

THE TIGER TIMES

October 2025

The Tiger Times

Vol. 107, Issue 1

Welcome Back Tigers!

BY CLAIRE McELROY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF; GRACE WALKER, ASSISTANT EDITOR

WELCOME
2025 BACK 2026

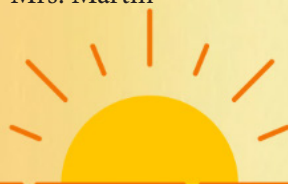
Welcome back Tigers! What a beautiful gift the start of a new school year is! A new school year means a fresh start- new goals, new opportunities, and new memories waiting to be made!

Let's challenge ourselves to step up, not just in the classroom,

but in every aspect of what makes Tiger Pride what it is. Whether you're tackling tough assignments, working hard at practice, or lending a hand to a friend, remember that you represent the strength, determination, and spirit of being a Tiger. Each day you get the chance to pursue greatness! Push past the limits, give yourself a

chance to grow, and go Be Somebody! Be somebody that shows respect, kindness, leadership, and exude Tiger Pride in all you do! I'm so glad you're back- let's make this the best year yet!

Much love and GBR!
Mrs. Martin



Students share their excitement and advice for the school year!

SENIOR
ELSIE HURD



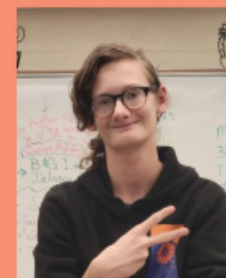
"I enjoy debate the most because I love not just the activity, but that the team feels like family."

JUNIOR
ZAIDA SUMMERS



"I am most excited for soccer this fall because there are opportunities for growth with this team and new coach."

SOPHOMORE
JUSTIN ISENHART



"I'm super excited for Info 1 because I get to work with computers and learn from Coach Glades, who is a great guy."

FRESHMAN
KIPTYN HUNZIKER



"I think the most important thing in the first semester of this school year is having time management and staying organized."



The class of 2026 takes a group picture of everyone that attended Senior Sunrise on the morning of the first day of school. Photo submitted by Anna Farrington.

WHY DO WE HAVE NEW POLICIES?

By GABRIELLE MAJORS

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Fort Scott High School students are adjusting to several new policies this year, including changes to cellphone use, the dress code, lunch, and tardiness. These changes affect cellphone use, lunch, dress code, and tardiness. Starting with the cellphone policy, they changed it from allowing everyone to have their phones out during second breakfast to not allowing them at all, other than before and after school and lunch. They decided this was best because, with two separate second breakfasts, the staff can't tell who's allowed and who's not.

Next, they changed the dress code to allow hats and headwear; previously, they felt it might be an issue for identifying people or a distraction.

Another change was the lunch policy; everyone now has open lunch and can leave campus for lunch, instead of how it was before, where freshmen had to stay in the school for lunch.

The tardy policy has changed to where one to three tardies is a verbal warning from your teacher, four to five tardies is lunch detention, six to seven tardies is Friday night school, and eight and up has the possibilities of OSS, FNS, or ISS when it used to be on your 13th tardy it was a 30 minute detention, 14th-15th tardy was one hour detention, and 16+ tardies is ISS one day for each tardy.

These are the major policy changes for the 2025-26 school year.

HARDWICK REACHES FOR THE STARS

By GRACE WALKER

TIGER TIMES EDITOR ADVISOR

This summer, Fort Scott High School sophomore Aimee Hardwick attended Camp Lunar Trek at the Cosmosphere. She completed training and learned about the different types of planes, rockets, and drones, used in space exploration.

Hardwick had several opportunities, including training in and then flying a plane, as well as experiencing an astronaut simulator. "By far the best thing we did was the Astralis Rocket simulator. It is based off of a real rocket capsule," Hardwick said.

When asked about her favorite part Hardwick responded, My favorite part was when we first

started moving in the plane. After a 30-minute lecture on how this 'death machine' works, we are gonna let you fly it... Then he just switches control of the plane and suddenly I am in control of my life, and my instructor's life, in a contraption I had very little knowledge of how to fully operate."

