



THE

Willis Independent School District

Wildkat WORD

Mar. 2023

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

March 8
Board Meeting

March 9
Early Release

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

April 7
Good Friday
Student/Staff Holiday

April 10
Student Holiday

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Willis HS celebrates Signing Day
- Brabham MS celebrates Black History Month
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- As Seen on Social Media
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Willis HS Culinary students win "Chopped" challenge

Culinary students from Willis High School defeated eight other Houston-area teams to become Chopped champions at the 2023 LeNotre Culinary Institute High School Chopped Competition. The team was only given one hour to plan, cook, and plate their dishes for judges and won by a large margin. Congratulations to these talented students and Chef Jefferson!

A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

We are almost to Spring Break! It has been a busy 9 weeks. We are proud of our students and staff for staying the course.

We hope that everyone has a safe and relaxing Spring Break. When we return, testing season will be upon us. We will send out a list of testing dates soon.

- Dr. Tim Harkrider



WildKat FEATURES

Lagway students become published authors

Ms. Spath's second-grade students are now published authors!

Using a program called StoryJumper, Ms. Spath's class created ebook versions of the stories they'd written and revised in class. After a quick tutorial, these budding authors were excited to begin the process and work with all the tools at their disposal. Like Ms. Spath told them at the beginning of the lesson, "This is not a class where we are afraid to click around and explore!"

Soon, students were writing and illustrating digital versions of their short stories. Several times during the lesson, students were able to identify new features and come up to the front of the classroom to teach their peers.

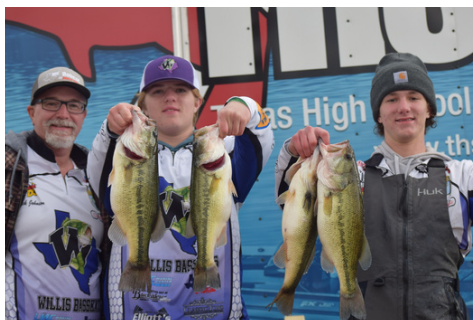
Once finished, students published their ebooks on Storyjumper for friends and family to read.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis Basskats impress at Toledo Bend

Congratulations to the Willis Basskats for weighing in with 42.59 lbs of fish and finishing 3rd overall at Toledo Bend on Saturday, February 11. Lane Johnson and Karson Harris placed 5th and Garrett Wilson and Johnny Hudson placed 11th. Great Job, Basskats!



Wildkat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS Artistokats win big at Lonestar Regionals

The Lynn Lucas Middle School Aristokats Dance Team competed in the Lonestar Regionals Contest on Saturday, February 25 and brought home several awards. Congratulations to this talented group of young ladies - keep up the good work!



Awards

Best in Class in Pom & Hip-Hop

Sweepstakes Team Award

Best in Class in Officer
Jazz and Lyrical

Katie Cruz (Captain) - 2nd place
in Solos and Top 5 in Leap
Technique



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS celebrates "Signing Day" with 14 signees

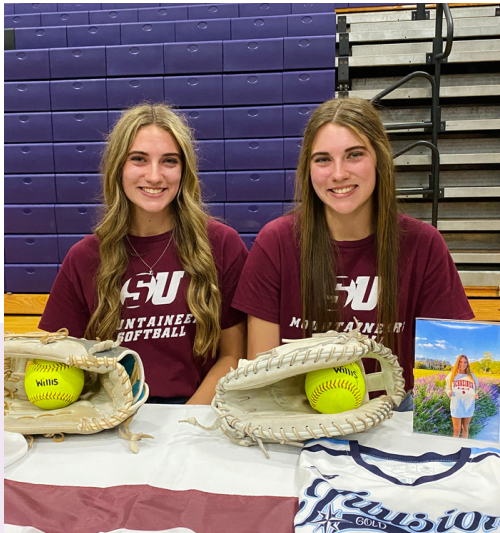
On February 1, 14 Willis High School students signed to colleges in front of family and friends in a celebration held in the WHS Gymnasium. We are so proud of the steps these Wildkats are taking to advance their academic and athletic careers.



Wildkat Signees

Hannah Hartman - Navarro College
Mazlyn Heyer - Southwestern University
Lauren Hues - Schreiner University
Lindsey Hues - Schreiner University
Lainey Niederhofer - Prairie View A&M University
Jolie Boyd - Southwestern College
Logan Wilson - Southwestern University
Blake Dorwart - Schreiner University
Trey Bennett - Schreiner University
Raul Gaspar - Southwestern College
Annaliese Rodriguez - Blinn College
Lucy Smith - Texas Southern University
Ford Ivey - Abilene Christian University
Parris Collins - Central Christian College

WildKat FEATURES



Good Luck,
WildKats!

WildKat FEATURES

Counselors celebrated at special luncheon

On February 7, the district celebrated counselors at a luncheon in honor of National School Counseling Week. This luncheon included a main course, beverages, and dessert.

