



THE

Willis Independent School District

Wildkat

WORD

May 2023

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

May 10
May Board Meeting

May 24
Last Day of School
Early Release

May 31
Graduation



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- Parmley students bring historical figures to life
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Willis HS Softball says goodbye to both season and seniors

Willis High School Varsity Softball wrapped up this month, and we want to congratulate these talented ladies on an impressive season! The team ended up fifth in the district, only one win away from a playoff spot. We are sad to see these senior athletes move on but are so proud of their accomplishments!

A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

*"The days
are long
but the
years are
short."*

Gretchen Rubin

This is true in parenthood, but also in education! And even though it will be over soon, we want you to know we enjoyed the opportunity to teach your children this year.

Two surveys will be coming out soon, allowing you to sign up for various committees and let us know how to improve our schools. We value your opinion and hope you will take some time to fill these out.

- Dr. Tim Harkrider



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS CTE Health Science students pass CNA exams

This month, Mrs. Katrina King's Health Science students took their CNA (Certified Nursing Aide) exams mid-week and all passed. Congratulations to Luna Gonzalez, Kyley Tharp, Jonathan Dozier, Sydni Coltson, Madison Roberts, Kimberly Munos, Guadalupe Grimaldo, Leonora Reyes, Maria Rodriguez, Breean Theiss, Dania Bueso, Aleksa Hernandez, Victoria Alison, Lily Martinez and Nicole Cortes.



Group 1

From L to R:
Luna Gonzalez,
Kyley Tharp,
Jonathan Dozier,
Sydni Coltson,
Madison Roberts,
Kimberly Munos,
Guadalupe Grimaldo

Group 2

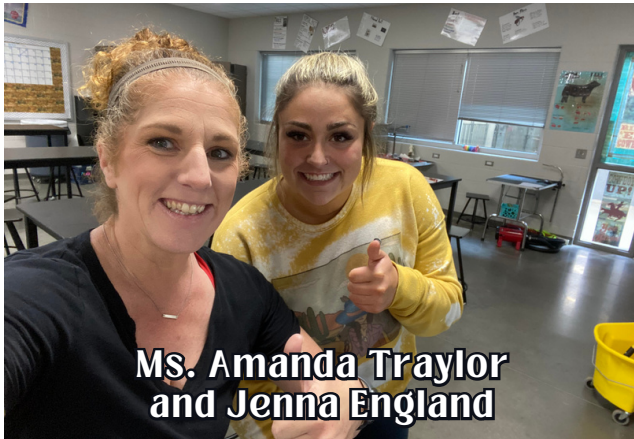
From L to R:
Nicole Cortes,
Lily Martinez,
Victoria Alison,
Aleksa Hernandez,
Dania Bueso,
Breean Theiss,
Maria Rodriguez,
Leonora Reyes



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS CTE student completes CVA Level 1 certification

Congratulations to Willis High School student Jenna England on receiving her CVA Level 1 certification! She is the first student of the year to achieve this milestone.



Ms. Amanda Traylor
and Jenna England

The Certified Veterinary Assistant Certification is a four-year process. In 9th-11th grade, students endure 500 hours of instruction in the Ag Department and 300 hours at a local veterinarian gaining Practicum hours. Thank you to Dr. Kim VanWagner, Dr. Steve VanWagner and teacher, Ms. Amanda Traylor for providing support throughout this process.

Willis HS graduate wins Barbara Buehlman Prize for Composition

Matthew Nell, a graduate of the Willis High School Class of 2019, was selected out of 100 composers as this year's winner of the Barbara Buehlman Prize for Composition with his piece "Strut". The Westwood High School Wind Ensemble will perform this piece at this year's Midwest Clinic.

Nell was the Valedictorian for the Willis High School Class of 2019 and was a two-time All-State percussion winner. He now attends The University of Texas at Austin as a pianist & percussionist composer.

To read more about Matthew Nell and this distinction, visit The Midwest Clinic's post about him [here](#).



