

THIS MONTH IN WILLIS ISD

One Team, One Purpose

Top Students Named



FRONT ROW: Melanie Merkley, Jennifer Garcia,
Tyler Heffernan, Terri Ray, Taylor Jones.

BACK: GianReo Mire, Danae Lesner, Maci Konen,
Braden Kurtz, Sure Ibukun, Marissa Fletcher.

Photo by Emily Meachen

Willis High School recently named the top ten students for the class of 2021. Each year, the top students receive a special letter jacket - different than all the others with white sleeves.

This year due to COVID and virtual learning, one student is graduating early so there were actually eleven top students named.

The students have to make straight A's all four years to keep their GPA at the top.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Feb. 5 - Early Release

Mon., Feb. 15 - Student Holiday; Staff Workday

Friday, Feb. 26 - Early Release

Spring Break - March 15-19

The Willis ISD Education

Foundation has a new leader. Please welcome **Michelle Bischof** as the district's new community involvement liaison. If you are interested in learning more about how you or your business can support WISD teachers and students, please reach out to her at mbischof@willisisd.org.



New National Honor Society Members Inducted at WHS



Senior Inductees

Erika Alvarez

Fabian Diaz

Shemaiah Eldridge

Jennifer Garcia

Taylor Jones

Samantha Juarez

Olivia Jungwirth

Peyton Kelly

Alicia Lowe

Brianna Martinez

Dibanhi Miramon

Alexander Moore

Jose Ortiz

Christian Sanchez

Junior Inductees

Elizabeth Aguillon
Serenity Alexander
Clifford Arnold
Renzo Ryan Artates
Emmalee Ascheal
Riley Blum
Brooke Brenham
Joshua Brookshire
Shelby Brown
Mason Burris
Maria Calderon
Cole Cantrell
Kiara Cardenas
Jennifer Castaneda
Hailee Chapa
Isaac Cherry-Baker
Zachary Clark
Kendall Cobb
Macey Conatser
Luna Cortez
Misael De Los Reyes
Jenna Dempsey

Karin Dio
Dawson Dobraski
Emilie DuBose
Reece Edmiston
Jonathan Escobedo
Georgia Everett
Madysen Feist
Emma Fields
Brinlyann Ford
Carla Garcia
Esabella Garcia
Lucero Garcia
Ramirez
Alyssa Geisbush
Ryan Glasgow
Elisa Gomez
Isabel Gonzalez
Paige Greeney
Kaitlyn Guardado
Evan Holder
Aliviah Hood
Heather Jackson

Shardria Johnson
Matthew Johnson
Logan Jones
Bryce Keele
Stephanie Keele
Colton Land
Hannah Lebow
Katherine Lee
Duncan Leinweber
Natalie Loar
Jennifer Mancha
Brenan Mansker
Colton Marburger
Rylee McDonald
Abigail McDowell
Melody Medina
Ashley Miranda
Jake Nemetz
Piper Neumann
Alexandro Ochoa
Mendoza
Mariana Ochoa Rivera

Ainsley Patrick
Zoe Picken
Lindsey Pipes
Bryan Racus
Ashleigh Rey-Cook
Luis Rodriguez
Kylie Santore
Elio Saucedo
Holt Shugart
Ava Semler
Tamia Shaw
Michael Smith
Rachel Smith
Skylar Stepp
Jennifer Talley
Taylor Thomas
Nancy Tipaz
Rilynn Tomas
Taylor Turley
Alyssa Williams
Avery Williams
Joel Zumarraga Robles

Congratulations

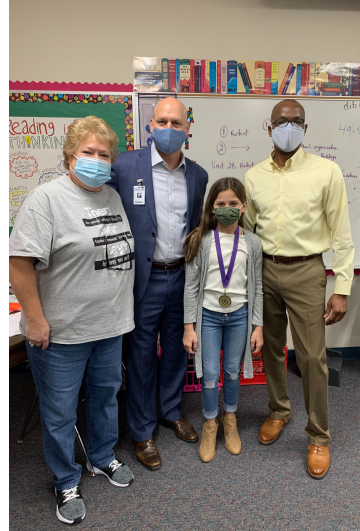
December Students of the Month

**Emmanuel Hernandez, Cannan Elementary
Ms. Ritchie and Ms. Loera's Class 2nd Grade**



"Emmanuel consistently shows great manners and great responsibility in the classroom. He demonstrates knowledge of technology as well. When he sees a student struggling with logging in to Canvas or the Chromebook he is always willing to help. Emmanuel is very respectful and is a straight A student as well."

**Lauren Stafford, Brabham Middle School,
Ms. Akin's Homeroom, 6th Grade**



"Lauren has a smile on her face every morning. She is eager to learn, and she always asks if she can help. Whether she is passing out papers or wiping down desks, she is happy. She is always willing to help students around her with absent work or computer issues. She is a ray of sunshine in my first-period class."

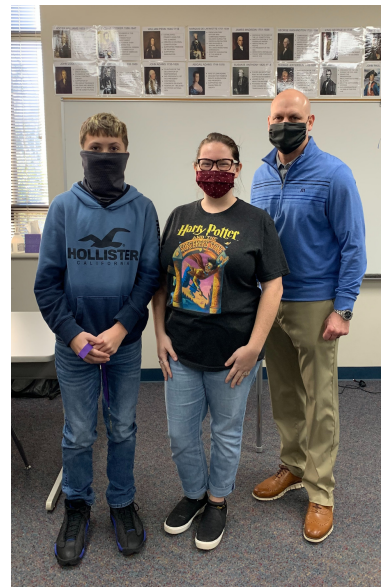
January Students of the Month

**Hadlee Davis, Parmley Elementary
Mrs. Schultz' 5th Grade**



Hadlee is such a bright student. She is determined to succeed and strives to be better everyday. Although Hadlee prefers to work alone, when she does contribute to a group, not only does she take on the leadership role, but she also has amazing contributions that others can benefit from. You will never see Hadlee without a book in her hand and she is always ready to share the new information she has just read about. Her determination is remarkable. She is also our Student Council president. She takes on leadership without hesitation. She is a role model to other students. She strives to do her best at every opportunity.

