



THE

Willis Independent School District

Wildkat WORD

Oct. 2023

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

October 9-11
Fall Break

October 20
Early Release

November 17
Student Holiday
Staff Development Day

November 20-24
Thanksgiving Break

December 15
Early Release

December 18-January 3
Winter Break
January 2 & 3 are
Staff Development Days

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Willis ISD celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



During National Hispanic Heritage Month, from September 15 to October 15, Willis ISD celebrates the contributions of Hispanic Americans. Students and teachers celebrate this holiday by wearing traditional clothing and taking part in assignments focused on these achievements.

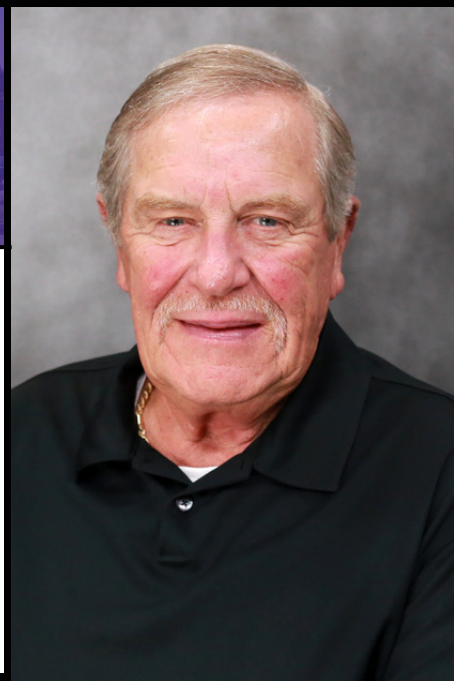
A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

I have been spending lots of time visiting campuses this month, and I am enjoying seeing the learning taking place among students and teachers.

As educators, it is important that we be reminded of **WHY** we do what we do. There is no better why than the smiling faces and engaging lessons I see taking place in our schools.

Have a super Wildkat week!

Mr. Crowe



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD enjoys dressing up for Homecoming Week



Wildkat FEATURES

WHS Football dominates Conroe in anticipated homecoming match-up

The Willis Wildkats took on the Conroe Tigers at Yates Stadium on Friday, September 15, in a homecoming game that is sure to be remembered. The Wildkats reigned supreme, walking away with a 63-14 victory. That was a 49 point lead! Way to show it off, Wildkats!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD celebrates Arts in Education Week

Willis ISD celebrated Arts in Education Week at the beginning of September. During the regularly scheduled board meeting, Ken Labonski, Director of Fine Arts, presented a video that showcased the importance of the arts in Willis schools.

To view this video, please click on the image below or visit our Facebook page at ["WillisSchools"](https://www.facebook.com/WillisSchools).



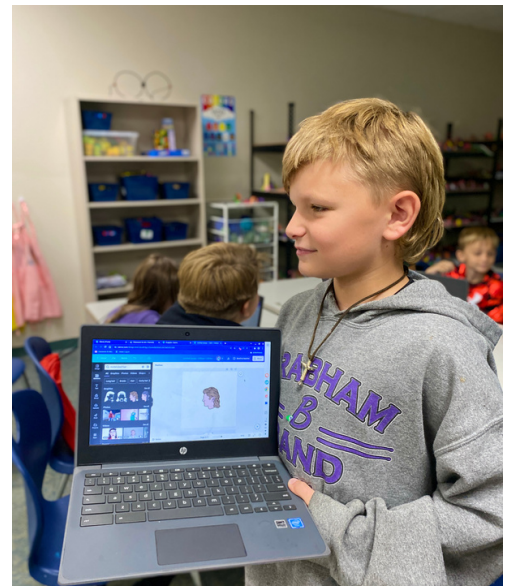
"THE ARTS IN WILLIS ISD ARE ABOUT COMMUNICATION, CREATIVITY, AND COOPERATION. BY STUDYING THE ARTS IN OUR SCHOOLS, STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THESE SKILLS, ENRICH THEIR LIVES, AND EXPERIENCE THE WORLD FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE."
- KEN LABONSKI, DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS

WildKat FEATURES

Meador Elementary art students learn to utilize Canva

During September, Mr. Connor Bolton's fourth and fifth-grade art classes learned the basics of Canva through a fun project involving the creation of personal avatars. Students were tasked with using their newly acquired skills to navigate the different elements of the program to create a character to represent themselves.