WildKat FEATURES

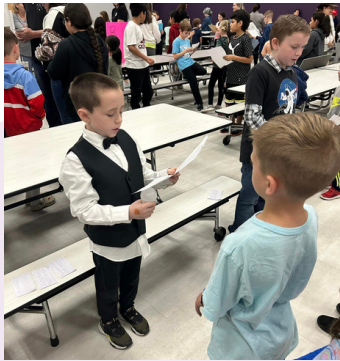
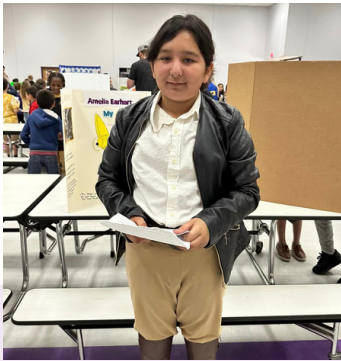
Parmley students bring historical figures to life

Parmley Elementary fourth-grade students had fun at their Wax Museum event on Friday, March 31. Students dressed like famous historical figures and wrote short speeches about that person's life and accomplishments. Parents and other students could walk up to the different presenters, press a "button," and then listen to a student's spiel as though they were a figure in a wax museum!



WildKat FEATURES

Parmley students bring historical figures to life (continued)



WildKat FEATURES

Roark EEC students perform at April Board Meeting

In the light of the afternoon sun, Roark Early Education Center students sang “This Little Light of Mine” to the Willis ISD Board of Trustees at a regular board meeting held on April 12. Their performance garnered a glowing response and a standing ovation. To watch the full performance, click [here](#).



WildKat FEATURES

Brabham MS students design coffee sleeves

Brabham Middle School students spread some "paw-sitivity" before the Easter weekend with "sleeves of smiles." The students designed coffee sleeves for the Willis Starbucks with positive messages meant to leave patrons grinning!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Law and Public Service Academy students celebrate successful spring semester

The Willis High School Law and Safety Academy students have been busy this spring! Not only did they win a silver medal at the SkillsUSA State Competition for Building Search and Clearing, they also attended the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Recruiting Expo and received high praise for their professionalism and enthusiasm. We are so excited to see what the future holds for this group of students!



(L to R: Jessica Benitez, Brianna Benavides, Andrew Murray, Chase Wiederhold and Mr. Brian Kennedy)



WildKat FEATURES

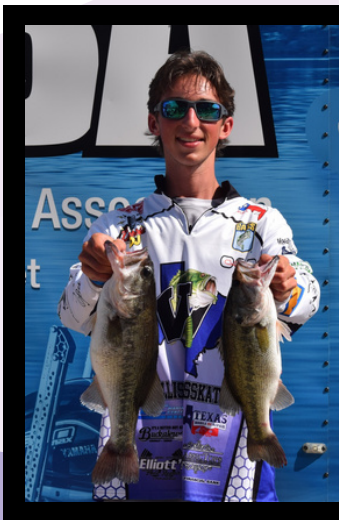
Willis Basskats take on Regional Tournament

In April, Willis Basskats teams took to the water on Lake Conroe for the THSBA Regionals tournament. Lane Johnson and Karson Harris qualified for the May 20-21 State tournament, and Garrett Wilson and Johnny Hudson qualified for the June 24 AOY tournament!

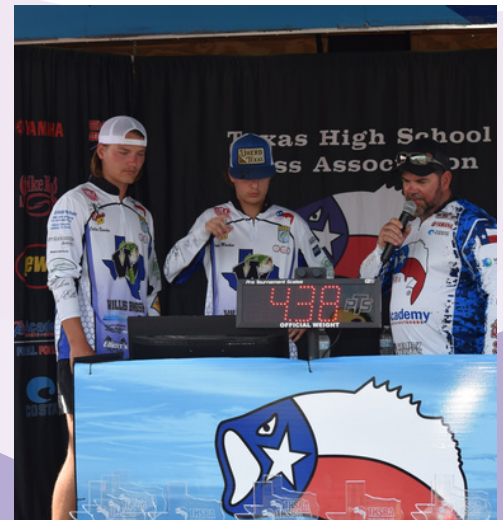


WildKat FEATURES

Willis Basskats take on Regional Tournament (continued)



