



THE

Willis Independent School District

Wildkat WORD

Dec. 2023

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

December 13

Board Meeting

Location changed to PAC

December 15

Early Release

December 18

January 3

Winter Break

Staff returns on January 2nd

January 4

Students Return

January 12

Early Release

January 15

MLK Day

Staff & Student Holiday



Willis Wildkats end historic season at Alamodome

Following a historic undefeated 10-0 regular season, the Wildkats entered the playoffs with big dreams for State. After wins over Aldine Nimitz and Tomball Memorial, Willis traveled to the Alamodome to take on the Desoto Eagles, who are ranked first in the state and seventh nationally. The Wildkats put up a good fight but ended the season in a 65-31 loss. Thank you for a phenomenal season, Wildkats! Visit page 2 to view season photo highlights.

IN THIS ISSUE

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A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

I hope that each of you had time with your family during Thanksgiving to rest and be thankful for the blessings in your life. Many community members traveled for our football team's playoff game in San Antonio last Friday, and your support was felt by all. They came up short but gave us all a great season to be proud of!

The next three weeks are fast and furious but no less important to your child's learning. Please help us keep students healthy, focused and in attendance to maximize their time learning in December. Thank you!

Mr. Tom Crowe



Wildkat FEATURES

Continued from Page 1

Willis Wildkats celebrate historic 10-0 regular season



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Journalism Team dominates Boovitational Meet

During the last week of October, the Willis High School Journalism team traveled to Waller High School to compete in their "Boovitational" Meet. The team finished fourth overall and brought home a large amount of hardware. Great job to this outstanding group of students!



Meet Results

1st place Extemp - Informative Speaking

Zoe Mendes

7th Poetry Interpretation

Annabell Smith Grimm

3rd Prose Interpretation

Isaiah Higgins

6th Ready Writing

Heather Carroll

4th Copy Editing, 9th Editorial Writing

Kaitlin Burns

6th Copy Editing

Ashley Briones

4th Copy Editing, 6th Editorial Writing,

2nd Feature Writing

Stone Chapman

7th Headline Writing

Victoria Medina

5th Headline Writing

Jared Madrid-Williams

9th Headline Writing

Ryder Sciba

9th Feature Writing

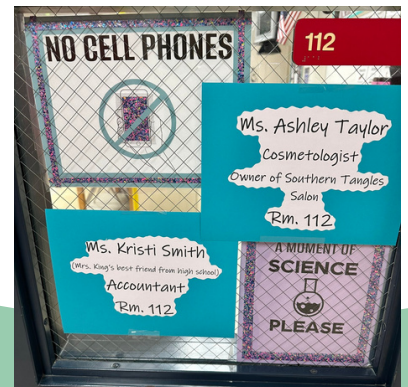
Ella McDonald

WildKat FEATURES

Brabham MS hosts Career Day



Thank you to all
guest speakers and
our senior CTE
students!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Cosmetology students host Mini Salon Day

On Friday, November 3, Willis High School Cosmetology students hosted a mini-salon day, where Community members or students could sign up for a wax session or a blowout.

If you are a freshman or a parent of a freshman interested in taking cosmetology next year, please join the department at their introductory seminar on December 6 from 6 to 6:45 PM in the CTE Salon Classroom.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis ISD celebrates Veterans Day

Throughout the week leading up to Veterans Day, students from across the district celebrated those who served. They hosted breakfasts and concerts to honor their service, and showed their appreciation by wearing red, white, and blue. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the veterans who have served our country!



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Cheer competes at UDA Competition

On November 4, the Willis High School Cheer competition team performed at the UDA Cheer competition. The team walked away with a first place win in their division, starting the season off on a high note. Their next competition will be in Galveston on December 9.



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis Wildkats nominated for multiple awards

Willis ISD proudly announces that two Wildkats have been nominated for the Houston Sports Awards. This annual event recognizes Houston-area athletes and coaches at the high school and professional levels for their accomplishments over the last year. The nominees were announced on KPRC2 earlier this week.

YOU CAN VOTE DAILY!