Hardwick was then instructed to do a nose dive, which allowed her body to feel zero gravity. She said this camp gave her the confidence to pursue her interests.

Experiences like these are one way Fort Scott High School students are preparing for the future.

NEW TEACHERS JOIN FSHS

By LIBERTY MICHAEL

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Fort Scott High School is starting the year with several new staff members, bringing fresh energy and ideas to the building. New staff include: Marjorie Campbell, Special Education; Drew Carney, PE; Jake Durossette, business; Aleana Erie, English; Jonathan Stark, PE; Jesse Turner, Special Education; Chloe Whitt, Driver's Education/finance; Josh Regan, asst. principal; Chris Garrett, SRO; and Clayton Collins, permanent sub.

To help students get to know the new staff better, I spoke with Aleana Erie, who is joining the English department this year. Erie is an English I & III teacher.

After graduating from Pitt State and completing her student teaching, Eerie knew English was the right path for her. Inspired by her own



Ms. Erie steps out of her English 1 class to take a quick picture. Photo by Kenadee Allen.

teachers and a love for reading, she chose to share that passion with her students. Like many teachers, she admits the job comes with challenges. She shares, "The hardest thing about teaching is planning and grading." When she is not teaching, she loves to read. Her favorite book is "Swamplandia" by Karen Russell. Some of her hobbies include crocheting, arts & crafts, and drawing. Students in her classes may soon see how those creative hobbies make their way into her teaching.

With so many new teachers and staff joining, this year promises fresh opportunities for students



Ms. Erie explains to her 7th hour class their assignment for the day on Sep. 23. Photo by Kenadee Allen.

BIG CHANGES COMING TO LUNCH?

By GABRIELLE MAJORS
TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Rumor has it that there will be a change in lunch time in the future, but whether it will be beneficial or even happen at all is still uncertain. Some say there will be an extension with the removal of afternoon Tiger Time; others say it will be condensed to one big lunch.

This could be a beneficial change since afternoon Tiger Time isn't seen as useful as the morning Tiger Time session at the end of the school day because students are exhausted from the school day, so why not repurpose that time for a longer lunch?

Another idea that's been brought up is the return of just one big lunchtime. Before COVID-19, everyone had lunch together during one lunch period. After the pandemic, during the 2020-2021 school year, the school split lunch into two sessions, first and second lunch, and that system has remained in place since.

If we switch back to one big lunch, it could become chaotic, especially in the parking lots. With everyone trying to leave at once, it might be similar

to the traffic and confusion seen after school. This could also cause students to be tardy returning to class.

On the other hand, having one big lunch would allow everyone to be with their friends, making lunch more enjoyable. Right now, many students adjust their entire schedules just to eat lunch with friends. A shared lunch period would eliminate that need. It would also create more flexibility and possibly more lunch time for everyone. Another benefit of a unified lunch period is that it would remove the need to split 5th-hour classes, making it easier for both students and teachers.

While there is no official plan yet, the school may move toward one lunch period in the future. A process will likely begin next year, starting with gathering staff opinions. If approved, the change might happen next semester or next year.

Whether the change ends up being an extended lunch or one large lunch period, the goal is to improve student life overall.

THE LOSS OF THIRD PLACES

By GRACE WALKER
TIGER TIMES EDITOR ADVISOR

Most teenagers in a town like Fort Scott share the same frustration when it comes to free time: there's not much to do. It seems like there are only two options for fun: walk around Walmart or sit in a parking lot. The reason? A lack of "third places."

So, what are third places? They are social spaces that are neither home (first place) nor work or school (second place). Third places are affordable, inviting, and stress-free. They bring people together and allow socialization without the responsibilities of home, work, or school.

In the 1980s through the early 2000s, teenagers often wandered the halls at the mall, visited arcades, or bowled at local alleys. These were typical "third places" for hanging out.

