



Hill Country Middle School

6th Grade & New Families Parent Camp

Agenda

Introductions & General Overview - Kimberly Dewrell

Rotations - Check your paper schedule!

- Technology Resources
- Navigating Middle School (Attendance and Nurse)
- Counselor Role and Support
- Q & A

Kimberly Dewrell, Principal



- Professional

- 20 years in education
- Teacher, Instructional Coach, Assistant Principal, Principal
 - PK-8 Grade experience

- Personal

- Married for (*almost*) 20 years
- Two children
 - Stephen, 12
 - Daniel, 4

Campus Leadership Introductions



Administration



Tres Ellis



Cassie Winter



Brett LaBissoniere

Educational Partner for Technology



Holly Leicht

Meet The HCMS Counselors



6th Grade:

Ms. Jessica Hooper

jhooper@eanesisd.net

**7th Grade:
Whichard**

Mrs. Holly

hwhichard@eanesisd.net

**8th Grade:
LeJune**

Mrs. Bethany

blejune@eanesisd.net

Mission & Goals

Unite. Empower. Inspire...Every Person, Every Day.

- We **unite** our community through respectful relationships, creating a sense of belonging for all.
- We **empower** students, providing an exemplary education that develops curiosity, creativity, and individual talents.
- We **inspire** each other to lead purposeful lives of empathy, gratitude, and compassion.



Overall Niche Grade
How are grades calculated?
Data Sources



Distinguished
School

STAAR™

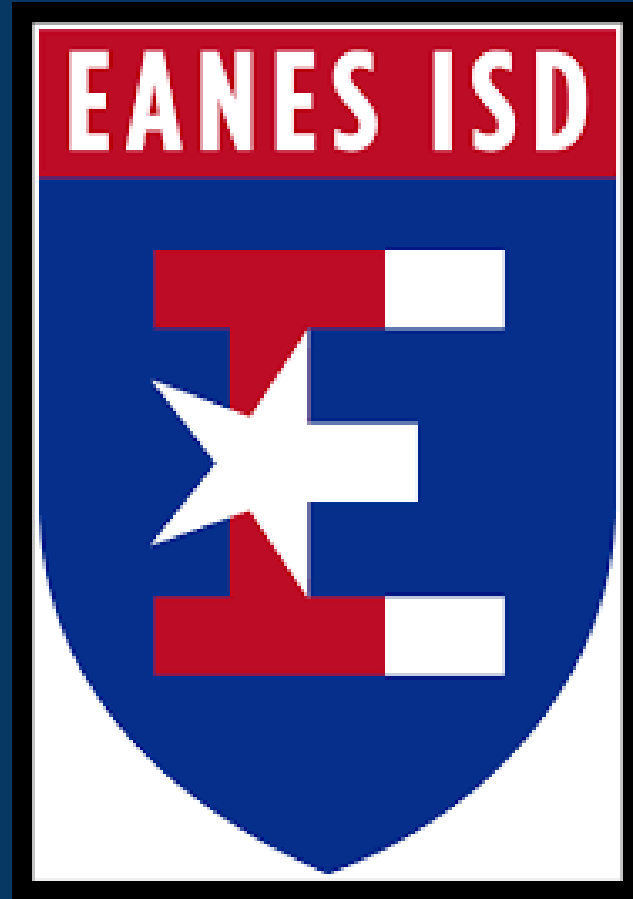
State of Texas
Assessments of
Academic Readiness



Points of Pride

What to expect:

- Caring, Student- Centered Environment
- World Class Faculty
- Open Communication
- Challenging Curriculum
- [Social & Emotional Development](#)





ATTENTION TO
THE **WHOLE**
STUDENT



HCMS Cougars

VALUE



Honesty

We do our own work
and tell the truth

Respect

We are considerate of
other, ourselves, and
property

Pride

We always do our
best



HOW Y  U

CHOOSE TO

LIVE MATTERS

Expect the Unexpected

- 6-8 grade adolescents are changing rapidly (physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually)
- Struggle to find identify
- Press boundaries
- Peers have more influence
- It's ALL normal!