HOUSTON
SPORTS AWARDS

MALE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
NOMINEE

D.J. LAGWAY
WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL



HOUSTON
SPORTS AWARDS

HIGH SCHOOL
COACH OF THE YEAR
NOMINEE

TRENT MILLER
WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL
COACH

Click [here](#) to vote for DJ Lagway

Click [here](#) to vote for Coach Miller



DJ Lagway has been nominated for two additional awards!

Texas HS Football's 6A Quarterback of the Year
Dave Campbell's Whataburger Super Team QB

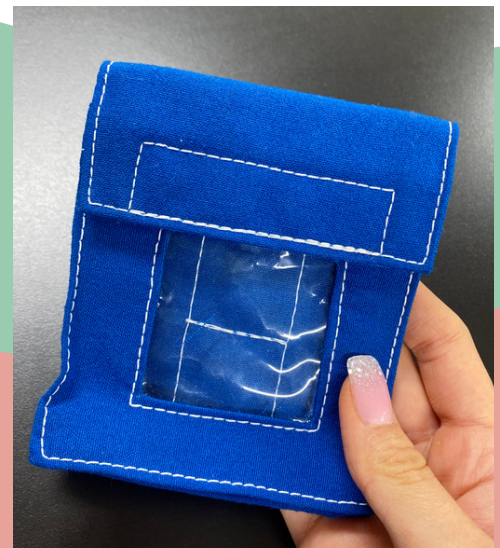
WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS Fashion Design students partner with NASA

Willis High School students are extending their reach beyond the stratosphere! As part of the NASA Hunch program, Ms. Parson's Fashion Design students are creating sewn flight articles requested by different NASA centers and the International Space Station Astronaut Crew. These items will be used for training purposes to give crews a realistic idea of what they will be given in space.



Thank you to NASA representatives Jennifer Leonard, Phong T. Do, and Sonia Garcia for visiting our campus and providing feedback to our students!



