like help understanding this document in (Spanish or Hmong), please leave a message with your name and phone number at 715-852-5281 and a bilingual aide will assist you.

Hmong message: Yog koj xav tau tus neeg Hmoob txhais tsab ntawv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog tsab ntawv no, hu rau Carmen Kopf 715-852-5281.

Spanish Translation:

Queridos Falcons y familias,

En un esfuerzo por hacer que las conferencias sean más accesibles, nos gustaría informarles sobre algunos cambios realizados en las conferencias de primavera de South Middle School.

South ofrecerá un concepto de jornada de puertas abiertas de 12:15 p. m. a 1:15 p. m. y de 18:45 a 20:15

Seguiremos ofreciendo conferencias tradicionales individuales (en persona o virtuales). Se recomienda encarecidamente a las familias que necesiten conectarse con un maestro para discutir inquietudes específicas que reserven una conferencia individual; esto estará disponible a partir de la próxima semana.

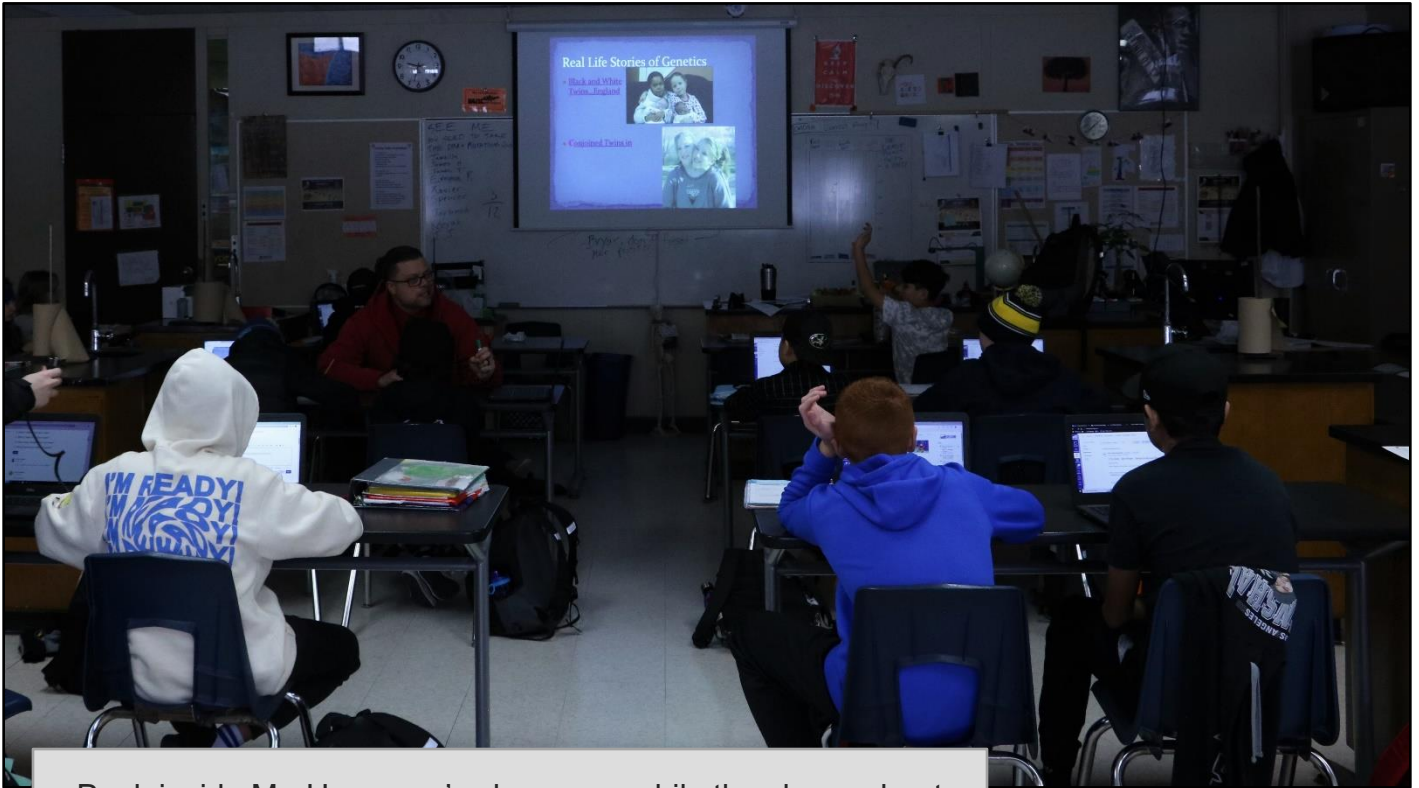
La jornada de puertas abiertas es una oportunidad para que usted explore la escuela y las aulas mientras su estudiante comparte lo que está aprendiendo o lo que aprenderá este semestre. Esta opción es ideal para familias que quieren aprender más sobre lo que hacemos aquí en South pero que no tienen preocupaciones específicas sobre el desempeño de sus estudiantes.

Nuevamente, el personal del salón de clases solo estará disponible durante la jornada de puertas abiertas de 12:15 p. m. a 1:15 p. m. y de 18:45 a 20:15. Puede explorar durante el día de la conferencia de 7:45 a. m. a 8:15 p. m., pero es probable que el personal esté en conferencias fuera del horario de puertas abiertas y no esté disponible.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita un traductor para las conferencias o la jornada de puertas abiertas, comuníquese con la oficina lo antes posible para obtener ayuda.



Inside the Walls of South



Peek inside Mr. Hanaman's classroom while they learn about genetics.



Ms. Brooks art classes worked on decorating their art portfolios this week.