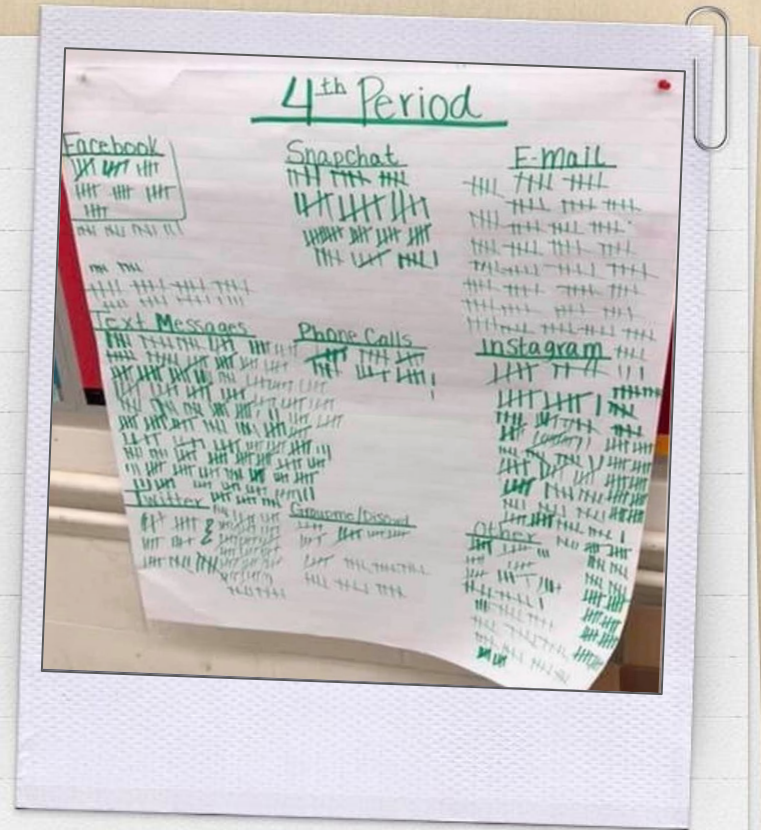
- Show an interest, but encourage independence
- Don't rescue your child from natural consequences
- Monitor technology (more about that coming)
- Consistent praise!



A “CALL” for HELP

OFF and AWAY ALL DAY


1. **Enhanced Concentration** : By minimizing cell phone distractions, students can dedicate their undivided attention to classroom activities, discussions, and academic tasks.
2. **Stronger Interpersonal Skills:** Removing the constant pull of digital notifications encourages students to engage in face -to -face conversations, build stronger relationships, and develop vital communication skills essential for academic and personal success.
3. **Emotional Well -being:** It gives students a much -needed break from the pressures of constant connectivity, allowing them to focus on their well -being and mental health.



A “CALL” for HELP

Cell Phone Policy: OFF and AWAY ALL DAY

1. **Reinforce Expectations:** Have an open conversation with your child about the importance of the OFF and AWAY ALL DAY policy.
2. **Set Clear Boundaries:** Establish specific guidelines for cell phone usage at home during school hours.
3. **Lead by Example: Don't text your student during school hours (yes, we're looking at you!)** Help us to establish consistency and reinforce the importance of meeting expectations at the school.
4. **Stay Connected:** Please contact the school office for urgent communication or use your student's email account.



HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP!

Schedule Rotation

BLUE ROTATION - next rotation is in RM: B103

RED ROTATION - next rotation is in RM: B100

WHITE ROTATION - stay in the cafeteria

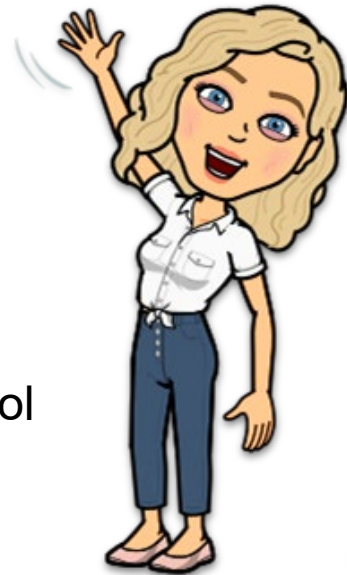
GRAY ROTATION - next rotation is in the
SMALL GYM

Tech Resources with Holly Leicht,

Educational Partner for Technology

What we will cover:

- Where are parent resources located?
- How do we use devices at Hill Country?
- What are the differences between elementary and middle school devices?
- How are my students safe on devices at school and home?