WildKat FEATURES

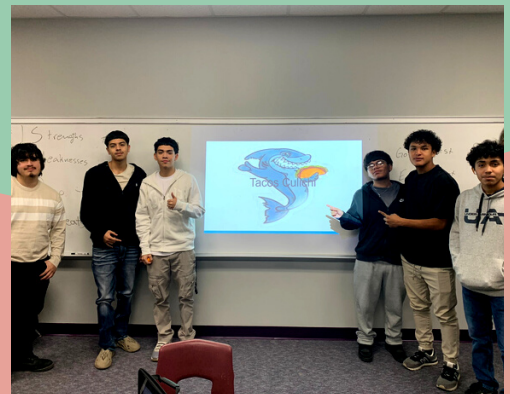
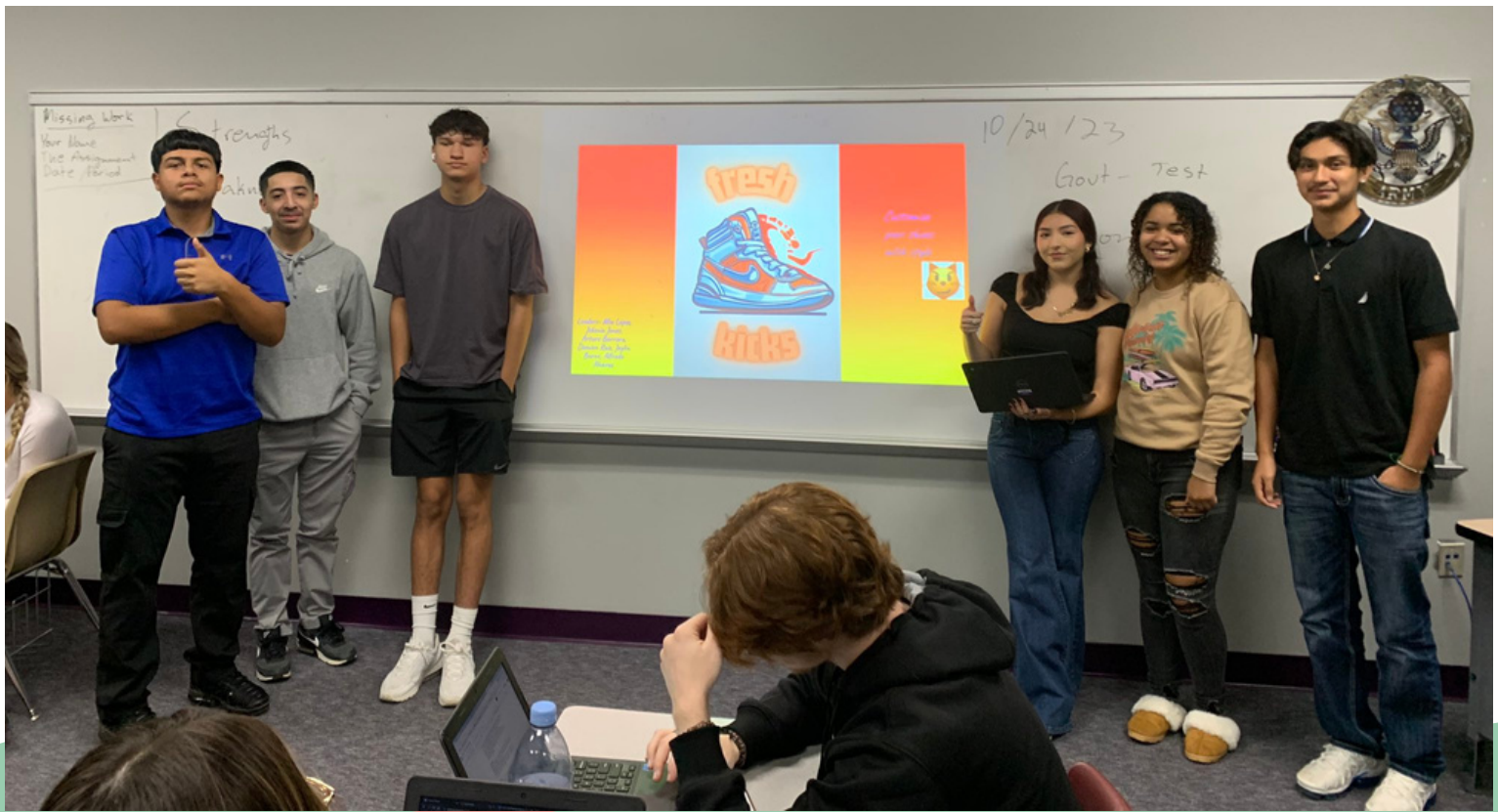
Hardy Elementary students travel to Sam Houston Memorial Museum



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS CTE students simulate Shark Tank for project

In November, Willis High School students in Mr. Howard's Economics class had fun developing clever pitches during their Shark Tank Business Plan unit. Don't be surprised if you see these young entrepreneurs making waves in the future with some of these innovative ideas!



Wildkat FEATURES

Howard Hughes Corporation donates stickers and mirror clings for Suicide Prevention Month

Willis ISD would like to thank the Howard Hughes Corporation for their generous donation to support suicide prevention efforts in our schools. Thanks to their support, we purchased mirror clings for school bathrooms and water bottle stickers for all three secondary schools. The clings and stickers feature the R U OK? slogan and include the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 988, which allows for fast and direct access to counselors who can help a student or adult in crisis. Also included is Care Solace, a free concierge service provided by the district that connects students, staff and their families with mental health care.



Pictured are students from Willis High School's student organizations, Kats Joined for Hope, Yearbook and Wildkat Media, who helped with the design and placing the stickers in the school bathrooms. Kats Joined for Hope was formed to support the Woodlands organization Cassidy Joined for Hope, which was launched by the parents of a student who lost her life to suicide in 2015.

Wildkat FEATURES

Oh the places Willis High School Wildkats will go!