**Preston Limas, Brabham Middle School,
Ms. Villemez, 8th Grade**



Preston always comes to class with a sunny disposition. He makes an effort to come by and say good morning, and goodbye every day. He works hard in class and does his best to keep himself, and others on the track. He never says anything disrespectful toward others or himself. During our visit to the Santa Store, he bought every student in the class a piece of candy, just to be nice. I wish more of my kids were like Preston!

DECA Students Qualify for State



Back L-R: Braden Kurtz, Eian Bracken, Megan Leblanc
Front Row L-R: Vianey Juarez, Brittany Ramirez, Melody Medina, Jennifer Mancha, and Molly Dougherty, Teacher and DECA Sponsor

Seven Willis High School students competed in a DECA Contest in December, qualifying for state competition. The DECA organization strives to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

Competitions are aligned with the career clusters of marketing, business management and administration, finance, and hospitality and tourism. Depending on the category chosen, typically the students participate in two different sections - a multiple choice and a scenario. Normally these scenarios would be done in person with little time to prepare before going in front of judges. However, due to COVID, the event was held virtually, and students were required to submit scenarios via YouTube.

WHS Fine Arts Dept Presents

WILLIS CABARET

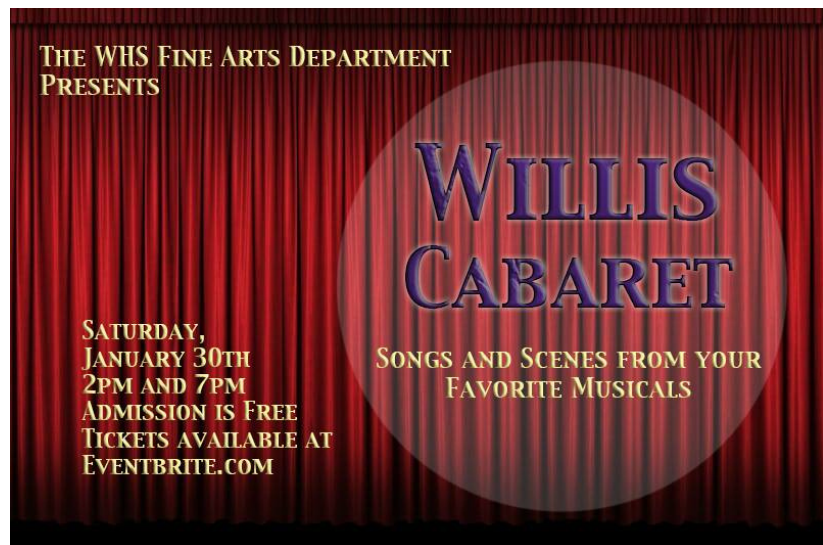
Sat., Jan. 30; 2pm and 7pm

FREE ADMISSION

Get your tickets now for this weekend's presentation of Cabaret - songs and scenes from your favorite musicals!

Two showings Saturday at 2 pm or 7 pm at the Willis HS Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com - just search Willis High School Cabaret. Or, you can click on the picture at right to visit the link.



25th Annual Kool Kats Chili Cook-Off

Sat., Feb. 6; 9am-1pm

American Legion Hall

Mark your calendars for the 25th Annual Kool Kats Chili Cook off, Sat., Feb. 6 from 9am-1pm at the American Legion Hall in Willis. To sign up for a chili and/or bean team, please contact the American Legion Hall at 936-856-5224 or in person at 13054 E. FM 1097 in Willis.

Proceeds benefit WISD Special Education

Introducing the Wildkat Resource Center

We are proud to announce the launch of the Wildkat Resource Center (WRC), formerly known as the parent support center. The WRC is a completely new and re-imagined center that will serve as a free resource for Willis ISD students and families to obtain shoes, underwear, socks, coats, school supplies, clothing and personal hygiene items. The WRC is led by district outreach liaison Kindra Schiffner. The center is open by appointment only and is located at the Cargill Building at 204 W. Rogers. For more information send an email to wildkatresourcecenter@willisisd.org.

Below are answers to some common questions about the WRC.
(more FAQs on website at www.willisisd.org/wildkatresourcecenter).

*Are you taking donations? We are currently NOT taking donations. We will host donations drives at given times and that is when we will collect donations. Each drive we will be collecting different items that we are in need of with specific drop off dates/times as well as the information on what we will accept.



*Who do you service and what do you provide? We will be providing resources such as clothing, shoes, jackets, hygiene products and school supplies to our district students and their families. We will also help in crisis scenarios that arise with our district families who might need food/home items. We however, will not have food/home items on hand at the center.

*What are the requirements to be eligible for assistance? The only requirement we have at the moment is that you MUST be enrolled as a student at WISD or have a student living within your home who is enrolled at WISD. We will assist WISD students and their family that live in the same household.

Willis ISD has about 7,900 students enrolled with 60% of those students being economically disadvantaged. Many of our students may not have access to items needed to arrive at school clean, warm and ready to learn. The goal of WRC is to take some of the burden off our WISD students and families to help them feel positive about themselves, WISD and attending school.

Follow the Wildkat Resource Center on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the newest information!

Click to follow on [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#)

***Together, we can
make a difference.***