



THE

Willis Independent School District

Wildkat

WORD

Feb. 2023

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

February 8
Board Meeting

February 20
Presidents Day
Student / Staff Holiday

March 8
Board Meeting

March 9
Early Release

March 10, 13-17
Spring Break
Student / Staff Holiday

IN THIS ISSUE

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- What's Happening in WISD
- As Seen on Social Media
- Social Media Page Links



L-R back row: Deputy Barrett, Deputy McCaffrey, Deputy Neal, Deputy Childers
L-R front row: Deputy Burnett, Deputy Sherbenou, Sgt. Cade, Lt. Zemlicka, K9 Deputy Alexander

Willis ISD celebrates National Law Enforcement Appreciation Month with Constables

In the month of January, Willis ISD celebrated National Law Enforcement Appreciation Month with our Montgomery County Precinct 1 Constables. Thank you for all you do to keep our schools safe!

A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

Although February sometimes brings the coldest weather, there are lots of fun things to get out and do this month!

On February 17, you can play Bingo with the band at 5:30 pm at the North Montgomery County Community Center.

Then, join us Saturday, Feb. 18 for the Chili Cook-off benefiting the Kool Kats. The cook-off happens rain or shine at the American Legion Hall located at 13054 FM 1097 in Willis.

- Dr. Tim Harkrider



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Boys Soccer celebrate winning streak

Willis High School's Varsity Boys Soccer team took a 4-game win streak into their district opener. The Wildkats went up against many talented opponents such as Bellville, Porter, El Campo, and Montgomery. Way to go, Wildkats!



Final Scores

WHS vs. Bellville
3-0

WHS vs. Porter
1-0

WHS vs. El Campo
2-1

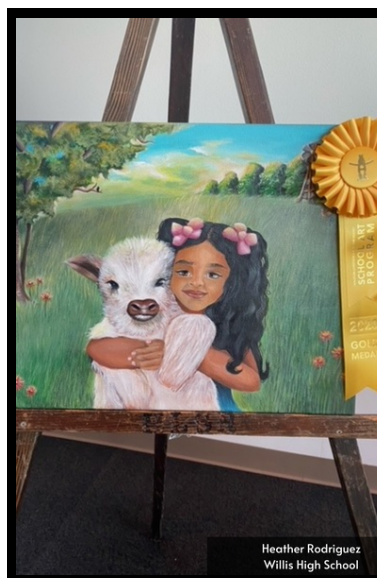
WHS vs. Montgomery
2-0



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD students recognized in Rodeo Art Show

Congratulations to our Houston Rodeo Art Show Winners! Willis ISD had 3 Best in Shows and 4 gold medals. These art pieces will be on display at NRG stadium during the duration of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. We are so proud of these talented students!



WildKat FEATURES

Rising 9th graders tour Willis HS campus

On January 11 and 12, next year's freshmen got the opportunity to tour the WHS campus. They explored both the main building and CTE, and wrapped it all up with some time in the gym exploring their options for extracurricular activities.



Welcome to
WILLIS HIGH
SCHOOL
Class of 2027

Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Wrestling wins big at Cougar Classic

On January 21, the WHS Wrestling team dominated at the Cougar Classic in College Station! The boys placed 3rd overall and the girls placed 6th with only four girls total. We are so proud of this group of Wildikats and their resilience.



Cougar Classic Results

Varsity Boys

(106) Grady Burson - 4th place, (113) Steven Nguyen - 2nd place, (120) Tristan Rios - 1st place, (138) Ethan Elliott - 3rd place, (157) Alijah Wood - 3rd place, (175) Blake Messick - 2nd place

Varsity Girls

(132) Marina Wilson - 3rd place, (138) Gabby Ramirez - 2nd place, (235) Amaya De la Rosa - 3rd place