**Lakya
Spencer**
Lone Star



**Kendall
Nappier**
Lone Star



**Fhernando
Benitez**
SHSU



**Maeghan
Evans**
**TAMU,
Texas Tech,
Texas State &
Tarleton**



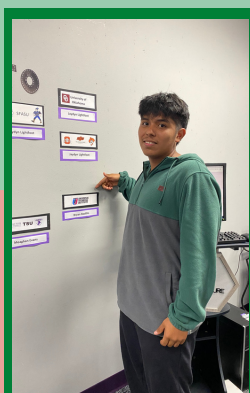
**Addison
Lyons**
TAMU



**Madeley
Nichols**
TAMU



**Eric
Barnett**
Lone Star



**Bryan
Badillo**
**Universal
Technical
Institute**



**Damien
Ruiz**
Lone Star

If you have a graduating senior, please remind them to drop off their acceptance letter during lunches at the College and Career Center so that they can be added to the college wall. **We will post-college acceptances periodically, so please be patient as we compile the information.**

Wildkat FEATURES

Willis Aquakats make a splash at November meets

The Willis High School Aquakats have been making waves this month! Diver Kelsey Weddington won 2nd place in her meet on November 16, and two relay teams broke school records. Briggs Cesean, Aaron Barker, Hunter Wren and Keddie Ramsden broke the record set in 1993 for the 200 Medley Relay, while Claire Mayronne, Carli Murray, Kaley Hall and Claire Smyth broke the girls' 200 Freestyle Relay record.



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Contact the CISD Communications Department to learn more about advertising.	
Weddington Kelsey	5233 D 2.5
Willis HS Aqua	ROUND # 11
Back 1.5 Somersaults	1.5 Twist
Judge 1 7.0 Judge 4 6.0	Total Score: 399.40
Judge 2 5.0 Judge 5 6.5	
Judge 3 6.5 Award 47.50	
1 Waldron Shannon	Conroe The Wood 411.60
2 Weddington Kelsey	Willis HS Aqua 399.40
3 Molloy Whittier	The Woodlands H 389.75
4 Pink Abigail	Atascocita 379.10

WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS hosts Walk of Champions for student organizations attending Area Playoff game



WildKat FEATURES

Willis FFA students show off skills at Blacklands District LDE

Earlier this month, Willis FFA competed at the Blacklands District LDE (Leadership Development Event) hosted at Conroe High School's CTE facility. We are incredibly proud of these hardworking students who dedicated themselves to preparing for this event.



Congratulations to the Senior Quiz team, Greenhand Quiz team and Job Interview participant for advancing to Area Contest! Additionally, we would like to give a shout-out to Hannah East for having the highest quiz score and to Mason Lightfoot for achieving the second-highest quiz score among all contestants. Great job everyone!

Senior Creed:
Loryn Gates

Job Interview:
Paris Egbert

Senior Quiz:
Levi Risner
Mason Lightfoot
Hannah East

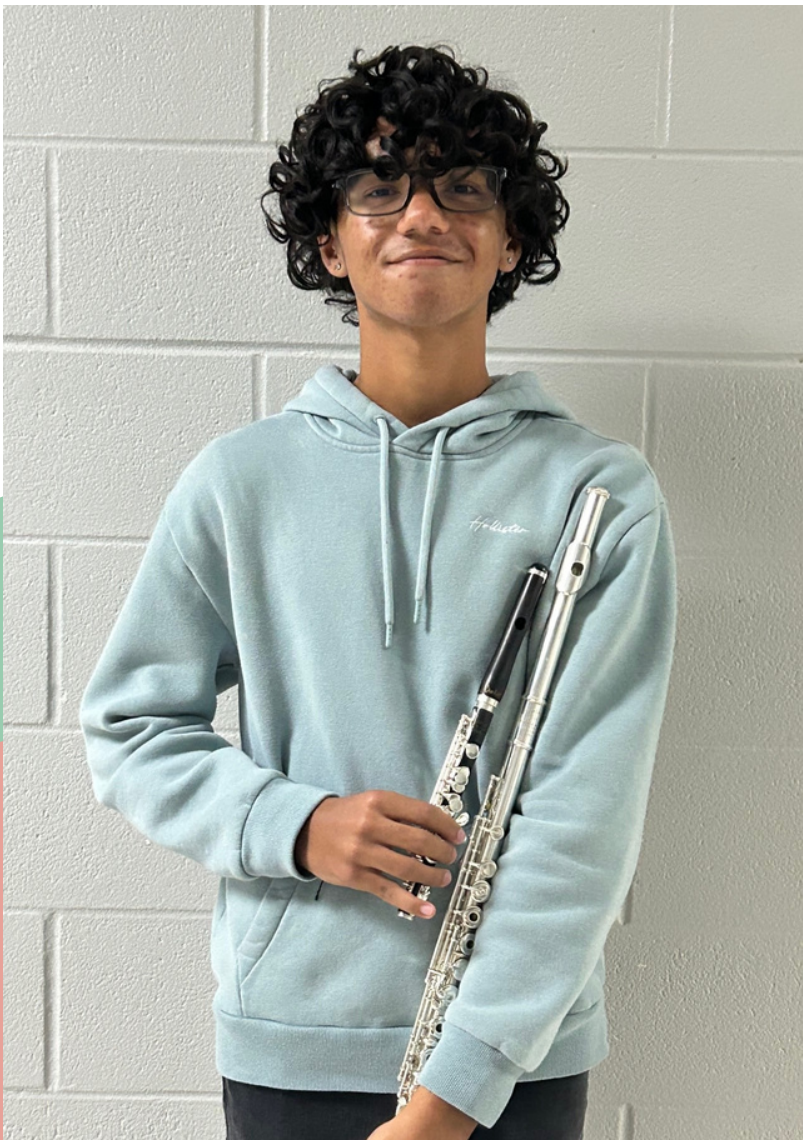
Greenhand Quiz:
Bailey Scoggins
Isabella Espada
Emerson Johnson



