



# THE

# Willis Independent School District

# Wildkat WORD

Jan. 2023

## IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

January 4

Students Return

\*Start of spring semester

January 11

Board Meeting

January 16

MLK Day

Student / Staff Holiday

February 20

Presidents Day

Student / Staff Holiday



## Willis ISD Education Foundation funds 23 grants

At a board meeting on December 14, the Willis ISD Education Foundation presented a \$74,944.30 check to fund 23 grants across the district. This kind of project would not be possible without the generous partners of the foundation.

We cannot wait to see these grants put into action!

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Willis HS Tennis Coach recipient of character award
- Cannan families enjoy reading night event
- Brabham MS Counselors use Bobkat Time to promote emotional intelligence
- Three Willis ISD Administrators recognized by LSSCA
- Students of the Month
- DJ Lagway commits to the Florida Gators
- New Board Members Sworn In
- Meet Our Board Members
- What's Happening in WISD
- As Seen on Social Media
- Social Media Page Links

## A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

"Happy New Year, Willis families!

As we begin the second half of the school year, we want to thank you for the opportunity to teach and nurture your children. It is an honor to serve our community each day.

- Dr. Tim Harkrider



# WildKat FEATURES

## Students enjoy Christmas in the Barn

On Friday, December 2 CTE students hosted their annual Christmas in the Barn event at the Ag Center Arena behind the high school. Elementary-age students enjoyed games, hot cocoa, a petting zoo, a firetruck, and meeting with Santa.



# Wildkat FEATURES

## Willis HS Varsity Boys Basketball brings home silver

Congratulations to Willis High School's Varsity Boys Basketball team on bringing home the silver from the Lamar Consolidated ISD Tournament. After this tournament, the team was 8-7 overall with a 1-0 district record. Keep it up, Wildkats!



"The Wildkats have been working extremely hard since the beginning of the summer and are hoping to see all the hard work pay off during the season."

Jeremy Clark  
Boys Basketball Head Coach

### Wildkats in the Media

WillisHoops Retweeted

 The Courier Sports @ConroeSports · Nov 8  
Willis hopes to challenge in District 13-6A with dynamic roster  
[dlvr.it/ScSQ36](http://dlvr.it/ScSQ36)



### DID YOU KNOW?



The starting lineup has no player older than 15 years old!

# Wildkat FEATURES

## Willis HS Tennis Coach recipient of character award

On December 9, Willis High School's Head Tennis Coach, Gary Kemp was named the recipient of the 2022 Carey Caldwell Character Award at the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Banquet. This distinction is awarded to one Texas tennis coach each year and is meant to recognize their good character on and off the court.

Congratulations to Coach Kemp!



# WildKat FEATURES

## Cannan families enjoy reading night event

During the first week of December, Cannan Elementary hosted its Family Reading Night.

Families were invited to participate in various reading activities to help build reading skills and were provided resources to take home. Pizza and hot chocolate were served, and kids had an opportunity to take pictures with Santa.

Some of the activities included matching upper and lower case letters, dividing words into syllables, sight word bingo, inferencing games, a book walk, sight word fishing, 'bossy r' sorting, and comprehension exercises with leveled readers.

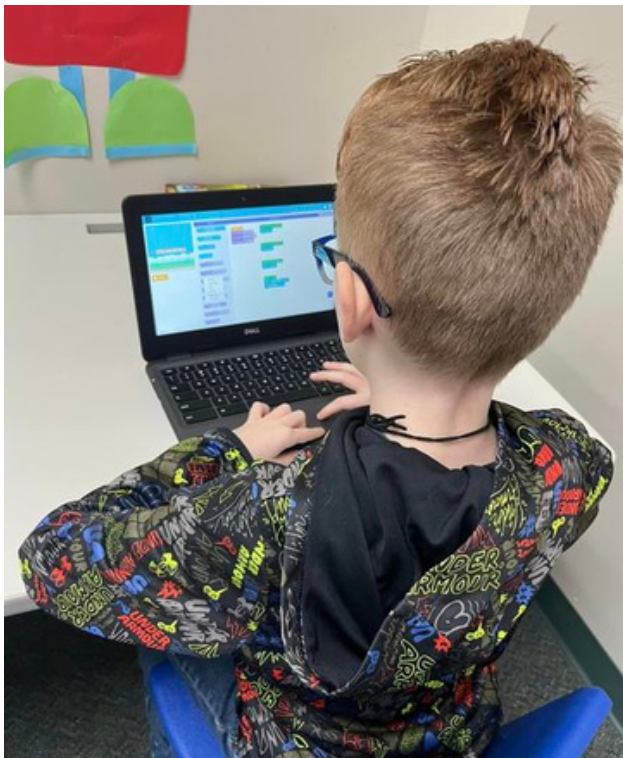
It was a great event that had a huge parent and student turnout!