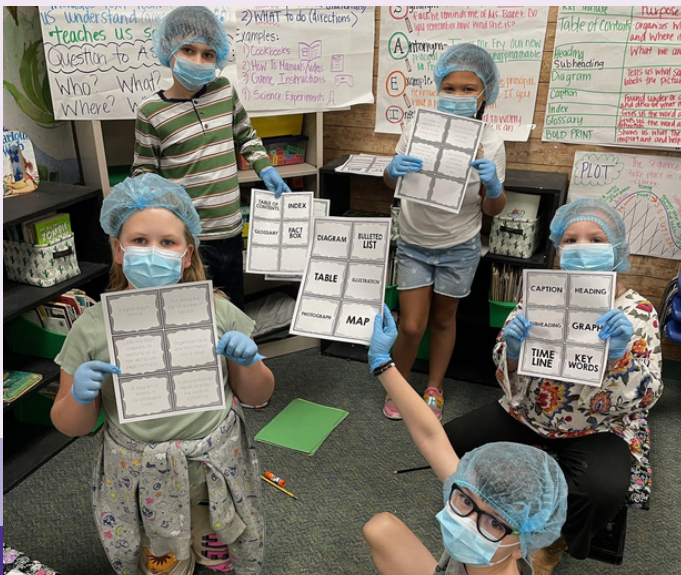
JV Boys

(132) Brody Koho - 4th place, (144) Keitan Schwartz - 4th place, (190) David Winslett - 3rd place,

WildKat FEATURES

Meador students become Text Feature Surgeons

On January 12, third graders in Ms. Kayla Jenkins class prepped for "Text Feature Surgery". This activity had them identifying different text features in works of non-fiction and matching them to their vocabulary terms. The students would then enter an operating room where they would be required to match sort tools, use magazines and work as a team to save all "patients."



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Girls Soccer achieve program sweep in first district game

On January 17, the Willis High School Girls Soccer team achieved a program sweep in their first district game of the season against New Caney. JVB ended their match 3-0, JVA 2-0, and Varsity 4-0!



Upcoming Varsity Matches

2/1 - WHS vs. College Park
2/4 - WHS at Caney Creek
2/10 - WHS vs. The Woodlands
2/13 - WHS at Oak Ridge
2/18 - WHS at New Caney
2/21 - WHS vs. Conroe
2/24 - WHS at Grand Oaks
2/28 - WHS vs. Cleveland



Upcoming JVA/JVB Matches

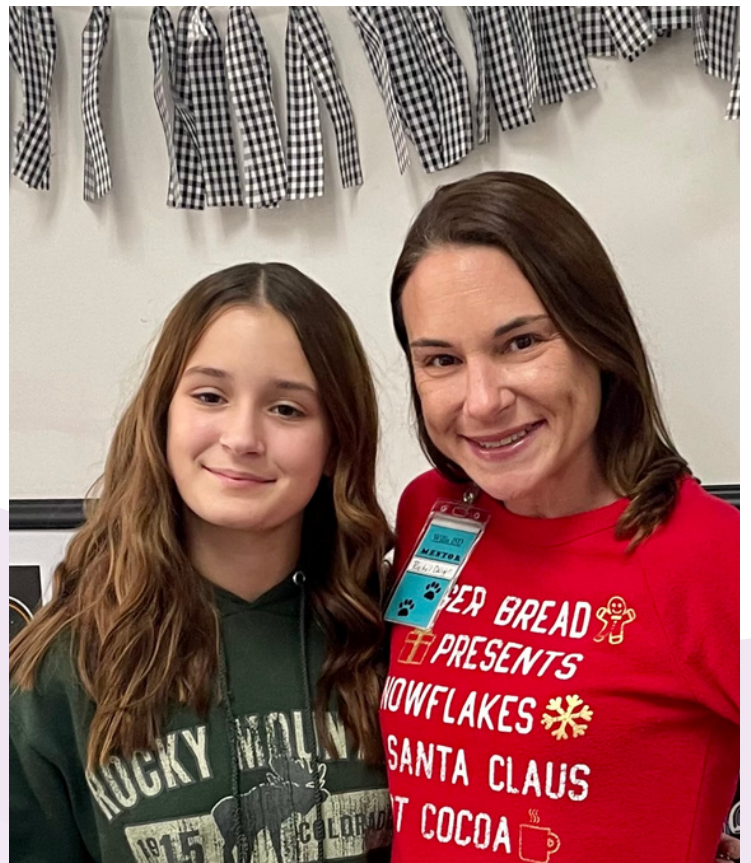
2/1 - WHS vs. College Park
2/4 - WHS at Caney Creek
2/7 - WHS at Memorial (JVB Only)
2/10 - WHS vs. The Woodlands
2/13 - WHS at Atascocita (JVB Only)
2/13 - WHS at Oak Ridge (JVA Only)
2/18 - WHS at New Caney (JVA Only)
2/21 - WHS vs. Conroe
2/24 - WHS at Grand Oaks (JVA Only)
2/28 - WHS vs. Cleveland (JVA Only)
2/28 - WHS vs. Atascocita (JVB Only)

Wildkat FEATURES

Willis ISD celebrates National Mentoring Month

In January, the district celebrated the wonderful mentors who have made a big impact in our students lives. Mentoring creates unity, builds courage, and strengthens community.