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS student earns first chair at TMEA Region Orchestra Auditions

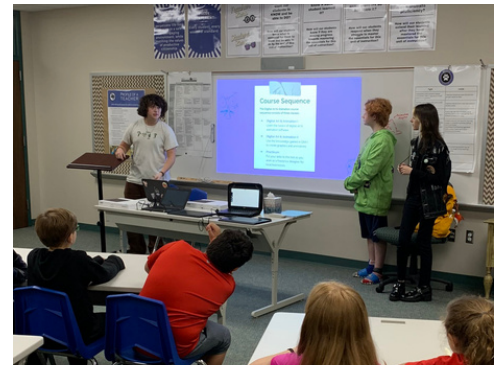
Willis High School freshman piccolo player Drue Walker earned first chair at the TMEA Region Orchestra Auditions on Tuesday and has qualified to move on to the State level Area Auditions in January! Drue took a commanding first place against top students from Conroe, Klein, Magnolia, Montgomery, Huntsville, Cleveland and Tomball ISDs. Kudos to both Drue and his teachers at Willis High School on this accomplishment.



WildKat FEATURES

Meador Elementary hosts CTE Expo

During November, Meador Elementary fifth-grade students were visited by Willis High School CTE students, who spoke about programs such as Ag Science, Fashion Design, Law Enforcement, Culinary Arts and Health Sciences! The students enjoyed talking with students and instructors about the courses and participating in showcase activities.



WildKat FEATURES

Willis HS students represent school at North American International Livestock Exposition

Congratulations to Willis High School's Journey Mathis and Ashton Gaskins for their successful showings of their sheep at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky, during the weekend of November 10-12! It makes us proud to see these Wildkats representing Willis on a NATIONAL LEVEL.



Class 1 - LW Black Face Crosses

Champion White Face Cross: Tristan Salopek



Results

Journey Mathis

Class 1 Hampshire - made the pull

Class 11 Hampshire - 10th

Class 1 Black Face Cross - made the pull

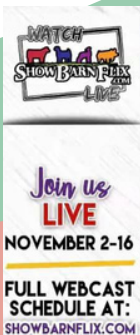
Ashton Gaskins

Class 2 Hampshire - 12th

Class 8 Hampshire - made the pull

Class 16 Naturals - 10th

Class 1 Black Face Cross - 8th



Class 1 - LW Black Face Crosses

Champion White Face Cross: Tristan Salopek



Wildkat FEATURES

Willis ISD November Board Meeting Recap

On Wednesday, November 8, the Board of Trustees held a public hearing regarding an increase in compensation for the current high school football coach, along with a regularly scheduled board meeting.

