



THE

Willis Independent School District

Wildkat WORD

Sept. 2023

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

September 4

Labor Day

Student/Staff Holiday

September 11-16

Homecoming Week

September 13

Homecoming Parade

September 18

Student Holiday

Staff Development Day

October 9-11

Fall Break

October 20

Early Release

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Willis HS students receive national recognition



Recipients: Alex Najera, Ashley Flowers, Austin Gaskins, Ava Hardin, Benson Merkley, Breanna Keelan, Casey Patrick, Cory Pierce, Dalton Ackley, Dorcas Bawa, James Bagwell, Jaydyn Lightfoot, Karley Frazier, Kinnley Gibbs, Marvin Hernandez, Mia Arrington, Odalys Garay and Rodrigo Garcia.

Congratulations to the 18 Willis High School Class of 2024 students who were named College Board & BigFuture National Recognition Program Scholars. This distinction is given to students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher AND outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT and/or AP Exams

Welcome to Willis ISD, Mr. Tom Crowe!

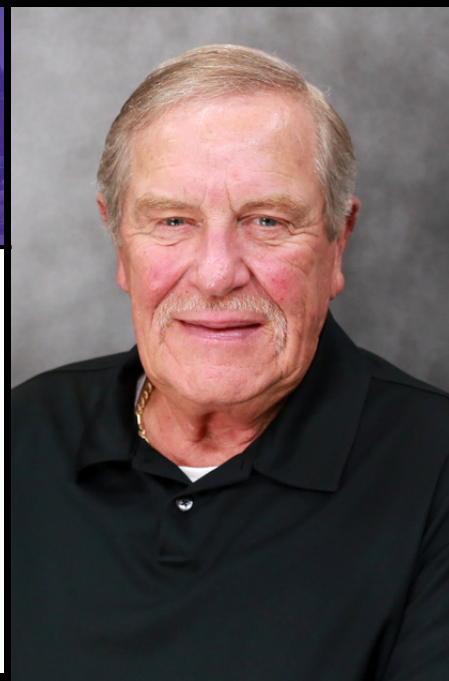
A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months back at Willis ISD! Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome and appreciated.

I am excited for the future of Willis ISD and all the great things we will do together this year!

Have a super Wildkat weekend!

Mr. Tom Crowe



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD students return to campuses

On Wednesday, August 16, Willis ISD students began the 2023-24 school year. Across the district, students of all ages were welcomed back by an energetic staff ready to kick off the new year. The first week of school consisted of three days of instruction to allow students and staff to get back into the swing of things before jumping headlong into the semester.



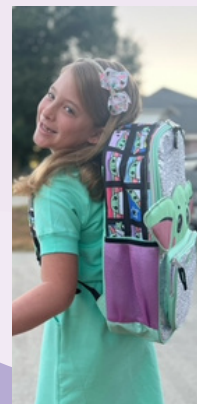
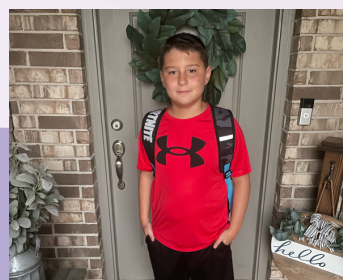
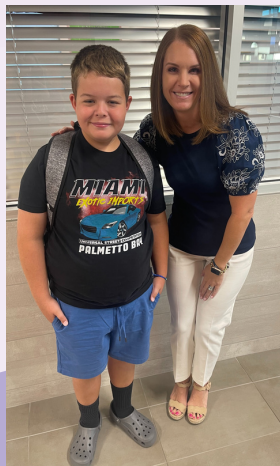
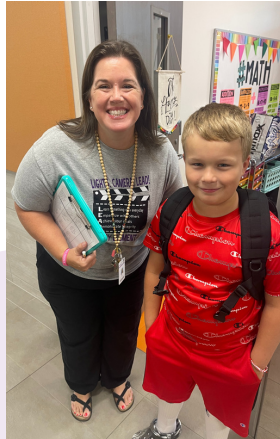
WildKat FEATURES

Thank you to all the families who sent us first day pictures!



WildKat FEATURES

Thank you to all the families who sent us first day pictures!



Please visit our Facebook page at ["WillisSchools"](https://www.facebook.com/WillisSchools) to see all the photos we received.

Wildkat FEATURES

Houston Texans Cheer visits Willis HS Sweethearts

Recently, the Houston Texans Cheerleaders held a contest for local spirit organizations to win a visit from the team. This was a part of the Texans organization's Pre-Season Kick-Off Events, encouraging football, cheer and dance at all levels.

Hundreds of local teams were nominated from across the greater Houston area. However, Ms. Trotter, the Sweethearts Director, knew that our local Willis High School Sweethearts might have a chance to win with the overwhelming support of family, alums, and community members.

She reached out to almost everyone to nominate the team, except for the Sweethearts themselves. Even then, the group received the most nominations and was surprised with a visit.

The Sweethearts got to learn a Houston Texans Cheerleaders' exclusive sideline routine from HTC Reagan and HTC Kristin have an in-depth Q&A Session with the cheerleaders and their coach, as well as take individual and group pictures at the end of the visit.