**Congratulations to
Garrett Wilson as well
for his seventh place
win in Arkansas at the
2023 MLF Toyota series
Lake Dardanelle
tournament!**



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Culinary Kats visit Culinary Institute in Manhattan

April was an exciting month for the Culinary Kats! They got to fly to New York City to tour the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan. Students also participated in food tours and attended a Broadway show during their time out of state.



WildKat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS Robotics wins big at tournament

Several Willis Robotics teams took on the Ag Robotics competition last month at the Montgomery County Fair and Rodeo. Lynn Lucas Middle School walked away with a 3rd place win in their division with 2300 points!

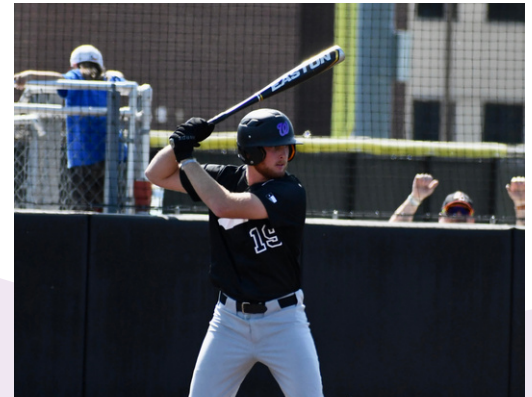
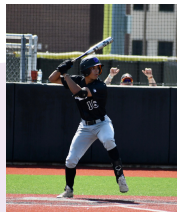
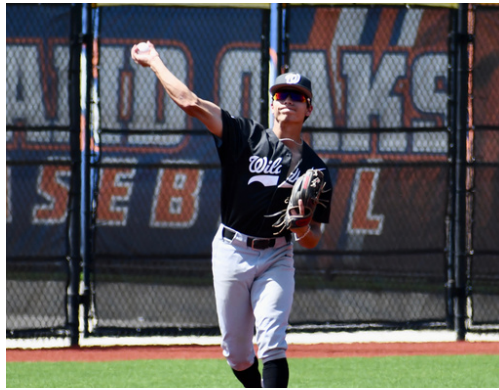


Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Baseball continues strong in April

Willis High School Varsity Baseball brought the heat this past month!

Not only did they dominate in games against Caney Creek and Cleveland, walking away with two wins against the former and one against the latter, but they also came back from a 4-2 loss against College Park to win 10-9 against them in the next game! On Friday, April 28, they defeated Oak Ridge 2-1 and ended their season 9-7 in district play.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Band and Choir impress at UIL contest

Willis High School had a successful month of UIL performances from its music programs. Both Varsity and JV bands received Division II (excellent) ratings. JV Treble, Varsity Treble and Varsity Mixed choirs received Division I (superior) ratings, and the first-year Varsity Men's Choir received a Division II (excellent) rating.



Wildkat FEATURES

Brabham MS Buddies read with Meador students



Wildkat FEATURES

Brabham MS Buddies read with Meador students (continued)