# WildKat FEATURES

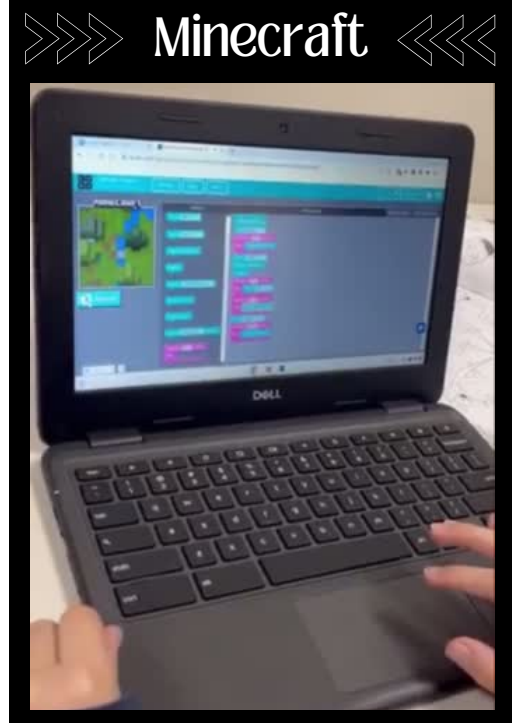
## Meador students celebrate Computer Science Education Week

December 5-11 was Computer Science Education Week. To celebrate, Meador students participated in Hour of Code activities on code.org to learn basic coding. Students created their own flappy bird sequences, minecraft actions, and a variety of other scenarios.



CSEd Week is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity in computer science education, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field.

Source: [csedweek.org](http://csedweek.org)



# Wildkat FEATURES

## Brabham MS Counselors use Bobkat Time to promote emotional intelligence

Brabham Middle School counselors Dyann Wilson and Michelle Gray use interactive lessons during Bobkat Time to guide students on their response to challenging situations.

"These groups are focused on helping students with their anxiety, mental health, self-esteem, and so much more," Wilson said.

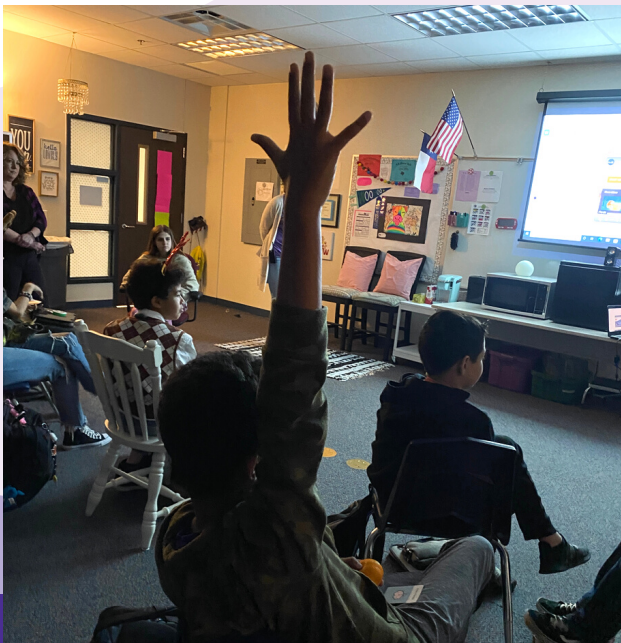
The groups are separated by gender and include sixth to eighth grade students. These students are randomly chosen and invited to join these groups every Thursday for nine weeks.

During these groups, students set SMART goals. The counselor then reaches out to those students' teachers to get them involved in helping them achieve their goals. This response then encourages students to succeed by showing them that they have a team behind them. Even if they do not complete these goals, they learn to persevere through the process.

They also use this time to develop coping skills, learn how to handle emotions and discuss conflict resolution through fun, interactive activities. While these topics are covered in student groups, the counselors want the parents to get involved too.