We are so grateful for our school counselors and the "SODAS" they supply our district!



School Counselors Provide Sodas

S - Strategies and coping skills instruction for students through individual and group counseling

O - Open doors for collaboration with teachers/families/administration/community to enhance student success

D - Data analysis to identify student issues and needs, as well as evaluating program effectiveness

A - Academic, social/emotional and career awareness skills taught through classroom lessons

S - Support and referrals for families and community resources



WildKat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS Cheerkats win big at Stockton Showcase

Congratulations to the Lynn Lucas Middle School Cheerkats on winning 1st place in Stunting, 2nd place in Cheer, 2nd place in Chant and 2nd place in Pep Rally at the Stockton Showcase! The girls also won the Overall Technique Award, making them the team who earned the most awards at the competition!



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Ladykat Golfers impress on home turf

Ladykat golfers defended their territory with a 2nd place win at Panorama Golf Course on February 27. The Ladykats also had a 1st place individual win in Haley Truett.



WildKat FEATURES

Brabham HS Sophistikats dazzle at first contest

The Brabham Middle School Sophistikats had a successful first contest and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication. Check out all the awards they brought home!



"Dance is the hidden language of the soul." – Martha Graham

Awards

Officer Sweepstakes

Team Platinum Sweepstakes

Best in Category Officer Lyrical and Contemporary

Best in Category Team Military and Lyrical

Grand Champion Team and Officers for Small Middle School

Division 1 Soloists - Mia and Brooke



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS German students take on State

Congratulations to Willis High School German students who represented the Wildkats at German State in San Marcos. Janny Valdes placed in the Top 10 in Level 4 Vocabulary and Lillian Shaw won 1st place for her Krampus head craft.

Way to go, Wildkats!



WildKat FEATURES

Brabham MS celebrates Black History Month with project

February is Black History Month, and Brabham Middle School celebrated the contributions of Black individuals throughout history in a creative way!

Ms. Yolanda Nephew and several paraprofessionals - Ms. Alcaraz, Ms. Mills and Mr. Sheldon - partnered with students to create posters that showcase influential people throughout history and celebrate their achievements. Each poster includes a short write up documenting each individual's historical contributions and achievements. The posters are hung in a main hallway for everyone to see.

The overall goal is to prompt both students and teachers to want to learn more about people who are not talked about as much in history. The facts below each poster are there to serve as a reminder of the large impact these individuals have had.

"This activity was so uplifting. Every person who worked on this project learned about the contributions made by each individual. Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," Nephew said.

Famous people serving as subjects in this activity include Simone Biles, Oprah Winfrey, George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson and many others.

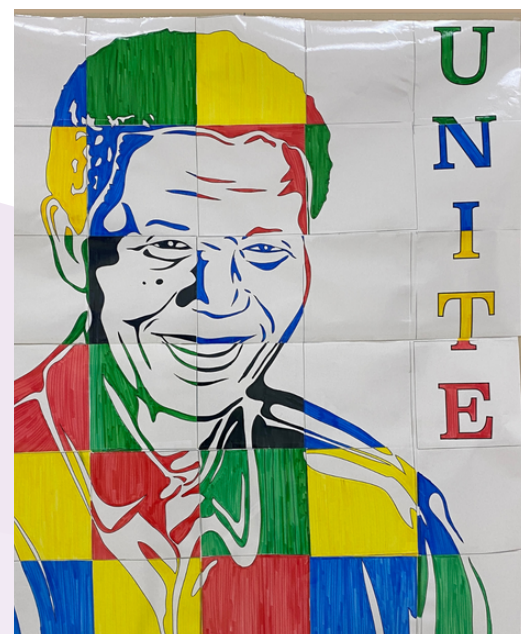
To view all posters, click [here](#).



Booker T. Washington



Rosa Parks



Nelson Mandela

WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD's Rodeo Art winners receive recognition at board meeting



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD's Rodeo Art winners receive recognition at board meeting (continued)



Congratulations
to all winning
artists!

Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Aquakats make waves at Regionals

The Aquakats made a big impression at Regionals on February 3-4.

Kelsey Weddington placed 3rd in diving, making her the first Willis athlete to compete in diving at a 6A State Meet.

The Aquakats also had all six relay teams qualify for Regionals and Consolation Finals for the first time in Wildkat history. In addition, Peyton Sewell qualified individually for the Consolation Final in the 500 Free.

The athletes broke school records at the competition in both the Girls 200 Free Relay (Carly Murray, Rylee Rick, Addison Lyons, and Ashley Flowers) and 500 Free (Peyton Sewell).



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS JV Girls Track & Field clinch multiple victories

A big congratulations to Willis High School JV Girls Track & Field! They brought home some major hardware in the month of February and continue to get better and better!