This was an excellent opportunity for the Sweethearts to learn about dancing at the next level and get motivated for their football season starting next week! Ms. Trotter and the Sweethearts would like to thank everyone who voted and made this happen and the Houston Texans Cheerleaders for providing this opportunity!



Watch a clip of the sideline routine on our Instagram at "WillisSchools."

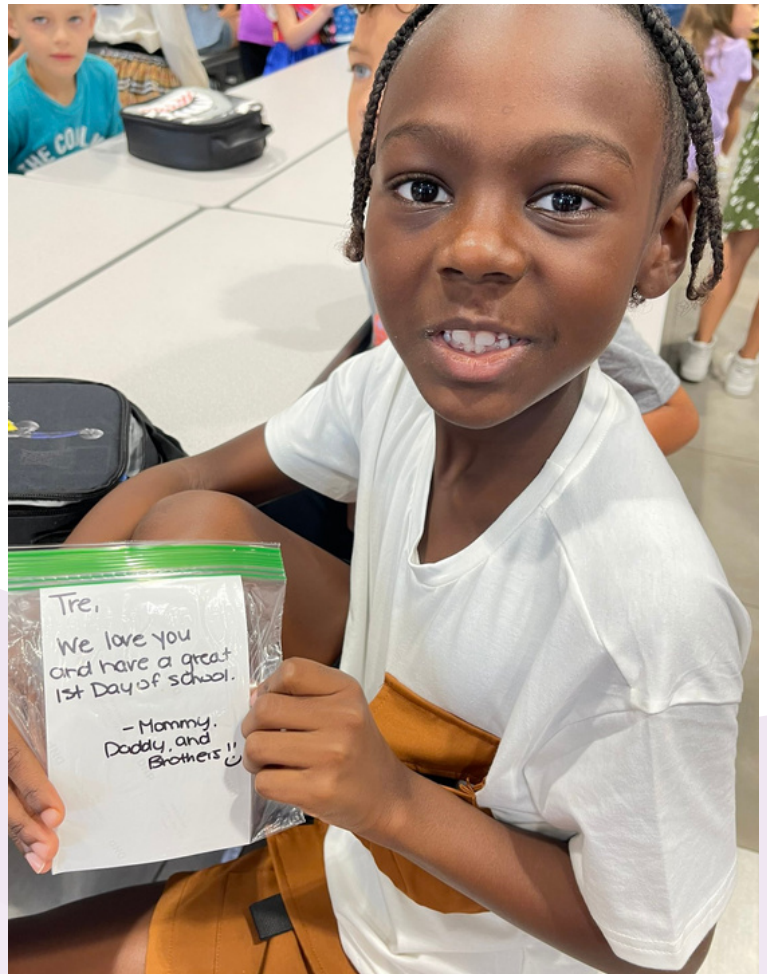
WildKat FEATURES

Sweet lunch notes inspire smiles from Lagway students

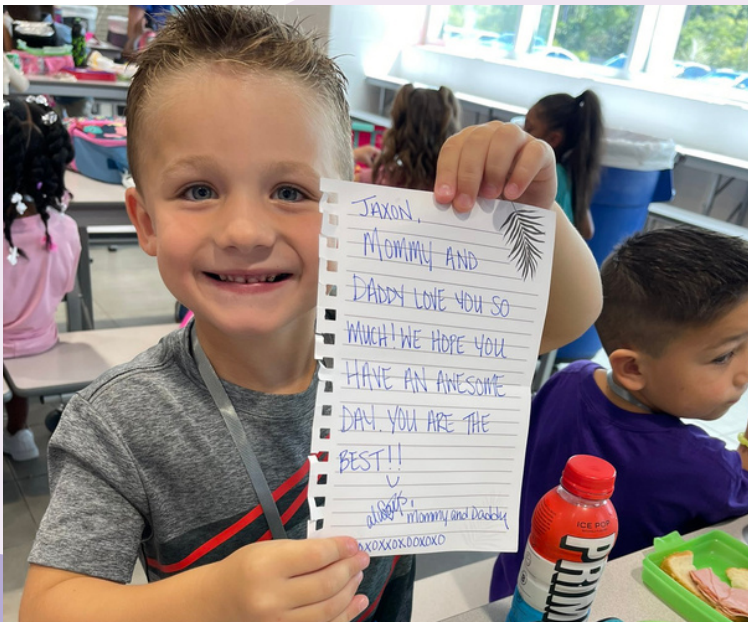


"To the cutest, sweetest & smartest 1st grader. I hope your day is as wonderful as you. My whole heart loves you!" xoxo Momma

"We love you and have a great 1st day of school." - Mommy, Daddy and Brothers



"Mommy and Daddy love you so much! We hope you have an awesome day. You are the best!" Always, Mommy and Daddy



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS students gather for "Senior Sunrise" event

On the first day of school at 6:30 AM, Willis High School seniors gathered to participate in the yearly "Senior Sunrise" tradition. Seniors enjoyed spending time together and celebrating their last first day of school.



WildKat FEATURES

Roark EEC receives Model PLC distinction

Willis ISD's Roark Early Education Center has recently been named a Model Professional Learning Community at Work. The facility is one of about 500 schools and districts in the US and Canada to receive this honor.

The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students.