Willis ISD is always looking for mentors, and we are in need specifically of male mentors. To learn more about Willis ISD RISE Mentoring, please visit <https://www.willisisd.org/mentoring>.



Youth with a mentor are:

55%

more likely to be enrolled in college

78%

more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities

130%

more likely to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team

90%

of respondents reported being interested in becoming mentors themselves

Source: [mentoring.org](https://www.mentoring.org)

WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS students graduate from Citizen Youth Police Academy

Willis High School CTE's Law Enforcement students are taking steps towards their future careers.

Recently six juniors and seniors from Brian Kennedy's Law Enforcement program graduated from the Conroe Police Department Citizen Youth Police Academy. Cadet Sgt. Landon Franks, Cadet Sgt. Christopher Garrison, Cadet Captain Noe Martinez, Cadet Sgt. Jessica Benitez, Cadet Sgt. Brianna Benavides and Cadet Parker Young participated in an eight week course that stretched from October to December to better prepare themselves for the transition into the field in the future.

"It is essentially a resume builder for them and portfolio entry that indicates to Law Enforcement agencies looking to hire them later that these candidates have taken steps to remain immersed in the industry to the utmost extent possible," Kennedy said.

This course covered topics such as Patrol Operations, Use of Force, Physical Fitness, Narcotics, K9 Operations and Firearms Training. While the students learn about these subjects in class, this academy has provided them with supplemental knowledge that can assist them in class and in the future when starting their careers.

Kennedy, who prides himself on providing students with an authentic industry experience in the classroom, believes that this course aligns almost perfectly with his program.

"Our motto here is 'We Build Leaders'. We strive to empower students to be good citizens and stewards of our society as they transition to the workforce. The instruction here replicates the industry as closely as possible with the emphasis on the academy being a student driven experience with embedded student leadership," he said.

To learn more about the Willis High School Law Enforcement program, please visit <https://bit.ly/3XiWWAK>.



*Great Job,
WildKats!*

Students (L to R):
Cadet Sgt. Landon Franks,
Cadet Sgt. Christopher Garrison,
Cadet Captain Noe Martinez,
Cadet Sgt. Jessica Benitez, Cadet
Sgt. Brianna Benavides

Not Pictured: Cadet Parker Young

WildKat FEATURES

BMS students learn hard and soft culinary skills

On January 27, Brabham Middle School students in Jonathan Clark's General Employability Skills class studied how to cook meat properly as part of their "deep dive" into culinary careers.

The class started with a briefing on foodborne illnesses and the difference between hard and soft skills in the kitchen. Students then received a hands-on lesson on how to cook pork, steak, chicken, and deer. Throughout the process they watched for visible markers to tell when the meat was ready to eat.



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis ISD recognizes January Students of the Month

These Wildkats are making waves in the new year!

Every month, campuses choose a set of students at the primary and secondary levels to represent them at the district's monthly board meeting.

The January Elementary Student of the Month was Lagway first grader Cassidy Allen.

First-grade teacher Mrs. Cathy Hurst said, "Cassidy is an outstanding student! She listens, she is always on task, and she always does her best work while pushing herself to do better!"

Once primary recognitions were over, the Secondary Student of the Month was presented. Representing Brabham Middle School was sixth grader Owen Landaverde.

"Owen's teachers have glowing things to say about him. He is respectful, hardworking, and always prepared. He has strong academic skills and is kind to his fellow students, supportive, and always willing to help. If something needs to be done, Owen's teachers trust that ANY task he is given will be addressed diligently and efficiently," said Dr. Shukella Price, Principal of Brabham Middle School.

We would also like to congratulate Lagway students Hayes Hoegemeyer, Gunner Blinka, and Lucas Brumlow for being chosen to represent their school in leading the pledges and prayer.