"We are still hosting Coffee with the Counselors on the first Wednesday of the month to chat over coffee and speak on how to support parents and students," Wilson said. "We are also starting a book study in January for the book Unselfie, which talks about ways to cultivate empathy in our children. The author of this book states 'We all want successful, happy kids who grow up to be kind, moral, courageous and resilient adults.' This is something we couldn't agree with more."

To learn more about BMS Counseling, click [here](#).



# WildKat FEATURES

## Three Willis ISD Administrators recognized by LSSSCA

There is something special happening in Willis! Three administrators were recognized by the Lone Star State School Counselor Association for their excellent work and passion for helping students. We are so proud to have these individuals representing Willis ISD!



## Recognitions

### Administrator of the Year

Eric Burns

Principal of Lynn Lucas Middle School

### Supervisor of the Year

Kelly Locke

Director of Guidance and Counseling

### Top 5 Counselor of the Year Finalist

Dyann Wilson

Counselor at Brabham Middle School

# Wildkat FEATURES

## Wildkat Resource Center partners with community for Christmas

The Willis community went above and beyond to help the Wildkat Resource Center create a wonderful Christmas for Willis ISD students and families. Thanks to individual sponsors and larger group donations, the Wildkat Resource Center was able to provide Christmas presents for more than 750 students!

Additionally, the WRC received a large donation of clothing and shoes from Greg Brown, manager of Walmart Conroe. These items will be available in Kat's Closet at the beginning of the year.

Special thanks to the following for donating items that helped us support many children over the holiday season.

Mindy and Misty Woodward - held a bicycle drive and donated 75 bicycles

April Sound neighborhood - donated bicycles and gifts

First Baptist Church of Willis - donated gifts

Coburn's Supply - donated gifts



# Wildkat FEATURES

## Willis HS Wrestling dominates at Maverick Stampede

Willis High School's wrestling team took on multiple opponents at the Maverick Stampede tournament hosted at Katy Morton Ranch on December 2-3. Out of 42 teams, three Wildkats placed in the top 5 of their bracket!



### Results

3rd:  
Tristan  
Rios

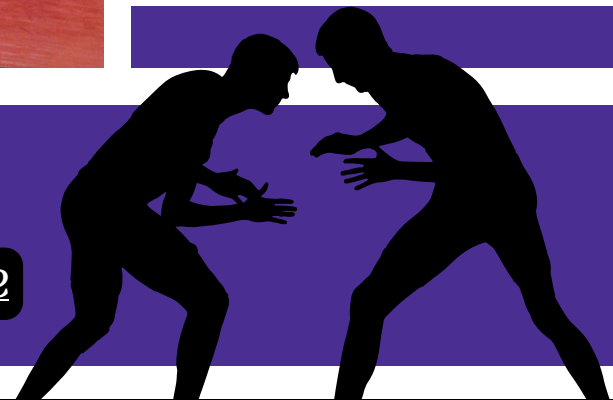


3rd:  
Marina  
Wilson

5th:  
Ethan  
Elliott



Follow on  
Twitter at  
[@WillisHSWrestle](https://twitter.com/WillisHSWrestle)



# Wildkat FEATURES

## Willis HS students assist local food bank

Several Willis High School organizations traveled to the Kroger Marketplace located in Willis to help the TLC Food Pantry. Students assisted at the door while fine arts groups performed for shoppers. Thank you to all the Wildkats who took time out of there day to help with this great cause!



# WildKat FEATURES

## Campuses celebrate 12 Days of Christmas



# WildKat FEATURES

## Campuses celebrate 12 Days of Christmas



# WildKat FEATURES

## Campuses celebrate 12 Days of Christmas



# Wildkat FEATURES

**Congratulations to these spectacular WHS athletes**



## Volleyball

Secret Carroll	Delaney New
Summer Clark	Savannah Paske
Brianna Goodwin	Carly Paugh
Tori Greeney	Sophie Satterwhite
Taylor Hayes	Sam Skelton
Lakin Horne	Haley Truett
Christa Johnson	Grace Wilder
Rylee Neumann	

## Football

Payton Alberts	A'mauree Holmes	Brock Perry
Jermaine Bishop	Robert Huseby	Luke Reynolds
Macin Connell	Mason Isbell	Cannon Roach
Kendrayus Edwards	Ford Ivey	Daylion Robinson
Sebastian Elvir	Wyatt Johnston	Jose Rodriguez
DeBraun Hampton	Derek Lagway	Isaac Stafford
Jacorion Hatchett	Zach Lang	Josiah Stephens
Hutton Hoegemeyer	Devon Lovelady	Marquis Wynne
	Jalen Mickens	



EACH ATHLETE PICTURED RECEIVED RECOGNITION AT THE STATE OR DISTRICT LEVEL FOR THEIR ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR.