Now, as we move further into the 21st century, such spaces are becoming rare. When teens want to have fun after school or on weekends, options are limited. That's why many end up walking through Walmart until they've seen everything, or sitting in a parking lot talking with friends for hours. After all, where else are they supposed to go?



Maddi Buckman and Megan Parada discuss plans for lunch in the school parking lot on Sep. 29th. Photo by Kenadee Allen.

FSHS AG PROGRAM GOES GREEN

By ABBAGAILE SZCZEPANSKI

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Ms. Cullison is one of Fort Scott High School's ag teachers. She teaches several classes such as Ag Leadership, Ag Mechanics, Floriculture, and Horticulture. She has been teaching for seven years. She loves her students and being able to build personal relationships with students about things that she is passionate about. However, she wishes she weren't so limited on time and money. With that being said, Ms. Cullison got a generous donation from Community Green, which funded her with enough to create a hydroponic system.

A hydroponic system allows people to grow plants with nutrient-enriched water instead of using soil. The project

has had a good turnout so far, though Ms. Cullison says it's still in the early stages of development. When asked why she decided to build this system, she said, "it was a hands-on learning opportunity. It's a small space and was on the budget." She also explained how this program can give back to the community. She shared, "The overall goal is to provide fresh greens to our school, creating partnerships with restaurants and giving back to the community". In the end, the hydroponic system isn't just about fresh greens; it's about giving students the chance to learn and lead.



An inside look at the brand new hydroponic system. Photo by Maddison Buckman.

RAJ GUGNANI: OUR SECRETARY OF SUCCESS!

By IRELYN QUINNEY

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Junior Raj Gugnani is serving as FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) State Secretary of Kansas. He said he enjoys the position because it gives him the opportunity to grow as a person and earn scholarships.

Gugnani is entering his third year of FBLA and has an interest in business. The club was first recommended to him by his brother as something worth his time and effort. FBLA also provides networking opportunities across the state

and, potentially, far-reaching contacts.

As state secretary, Gugnani helps manage how state conferences are organized, sets agendas, and participates in monthly meetings. He described both the enjoyment and the challenges of the role, saying, "It becomes a lot."

Gugnani encourages others to join FBLA and take advantage of the opportunities the club offers.



Gugnani receives his certificate of completion from the CTSO Leadership conference. Photo submitted by Raj Gugnani.



Gugnani speaking at his first board meeting as FBLA State Secretary in Topeka. Photo submitted by Raj Gugnani.

TOP THREE ALBUMS OF 2025... SO FAR

BY LIBERTY MICHAEL
TIGER TIMES EDITOR

2025 has been an exciting year for music so far. Among all of the albums released in 2025, here are the top three ranked by production, lyrics, musicality, and variety:

3. “Wishbone”, released on Aug. 15, is Conan Gray’s fourth studio album. The production in this album is impressive. The lyricism is something different from other artists and emotionally vulnerable, which is on brand for his music, but it’s good every time as well. The actual music is also very good as it involves conveying his emotions with catchy sounds and instruments. There isn’t an insane amount of variety, but enough for each song to feel different. Overall, I feel this album deserves a 9/10.

2. “Bite Me”, released on Aug. 1, is Renee Rapp’s second studio album. The production is pretty decent, but the lyrics are very iffy. If you’re looking for a song with deep lyrics, there are a few of those on the album, but most of the songs’ lyrics and music are fun and catchy. “Bite Me” has a variety of sounds and is completely different from anything she has done before. Overall, this album is a 9.3/10.

1. “Mayhem”, released on March 7, is Lady Gaga’s eighth studio album. Considering how long Lady Gaga has been relevant and popular, it’s impressive how she is still releasing so many

successful songs with every album. Production was good, somehow different but the same as a lot of her other works. I think this is because her whole brand is different. We can always expect the unexpected with her. While the lyricism isn’t anything unique, they match the energy of Gaga’s sound. The music throughout the album is amazing and offers a good variety, considering the slower songs are just as good as the upbeat ones. “Mayhem” is a great album, but I don’t think it’s perfect; therefore, I’m rating it a 9.7/10.