Responding to news of the recognition, Principal Calandra Lewis said, "We are honored to receive this recognition. Our mission at Roark is to set the foundation of learning by developing social/emotional, and academic skills for ALL students. Our teachers have been committed and intentional in working collaboratively to grow our district's youngest students. When our students leave us, they are not only Kindergarten ready, but they are ready to be successful in all future learning."

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Basskats perform well at summer tournaments

On May 20-21, Willis High School Basskats Lane Johnson and Karson Harris competed in the State tournament on Lake Sam Rayburn. The fishing was hard, but the Basskats made their five fish limit with a 16.56 lb overall total.

On June 25, Garret Wilson and Johnny Hudson fished the AOY (Angler of the Year) tournament on Lake Palestine. They got off to a great start with a 5+ pounder and quickly made their boat limit of 5 fish. They continued fishing and upgraded their limit four times. They finished 1st in their division and 5th overall.

Great job, Basskats!



WildKat FEATURES

Turner Elementary students exhibit leadership skills

At the start of the school year, the A.R. Turner Ambassadors and News Crew wasted no time getting back into a routine. On the first Monday of the semester, Ambassadors were opening car doors for students and walking younger wildkats to class while the Turner News Crew started their live news broadcasts.

This year, Turner hopes to focus on the development of strong leadership skills in their students.



Wildkat FEATURES

Annual Meet the Kats held at Yates Stadium

On August 14, the community rallied together at the annual Meet the Kats event at Yates Stadium. This event is held each year as a way to introduce the Wildkat athletes who will be representing Willis High School throughout the school year.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD staff recognized by ESC Region 6

Willis ISD would like to congratulate Dallas May and Lauren Posey for being recognized by ESC Region 6 as 2022-23 Support Staff of the Year and Counselor of the Year. Both individuals were chosen out of a pool of candidates from across the Region and were selected as the best representation of their professions.

Dallas May, Routing Coordinator for the Willis ISD Transportation Department, was recognized by the district for her dedication to her role and ability to take on new challenges. May has a strong desire to learn and is always looking for ways to grow in her role. Because of this, she was selected as the representative for our district in the support staff category, a decision that Shannon Calltharp, Director of Transportation, said was an obvious choice.

"Here at Willis ISD, our mantra is "One Team, One Purpose," and Dallas May focuses on that. She handles every situation that is asked of her and always puts her best foot forward. Dallas has so much to offer our district, and we are so proud of all her accomplishments over the last seven years at Willis ISD," Calltharp said.

The accolades did not stop there, as another hard-working staff member was recognized by Region 6 for her dedication to Willis ISD students - this time in the counseling category.

A.R. Turner Counselor Lauren Posey was chosen as the district representative for this year's Counselor of the Year award for her innovative thinking and ability to optimize resources. Beyond that, Principal Dr. Michelle Hall shared that her focus on student outreach has been greatly appreciated by both the students and members of the community.

"She has coordinated several student outreach projects, including our most recent Random Acts of Kindness. For this, she partnered with local coffee shops to have our students create kind and encouraging messages on every cup of coffee served to people in our community on National Random Acts of Kindness Day. She has also partnered with several community businesses to host an annual "Careers on Wheels," giving students opportunities to learn about various careers." Dr. Hall said.

May and Posey were presented with their ESC Region 6 awards and recognized in front of staff at the district's back-to-school convocation ceremony. Willis ISD is proud to say we are home to the winners of these 2022-23 distinctions.



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Cosmetology students receive licenses over break

Over the summer, several Willis High School Cosmetology students worked hard to become licensed salon professionals. Congratulations to Yesenia Talamantes, Diana Jaimes, Julia Warren, Emma Atkinson, Bryleigh Defrancisco, Jennifer Montes, Miracle Carter, Cooper Rhodes, Nathalie Mendez, Alyssa Lovejoy, Jemya Bonner and Angela Maldonado.

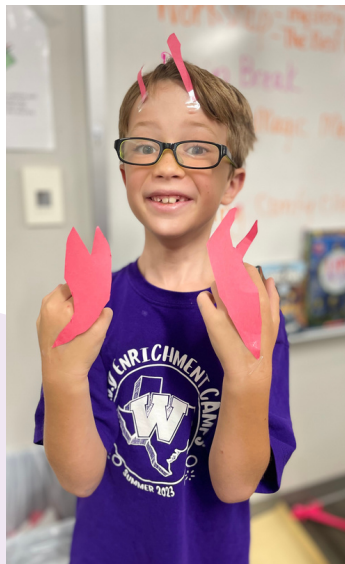
We can't wait to see what the future holds for these talented students!



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis ISD students enjoy Summer Enrichment Camps

Throughout the summer, Willis ISD students participated in summer enrichment camps hosted at our campuses. From culinary arts to robotics, there was something for everyone to enjoy!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD officers attend safety trainings

Willis ISD officers recently attended ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) and AAIR (Active Attack Incident Response) with the Sheriff's Department. These trainings are designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunications and emergency medical services (EMS) in active attack/shooter events.

The course provides law enforcement officers with key medical skills which can be used at the point of injury (POI) to increase the survivability of victims. The course also provides a model framework for law enforcement, fire and EMS to integrate responses during an active attack/shooter.