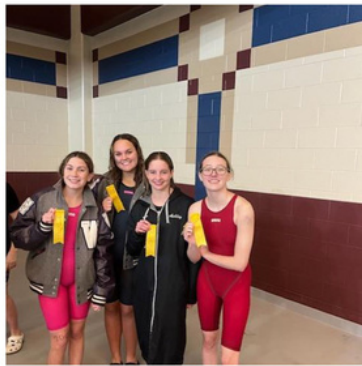


Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Swim and Dive makes moves towards Regionals

On January 20-21, the Willis High School Swim and Dive team competed at their District Meet at the CISD Natatorium. It was a great meet with six relay teams and 2 individuals moving on to Regionals.

Way to make us proud, Wildkats!



Relay Teams

200 Medley Relay

Rylee Rick, Ashley Flowers, Carli Murray, Addison Lyons - 5th place
Peyton Sewell, Keddie Ramsden, Brooks Cesan, Briggs Cesan - 6th place

200 Freestyle Relay

Carli Murray, Rylee Rick, Addison Lyons, Ashley Flowers - 5th place
Keddie Ramsden, Briggs Cesan, Aaron Barker, Brooks Cesan - 5th place

400 Freestyle Relay

Carli Murray, Addison Lyons, Rylee Rick, Ashley Flowers - 5th place
Keddie Ramsden, Briggs Cesan, Peyton Sewell, Brooks Cesan - 5th place
Alternates on Relays: Kaley Hall, Kinley Gibbs, Langston Ramsden

Individuals

Diving

Kelsey Weddington - 3rd place

500 Freestyle

Peyton Sewell - 5th place

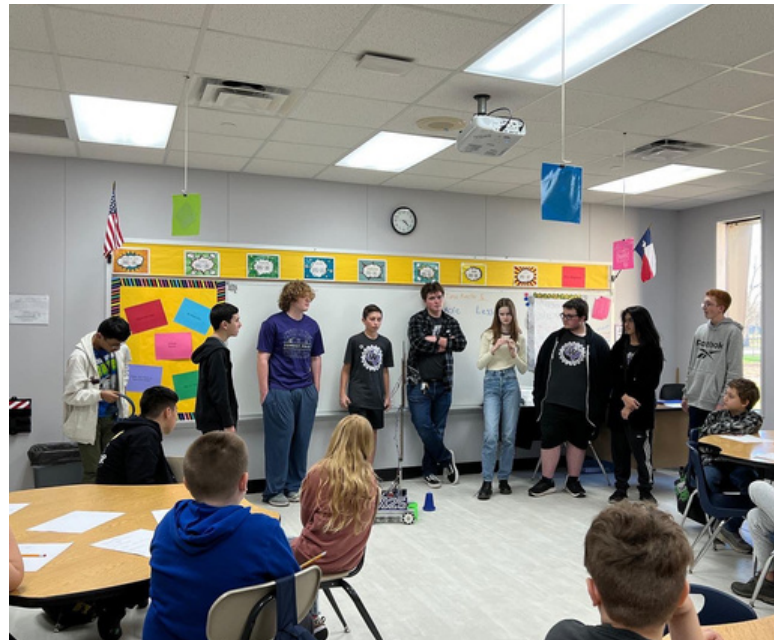
Congratulations to Peyton Sewell who set a new Willis HS record in the 200 Free with a time of 1:51.61!



Wildkat FEATURES

Robotiks visits Parmley's Coding Club

On January 12, Wildkat Robotiks visited Parmley Elementary to meet with the Coding Club. The group spoke about the FIRST Tech Challenge, PowerPlay, CADD and the engineering design process. The younger students even got the chance to learn how to drive the club's model robot!