*"Today a Reader,
Tomorrow a Leader."*

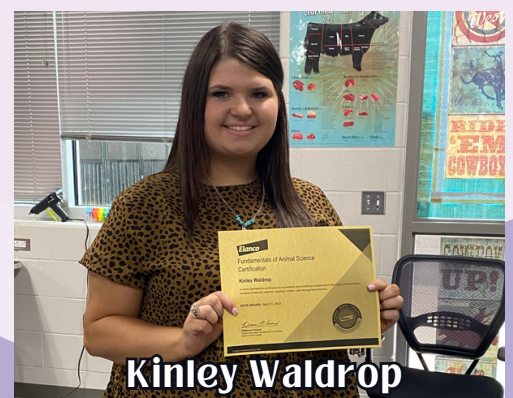
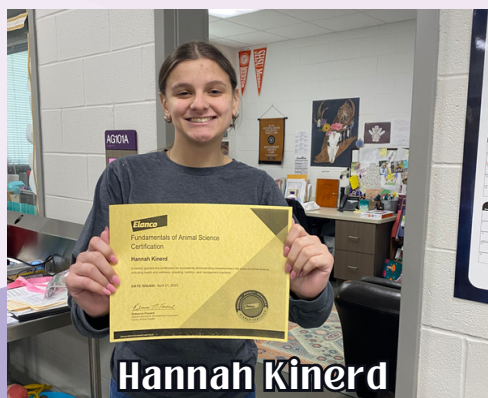
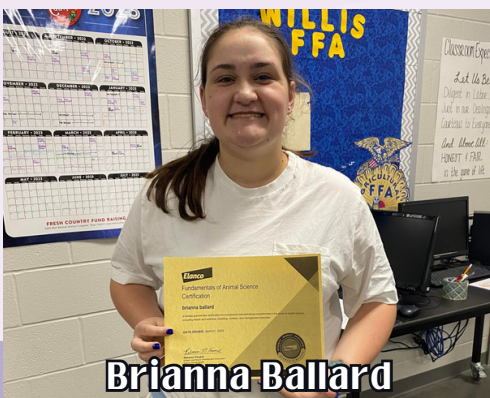
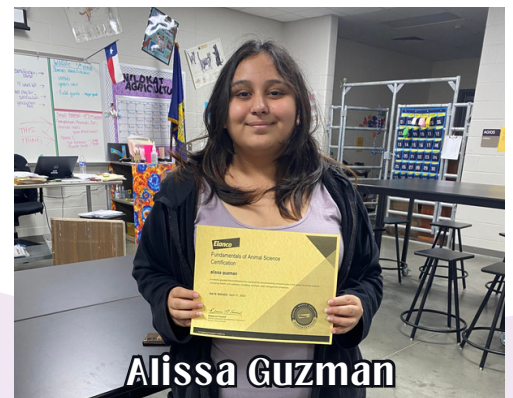
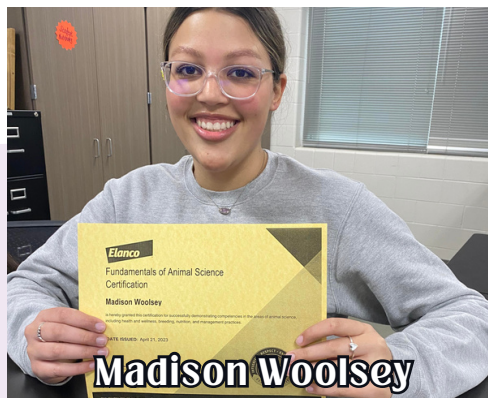
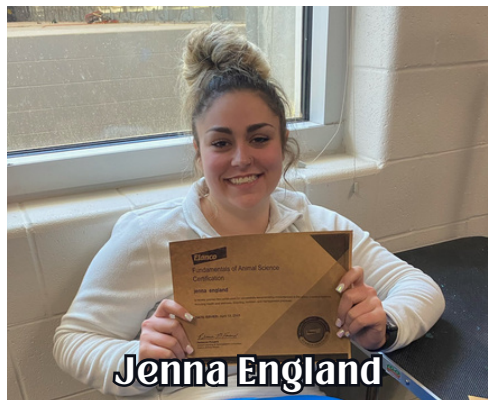