Additionally, officers attended Red Dot sight training. Red Dot optics have become increasingly common due to advantages such as being able to place the dot on the threat and keep focus on the threat versus the sight. Many law enforcement officers are switching to handguns with red dot sights (RDS), so practice with the system is imperative.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Cosmetology students host first Mini Salon Day

Congratulations to Willis High School's Cosmetology department, who hosted their first mini salon day of the school year on August 25. The event was a huge success and allowed students to hone their skills. The cosmetology department will continue to host these events throughout the year.

Thank you to all who showed up to support our students!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD staff enjoys a fun convocation experience

Willis ISD welcomed back staff with the POWER OF LOVE during convocation on Tuesday, August 8.

Two choir students began the show with the National Anthem. Attendees joined in for the school song and fight song performed by the band and drum line and dance moves were provided by both the dance team and cheerleaders.

Tom Crowe, Willis ISD Superintendent, shared a powerful message with staff about the importance of unifying the district by strengthening our belief and practice of the One Team, One Purpose motto. To do this, he stressed the importance of ensuring everyone feels like part of the team - not just staff but also students, parents, community members and businesses. Mr. Crowe went on to say that the ONLY way to fully realize the one purpose portion of the motto is to strengthen our belief that our "one purpose" is to ensure the success of all students.

Additionally, Mr. Crowe shared two of the guiding statements he has used throughout his 45 years in education. They are: "Kids don't care what you know until they know that you care," and "Every child can and will learn - perhaps not on the same day and maybe not in the same way." It is our job to ensure that all students know we care and that we teach them in whatever way ensures their success.

Performing "The Power of Love" by Huey Lewis was a composite band made up of performing arts teachers from across the district, who were then asked to choose one student to share the stage with them. Alexis McLaughlin, Cannan Elementary music teacher and 2022 The Voice contestant, sang lead vocals alongside her selected student.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD staff enjoys a fun convocation experience (continued)



WildKat FEATURES

Lynn Lucas MS hosts Back-to-School Block Party

On July 31, Lynn Lucas Middle School hosted a block party to celebrate the start of the school year and introduce Kelley Moore, Lynn Lucas's new principal. Several businesses and organizations from around the community came out to show their support and join in on the fun. Students and families enjoyed games, snacks and live entertainment throughout the afternoon.



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Cheer brings home several titles from UCA camp

At the beginning of August, Willis High School Cheer teams represented the Wildkats at their annual UCA Cheer Camp. These talented students earned several titles and awards and started the season strong. Congratulations, Wildkat Cheer!



Every team won daily spirit sticks - and, on day 2, won the Ultimate Spirit Stick, the UCA Banana!

Results

Varsity:

Medium Varsity Division

2nd place in Camp Routine
2nd place in Camp Cheer
Gold Superior Ribbon for Gameday
Blue Superior Ribbon for Camp Routine

Junior Varsity:

Small JV Division

2nd place in Camp Routine
Blue Superior Ribbon for Gameday
Blue Superior Ribbon for Camp Routine

Freshman:

Freshman Division

1st place in Camp Routine
1st place in Camp Cheer
1st place in Gameday
Blue Superior Ribbon for Gameday
Blue Superior Ribbon for Camp Routine

Mascot:

Most Improved Award

UCA All-American Cheerleaders:

Kylah Trevino - Freshman
Emma Stalder - Freshman
Lauren Stafford - Freshman
Jaylynn Phipps - Freshman
Alexis Graham - Sophomore
Kyndall Schiffler - Sophomore
Maddie Mae Bratton - Sophomore
Jocelyn Garner - Junior
Molly McCollum - Junior
Alexis Wachner - Senior
Kelsey Weddington - Senior
Brad Lottinger (Mascot) - Senior

WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD attends 2023 Montgomery County Football Tabletop Exercise

Willis ISD was in attendance at the 2023 Montgomery County Football Tabletop Exercise hosted by the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in partnership with the Montgomery County Hospital District.

During the event, organizations and agencies from around the county were asked to formulate responses to simulated emergency situations that could happen at sporting events and share what they would need from other agencies during any of these emergencies. The goal of this meeting was to promote these conversations so that these groups can prepare together and improve their response to better protect athletes, students and spectators.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

CALENDARS

VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

Football

Sept 1 (Home)
Sept 8 (Away)
Sept 15 (Home)
Sept 22 (Away)
Sept 29 (Home)

Cross Country

Sept 1 (Away)
Sept 9 (Away)
Sept 14 (Away)
Sept 21 (Away)
Sept 29 (Away)

Tennis

Sept 1 (Home)
Sept 5 (Away)
Sept 8-9 (Away)
Sept 12 (Home)
Sept 15 (Home)
Sept 19 (Home)
Sept 22 (Home)
Sept 26 (Away)
Sept 29 (Away)

Volleyball

Sept 1 (Away)
Sept 5 (Home)
Sept 8 (Away)
Sept 12 (Home)
Sept 15 (Home)
Sept 19 (Away)
Sept 22 (Home)
Sept 26 (Home)
Sept 29 (Away)

Swim & Dive

Sept 19 (Away)

FINE ARTS DATES

HS Short n Sweet

Choir Concert
September 21

MS Band

Fall Concert
September 28

MS Band 8th Grade

Night w/ WHS Band
September 29

BMS/LLMS 6th Choir

Concert
October 19

Lagway 3rd Grade

Program
October 20

BMS Theatre

Production
October 20-21

MS & HS Mega-Band

Concert
October 23

CCH 3rd Grade

Program
October 24

Turner 4th Grade

Program
October 24

LLMS Fall

Choir Concert
October 26

MS Region
Band Auditions

October 28

[VIEW THE FULL ATHLETICS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

[VIEW THE FULL FINE ARTS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Purchase your home game football tickets with Ticket Spicket, located on the district mobile app.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