Results

Huffman Relays - February 9

Triple Jump - 1st Kaeley Uhlig

Long Jump - 1st Seraiah Davis

3200m Run - 3rd Alyssa Rodriguez

Ranger Relays - February 17

Long Jump - 1st Seraiah Davis

Long Jump - 2nd Anastacha McGowen

Livingston Relays - February 22

Long Jump - 1st Anastacha McGowen,
3rd Taylor Turner

Discus - 2nd Marly Flippo,

3rd Mylee Williams

High Jump - 1st Anastacha McGowen

Shot Put - 2nd Mylee Williams

3200m Run - 1st Alyssa Rodriguez,
2nd Joselyn Lira

400m Dash - 1st Evangeline Munaretto

200m Dash - 1st Anastacha McGowen,
2nd Trinity Davis

800m Run - 1st Evangeline Munaretto

100m Dash - 1st Anastacha McGowen,
2nd Trinity Davis

1600m Run - 1st Fernanda Ruiz Franco,
2nd Alyssa Rodriguez, 3rd Joselyn Lira

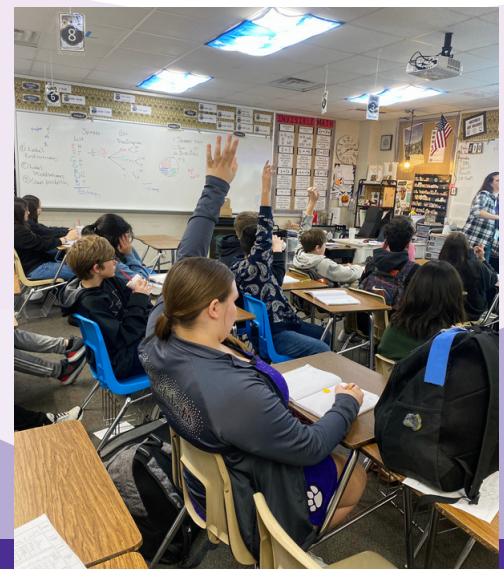
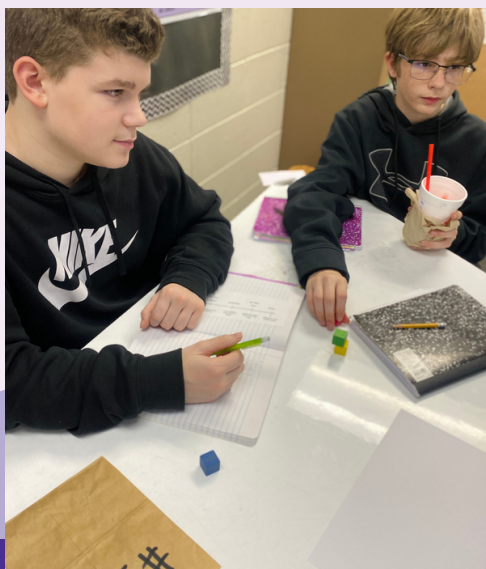
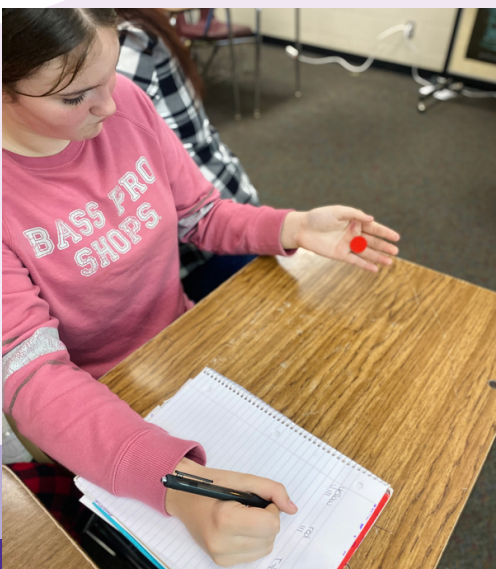
WildKat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS enjoy fun lesson on probability

The odds of these students having fun in math class are pretty high!

During February, seventh-grade students in Ms. Harrell's class at Lynn Lucas Middle School learned how to solve problems using qualitative and quantitative predictions and comparisons from sample experiments. This included using proper vocabulary terms such as theoretical and experimental probability, complement and prediction to describe the overall concept of probability.

Students then passed around dice, colored counters and spinners so that they could see probability in action. The classroom was full of laughter and chatter as students compared their results and saw how different their numbers were from each other.



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Softball brings the heat on Valentine's Day

It was a Valentine's Day to remember for the Willis High School Varsity Softball team! They played their first district game on Tuesday, February 14 and, despite a change of site due to weather, managed to bring home a win. We are so proud of these students and cannot wait to see what the rest of their season brings.