Canva is a widely used program for businesses today and will help these students build skills that will be beneficial in upper-grade levels and the workforce.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD celebrates Constitution Day

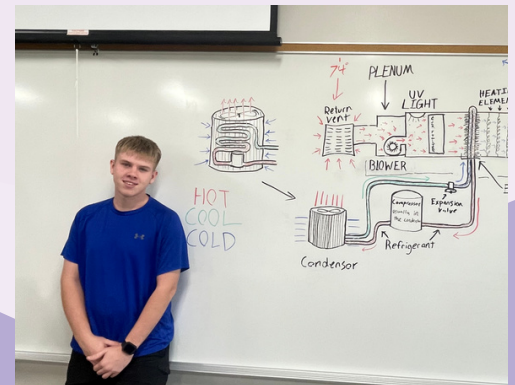
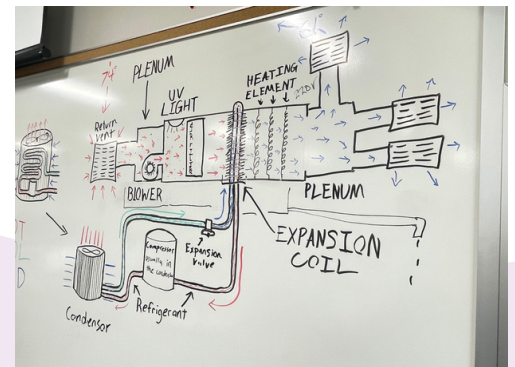
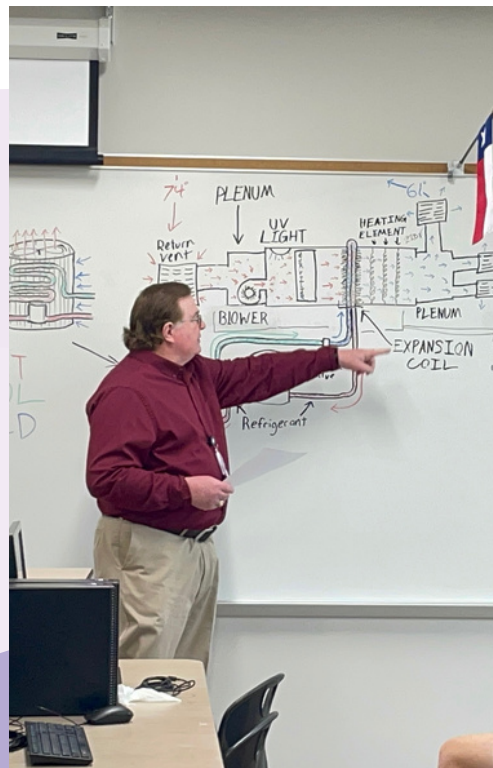
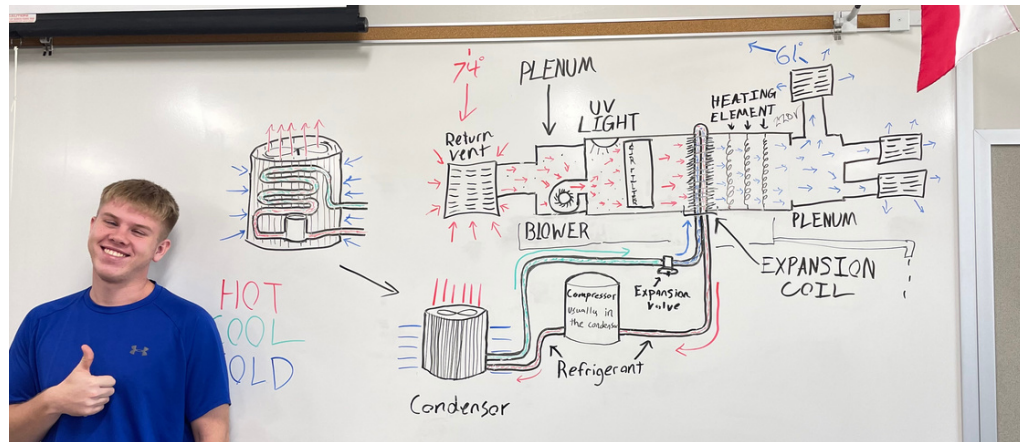
In September, the North Shore Republican Women donated class sets of constitutions to all Willis ISD schools for 5th-grade students to commemorate Constitution Day. This annual tradition helps students learn more about the Constitution, and we are very grateful for the donation. Thank you so much for your generosity!