WildKat FEATURES

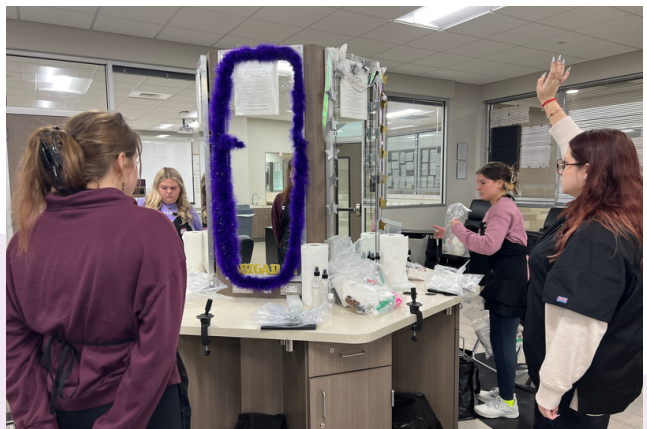
Cosmetology students receive their student hours

Cosmetology II students received 1000 TDLR (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation) student hours on January 1, 2023.

The Cosmetology program has recently converted from a clock hour program, where students would manually clock in every class period for TDLR student hours, to a credit hour program.

"A credit hour-based program allows students to get their full 1000 TDLR student hours as long as they maintain a 90% attendance rate and complete all their Units with a 70 average or better. A credit hour-based program is more conducive for high school students because we only see them in class for a small amount of time. The idea is to get more students to qualify for state board testing. They must have all of the TDLR student hours to qualify. We hope to have full classes graduating with a Cosmetology Operator License soon." Mrs. Carla Hernandez, WHS Cosmetology instructor, said

Current students, who qualify this year, will test for both their written and practical state board exams this semester and - hopefully, be fully licensed as Cosmetology Operators upon graduating. These students are Miracle Carter, Jennifer Defrancisco, Diana Jaimes, Alyssa Lovejoy, Angela Maldonado, Takyah Mathis, Cooper Rhodes, Yesenia Talamantes, Julia Warren, Emma Atkinson, Jemya Bonner, Natalie Mendez, Jennifer Montes.



WildKat FEATURES

DECA students impress at District Competition

Congratulations to the Willis High School DECA students that competed at The Woodlands High School District Competition on Saturday, January 14. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an association of marketing students that encourages the development of business and leadership skills through academic conferences and competitions. These competitions involve online testing and live presentations in the areas of business, marketing and finance. Twelve WHS students qualified to compete at State in March.



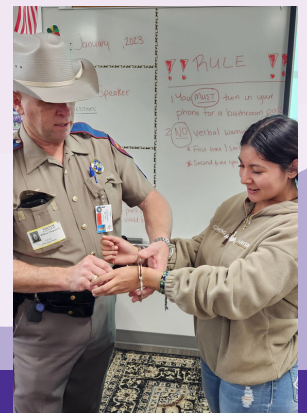
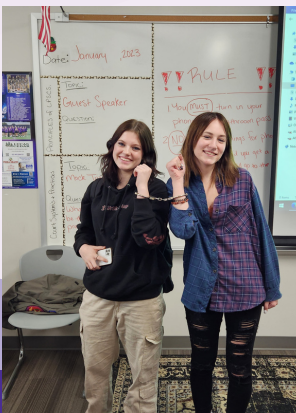
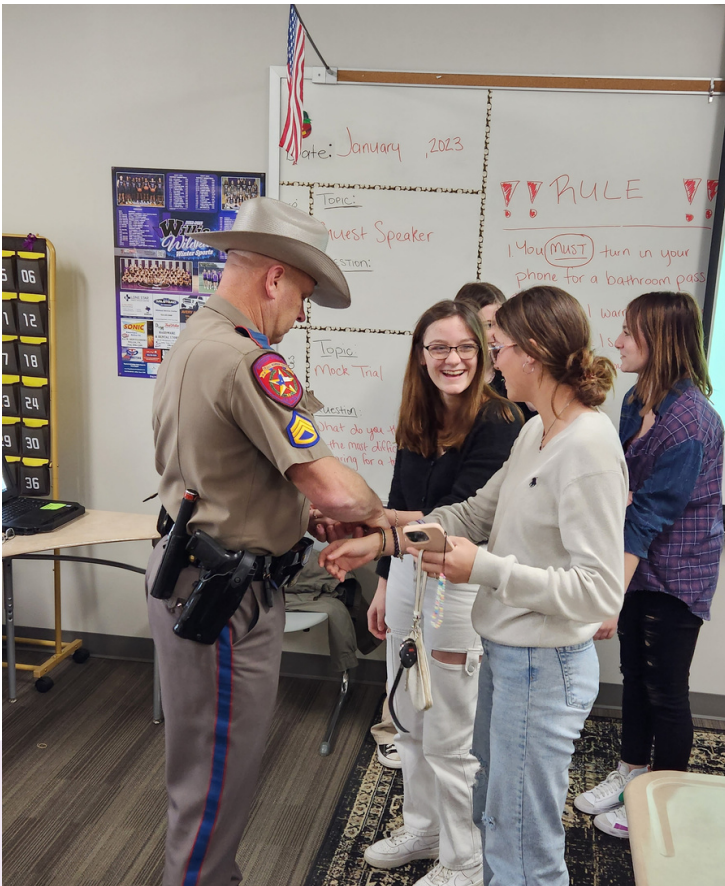
Recognitions