HOLLY LEICHT

Technology Educational
Partner @ HCMF

M.A. Teaching and Learning
with Technology (2009)

B.A. Communication and Public
Relations (2007)

15 Years in Education:

10 Years Elementary (3-5)

2 Years Middle School (ELA)

3rd Year as EdTech



EANES ISD



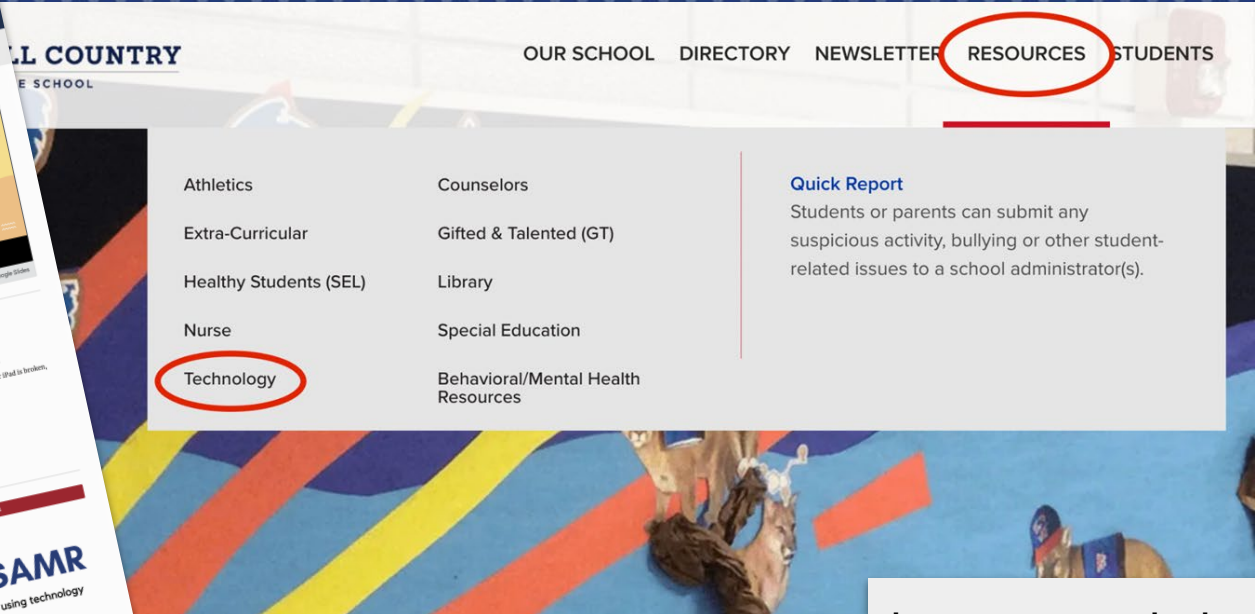
Married to my wonderful
husband, Philip, who is a
software architect
Two sweet boys, Elliot
(3) and Charlie (4mo)