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS Intro to Engineering students work on creative solutions

In Keith Hazlewood's class, students are constantly being encouraged to think outside the box for solutions to common problems. On September 19, Introduction to Engineering students studied the feasibility of harvesting air conditioner condensation for lawn irrigation.



WildKat FEATURES

Pets with a Mission enjoy special storytime at Parmley Elementary

On September 13, two dogs enjoyed storytime with Parmley students. Annie and Bodie are trained certified reading dogs that students can practice reading to in order to build their skills. Parmley is lucky to have these sweet canines as reading buddies for a few of their students this year.

Thank you to handlers, Miss Deborah and Miss Carol, for making this possible!

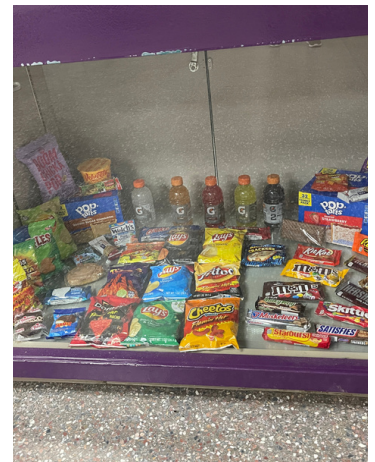


WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS students enjoy new Kat Kash program

There is an extra buzz in the air during lunches at Willis High School this year, thanks to a new program that allows students to earn Kat Kash for things like good attendance, behavior and attitude. Students can then use the Kat Kash to purchase items from the School Store. Students are excited about the program and are enjoying the opportunity to “purchase” items from the store.

Learn more about Kat Kash in [this article](#) by Carly Paugh on [wildkats.org](#)!



Wildkat FEATURES

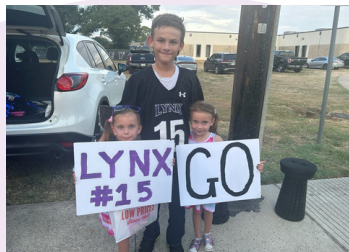
Willis ISD hosts annual homecoming parade

The district held its annual homecoming parade on Wednesday, September 13. During the event, students and staff dressed up in their best attire from different decades to celebrate. WYAA won the Wildkat Community Award, Roark Early Education Center won the Principal Award, the BMS Cheerkats were named the Most Spirited, the WHS Volleyball team were crowned Most Creative and the WHS Cheerleaders were named Wildkat Best in Show.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD hosts annual homecoming parade (continued)