Honorable Mention: “Virgin”, released on June 27, is Lorde’s fourth studio album. This album consists of quite a few viral songs. I think the production was exceptional with the electronic sounds and many moods conveyed. Lyrics in this vary, but it levels out to an overall good rating. The music consists of things we’ve already seen and loved from Lorde, but there are also some new sounds that were introduced that are amazing. The variety here is adequate. Overall, this album is an 8.5/10 and didn’t make the top three because it’s very hit or miss.

With many exciting albums still to be release this year, these four releases have set a high standard for the music of 2025.

BY SYPHER CANNON
TIGER TIMES COPY EDITOR/PUZZLE CREATOR

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Across	Down
1. Feature allowing calls over WIFI network rather than cell signal	1. Organization in charge of caring for veterans
5. Overflows with water	2. NYT creator and editor for Connections
11. Operating System	3. Unfair or invalid action by an opponent
12. Worker for traveling entertainers	4. Colons in an analogy
13. Entered data	5. Costless
16. One of the most common consonants in English	6. Stellar guide?
17. Denoter of spooky season	7. Osteoarthritis, for short
18. The Bear Republic	8. Friedrich Schiller’s expression of joy
19. Jerry’s feline	9. How 33 Down elected its new leader
20. Second Equinox	10. Word after “open” or before “seed”
21. A drop of golden sun	13. Garb worn by Muslim pilgrims
22. Head of government under monarch or president	14. Atomic number 78
23. Gave away in exchange	15. Class of ___, for current seniors
25. Seal’s home?	22. Buddy, friend
28. A note to follow Sol	24. Lift up
30. United States Investigation Services	26. Egyptian Serpent
31. Atomic number 10	27. Name meaning Conqueror or winner
34. Carvable gourds	29. May tell you to kiss the cook
36. Compete for	32. Vegetable, canola, and coconut, for example
37. Where everything’s bigger	33. Overthrew the government by burning parliament
38. Skin covering the head (- the face)	35. Gov. money program for those physically unable to work
39. Airport security agency	
40. Become a citizen of a country	

OPEN MIC NIGHT

By GABRIELLE MAJORS

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Open Mic Night gives students a chance to share performances of their choice in front of an audience. This event has been held for roughly 12 years. The Thespian Troupe created it for an enjoyable back-to-school event, which began as an ice cream social, but eventually expanded to different kinds of treats.

Drama teacher Angela Bin shared, "Not only is Open Mic Night for students to share their original or creative performances, but it's also a good way to invite more people to join the Thespians club if it's something they're interested in."

Open Mic Night usually takes place during the first week of school at Common Ground. There has been a mixture of turnouts in previous years; sometimes, many parents choose to go watch, and sometimes the majority are



Seniors Levi Fairchild and Chris Newman play an improv game called, "The Dating Game". Photo by Grace Walker.

just students. The most recent event on Aug. 22 drew such a large crowd that they had to add additional space to fit everyone.

Open Mic Night this year was clearly successful and allowed students the opportunity to showcase their favorite poems, songs, instrumental pieces, and other creative works of their choice.

WHO'S WHO IN "BETWEEN THE LINES"

By XANDRIA FOWLER

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

After warming up together and performing in front of the directors, Fort Scott High School students learned the results of their "Between the Lines" auditions when the cast list for the musical was posted Sept. 4.

Cast

Delilah - Junie Fisher
Grace - Mary Racer
Allie - *Gianna Gorman
Jules - *Chris Newman
Ryan - Tray Maloun
Janice - *Allie Wards
Martin - *Landon McDaniel
Ms. Winx - *Ava Johnson
Prince Oliver - Levi Fairchild
Queen Maureen - *Sypher Cannon
Princess Seraphima - *Aimee Hardwick
Ondine - Alice Black
Frump - Tray Maloun
Mariana - *Allie Wards
Troll - *Clark Uttinger
Lady in Waiting - *Star Blanz
Rapskullio - *Theodore Bowman
Kyrie - *Grace Pommier
Mrs. Brown - *Peighton Head
Jesamyn Jacobs - *Madi Davis
Dr. Ducharme - *Michael Stevenson
(*Also part of the Ensemble)

The full cast and crew list is available on the school newspaper website: fshstigertimes.org



Senior Emily Endicott and sophomore Grace Pommier sing a duet at Open Mic Night hosted by Thespians at Common Ground. Photo by Grace Walker.