WILDKATS

THROUGH THE

DECADES

HOMECOMING 2023

HOMECOMING PARADE: 9/13/2023 - 6PM

HOMECOMING DANCE: 9/16/2023

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Willis ISD

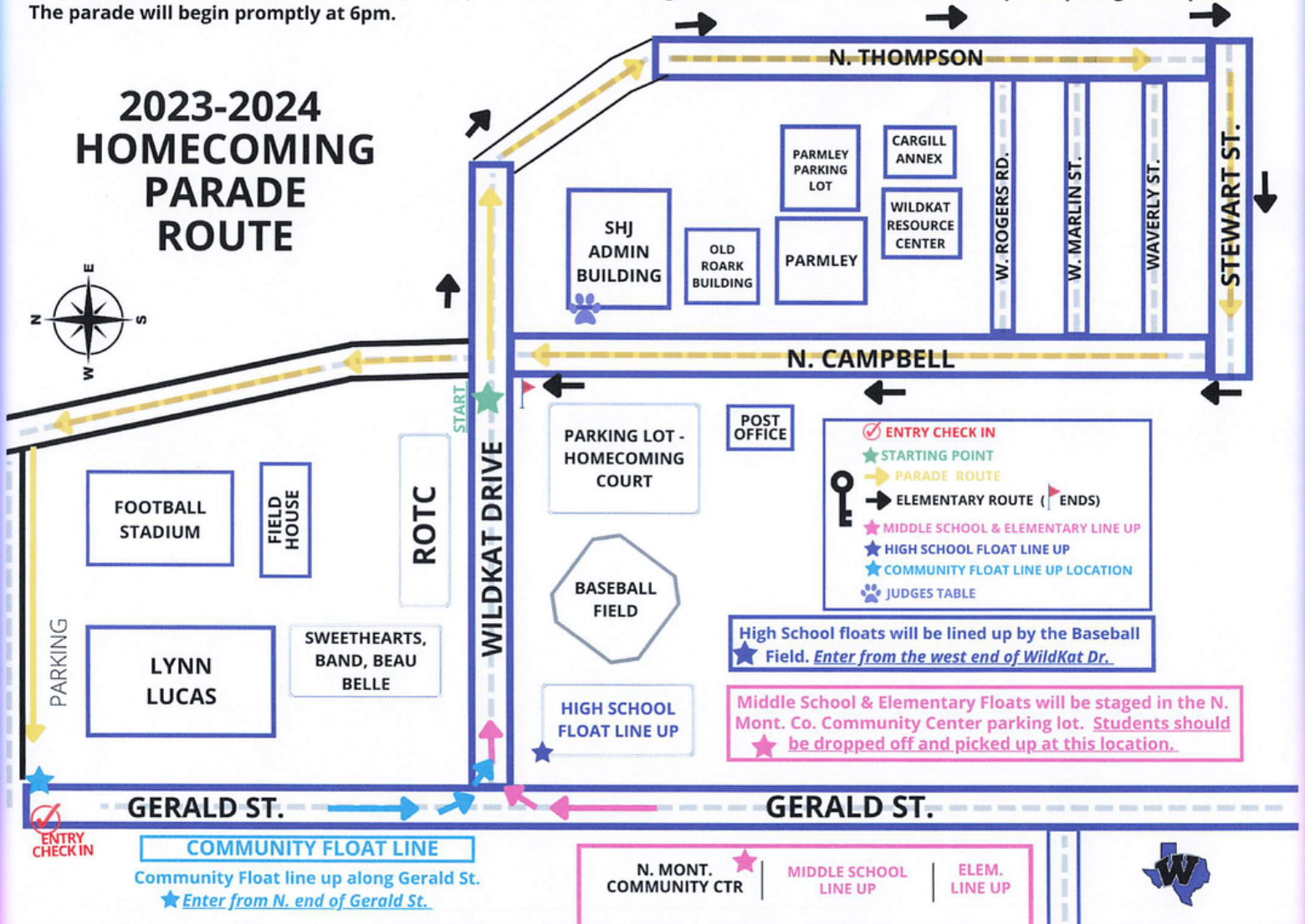
HOMECOMING 2023

PARADE ROUTE

**ATTENTION

Surrounding roads will be closed at 5:10pm. Anyone not in their designated area before then, will not be participating in the parade. The parade will begin promptly at 6pm.