Payton Alberts, Jakeline Diaz, Jasmine Garcia, Melissa Guerrero, Brad Lottinger, Caroline Monge, Ivy Nguyen, Delany Nunez, Brittany Ramirez, Terry Ray, Persais Simpson, Rebekah Steele and Lillian Weeks

WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS CTE Students learn about DPS careers

Sergeant Smith and Staff Sergeant Fitzpatrick from the Texas Department of Public Safety visited Ms. Leslie Clepper's Principles of Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Corrections and Security classes, as well as Mr. Brian Kennedy's Law 1 and Law 2 classes. The officers showed videos that outlined the department's 30-week training program and various aspects of their jobs. The students were excited to talk with the officers and were even allowed to try on their handcuffs, joking that it would be the only time their mothers would see them in handcuffs.



Wildkat FEATURES

Local business donates furniture to Willis HS

Recently, Willis Discount Furniture made a generous donation to Willis High School.

The company, who specializes in custom-made furniture, donated several pieces to the school's library. The donation was made in response to the school's request for help furnishing the Basketball team's locker room. The team had been struggling to find the funds to purchase new furniture, and the furniture company stepped in to help.

The donated furniture included a sectional couch and a matching rocking chair. The ergonomic features of the desks and couches help students stay comfortable while studying.

The school was grateful for the donation since it provided a comfortable and inviting space for students to study. The principal expressed gratitude for the donation, saying it would make a huge difference in how students use the locker room.

The furniture company was also pleased with their donation because it allowed them to give back to their local community. They hoped that their contribution would inspire other businesses in the area to do their part in helping out local schools.

After talking with Ricky Hatcher of Willis Discount Furniture, the school asked if he would be interested in building a program with the Woodworking shop at the CTE Building that would allow students to intern at his store. This plan is currently under discussion for the 2023-2024 school year.

Overall, this generous donation from Willis Discount Furniture shows how businesses can positively impact their communities. A special thank you goes out to Ricky Hatcher at Willis Discount Furniture for your generous donation to our organization. Your support is greatly appreciated and has helped us provide quality furniture to athletes and students.



**Thank you,
Willis Discount
Furniture! Your
contribution
has made a
difference in
the lives of our
students!**

WildKat FEATURES

Lagway students enjoy "100th day" activities

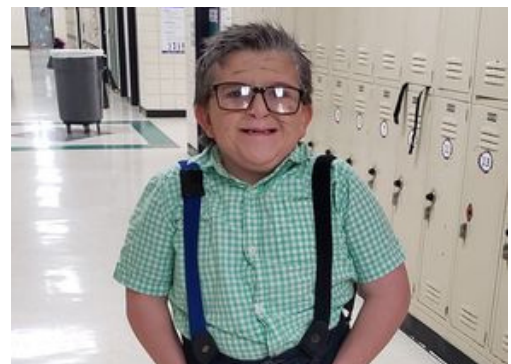
After parading around the school in their festive 100th-day wear, students in Mrs. Zapata's, Mrs. Hurst's, and Ms. Bodway's classes enjoyed activities centered around the number 100. These activities included finding 100 hundred words around the classroom, constructing a house out of 100 legos, creating a picture out of the number 100, stacking a set of 100 cups, trying to get to the center of a lollipop in 100 licks, writing about what they would do if they were 100 years old and reading books about the 100th day of school.

To give students a brain break, the teachers even incorporated a fun way to get them moving. Students would go up to the front of the classroom and pop a balloon with ten sets of an exercise written inside. In total, there were ten balloons and ten sets of fun exercises that the students periodically got to do.