GORMAN RECEIVES STATE-WIDE RECOGNITION

By CLAIRE McELROY

TIGER TIMES EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fort Scott senior Abbie Gorman was named one of KSHSAA's "4A Girls Tennis Players to Watch in 2025". Gorman is a three-time state qualifier, heading there her freshman year in doubles and finishing in 10th place, and finishing top eight in singles the past two seasons.

However, all of this success didn't just come from natural talent, rather it came from years of hard work. Gorman has been playing tennis ever since she was little due to her aunt, Ali Gorman, being the high school tennis coach.

"She taught me everything I know" says Gorman, "we practice every day after high school practice to get extra work in."

This year, she's taking on doubles again with fellow senior and 2024



Senior Abbie Gorman focuses on her swing. Photo submitted by Abbie Gorman.

state qualifier Bryleigh Hymer. Even though Gorman is battling a shoulder injury this season, she is hoping to make it to state yet again this year.

The Lady Tiger Tennis team is ready to battle with strong leadership from this senior.

NEW COACHES JOIN FSHS ATHLETICS

By ABBIGAILE SZCZEPANSKI

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

Several new coaches have started at Fort Scott High School this year. Chloe Whitt is the head volleyball coach, with assistants Abby Altic and Marilyn Hay. The new soccer coach is Danny Larsen. The new head football coach Johnathan Stark welcomed new assistant coaches Clayton Collins and Drew Carney.

The Tiger Times spoke with new assistant football coach Drew Carney about his background and goals. Carney has been teaching for

five years. He previously worked at El Dorado, where he coached football and track. He now coaches football, track, and powerlifting.

Carney said he enjoys coaching because he is "able to teach young people how to work and because I'm able to be a positive role model."

Carney, who grew up in Osceola, Kansas, came to Fort Scott to be closer to family. His goals this year include keeping open communication with students, being

FSHS ESPORTS JOINS KSHSAA

By XANDRIA FOWLER

TIGER TIMES EDITOR

The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) officially recognized Esports as a sport on Aug. 21, giving Fort Scott High School (FSHS) players the chance to compete for awards at the state and national levels. Esports Coach Matthew Glades and Team Captain Rylan Miller speak out about the introduction of Esports into KSHSAA.

During the KSHSAA Webinar on August 21, 2025, KSHSAA officially recognized Esports as a sport in schools, providing the opportunity to compete at the state and national levels and earn awards.

In an interview, Coach Glades and Team Captain Rylan Miller shared their excitement for the future of Esports. Coach Glades brought the program to FSHS in 2021 as a class project focused on technology and teamwork. Those students helped to bring Esports to FSHS. Esports now has over 30 students involved who will have the opportunity to host and travel to

different events. A small selection of games will be picked each year, depending on their popularity. Practices will begin in November and will now be mandatory for students who want to compete in competitions.

KSHSAA will track limited statistics, while Coach Glades plans to record team wins and losses locally. Students involved in Esports will now have the opportunity for many different scholarships, ranging from NAIA to Division I college scholarships. This year's competition will only be for students from the state of Kansas, whilst last year's competition was from students all over the country. Students will get the opportunity to build their strengths through their team and learn communication skills through competitions.

Through Esports, students will get the opportunity to come together as a team, work through competitions, and earn the appreciation of their fellow competitors.

considerate of their circumstances, focusing on positives and addressing challenges. In the offseason, he is also teaching powerlifting so he can push athletes in the weight room and help them return stronger and more athletic for the next football season.

Fort Scott High School is excited to see the impact these new coaches will bring to the program.



Coach Carney pauses his weights class on Aug. 28 for a snapshot to be featured in the newspaper. Photo by Kenadee Allen.

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