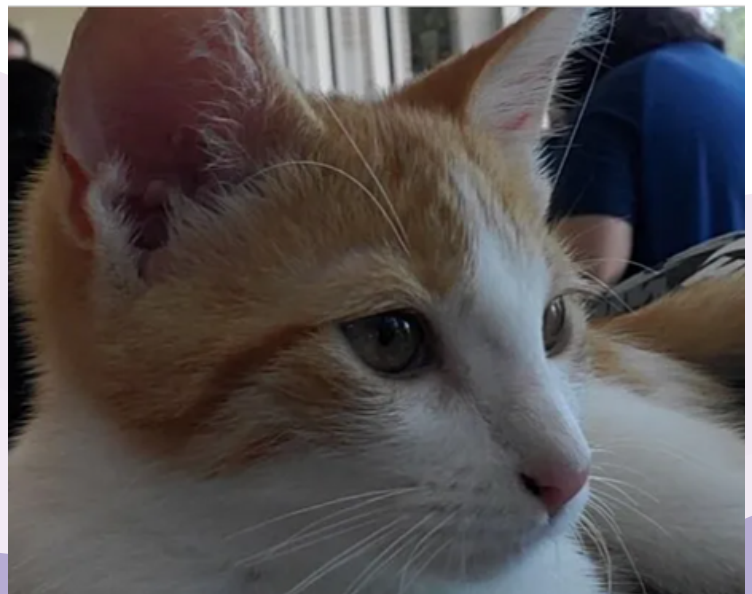


WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Journalism students receive national distinction

Congratulations to Willis High School Journalism students Ashley Briones and Victoria Medina, who have won the Best of SNO award! After a rigorous selection process, this award is given to the top stories nationwide, among high school and college articles.

Earlier this semester, Sam Favela also received this distinction with his article about Mrs. Kercheval.



Read about Mr.Pickle's on wildkats.org!

Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS announces 2023 Homecoming Court

Congratulations to the Willis High School students who were named to the 2023 Homecoming Court.



Freshman Duke & Duchess:
Kash Abke and London Casso
Sophomore Duke & Duchess:
Isaiah Higgins and Mia McGowen
Junior Duke & Duchess:
Kelly Abke and Molly McCollum

King Candidates: Stone Chapman, Austin Gaskins, Jaden Menjivar, Marcos Ramos, Jose Rodriguez
Queen Candidates: Olga Barcenas, Ava Hardin, Essence Traylor, Zoey White, Grace Wilder

Wildkat FEATURES

Willis HS names 2023 Homecoming King and Queen

During halftime at the Wildcats homecoming game, Jose Rodriguez and Olga Barcenas were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. These designations were awarded based on student voting. Congratulations to both of these wonderful students!



Photos courtesy of The Voice of the Wildkats.

WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD September Board Meeting Recap

On Wednesday, September 20, the Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled board meeting.

Before convening into closed session, the Board listened to a presentation by superintendent search firm N2 Learning. Trustees will hear one more presentation in October before deciding on a search firm. Once a firm is selected, the Board will work with the company to develop a search plan and timeline.

Lagway Elementary students Brock Stranimier, Katie Mansfield and Sophia Hamby led the pledges and prayers before the presentation of the district's Elementary Student of the Month. Sofia Trujillo, a first grader at Lagway Elementary, was nominated by her teacher Rachel Wilson.

"Sofia is a model student. She lives out our school pledge every day. She comes to school to learn. She works hard, she does her best, she's a leader and a great friend." Wilson said.

After naming the elementary representative, Brabham Middle School recognized the district's Secondary Student of the Month, eighth grader Daniel McBride.

"Daniel's teachers have said that he is always on time, works hard to complete his work, has a positive attitude and is extremely polite and respectful. He is also a three-sport athlete competing in football, basketball, and track. Daniel's coaches state that he is a model athlete with intangibles that will make him successful throughout his life," shared Danielle Hunnicutt, Assistant Principal of Brabham Middle School.