During the public meeting, the Board discussed the impact of the head football coach of Willis High School. Several parents and colleagues spoke about the coach's dedication to the team and the community. There was discussion on the impact of his success in this position and its significance on the morale of the community as a whole.

The board then officially called the regular meeting to order, opening the floor to general public comments. When this concluded, the board convened into a closed session to discuss matters on the agenda.

Once the board reconvened in open session, A.R. Turner Elementary students Jack Dugas and Lilli Harrison led the pledges and prayer before presenting the district's Elementary Student of the Month, A.R. Turner, fifth-grader Kylee Keith.

"This young lady is described by her teachers as hardworking, dedicated, and a friend to all. She displays a positive attitude in the face of challenges and always gives her best effort, no matter the task. She is kind and helpful to those around her," said Dr. Michelle Hall, Principal of A.R. Turner Elementary.

After naming the elementary representative, Willis High School recognized the district's Secondary Student of the Month, 12th grader Akeyah Gardin.

"She is a hard worker and is very attentive. She is a varsity cheer captain and a member of the National Honor Society. She is very organized, punctual, polite, and respectful. She is a strong leader who leads with passion, kindness, and positivity. Another teacher described this student of the month as one of the most delightful and charming students she has had in her 20-year teaching career," Principal of Willis High School, Eric King, shared.

Highlights from this month's meeting include the unanimous approval of a mid-year salary increase for the current head football coach at Willis High School and a presentation of the Bilingual/ESL Program Evaluation Report by Frida Bond, the district's bilingual coordinator. The board also approved the reclassification of a position in the district, flooring and paint upgrades for A.R. Turner from Bond 2020, and the travel of the mentoring coordinators to Washington for the National Mentoring Annual Summit. The board tabled the presentation by TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System).

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be at the Willis High School PAC on December 13, 2023, at 5:30 PM.



Bond UPDATES

By now, you know that Willis is growing. Willis ISD has been preparing for this growth for many years, with three major bonds passed in 2015, 2020 and 2022. Below is a brief recap of those bonds and some updates with progress.

Bond 2020

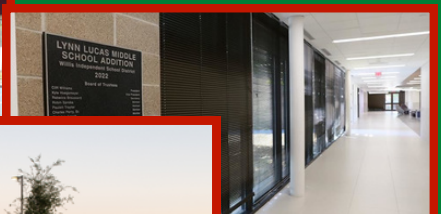
One Proposition - \$100,150,000 - no tax increase

District-Wide Facility Updates
(View PPT [HERE](#) with details)

Elementary Gym Additions (completed)

Lynn Lucas Middle School Expansion -
classrooms and science labs (completed)

New Roark Early Education Center
(opened in August 2022)



Bond 2022

Proposition A - \$143,045,000 - no tax increase

Elementary School #7

Middle School #3

Fine Arts Addition at LLMS

Upgrades-WHS Baseball/Softball Fields

Upgrades-Elementary Playground Equipment

Future Land Purchases



Proposition B at \$62,565,000 for a Football Stadium & Community Room, and Proposition C at \$19,390,000 for a Natatorium were both rejected by voters.

A Long-Range Facilities Planning committee has been meeting twice a month since August to discuss current and future district needs, and to consider the need to recommend a bond issue to the school board for a future vote.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

CALENDARS

VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

Boys Basketball

Dec 5 (Away)
Dec 7-9 (Away)
Dec 12 (Away)
Dec 15 (Home)
Dec 19 (Away)
Dec 28-30 (Away)

Golf

Dec 4 (Away)
Dec 5 (Away)

Wrestling

Dec 1-2 (Away)
Dec 8-9 (Away)
Dec 16 (Away)
Dec 29 (Away)

Swim & Dive

Dec 1 (Away)
Dec 14 (Away)

Girls Basketball

Dec 1-2 (Away)
Dec 5 (Home)
Dec 8 (Away)
Dec 12 (Home)
Dec 15 (Away)
Dec 18 (Home)
Dec 28-29 (Away)