Quote by Margaret Fuller

Wildkat FEATURES

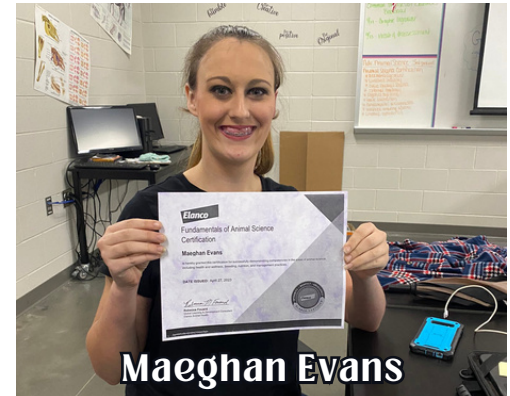
Willis HS CTE students receive Animal Science Certifications

These students are taking significant steps toward their future careers! We want to congratulate Peighton McGee, Jenna England, Kaitlin Williams, Madison Woolsey, BrookeLynn Trero, Hannah Kinerd, Alissa Guzman, Brianna Ballard, Kinley Waldrop, Lily Martinez, Oddett Cantor and Maeghan Evans on being the FIRST Willis High School students to earn their Animal Science certifications!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS CTE Students receive Animal Science Certifications (continued)



Willis HS student becomes licensed cosmetologist

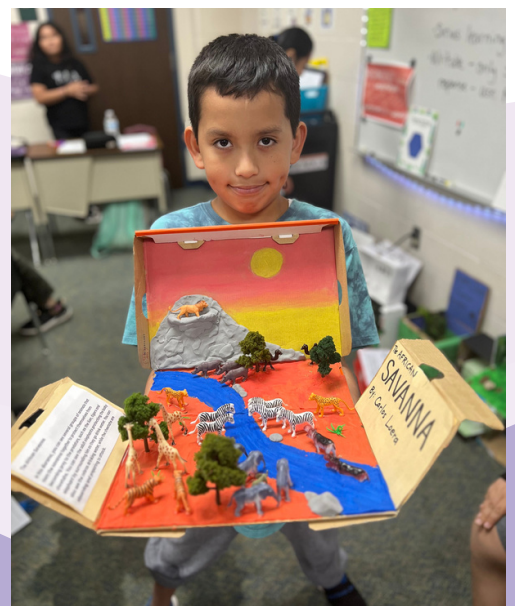
Congratulations to Takyah Mathis, who is a newly licensed cosmetologist for the state of Texas. Special thanks to her instructors, Carla Hernandez and Emily Berrigan, for all their help.

Way to go,
Takyah! We can't
wait to see what
the future holds
for you!



WildKat FEATURES

Cannan students create ecosystems in science class



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Track and Field take on Area with two athletes advancing to Regionals

Congratulations to Anastacha McGowen, Heath Grant, Daniel Nickel, Brock Reynolds and DeBraun Hampton on advancing to the Area Track meet. Anastacha McGowen (High Jump) and Heath Grant (800m Run) advanced from Area to Regionals and competed in Waco on April 28-29.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD Kool Kats compete at Area Special Olympics

After being sent off by their peers in style, the Willis ISD Kool Kats competed at the Area 6 Special Olympics Spring Games in College Station on Saturday, April 15, and placed in several events!



Special Olympics Results

A R Turner Elementary

Christopher Coker - 2nd 25 meter run,
1st tennis ball throw

Brabham Middle School

Addison Boyd - 1st 25 meter run,
1st standing long jump

Cannan Elementary

Levi McMullen - 5th 25 meter run,
1st softball throw
Trent Reed - 3rd 25 meter run,
1st softball throw

C C Hardy Elementary

John Sewell - 1st 25 meter run,
4th softball throw

Lynn Lucas Middle School

Jose Sanchez - 4th 25 meter run
Hayden Urbanovsky - 2nd 25 meter run,
1st softball throw



Great
Job!

WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD Kool Kats compete at Area Special Olympics (continued)

Special Olympics Results

Willis High School

Gerardo Careaga-Esquivel - 2nd 50 meter run,
2nd standing long jump

Blake Conerly - 1st 10 meter assisted walk,
1st softball throw

Logan Cooper - 3rd 50 meter run,
2nd standing long jump

Madison Leverette - 1st 50 meter run,
1st softball throw

Juan Pablo Lopez Jr. - 3rd 50 meter run,
1st standing long jump

Lizzy Moore - 4th 50 meter run,
5th softball throw

Aryas Slaughter - 4th 50 meter run

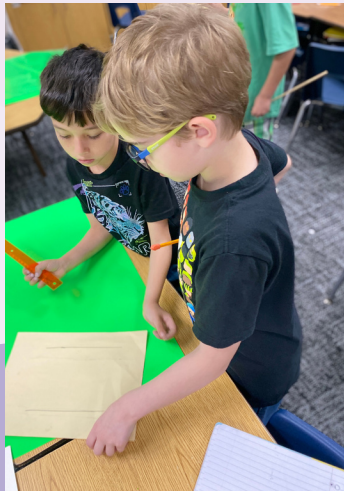
Preston Seay - 6th 50 meter run,
2nd softball throw



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS students assist Parmley second-grade classes with bird houses

On April 11, Willis High School Construction students visited Parmley Elementary to speak with second-grade classes about the importance of correctly measuring materials when working on projects. The second-grade students then returned to their classrooms and continued to work on their own birdhouses using what they learned during this lesson!



WildKat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS students impress in Conflict Resolution Art Contest

In April, Lynn Lucas Middle School students Lindsey Boyd, Sofia Hernandez-Merced, Aaliyah Nixon and Avery Johnson were recognized for their art submissions in the Conflict Resolution Bookmark Art Contest sponsored by Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County. Congratulations to these talented students!



WildKat FEATURES

Lagway students enjoy in-house field trip

Lagway Elementary first-grade students enjoyed a fun western-themed in-house field trip on Friday, April 14. Students participated in pony rides, a cow patty throw, drawing, dancing, bull roping, stick horse and potato sack racing and visited animals in the petting zoo!



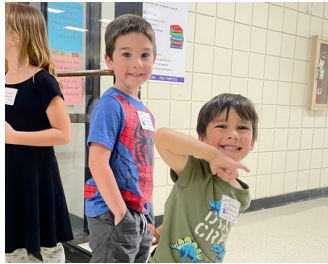
WildKat FEATURES

Roark EEC students visit future campuses

On Friday, April 28, Roark Early Education Center students got the opportunity to tour their future campuses. These students will be "crossing over" to Kindergarten at the end of May.

We captured a few photos of next year's Turner and Hardy Elementary students exploring their new campuses!

Watch the video here <https://bit.ly/3HuHKdM>



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis ISD recognizes April Students of the Month

Congratulations to these outstanding individuals on being named Students of the Month!

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 April Secondary Student of the Month was Lynn Lucas eighth grader Derek Taylor.

Mr. Eric Burns, Principal of Lynn Lucas Middle School said, "Every day, Derek greets his campus administrators with a firm handshake and a smile while making eye contact. Mr. Taylor is a remarkable young man and an exemplary leader. We are blessed to have him as a Lynn Lucas student."

Once secondary recognitions were over, the Primary Student of the Month was named. Representing Roark Early Education Center was pre-k student Rachel Kimani.

"Rachel is responsible, safe and respectful, which means she arrives everyday to be the best she can be. She is always happy and comes in with a smile on her face. She greets everyone from the time she gets out of the car until she arrives to her classroom," said Mrs. Calandra Lewis, Principal of Roark.