# Wildkat FEATURES

## Willis ISD awards December's Students of the Month

In the month of giving, we couldn't be more proud of these outstanding Wildkats!

During the school year, campuses choose a set of students at the primary and secondary levels to come and represent them at the district's monthly board meeting. At these meetings, two students are selected as Student of the Month.

The Student of the Month for December was Turner fourth grader Olivia Stephenson.

Principal Dr. Michelle Hall said, "Olivia was nominated for Turner student of the month because of her remarkable leadership. Olivia is encouraging, kind, helpful, and gives her very best in all that she does. She is a conscientious student and the best teammate for anyone who works closely with her."

After the Student of the Month was named, Dr. Hall took a moment to recognize Turner's student ambassadors.

"We chose this year to replace our Student Council program with our Turner Student Ambassadors. At Turner, relationships are one of our core values, and our student ambassadors are the "boots on the ground", who build and sustain those relationships each day. They are an undeniable positive influence on our campus." Hall said.

Once primary recognitions were over, the secondary Student of the Month was presented. Representing Willis High School was twelfth grader Joshua Baldwin.

"He is the perfect example of what it takes to be a Wildkat. He exhibits leadership, character, and academic success at Willis High School," Chad Smith, Principal of Willis High School said.

We would also like to congratulate Turner students Lilli Harrison and Jack Dugas for being chosen to represent their school in leading the pledges and prayer.



# WildKat FEATURES

## DJ Lagway commits to the Florida Gators

On December 7, DJ Lagway announced his verbal commitment to the University of Florida. This announcement was made in front of hundreds and was aired on ESPN2. As one of the top football prospects in the Class of 2024, this decision was heavily anticipated across the nation. In addition to the offer from the Florida Gators, DJ also had offers from other large schools such as TAMU, USC, Clemson and Baylor.



*Did you know?*

DJ is the #1 Dual Threat QB in the nation



The official Twitter announcement

[Click to watch the announcement on ESPN](#)

Click the image to read about the decision in The Courier



# WildKat FEATURES

## Fine Arts celebrates 12 Days of Holiday Performances



# WildKat FEATURES

**Congratulations to these Technology Olympics participants**



Students (L-R): Scarlett Greer and Nevada Moore  
Back row: Kathryn Neighbors (TVI) and Andrea Ward (O&M)



Student: Abigail Luna Caron  
Back row: Kathryn Neighbors (TVI) and Andrea Ward (O&M)  
Not pictured: Devan Gardner



Students (L-R):  
Max Krolozyk,  
Zade Jebril  
Back row:  
Kathy Neighbors (TVI)  
and  
Dawson Asher  
(Instructional Aid)

# WildKat FEATURES

**Congratulations to these Technology Olympics participants**



Student:  
Christopher Allen  
Teacher:  
Ms. Lucky  
Grandmother:  
Mrs. Jan Davis



Students (L-R): Blake Conerly, Christopher Lollis, Aubrey Lindsey, Megan Elliott  
2nd Row: Kathy Neighbors (TVI) and Andrea Ward (O&M)  
Not pictured: Steven Backo and Nick Cerda



Student: Chris Coker  
Back row: Kathy Neighbors (TVI) and Andrea Ward (O&M)

# WildKat FEATURES

## Fine Arts department performs for fifth graders

On December 9, the Fine Arts department hosted a Fine Arts showcase for rising fifth graders. Current middle school students performed short segments that gave the audience a glimpse of what their group does. The purpose of this showcase is to give students an idea of what each program entails ahead of choosing their sixth grade electives.



*Did you Know?*

Over 87% of Willis ISD students participate in some sort of fine arts program.

# WildKat FEATURES

## CTE Culinary Kats impress administrators with bakery-inspired breakfast

On December 8, the Culinary Kats from the Willis High School Career & Technology Center baked and served breakfast to Willis ISD Administrators at their monthly meeting. They prepared homemade cinnamon rolls, bakery-style blueberry lemon muffins, glazed cranberry orange scones, and more!