2023-2024 HOMECOMING PARADE ROUTE



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

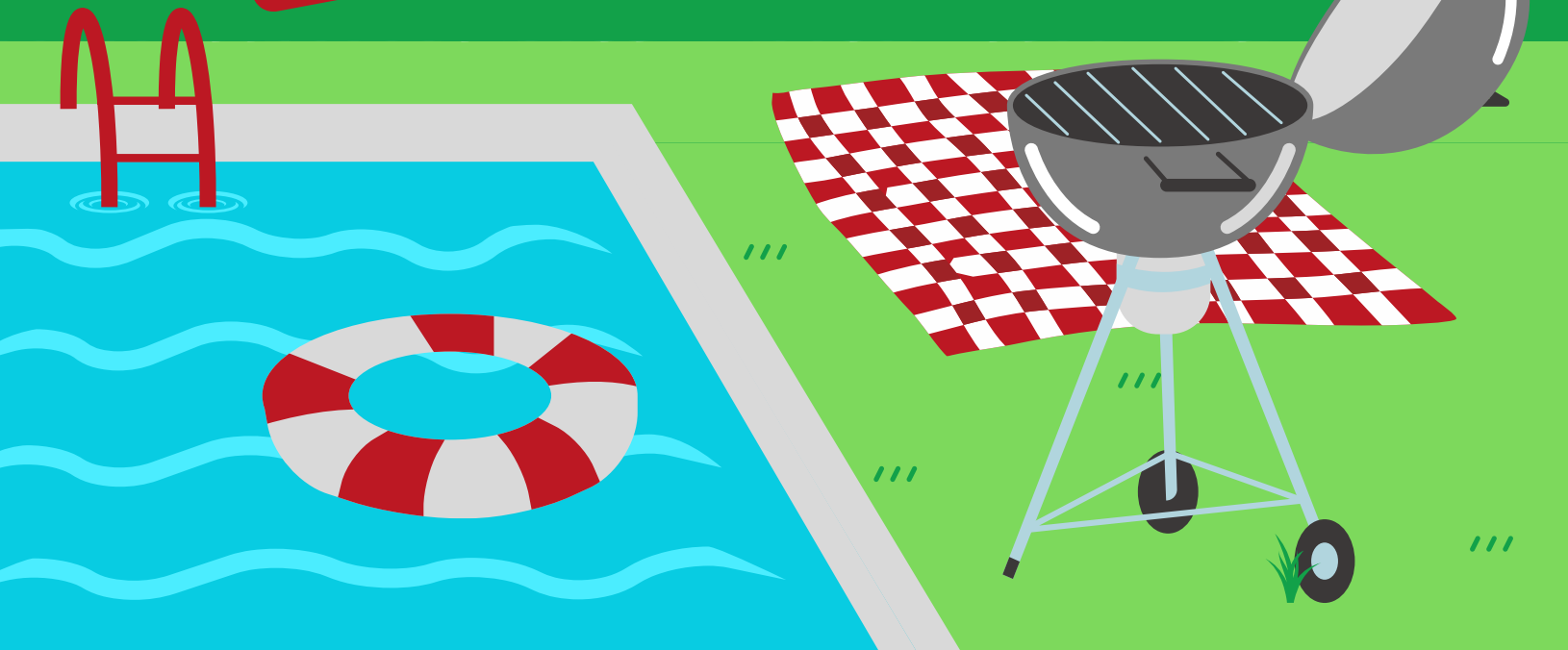
LABOR DAY

DAY

Monday,
September 4

Staff &
Student
Holiday

Monday,
September 18 is
also a student
holiday!



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!

Review Center

Upload any written work for expert feedback!

What is an adjective?

Can you help with long division?

Can you look over my paragraph?

**LOG IN USING
CLEVER**

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@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/
WILLISISD

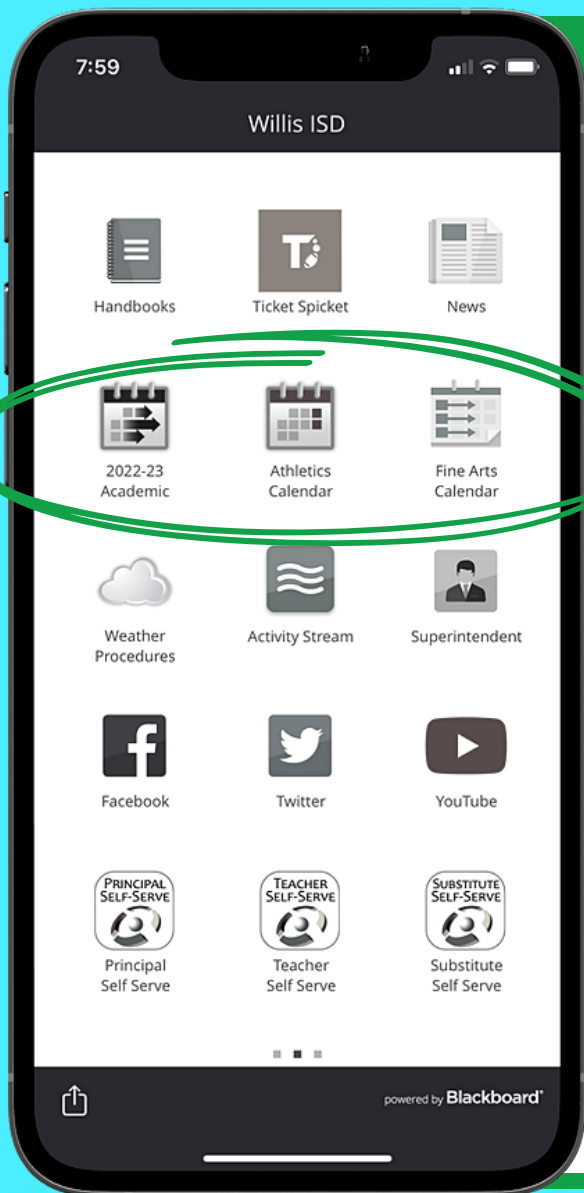


Please Note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 9-8-8.