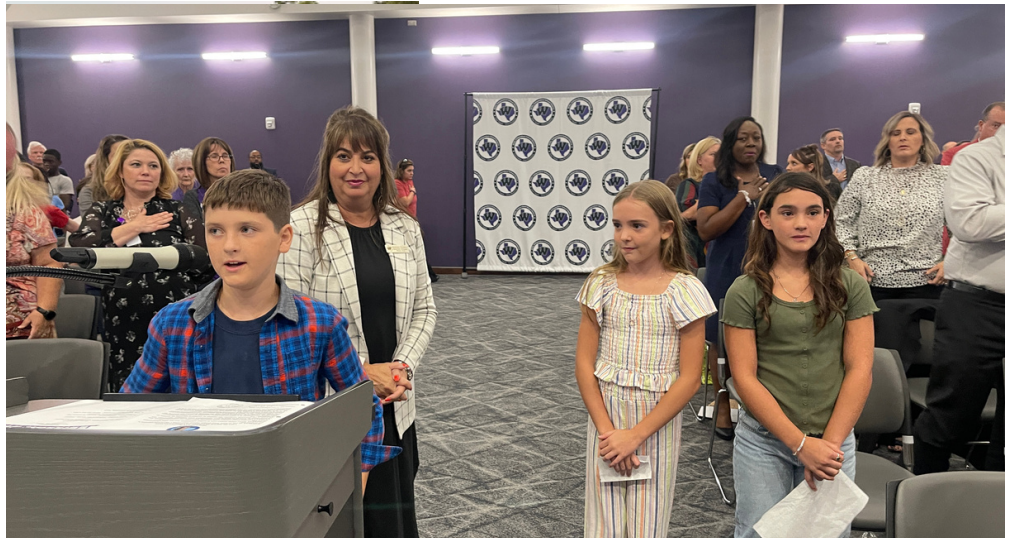
Two additional recognitions followed as the Board thanked City of Willis Mayor Leonard Reed for the actions of the City Council in approving a Proclamation to highlight World Teacher's Day in Willis on October 5, and Ken Labonski, Director of Fine Arts, shared a video showcasing our fine arts department in celebration of National Arts in Education Week.

Highlights from this month's meeting include the announcement of the district's superior rating of an "A" by the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, board approval of a bid related to an RFP for the district's onsite health and wellness clinic services, a presentation of the Personal Body Safety (Child Abuse Curriculum) by Director of Guidance and Counseling, Kelly Locke and board approval of proposals to work with Lead4ward and Solution Tree on improving student achievement.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD September Board Meeting Recap (continued)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Willis ISD

CALENDARS

VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

Football

Oct 5 (Away)
Oct 13 (Home)
Oct 26 (Away)
Nov 3 (Home)

Tennis

Oct 3 (Home)
Oct 6 (Away)

Golf

Oct 2 (Away)
Oct 16 (Away)
Oct 26 (Away)
Oct 30 (Away)

Cross Country

Oct 4 (Away)
Oct 13 (Away)

Volleyball

Oct 3 (Home)
Oct 6 (Away)
Oct 10 (Home)
Oct 13 (Away)
Oct 20 (Home)
Oct 24 (Away)

Girls Basketball

Oct 28 (Home)
Oct 30 (Away)

Swim & Dive
Oct 24 (Away)

FINE ARTS DATES

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

WHS Haunted House/
Fall Festival
October 30-31

[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*



DID YOU KNOW?

Willis ISD's total tax rate is the lowest it has been since 1992! The district approved a total tax rate reduction of 15-cents for the 2023-24 school year, bringing the total tax rate to 1.0002. The district is operating on an \$81 million budget for the school year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

FALL BREAK

Mon-Wed
October 9-11

Staff &
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!