@Mrs_Leicht

HLEICHT@EANESISD.NET

Hill Country Parent Tech Resources



hcms.eanesisd.net

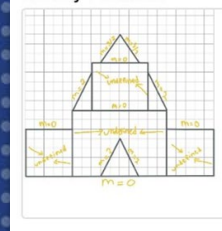
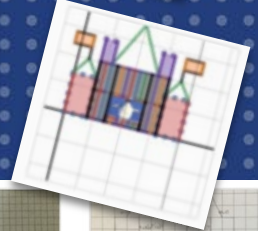
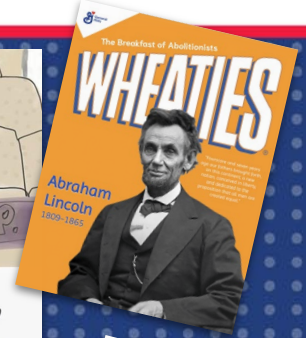
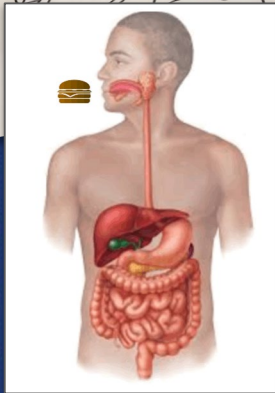
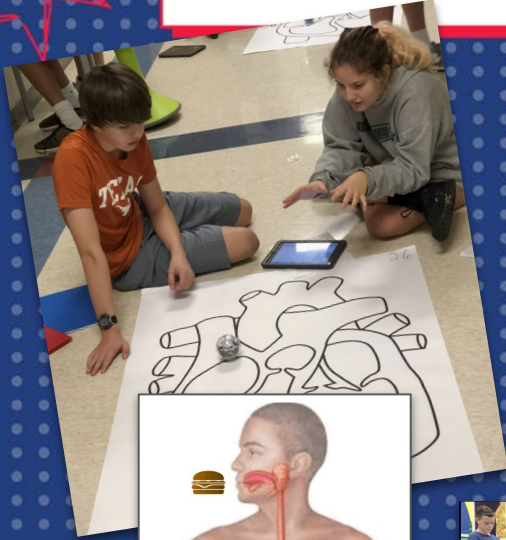
1 to 1 iPads for ALL Eanes Students

Student devices at HCMS allow us to:

- Learn to code
- Create new art
- Research hypotheses
- Express ideas
- Design & lead presentations
- Innovate products
- Choose paths to learn
- Increase student engagement



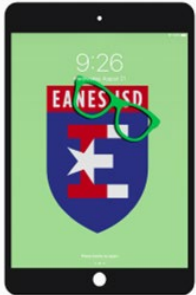
HCMS Student Work



Elementary vs. Middle School Devices

Elementary Green iPad

RESTRICTIONS & LIMITED ACCESS

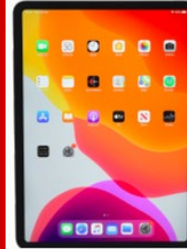


The elementary Green iPad includes internet restrictions and limitations that include the following:

- Google search feature has been disabled
- Siri has been disabled
- Only approved mobile Apps can be used by students
- Only approved web filter categories are available to students
- All elementary student devices have the same setup and restrictions

Middle School iPad

MOBILE APPS & INTERNET ACCESS

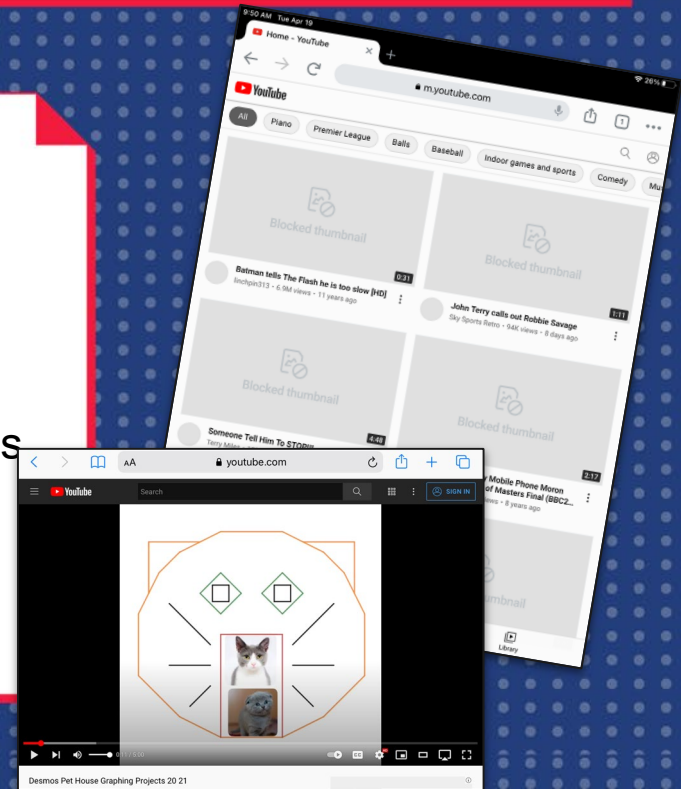


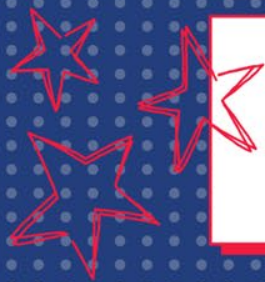
Student devices at the middle school differ from the elementary Green iPad including the following:

- Google search feature is enabled
- Students have additional access to filtered internet content
- Only approved mobile Apps can be used by students
- Age appropriate web filter categories are available to students
- As needed, students can add mobile Apps to their device using the Student App

YouTube and Learning

- Beginning with the 22-23 School Year, all iPads for Middle School students will have advanced filters for YouTube.
- Students will have limited search capabilities within YouTube and will not be able to view videos that have not been approved by an Eanes ISD teacher.
- Approved videos and channels will be viewed without ads and suggested video





Device Safety at Home

How to Kid-Proof Your Home WiFi

Computer guru Rand Singer runs an eponymous IT consulting business, [Singer Consulting, Inc.](#), that serves businesses as well as personal clients. (We've called on his expertise more than once at #goophq.) As a sixteen-year-old daughter and a thirteen-year-old son, understands the challenges of home internet need to balance ironclad protection with ease of use. While he points out that no technology will protect your parent, below, he spells out how to protect your kids at home and beyond—from the basics of blocking bad sites to a notch system for locking down your WiFi.

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Internet Safety for Kids: How to Protect Your Child From Online Danger

With the whole family home and screen time on the rise, take a moment to set some rules

By Allen St. John
April 14, 2020





Teacher Webpages and Skyward

Staying on top of Class Assignments and Grades

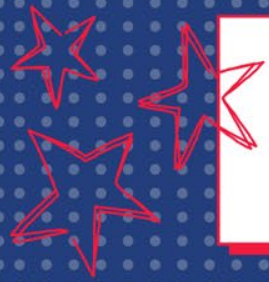
Teacher Websites:

- Calendars updated every Monday by 8 AM
- All upcoming homework, quizzes, tests and projects are listed for each week.

Skyward is our gradebook program.

- Student averages and missing assignments can be found here.
- Students have access to this app on their iPad and you will as well through family access.
- Parents can set automated grade notifications.





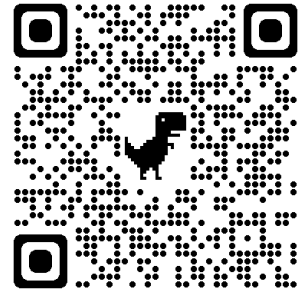
Staying in the Loop

Tips to stay caught up with Middle School events:

Bookmark your grade level [Testing Calendar](#) and the [Campus Calendar](#) for easy access.

Friday Newsletters from Mrs. Dewrell are sent through Skyward.

When your child emails their teacher, CC parents as well! Same if you send an email. It's great to have open communication and build your child's capacity for formal communication.



QR Code for
Counselor Website
Testing Calendars



Meet The HCMS Counselors



6th Grade: **Ms. Jessica Hooper**

jhooper@eanesisd.net

7th Grade: **Mrs. Holly Whichard**

hwhichard@eanesisd.net

8th Grade: **Mrs. Bethany LeJune**

blejune@eanesisd.net

School-Based : **Ms. Cassie Rodgers**
Therapist crodders@eanesisd.net

Attention To The Whole Student



The Role of the School-Based Therapist



- Provide targeted services to individual students or small groups based on identified needs (parent or teacher/staff referral)
- Provide therapeutic support to students experiencing social, behavioral, or emotional issues that interfere with learning
- Connect families with community resources
- Goal is to improve student academic progress by making sure students and families have all the necessary tools and resources for a successful school year

Cassie Rodgers



crodgers@eanesisd.net
Ext: 31199

The Role of the School Counselors



Student Support

- Build relationships with students
- Advocate for students
- Classroom guidance
- Work with small groups
- Individual counseling (not on-going therapy)
- Teach students how to advocate and communicate
- Meet with grade-level teachers
- Check-In with students (personal & academic)
- Monitor student progress and refer for interventions if necessary
- Adjust student schedules
- Course selection
- Attend 504 & special education meetings



Guidance Curriculum



Topics

- Social & Emotional Learning
- Bullying & Harassment
- Post-Secondary Exploration
- Career Exploration
- Peer Pressure
- Study Skills



Successful Cougar Students...