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 2023-24 school year.



GET TO KNOW OUR CALENDARS



2022-23
Academic

2023-24 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.

2023-24 ATHLETICS CALENDAR

What it includes: All athletic team schedules. This includes Willis High School, Lynn Lucas MS, and Brabham MS.



Athletics
Calendar

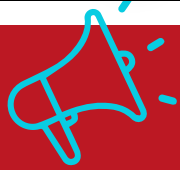


Fine Arts
Calendar

2023-24 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!

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'the voice OF THE WILDKATS' website. The header includes the site name and 'WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL, WILLIS TEXAS 77378'. A navigation bar lists categories: Around Campus, Features, Wildkat Sports, Views, Entertainment, Fine Arts, Multimedia, and About. The main content area features a 'SURVEY SAYS' section with a pie chart titled 'DO YOU DISCOVER NEW GENRES, ARTISTS, OR SONGS YOU LIKE OFTEN?'. The chart shows 28% for 'no' and 72% for 'yes!'. Below this is a 'Wildkat Photo of the Week' section featuring a photo of a student scooping ice cream. The caption reads: 'SCOOPS OF FUN. Welcoming new and returning choir members at the ice cream social, senior Samantha Sullivan scoops chocolate ice cream. Sullivan, the choir vice president, and other members of the leadership team served ice cream and led the fun at the event on Monday.' To the left of the photo is a 'Faces Around Campus' section titled 'WHS PRINCIPALS' with photos and names of school staff.

Visit

[Around Campus](#)
[Features](#)
[Wildkat Sports](#)
[Views](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Fine Arts](#)
[Multimedia](#)

Learn more about the staff behind the "Voice" [here](#).

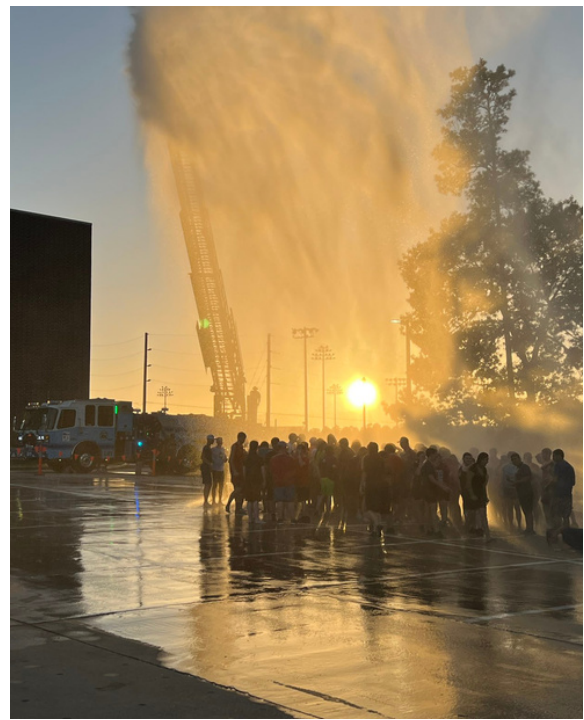
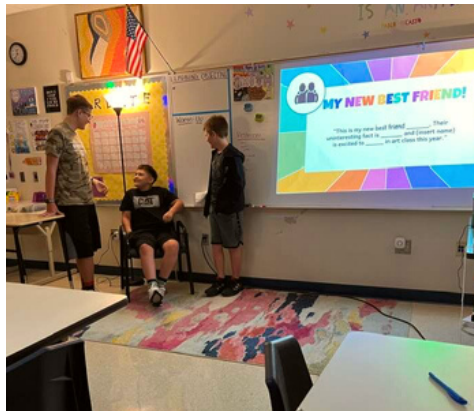
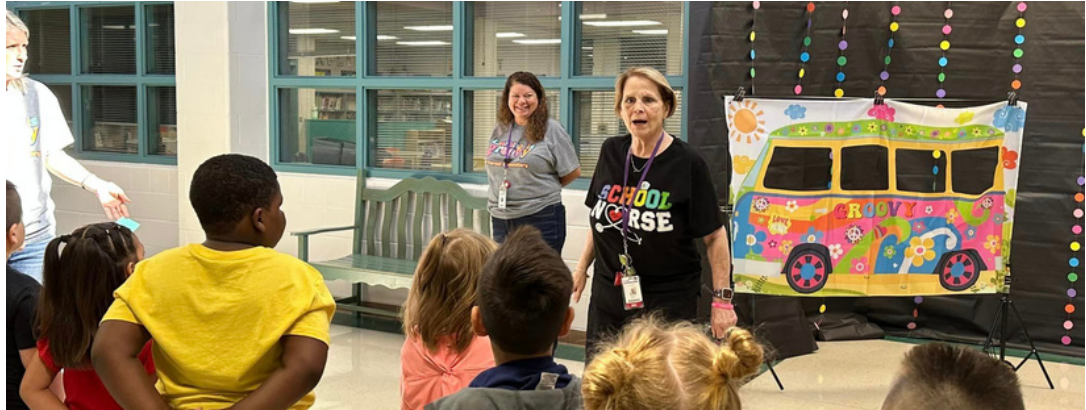
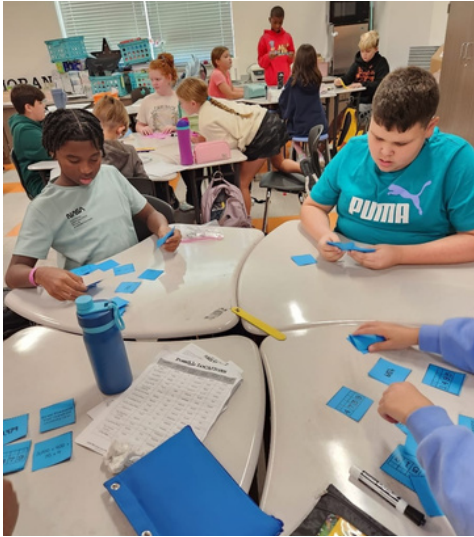
Contact the "Voice"