These students are all certified ServSafe Food Handlers and will be ready to continue their education or enter the workforce after high school!



L-R: Hayden Phillips, Cassandra Turrubiarres, Kelly Navarro, Lauren Dabney, Leslie Elias and Axel Cano.



Cinnamon Rolls



Cranberry Orange Scones



Blueberry Muffins



# Wildkat FEATURES

## New Board Members Sworn In

Montgomery County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wayne Mack conducted a swearing-in ceremony for elected Willis ISD Board of Trustee members during a special board meeting held on November 30, 2022.



### Election Results

The newly elected board members are:

Nikita Lagway, Position 1

Scott Carson, Position 3

The re-elected board members are:

Kyle Hoegemeyer, Position 4

Cliff Williams, Position 5

*Reorganization of the  
Board of Trustees*

New positions are:

President - Kyle Hoegemeyer  
Vice President - Paulett Traylor  
Secretary - Chad Jones



# MEET OUR *Board Members*

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



# WildKat FEATURES

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Nikita Lagway  
Position 1



Paulett Traylor  
Position 2



# WildKat FEATURES

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Scott Carson  
Position 3



Kyle Hoegemeyer  
Position 4

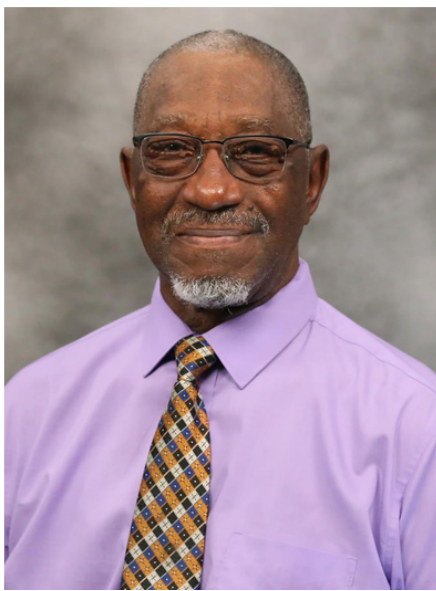


# WildKat FEATURES

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Cliff Williams  
Position 5



Charles Perry, Sr.  
Position 6



# Wildkat FEATURES

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Chad Jones  
Position 7

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
ALL THAT  
YOU DO!**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# Willis ISD

# CALENDARS

## VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

### Boys Basketball

Jan 4 (Away)  
Jan 7 (Home)  
Jan 11 (Home)  
Jan 14 (Away)  
Jan 18 (Home)  
Jan 21 (Away)  
Jan 24 (Home)  
Jan 27 (Away)

### Powerlifting

Jan 7 (Away)  
Jan 21 (Away)  
Jan 26 (Away)

### Wrestling

Jan 4 (Home)  
Jan 5 (Away)  
Jan 7 (Away)  
Jan 14 (Home)  
Jan 18 (Away)  
Jan 21 (Away)  
Jan 26 (Away)

### Girls Soccer

Jan 10 (Home)  
Jan 17 (Home)  
Jan 20 (Away)  
Jan 24 (Home)  
Jan 27 (Away)

### Girls Basketball

Jan 4 (Home)  
Jan 7 (Away)  
Jan 11 (Away)  
Jan 14 (Home)  
Jan 18 (Away)  
Jan 21 (Home)  
Jan 24 (Away)  
Jan 27 (Home)

### Swim & Dive

Jan 6-7 (Away)  
Jan 10 (Away)  
Jan 12 (Away)  
Jan 20-21 (Away)

### Boys Soccer

Jan 3 (Away)  
Jan 5 (Home)  
Jan 6 (Home)  
Jan 7 (Home)  
Jan 10 (Home)  
Jan 17 (Away)  
Jan 20 (Home)  
Jan 24 (Away)  
Jan 27 (Home)

### Tennis

Jan 27-28 (Away)

[VIEW THE FULL ATHLETICS CALENDAR HERE](#)

## FINE ARTS DATES

### School Musical

Performance  
January 27

### 5th Grade Band

Interview Night  
January 30-31

### Lagway 2nd Grade

Performance  
February 7

### WHS Musical

January 28

### Middle School Solo & Ensemble

February 7

### HS/MS

NV/V Band  
Side-by-Sides  
February 21-22

[VIEW THE FULL FINE ARTS CALENDAR HERE](#)

Welcome Back,  
WildKats!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# Willis ISD

# MLK DAY

Monday,  
January 16th

ENJOY YOUR  
HOLIDAY!