WildKat FEATURES

Campuses celebrate 100 Days of School



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

Upcoming Events



Willis Band Boosters present

Bingo Night

Friday, Feb. 17
5:30 PM

Willis Kool Kats present

Chili Cook Off

Raffle
at
1 PM!

Saturday, Feb. 18
9 AM

Join us for
great chili
and a cake
walk!



Willis ISD Education Foundation presents

Bash Under The Big Top

Saturday, April 29
6 PM

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

CALENDARS

VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

Boys Basketball

Feb 3 (Home)
Feb 7 (Away)
Feb 10 (Away)

Powerlifting

Feb 4 (Away)
Feb 11 (Away)
Feb 17 (Away)
Feb 25 (Away)

Wrestling

Feb 2 (Home)
Feb 10-11 (Away)
Feb 17-18 (Away)

Girls Soccer

Feb 1 (Home)
Feb 4 (Away)
Feb 10 (Home)
Feb 13 (Away)
Feb 18 (Away)
Feb 21 (Home)
Feb 24 (Away)
Feb 28 (Home)

Golf:

Feb 2 (Away)
Feb 6 (Away)
Feb 20 (Away)
Feb 21 (Away)
Feb 23 (Away)
Feb 27 (Away)

Track:

Feb 9 (Away)
Feb 17 (Away)

Girls Basketball

Feb 3 (Away)
Feb 7 (Home)

Swim & Dive
Feb 2-3 (Away)
Feb 16 (Away)

Boys Soccer

Feb 1 (Away)
Feb 4 (Home)
Feb 7 (Home)
Feb 10 (Away)
Feb 13 (Home)
Feb 16 (Home)
Feb 21 (Away)
Feb 24 (Home)
Feb 28 (Away)

Tennis

Feb 3 (Away)
Feb 17 (Away)
Feb 24 (Away)

Baseball

Feb 4 (Away)
Feb 7 (Away)
Feb 10 (Away)
Feb 14 (Home)
Feb 17 (Home)
Feb 23-25 (Away)

Softball

Feb 3 (Home)
Feb 7 (Away)
Feb 11 (Away)
Feb 14 (Home)
Feb 16-18 (Away)
Feb 21 (Away)
Feb 23-25 (Away)
Feb 28 (Home)

FINE ARTS DATES

WISD Orchestra

Placement Night

February 2

Lagway 2nd Grade

Performance

February 7

HS/MS NV Side-by-Side

February 21

LLMS/BMS

6th Grade Concert

February 28

Middle School

Solo & Ensemble

February 7

LLMS Theatre UIL

Performance

February 8, 10

HS/MS V Side-by-Side

February 22

NV Band

Pre-UIL Concert

February 28

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



VIEW THE FULL ATHLETICS CALENDAR [HERE](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

PRESIDENTS February 20 Staff & Student Holiday

DAY



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

PAPER

Paper is available to all 3rd-12th grade Willis ISD students.
Visit 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*

"Internet Safety Tips"

INCLUDES: TIPS ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR
STUDENT SAFE ON THE INTERNET



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6PM TO 7PM

Virtual Presentation

Sign up [HERE](#)

Only parents who fill out the
form will receive a link through
email.

Speaker:

Stephen Shannon

WISD Executive Director of
Technology



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@WILLISID.ORG

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



Calming the Chaos of
Mental Health Care

Care Solace connects students, staff, and their families to care. **At no cost to you, Care Solace will quickly and confidentially find available mental health and substance use providers matched to your needs.**

Find the right help at the right time.



24/7/365 Multilingual Support

A multilingual team is available 24/7/365 to help you understand options, call providers on your behalf and schedule an appointment.



Care Regardless of Insurance

Connect to care with any coverage including Medicaid, Medicare, and sliding scale options for those without insurance.



Easy Access to Care

Use Care Match, the self-serve website, to find a provider on your own.