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*

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**

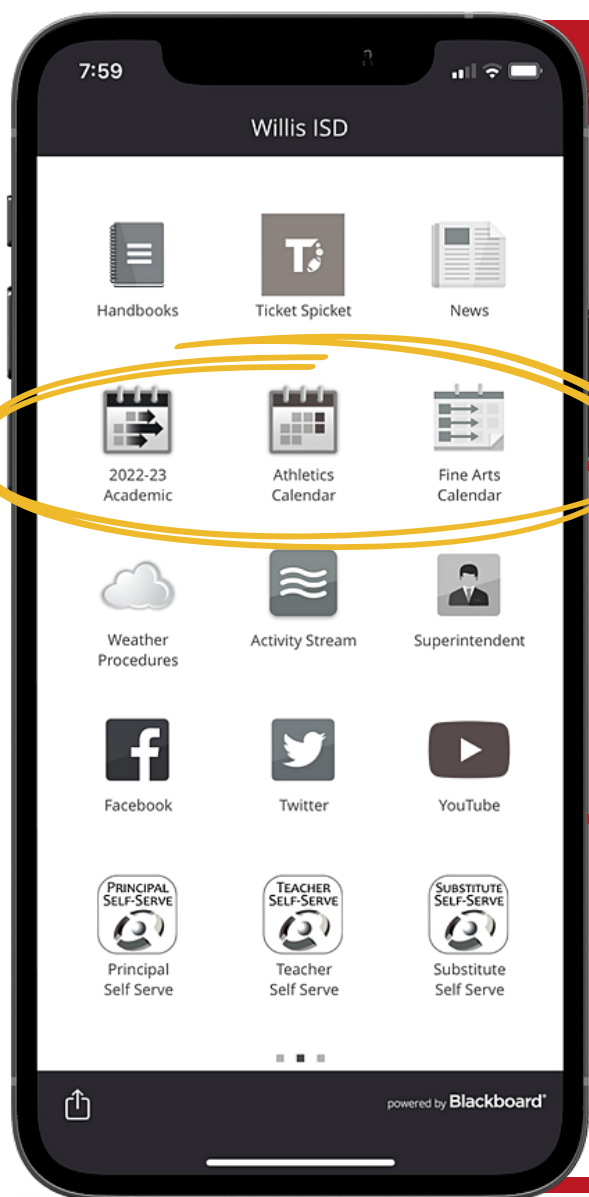


Please Note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 9-8-8.

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 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 School Newspapers Online (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 voice OF THE WILDKATS
WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL, WILLIS TEXAS 77378

Around Campus Features Wildkat Sports Views Entertainment Fine Arts Multimedia About ▼

SURVEY SAYS

DO YOU DISCOVER NEW GENRES, ARTISTS, OR SONGS YOU LIKE OFTEN?

no 28% yes! 72%

25 WILDKATS SURVEYED

Wildkat Photo of the Week

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.

Faces Around Campus

WHS PRINCIPALS

KING PRIWER HAZENBERRY BREED

Visit

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

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

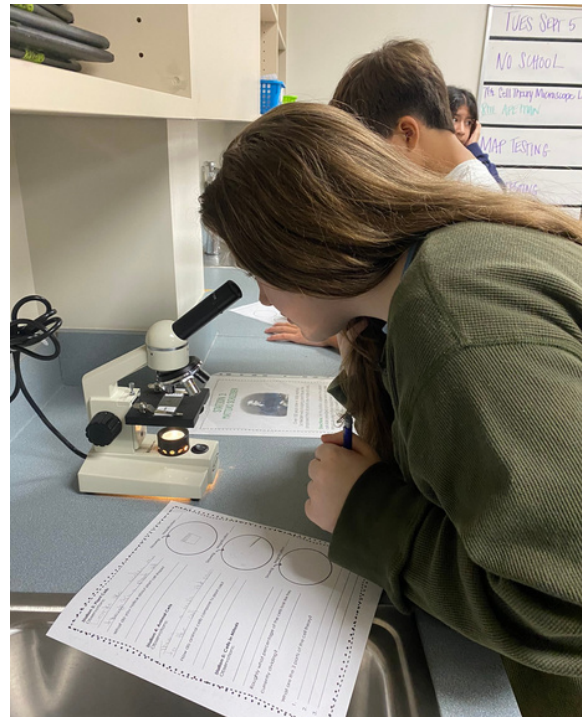
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the
"Voice"

Follow On

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

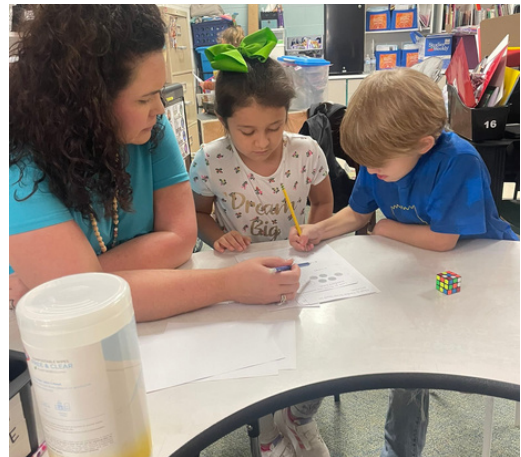
AS SEEN ON *Social Media*




AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



WHAT'S THE
WORD
ON
Twitter?



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 to keep you updated on the day-to-day happenings at your student's school.

**ROARK EARLY
EDUCATION CENTER**
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