Game Highlights

Lainey Niederhofer - 3 hits in 4 at bats

Lauren Hues - 2 hits in 3 at bats

Sydney Prihoda - 2 hits in 5 at bats
with a double

Kynlei Chapman - 14 strikeouts
on the mound

WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD celebrates Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Tennis wins big throughout February



Viking Classic

1st place in boys doubles
Blaine Eckert and Nikolai Lugo

2nd place in boys doubles
Antonio Balon and Landon Franks

3rd place in boys doubles
Jacob Player and Rohan Patel

Consolation winner in boys singles
Brad Lottinger

1st place in boys singles
Cade Ford

3rd place in girls singles
Lauren Carlson

3rd place in girls doubles
Isabel Womack and Madison Moore

2nd place in mixed doubles
Brayden Leinweber and Emma Baron

Keep it up, Wildkats!

College Station

1st place in boys doubles
Blaine Eckert and Jacob Mendez

1st place in girls doubles
Isabel Womack and Madison Moore

2nd place in mixed doubles
Nikolai Lugo and Savannah Presswood

2nd place in boys singles
Brad Lottinger

WildKat FEATURES

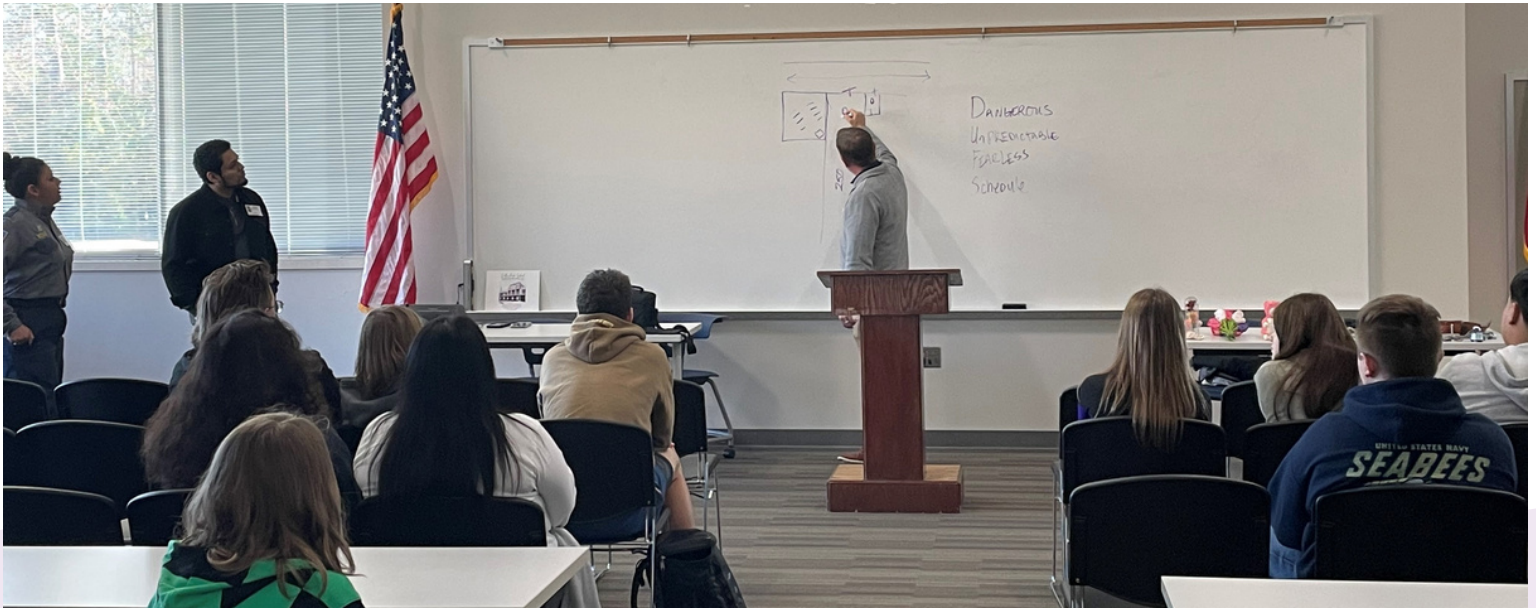
Willis HS CTE learn about careers through TDCJ

Individuals from the Huntsville State Prison visited Willis High School's Law Enforcement classes to discuss post graduation career options.

Jeremy Bryant, a recruiting manager; Samantha Piedra, a uniformed officer; Gustavo Arana, a talent acquisition advisor; and Bradley Sutton, a retention manager - all spoke to the students about what it takes to become a Texas Department of Criminal Justice officer, how to move up in the ranks and how to make a career out of working for the TDCJ.

