



South Summit Middle School

Newsletter

WINTER 2025-2026

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

December 11

Winter Band @ 7 pm

December 15

Christmas Spectacular
Choir Concert @ 7 pm
SSHS Auditorium

December 22-January 2

Holiday Break- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY

January 9

END OF QUARTER 2

January 15

Order yearbook- **For best pricing*

January 16

NO School- Professional Dev. Day

January 19

NO School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Parent Teacher Conferences

5th Grade

February 5 @ 3:00-7:00

In-person scheduled appointment

**More information will come in February*

February 11 @ 3:00-7:00

In-person scheduled appointment

**More information will come in February*

6th, 7th and 8th Grades

February 5 @ 3:00-7:00

In-person scheduled appointment

**More information will come in February*

February 11 @ 3:00-7:00

In-person scheduled appointment

**More information will come in February*

We encourage all parents and guardians to actively engage with teachers throughout the school year. You are always welcome to reach out via email or call after school with any questions or concerns about your child's progress. Teacher emails can be easily found in PowerSchool under the "Quick Lookup" section for your convenience. Additionally, as we approach February 1st, more details will be shared about signing up for Parent-Teacher conferences, offering another opportunity for direct communication and collaboration. Together, we can ensure the best support for your child's academic growth.

Christmas Dress-Up Days

Monday, December 15: **Christmas Characters**

**(Elves, Snowman, Reindeer, etc)*

Tuesday, December 16: **Christmas Hats**

Wednesday, December 17: **White Out Day**

Thursday, December 18: **Christmas Sock**

Friday, December 19: **Christmas Pajama Day**



FEBRUARY

February 5

Parent Teacher Conference
3:00-7:00

February 11

Parent Teacher Conference
3:00-7:00

February 14♥

Valentine's Day

February 16

NO School-Presidents Day

Yearbooks

Yearbooks ordered by January 15th will be \$20 dollars. After January 15th yearbooks will be \$25. February 15th will be the final day to order!

You can pay fees and order yearbooks online at myschoolfees.com.

*All required fees must be paid to order yearbooks.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Please check the Bus Garage Lost and Found. It is currently full of items that students have left on the buses.

The bus garage doors are open during the following hours:

- 6:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If you'd like to confirm someone is available before stopping by, please feel free to call us at 435-783-2373. Thank you!



Quarterly Student Drawing

Students can earn an opportunity to have their names put into a drawing to win a prize of their choice. In order to be eligible, students need to:

- ✓ Maintain S and H citizenship for the Quarter for all classes
- ✓ Have NO Missing Assignments "0" for the Quarter in all classes
- ✓ Have NO Office Referrals for the Quarter
- ✓ Must earn 2 "CATS cards" this Quarter
- ✓ Only 2 absences per Quarter

There will be one drawing for 5th and 6th graders and one drawing for 7th and 8th graders.

Winners will be drawn at the end of each quarter!

Teaching kids to serve during the holidays...

is a great way to build empathy, gratitude, and a sense of purpose. Here are practical, age-appropriate ways to help children learn what service looks like—and enjoy it.

- 🍪 Baking cookies for neighbors
- 🍪 Making cards for seniors
- 🍪 Donating toys
- 🍪 Helping a sibling with chores
- 🍪 Participating in a community event
- 🍪 Volunteer at a food bank
- 🍪 Help with a community holiday event
- 🍪 Do yardwork or snow shovel for elderly neighbors
- 🍪 Make small care packages (socks, snacks, hygiene items)

UNDERSTANDING STATE TESTS...(RISE)

"We understand that state test results represent only part of the picture, but they give us meaningful data to guide improvement and growth."

Personal Connection for Students:

While the test doesn't fail a student or block advancement in grades 3-8, the results still carry an indirect personal stake that is essential for them to understand.

- ✂ **Individualized Support:** The data helps parents, teachers, and counselors identify a student's specific strengths and weaknesses.
- ✂ **Accurate Placement and Pathways:** The RISE scores provide crucial diagnostic data that is used by the school to make decisions about a student's educational trajectory, particularly in the transition to high school. Low proficiency scores can indicate that a student may need remediation, intervention, or placement into specific foundational courses in 9th grade to catch up.
- ✂ **Predictor of Future Success:** Proficiency on the RISE test in middle school subjects is an important indicator of a student's readiness for advanced coursework (like Algebra I) and their predicted performance on later high-stakes exams, such as the ACT or SAT, which do have direct consequences for college admissions and scholarships.

Connection for School:

The nature of the RISE test is centered on accountability and funding.

- 📚 **The RISE test** is Utah's mandated assessment that measures student proficiency in core subjects (Math, ELA, Science) against the Utah Core Standards, as required by federal law.
- 📚 **School Grading and Ranking:** The overall test scores are a major component used to evaluate, rate, and rank schools across the state. Low scores can trigger interventions, sanctions, or mandates for improvement plans.
- 📚 **Resource Allocation:** School and district performance data influence how educational resources, funding, and support are distributed or directed towards specific schools for remediation and improvement programs.
- 📚 **Curriculum and Instruction:** Test results are used by administrators and teachers to analyze student performance gaps and guide curriculum changes, instructional strategies, and teacher professional development.²³
- 📚 **Essentially,** the test is for the educational system in Utah because it serves as measure of whether schools are effectively educating students to the state standard.

Kindness is free, sprinkle that stuff!