- Bring a positive attitude to school.
- Complete all homework.
- Participate in class activities.
- Ask for help! Attend tutorials.
- Keep track of assignments/homework.
- Study for all quizzes/tests.
- Use “The Gift of Time.”
- Check teacher websites and calendars regularly
- Check Google Classroom and school email daily.
- Re-test when needed. Department policy is on teacher websites



Parent Support

- Concerns about child's academics, friends, classes, etc.
- Attend parent-teacher conference if requested.
- Communication between outside therapist & school.
- Guidance on course placement/selection.
- Help parents understand standardized testing.
- Write letters of recommendation for summer learning or next school.



Successful Cougar Parents



- Foster their child's autonomy in & outside of school.
- Empower their child to communicate with school staff.
- Acknowledge that it is okay to fail & to make mistakes.
- Recognize that failures/mistakes are opportunities to learn.
- Support their child in trying new things & making new friends.
- Praise their child often for success & offer encouragement during challenges.
- Model effective organization, communication & study habits.
- Provide their child a structured, stocked & quiet area to study, as well as, are available to help.
- Listen to their child, & truly hear what he/she is saying.
- Encourage their child to problem solve issues/problems.



The Importance of Sleep



57.8% of middle schoolers do not get enough sleep on school nights (Source: CDC)

Common factors negatively impacting a child getting enough sleep:

- Over-commitment
- Electronic habits
- Environmental causes



Not getting enough sleep can result in:

- Mental/physical fatigue, anxiety, stress & an inability to focus
- Poor grades
- Poor emotional regulation which can impact peer relationships

Sleep refreshes the body, relieves stress & helps the brain process information.

Children age 11-13 need 9-11 hours of sleep

5 Minutes



Navigating Middle School

HCMS Assistant Principals

Cassie Winter

Tres Ellis

Nurse

Jodi Coyle



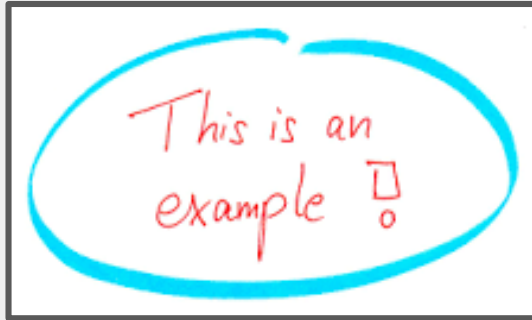
Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals



- Hill Country Middle School uses the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Framework to support students' social and emotional growth.
- Campus wide expectations for behavior are consistently taught and reviewed by classroom teachers, support staff, counselors, and administrators.



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals



Skill: CAFETERIA

What does it...

Look like?

- Eating our own food
- Cleaning up our trash
- Staying seated
- Staying in cafeteria unless dismissed with a hall pass
- Backpacks are placed on a hook
- Electronics put away
- Walk, don't run

What does it...

Sound like?

- No yelling
- When asked, get quiet the first time
- Friendly conversations
- Appropriate language

What does it...

Feel like?

- Safe
- Welcoming & comfortable
- Calm, but fun to be with friends
- Inclusive



HONESTY 🐾 **RESPECT** 🐾 **PRIDE**



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals

Student Code of Conduct

Student Code of Conduct and Responsible Use Guidelines (RUG)

Please review both documents with your student to ensure understanding of district behavior expectations and consequences.

- Electronic Devices
- Acceptable Language
- Academic Dishonesty
- Bullying



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals

Restorative Practices and Discipline



- We want students to reflect and learn from their mistakes. This is middle school.
- We work to repair the harm or restore the relationship between students.
- We work with the counselors.