Staff and students will return on Tuesday, January 17th

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Willis ISD

**PAPER**

Paper is available to all 3rd-12th grade Willis ISD students.  
Visit [app.paper.co](http://app.paper.co) to log in.

## Need help with schoolwork?

Calling all students! Did you know that you have free tutoring help and writing support - for any subject - on your computer, tablet, or smartphone?

## Paper helps you succeed

### Live Chat

Connect with a tutor to ask any question, any time!

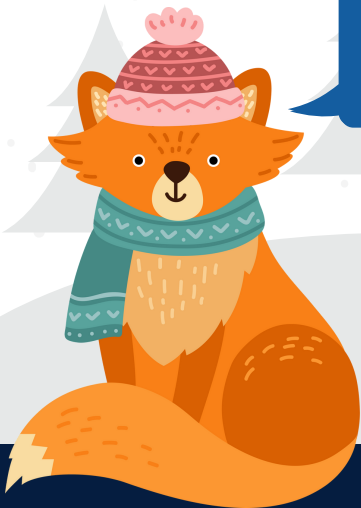
What is an adjective?

Can you help with long division?

### Review Center

Upload any written work for expert feedback!

Can you look over my paragraph?



Log in using  
**Clever**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# *Willis ISD*

**HAVE AN IDEA FOR A  
FEATURE?**



FILL OUT THE CLASSROOM VISIT FORM [HERE](#) OR SEND YOUR STORY  
AND PHOTOS TO [WISDCOMMUNICATIONS@WILLISD.ORG](mailto:WISDCOMMUNICATIONS@WILLISD.ORG)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# Willis ISD

# BLOOD

LOCATED @ REEC

# DRIVE

MONDAY,  
JANUARY 9

12:00 PM - 4:30 PM



SCAN OR CLICK TO MAKE  
APPOINTMENT  
(WALK-INS WELCOME)

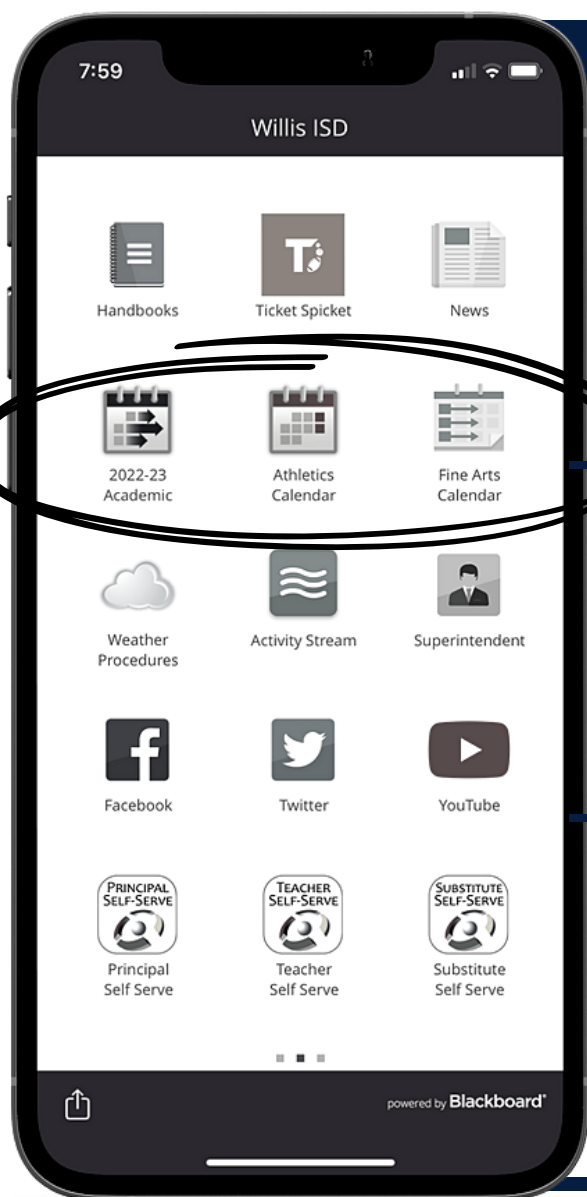
**EVERYONE WHO  
DONATES WILL  
RECEIVE A FREE  
HOODIE!**

Click [here](#) to learn more about the ways you can give.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

## Want to stay in the know while on the go?

Located on the second page of our app is all event calendars  
for the 2022-23 school year.