Follow On

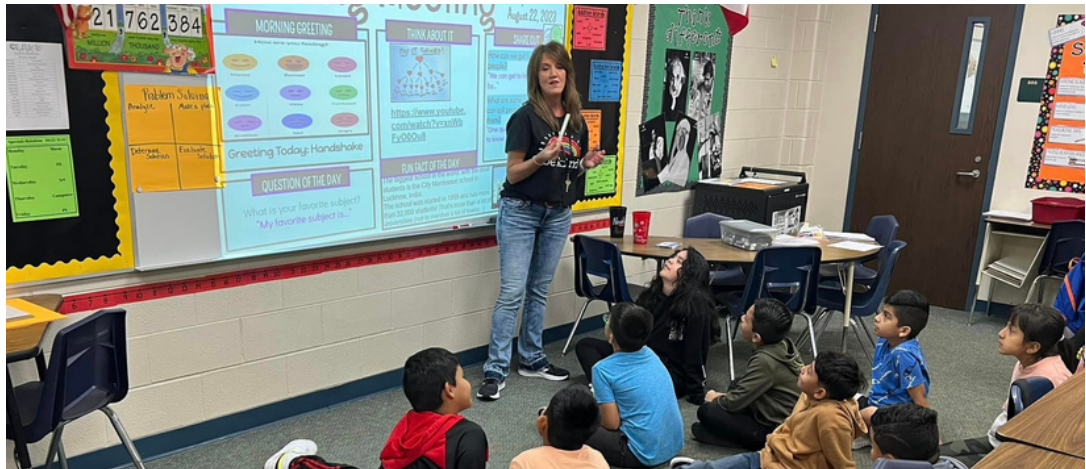
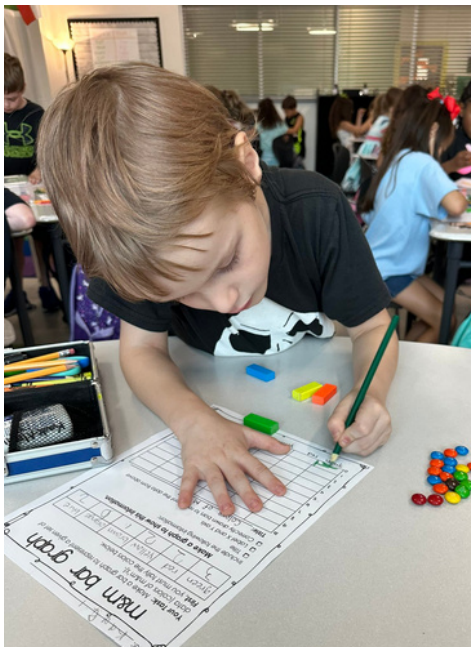
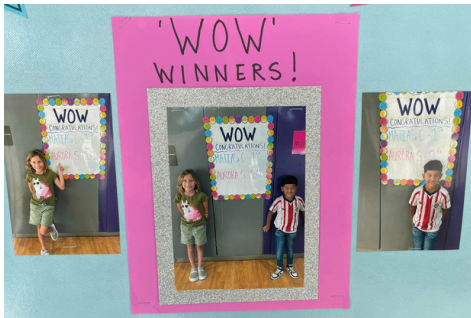
[Twitter](#)
[@wildkatphotos](#)

[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?



Tanis Price
@TPriceWHS_Ag

It's starting to look a lot like HOMECOMING!!!! Look out for WildKat Wreaths for sale soon! @WillisSchools @WillisISD_CTE @Willis_HS_TX



Socials

CAMPUS FACEBOOK PAGES

Stay up-to-date on all the fun things taking place on your child's campus! Each Willis ISD school has its own Facebook page, 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](#)

CC HARDY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDHardy](#)

PARMLEY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDParmley](#)

AR TURNER ELEMENTARY
[@WISDTurner](#)

LAGWAY ELEMENTARY
[@WISDLagway](#)

BRABHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
[@WISDBrabham](#)

CANNAN ELEMENTARY
[@WISDCannan](#)

MEADOR ELEMENTARY
[@WISDMeador](#)

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

WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL
[@WISDWillisHS](#)

STUBBLEFIELD ACADEMY
[@WISDStubblefield](#)



Have an idea for a feature? Contact us [here](#) or email wisdcommunications@willisid.org!

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DISTRICT PROFILES



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