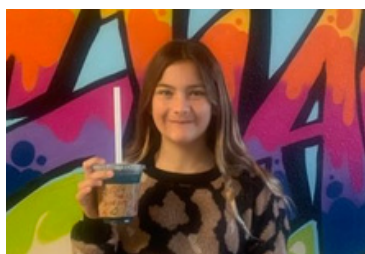
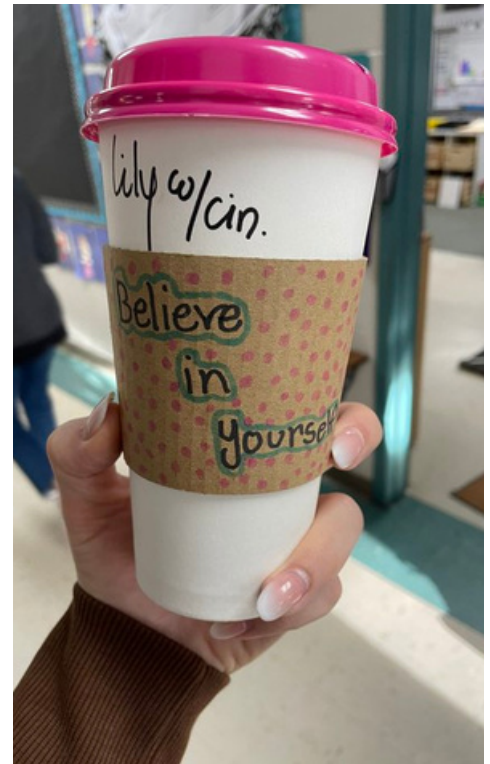
Students also learned about a day in the life of an inmate and the correctional officer's role in their day to day routine.

To learn more about the Willis High School Law Enforcement program, click [here](#).



WildKat FEATURES

A.R. Turner celebrates Random Acts of Kindness Day




Turner Elementary students designed coffee sleeves with empowering messages for Starbucks, Blue Willow Coffee, and Mucho Chaos Nutrition!

Wildkat FEATURES

Board of Trustees approve 2023-24 Academic Calendars

The Willis ISD Board of Trustees has approved the 2023-24 Academic Calendar. The calendar features a start date of August 16, a fall break, and an ending date of May 24, 2024. Graduation will be held May 29, 2024.

PDF version available for download [here](#).



2023-2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Approved February 8, 2023

SEMESTER 1

JULY 2023						
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AUGUST 2023						
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OCTOBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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Holidays

Independence Day July 4

Labor Day Sept. 4

Student Holiday Sept. 18

Fall Break Oct. 9-11

Student Holiday Nov. 17

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 20-24

Winter Break Dec. 18-29

Grade Reporting Periods

1st 9 Weeks Aug. 16-Oct. 20

2nd 9 Weeks Oct. 23-Jan. 12

New Teacher Academy

July 31-Aug. 3

Staff Development Days

Aug. 4-15, Sept. 18, Nov. 17

SEMESTER 2

JANUARY 2024						
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Holidays

New Year's Day Jan. 1

Student Holiday Jan. 2-3

MLK Day Jan. 15

Presidents Day Feb. 19

Spring Break March 11-15

Good Friday March 29

Student Holiday April 1

Memorial Day May 27

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1st 9 Weeks Jan. 16-Mar. 8

2nd 9 Weeks Mar. 18-May 24

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Jan. 2-3, Feb. 19, April 1, May 28-30

Graduation

May 29, 2024

SEMESTER 1

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WildKat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS students get creative for Black History Month

Lynn Lucas Middle School Employability Skills teacher, Vanessa Dotson, enjoys getting students to think outside of the box. For Dotson, Black History Month is the perfect time for students to exercise their creativity and look at life from another perspective.

Dotson felt the best way to do this was by allowing students to research an individual of their choosing and tasking them to create a fun poster to help showcase this figure's achievements. The overall goal of these posters was to highlight the impact Black history has had on American culture as a whole.

Students had many items that they could use to help convey this information. They were encouraged to utilize images, colored paper, markers, colored pencils, and their imaginations to present their findings. The teacher hopes that by allowing them this creative freedom, they will take the lesson beyond the classroom walls.

"My hope for this project is to help my students step out of their world and to pause and reflect on men and women from our past and present who have accomplished incredible things," Dotson said.

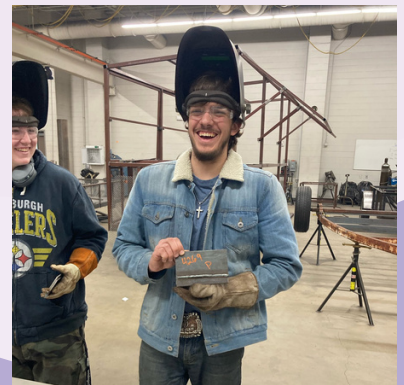


Wildkat FEATURES

56 Willis HS Students receive AWS welding certifications

Congratulations to the 56 Willis High School CTE students who earned their AWS welding certification on Friday, February 3! These students are taking strides towards successful futures and are now career-ready.

Welding is open to both male and female students who want to learn the craft and prepare for a career in the field. Click [here](#) for more information on our welding program.