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals

- ❖ Building Access and Safety
- ❖ BK is our SRO
- ❖ Door security - No propping gates and doors.
- ❖ Items may be dropped off in the foyer, but you will not be able to access building. You will need to notify your child that you dropped it off and it is waiting. You can email your student.
- ❖ When signing out your student you use the QR code outside and show your ID on the camera.



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals

Gaggle plays a vital role in promoting digital citizenship and includes other benefits, including:

- Gaining insight into student behavior
- Creating a positive school climate
- Guiding where to direct digital citizenship
- Investigating incidents within schools
- Ensuring students use learning tools correctly
- Increasing student achievement

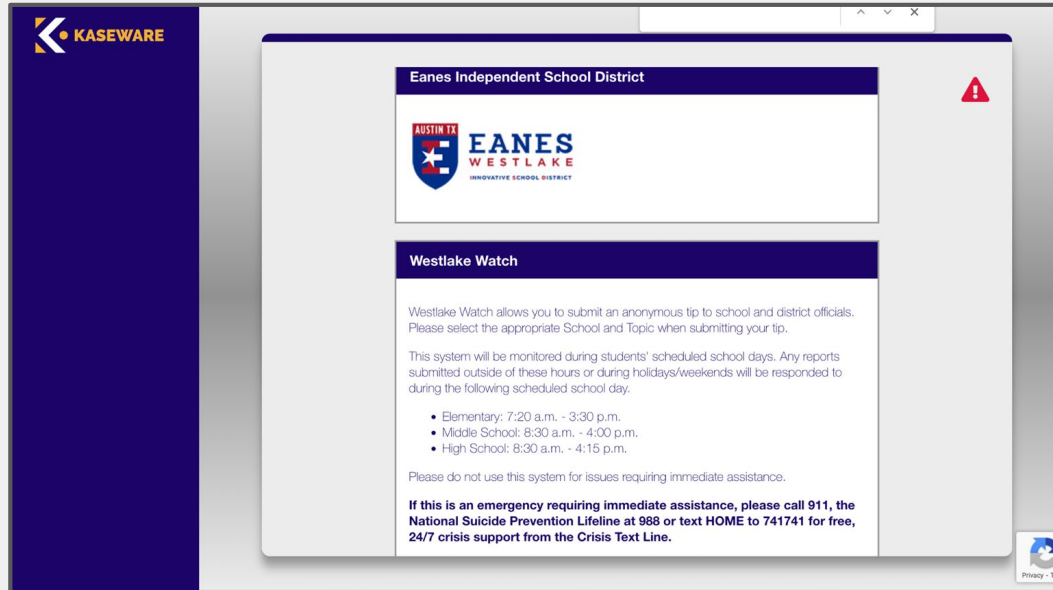


For more information:

www.gaggle.com



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals



Westlake Watch

Anonymous Tip Line

Tips go directly to
administrators and
campus security staff.



Cassie Winter & Tres Ellis, Assistant Principals



Eanes ISD will document daily attendance.

- Attendance is taken each period
- Doctor's note will excuse the absence if they return -check out/check in
- The 90% rule is still in play which means that students need to be in attendance at least 90% of their total classes for the school year.
- If your child is going to be absent, please email Hill Country Attendance at: hcmsattendance@eanesisd.net



Supporting Students with Individual Learning Needs

504 Coordinator: Tres Ellis

- Please contact your child's teacher with questions or concerns about implementation of 504 Accommodations.
- Please contact Mr. Ellis for information about 504 evaluations and changes to your child's 504 service plan.
- tellis@eanesisd.net

Special Education

- Case Managers and Related Support Teachers will be reaching out to introduce themselves.
- For questions concerning your student's individual service plans, please contact your child's case manager.





Nurse Coyle



jcoyle@eanesisd.net

512-732-9225

Provides care to students and staff who need medical assistance.

Nut Allergies - we are NOT a nut-free school

ALL EpiPens are self carry, self management
Making sure **vaccines** are updated and in compliance - please turn in vaccines

If kids are experiencing fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc - please **keep home for 24 hrs** until symptom free

I want to be your partner in maintaining the healthiest environment for your kid, PLEASE contact me with any questions or concerns ! :)