### GET TO KNOW OUR CALENDARS



2022-23  
Academic

#### 2022-23 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

What it includes: Important district wide dates. Events found on this calendar are deemed to be of interest for every campus and grade-level.

#### 2022-23 ATHLETICS CALENDAR

What it includes: All athletic team schedules. This includes Willis High School, Lynn Lucas MS, and Brabham MS. This calendar can be sorted by school.



Athletics  
Calendar



Fine Arts  
Calendar

#### 2022-23 FINE ARTS CALENDAR

What it includes: All fine arts program event dates. This includes Willis High School, Lynn Lucas MS, Brabham MS, and all elementaries.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Willis ISD



## The Voice of the Wildkats



Need your daily Willis News fix? The Wildkat Word is only published once a month, but The Voice of the Wildkats is updated every day! Ran by a talented group of journalism students at Willis High School, the "Voice" is a great way to stay up-to-date on campus news.

The Voice of the Wildkats online received the Online Newspaper Distinguished Merit honors from ILPC and was nominated for a star in 2021. The website was also named a Distinguished Site by SNO. Staff members compete in contests sponsored by ILPC and TAJE. Three members were also named All-State Journalists by ILPC.

Check out the voice behind the words at [wildkats.org](http://wildkats.org)!

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'the voice OF THE WILDKATS' website. The header includes the site name and 'WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL, WILLIS TEXAS 77378'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Around Campus, Features, Wildkat Sports, Views, Entertainment, Fine Arts, Multimedia, and About. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Wildkat Sports' and features three articles: 'Tennis travels to Galveston to better prepare for district play' by Hannah Hartman, 'Aquakats set team, personal goals for season' by Blaine Eckert, and 'Wildkats cross country off to a great start' by Hannah Hartman. The right column is titled 'Wildkat Photo of the Week' and features a large photo of a student in a police uniform being inspected by a police officer. Below the photo is a caption: 'INSPECTION READY. Leading by example, junior Joseph Sheldon stands at attention as Sgt. Chris Bell takes a photo. AFJROTC meets once a week for uniform inspection. photo by John Picklesimer.'

## Visit

[Around Campus](#)  
[Features](#)  
[Wildkat Sports](#)  
[Views](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
[Fine Arts](#)  
[Multimedia](#)

Learn more about the staff behind the "Voice" [here](#).

Contact the "Voice"

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Instagram  
[@voice.of.the.wildkats](#)

# AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



# AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



# AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



WHAT'S THE  
**WORD**  
ON  
*Twitter?*



WildkatRobotiksFTCFRC @Wildkat\_Robo\_HS · Dec 10  
Favorite picture of the day! #autonomous for the win. @ftcteams  
@firstintexas #PowerPlay @wildkatrobotiks @Willis\_HS\_TX @WillisISD\_CTE



# Socials

## CAMPUS FACEBOOK PAGES

Stay up-to-date on all the fun things taking place on your child's campus!

Each Willis ISD school will have its own Facebook page this year, where they will be posting daily to keep you updated on the day-to-day happenings at your student's school.

**ROARK EARLY  
EDUCATION CENTER**  
[@WISDRoark](#)

**CC HARDY ELEMENTARY**  
[@WISDHardy](#)

**PARMLEY ELEMENTARY**  
[@WISDParmley](#)

**AR TURNER ELEMENTARY**  
[@WISDTurner](#)

**LAGWAY ELEMENTARY**  
[@WISDLagway](#)

**BRABHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
[@WISDBrabham](#)

**CANNAN ELEMENTARY**  
[@WISDCannan](#)

**MEADOR ELEMENTARY**  
[@WISDMeador](#)

**LYNN LUCAS MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**  
[@WISDLynnLucas](#)

**WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL**  
[@WISDWillisHS](#)

**STUBBLEFIELD ACADEMY**  
[@WISDStubblefield](#)

Have an idea for a feature? Contact us [here](#).

Follow  
us!

## DISTRICT PROFILES



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**Willis Independent  
School District**