FINE ARTS DATES

WHS Guitar
Willis Unplugged
December 4

LES 5th Grade
Christmas Program
December 5

BMS Band
Winter Concert
December 5

LLMS Choir
Winter Concert
December 5

PES Winter
Music Program
December 6

CCH 5th Grade
Winter Concert
December 7

MES 2nd Grade
Winter Concert
December 7

BMS Choir
Winter Concert
December 7

WHS Band
Winter Showcase
December 11

ART 5th Grade
Christmas Program
December 12

CES 5th Grade
Christmas Program
December 12

BMS/LLMS
Winter Orchestra
December 12

WHS Choir
Winter Concert
December 12

LLMS Band
Winter Concert
December 14

VIEW THE FULL ATHLETICS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

VIEW THE FULL FINE ARTS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

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*

Wildkat Attendance Corner

Willis ISD wants to help support you and your students maintain good attendance at school. Good attendance can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace.

**Our goal this year is to have
a district-wide attendance
rate of 94%!**



Did you know?

Research shows starting as early as preschool and kindergarten, chronic absences—missing 10% of the academic year—can leave third graders unable to read proficiently, sixth graders struggling with coursework and high school students off track for graduation.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

Wildkat Salon

You're invited for some holiday cheer, with beautiful skin, hair and nails this year!

Saturday 12/9/23
10am-4pm

Book With
Chernandez@willisid.org
Eberrigan@willisid.org

Manicure with Gel Polish- \$20
Manicure with Basic Polish- \$10
Pedicure with Basic Polish- \$20

10 Foil Highlight Special-\$25
(Toner Not Included)

Haircut and Blowdry- \$15
Keratin Treatment- \$10
Brazilian Bonding Treatment- \$20

Steamer Facial- \$25
Basic Facial- \$25

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

WINTER BREAK

Mon. December 18 -
Wed. January 3



Staff returns on Tues. Jan 2 and students return on Thurs. Jan 4.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*



Willis High School Automotive Program's 1st Annual

Car & Bike Show

&

*Toy
Drive*

Saturday, December 2, 10 AM - 2 PM

Registration Fee: \$25 or Unwrapped Toy
Registration ends at 12:00 PM

Santa will make an appearance and there will be Hot Wheel races!

WHS CTE
40 FM 830
Willis, TX
77378

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*



Friday, December 8

4:30 - 6 PM

AG Building - CTE Center

Christmas at the *Barn*

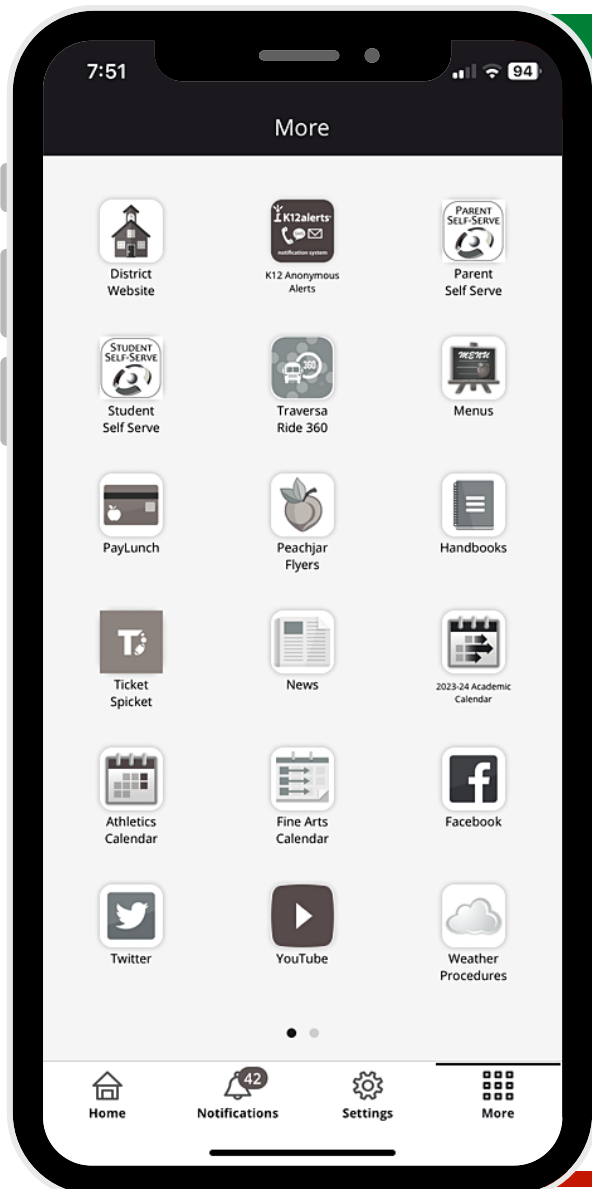
There will be fun, games, hot cocoa, a petting zoo, a firetruck, and more!