We would also like to congratulate Lynn Lucas students Liam Lewis, Madison Boatman and Samantha Gillard for being chosen to represent their school in leading the pledges and prayer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

SWEETHEART SUMMIT

EDITION 50

6TH, MAY 2023

7:00 PM

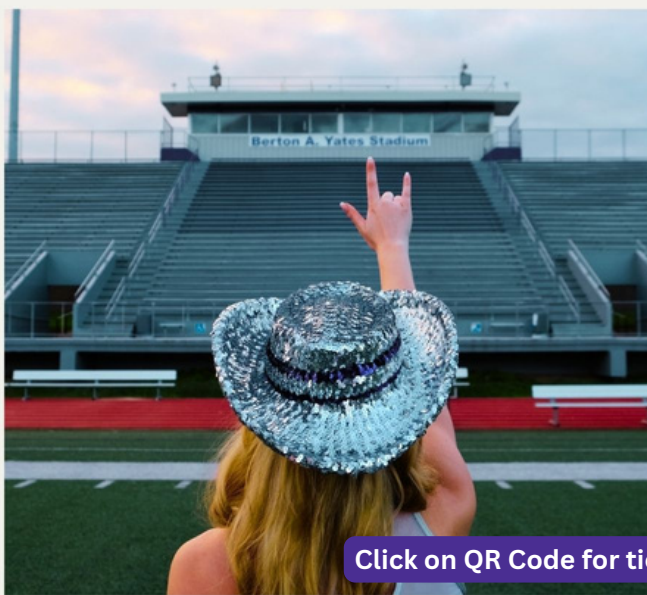


Join us on May 6th, 2023, at 7pm in the Willis ISD PAC for our annual Spring Show! See performances from the 50th Line of Sweethearts, Brabham Sophistikats, Lynn Lucas Aristokats, and WHS Dance I-III students.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10. There will be flowers sold at the event for \$3 a stem, and \$5 for a stem and note. A huge Silent Auction will be available as well!



THE LASTING LEGACY



Click on QR Code for tickets!

This year's team is special, as they are the 50th Line of Sweethearts. These eager young ladies have achieved great success this year, in hopes to make their mark on the Lasting Sweetheart Legacy.

TICKETS ARE \$10
DON'T WAIT, SCAN NOW!



WILLIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*



Willis ISD Art Show

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

2:00-3:30 PM

SHJ ADMIN BUILDING
612 NORTH CAMPBELL ST.

See you there!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

  **SUMMER**

May 25 -
August 15 

First Day:
August 16

   **BREAK** 

     HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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*

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/
WILLISISD

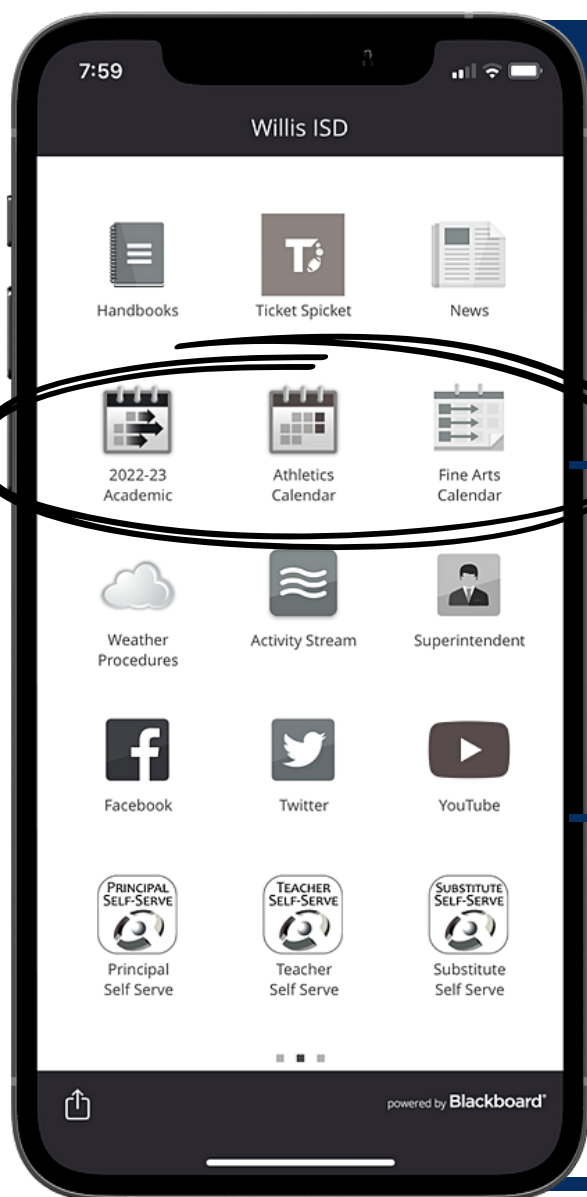


Please Note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 9-8-8.