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis ISD recognizes February Students of the Month

These students make us proud to be Wildkats!

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 February Elementary Student of the Month was Cannan fifth grader Taylor Boyd.

Dr. Jo Ann Colson, Principal of Cannan Elementary said, "Taylor begins each day with a smile and ends each day ensuring our students who need the most help receive it from her without hesitation. She has become a leader for others to see how to make the right choices at all times."

Once primary recognitions were over, the Secondary Student of the Month was presented. Representing Lynn Lucas Middle School was seventh grader Veronica Sanchez.

"She is the student that every teacher hopes for. Her dedication to her work shows in every assignment she turns in. She works hard to not only make sure she is understanding the concepts being taught in class, but on several occasions, I have witnessed her helping a fellow student to understand as well. She does this with patience and grace and out of the kindness of her own heart," said Ms. Angela Bowman, Veronica's teacher.

We would also like to congratulate Cannan students Barhett Mathews, Colt Bell and Deklan Terry for being chosen to represent their school in leading the pledges and prayer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*



WILLIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

JOB FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
8 AM TO 11:30 AM

CTE Center
40 FM 830, Willis, TX 77378



- For a list of jobs available or to register,
scan the QR codes below.



CLICK TO VIEW AVAILABLE
JOBS AND APPLY!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WillisISD
Twitter: www.twitter.com/WillisSchools
Instagram: www.instagram.com/WillisISD



Click to
Register!

Join Our Team!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD* CALENDARS

VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

Powerlifting

Mar 4 (Away)
Mar 15 (Away)
Mar 25 (Away)

Girls Soccer

Mar 3 (Away)
Mar 7 (Home)
Mar 14 (Away)
Mar 17 (Home)

Track:

Mar 2 (Away)
Mar 9 (Away)
Mar 23 (Away)

Softball

Mar 7 (Away)
Mar 10 (Home)
Mar 14 (Away)
Mar 18 (Home)
Mar 21 (Home)
Mar 24 (Away)
Mar 28 (Away)
Mar 31 (Home)

Boys Soccer

Mar 3 (Home)
Mar 7 (Away)
Mar 14 (Home)
Mar 17 (Away)

Tennis

Mar 3 (Away)
Mar 9 (Away)
Mar 24 (Away)
Mar 30-31 (Away)

Baseball

Mar 2-4 (Away)
Mar 9 (Away)
Mar 14 (Home)
Mar 17 (Away)
Mar 18 (Away)
Mar 21 (Home)
Mar 24 (Home)
Mar 25 (Away)
Mar 31 (Home)

Golf:

Mar 2 (Away)
Mar 3-4 (Away)
Mar 6 (Away)
Mar 20 (Away)
Mar 28-29 (Away)

FINE ARTS DATES

One Act

Performance
March 3

District UIL OAP

March 6-10

Turner Musical (4th)

March 7

Bi-District UIL Contest

March 20-24

Varsity Pre-UIL

March 21

MS Varsity Pre-UIL

March 21

MS NV UIL

March 28-30

Lagway 1st Grade Bugz

Program

March 30

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

VIEW THE FULL ATHLETICS CALENDAR [HERE](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