**GET CONNECTED
TO CARE TODAY**

888-515-0595

**CARESOLACE.COM/
WILLISID**

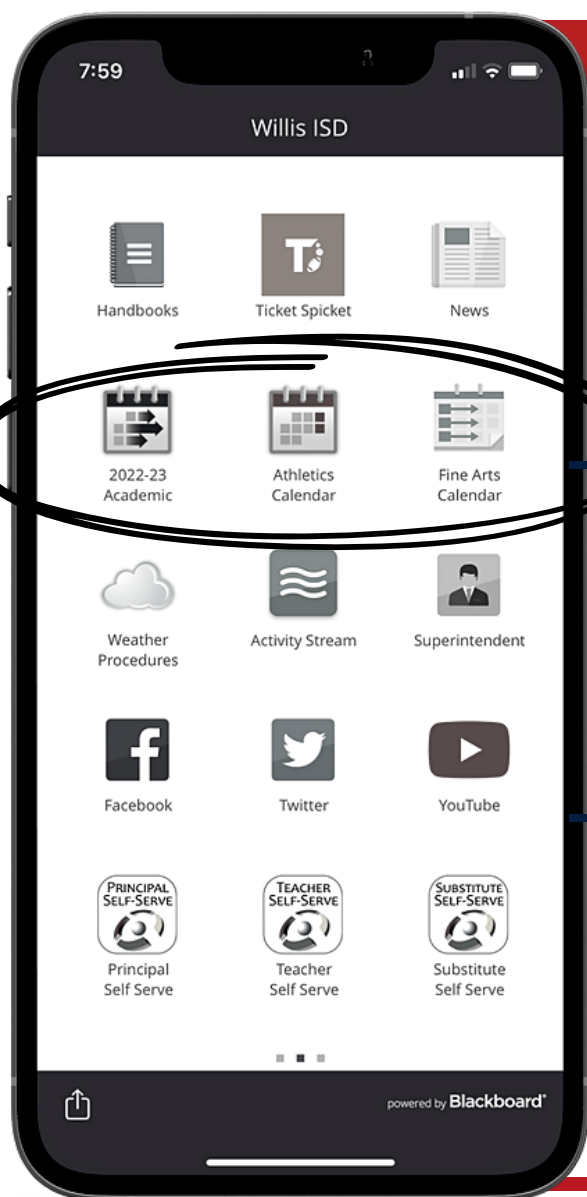


Please Note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 9-8-8.

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!



Wildkat Sports



Tennis travels to Galveston to better prepare for district play

by Hannah Hartman, VOW staff



Aquakats set team, personal goals for season

by Blaine Eckert, VOW staff



Wildkats cross country off to a great start

by Hannah Hartman, VOW staff

Wildkat Photo of the Week



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](#).

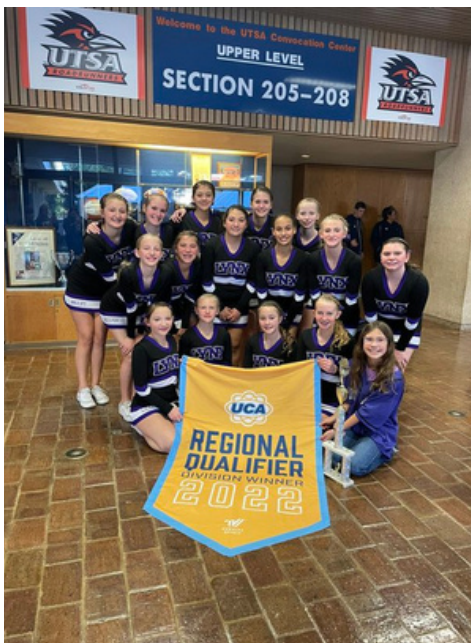
Contact
the
"Voice"

Follow On

Twitter
[@wildkatphotos](#)

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?



Willis High School STUCO @StucoWillis · 25m

Some fun with Anything But a Backpack!! @Willis_HS_TX Tag us in your photos today!! Remember to tell @willis_swim good luck!!!



1



4

84



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](#)

AR TURNER ELEMENTARY
[@WISDTurner](#)

CANNAN ELEMENTARY
[@WISDCannan](#)



CC HARDY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDHardy](#)

LAGWAY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDLagway](#)

MEADOR ELEMENTARY
[@WISDMeador](#)

WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL
[@WISDWillisHS](#)

STUBBLEFIELD ACADEMY
[@WISDStubblefield](#)

PARMLEY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDParmley](#)

BRABHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
[@WISDBrabham](#)

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



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

DISTRICT PROFILES



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[Willis Independent
School District](#)

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