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

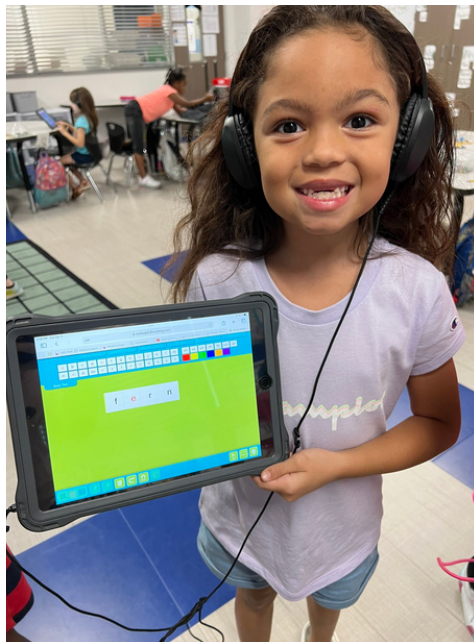


Fine Arts
Calendar

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.

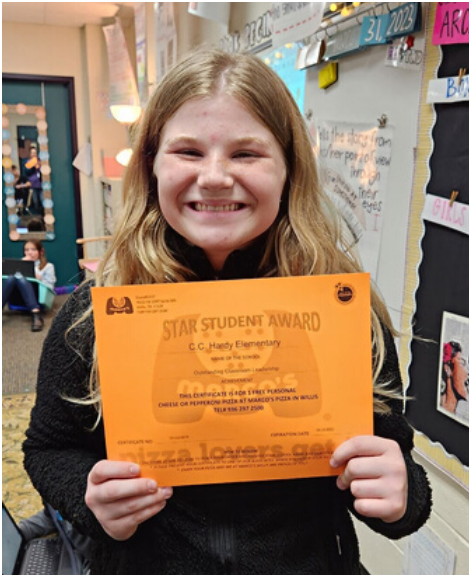
AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



WHAT'S THE
WORD
ON
Twitter?



Ken Labonski @KenLabonski · Apr 28

I'm thankful for our WHS theater students who hosted our middle school theatre students for a black box show and a tour today. @WillisSchools @Willis_HS_TX @LLMSlynx @WISDBrabham @Matlockdramakat @CoachJGlenn



2

8



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](#)

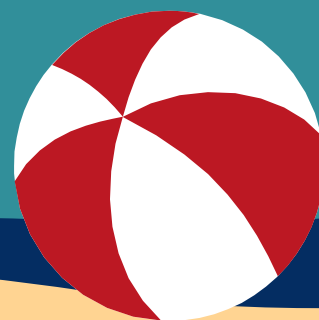
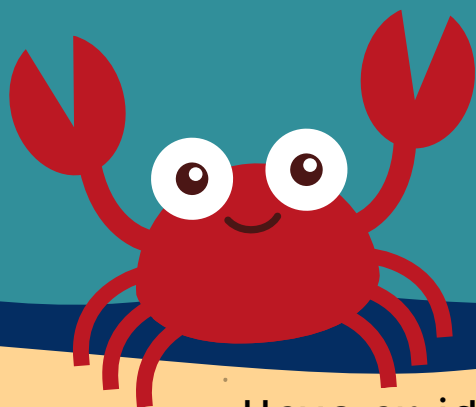
WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL
[@WISDWillisHS](#)

STUBBLEFIELD ACADEMY
[@WISDStubblefield](#)

PARMLEY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDParmley](#)

BRABHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
[@WISDBrabham](#)

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



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DISTRICT PROFILES



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