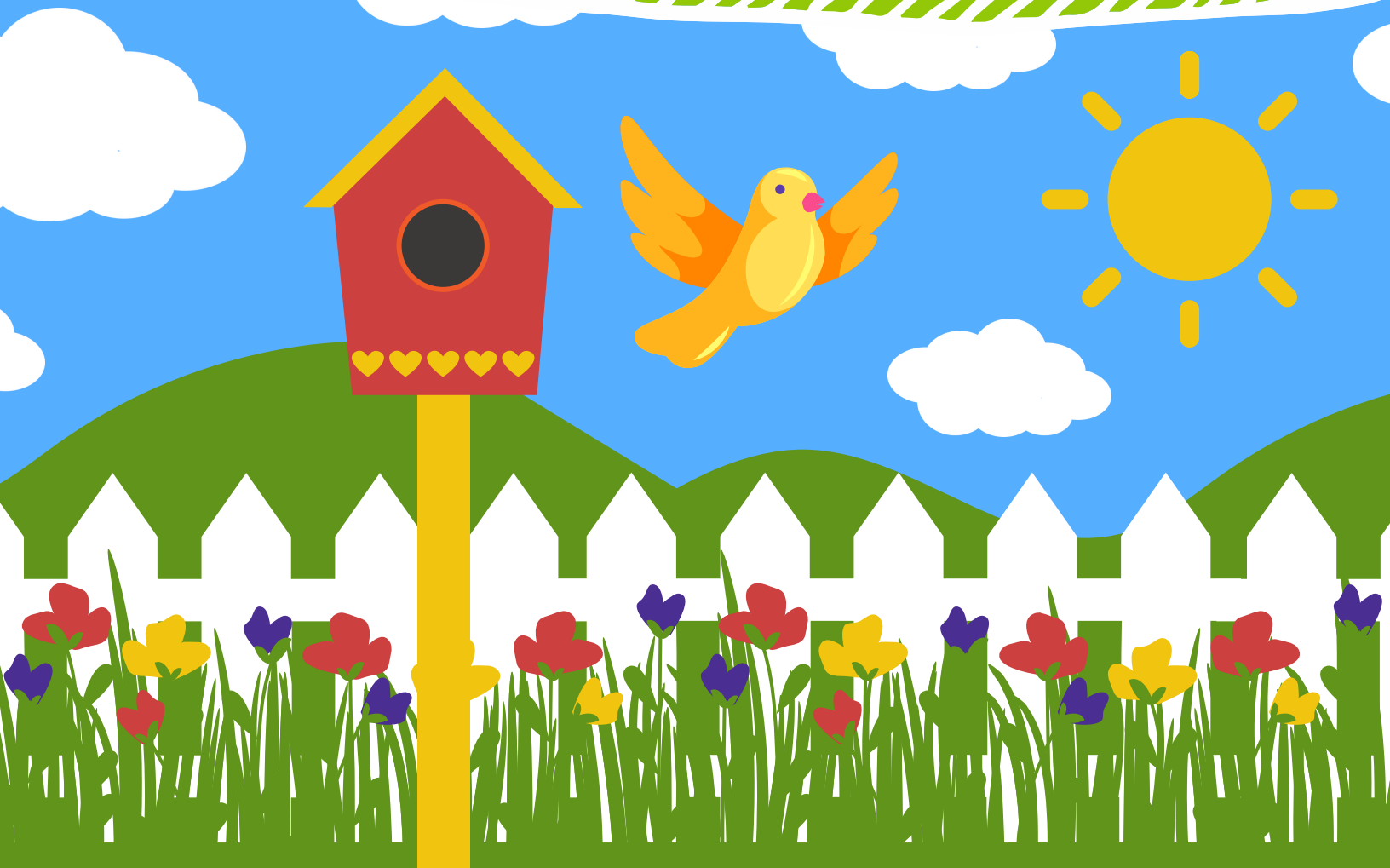
  **SPRING**

Staff & Student
Holiday 

March
10-17



BREAK



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*

"Keeping Kids Safe in the Digital Age"



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

PK-5TH PARENTS - 6 TO 6:50 PM

6TH-12TH PARENTS - 7 TO 8 PM

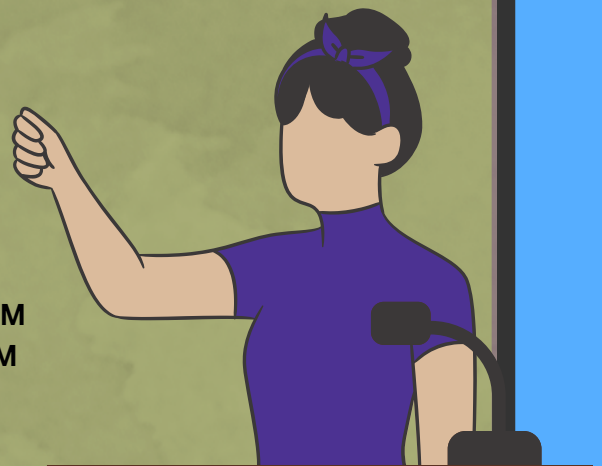
Virtual Presentation

Sign up [HERE](#)

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

Presented By:

Street Grace



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

**HAVE AN IDEA FOR
A FEATURE?**

**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

**FILL OUT THE CLASSROOM VISIT FORM [HERE](#) OR SEND YOUR STORY
AND PHOTOS TO WISDCOMMUNICATIONS@WILLISISD.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

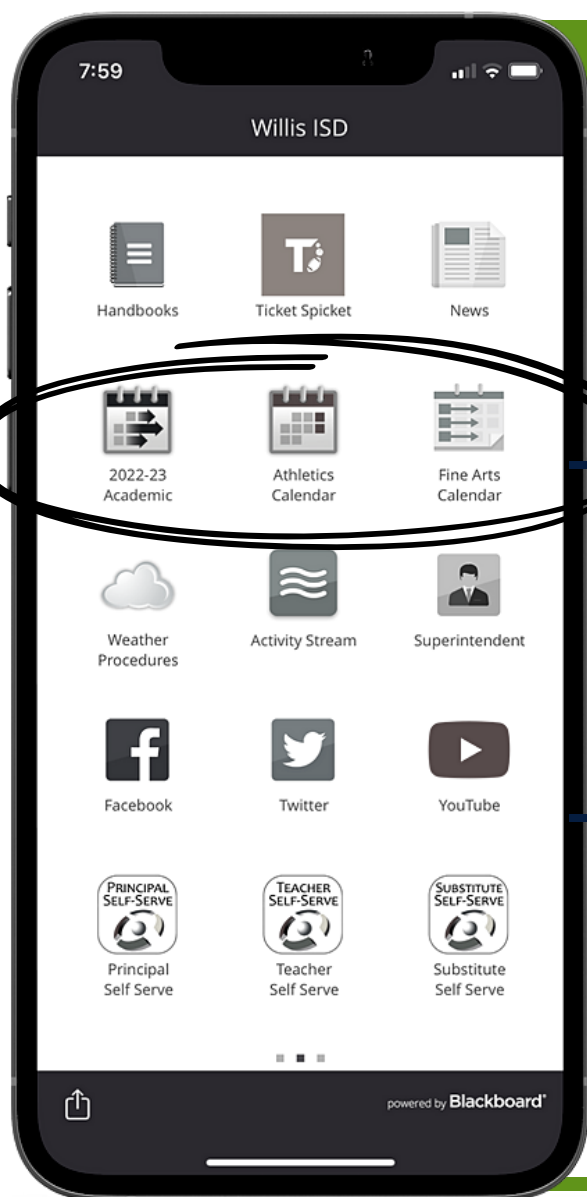


Please Note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 9-8-8.

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!



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

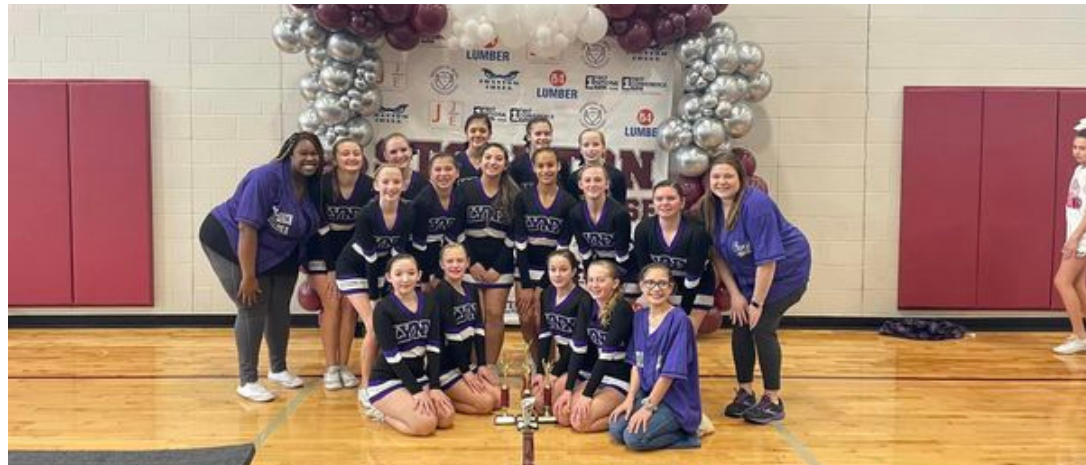
[Twitter](#)
[@wildkatphotos](#)

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

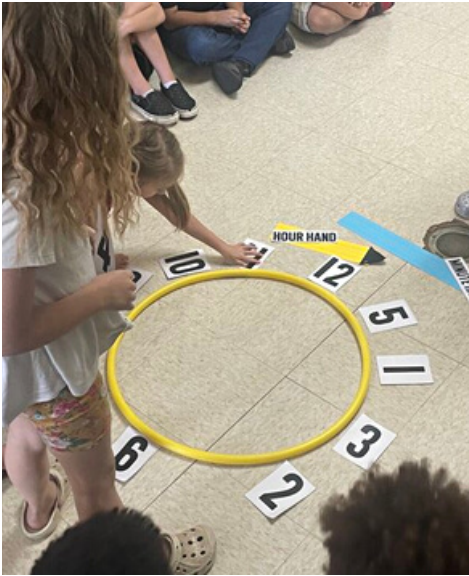
AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



AS SEEN ON *Social Media*

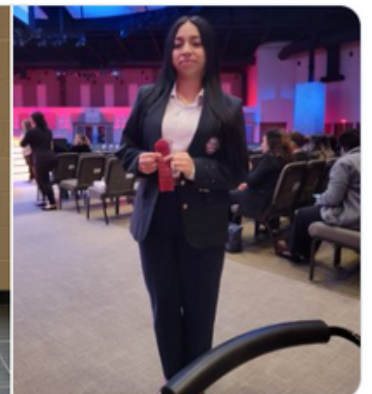


WHAT'S THE
WORD
ON
Twitter?



Willis ISD @WillisSchools · Feb 15

Congratulations to @Willis_HS_TX student Lily Baron, who placed 5th in Physical Therapy at HOSA Regionals last weekend in Tomball! 🎉



12



631



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
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MEADOR ELEMENTARY
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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](#).

Follow
us!

DISTRICT PROFILES



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[Willis Independent
School District](#)