Psssst....Santa will be there too!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Willis ISD

Want to stay in the
know while on the go?

All event calendars for the 2023-24 school year are located in
the "More" tab of our app.



GET TO KNOW OUR CALENDARS



2023-24 Academic
Calendar

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.

The Voice of the Wildkats

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!



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

Contact the "Voice"

Follow On

Twitter
@wildkatphotos

Instagram
@voice.of.the.wildkats

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Willis ISD



Parent ProTech equips families, educators,
and students to thrive online. 📱🎮

We offer a:

1) Content Library
(available en español)

A graphic showing a desktop monitor, a laptop, and a smartphone, all displaying the Parent ProTech Content Library interface. The interface features a grid of colorful tiles representing different topics like social media, AI, and gaming. A blue padlock icon is visible on the smartphone screen.

Including platform how-tos, trends, and safety settings
covering social media, AI, gaming, streaming, and more

2) Digital Citizenship
Curriculum

A graphic of a laptop displaying a lesson plan for "Social Media Influencers". The screen shows a video of a woman and several discussion questions in Spanish, such as "¿Alguna vez has participado en internet en redes sociales?" and "¿Cómo crees que la influencia de las redes sociales afecta a la sociedad?".

Customizable lesson plans and
activities built by and for educators

3) Biweekly Newsletter
with Tech Updates

A graphic of a smartphone displaying a newsletter titled "Actualización de Seguridad". The screen shows a list of security updates and tips for staying safe online.

Platform updates tracked
for families and educators

For more information, visit parentprotech.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN *Willis ISD*

**HAVE AN IDEA FOR
A FEATURE?**

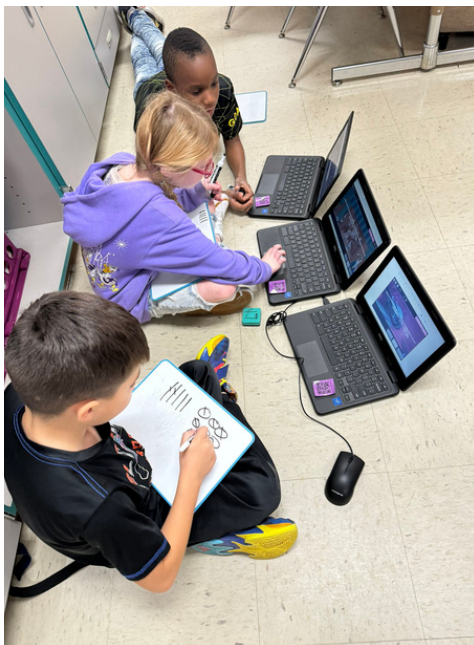
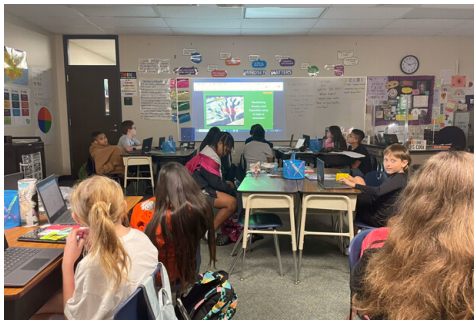
**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

**FILL OUT THE CLASSROOM VISIT FORM [HERE](#) OR SEND YOUR STORY
AND PHOTOS TO WISDCOMMUNICATIONS@WILLISISD.ORG**

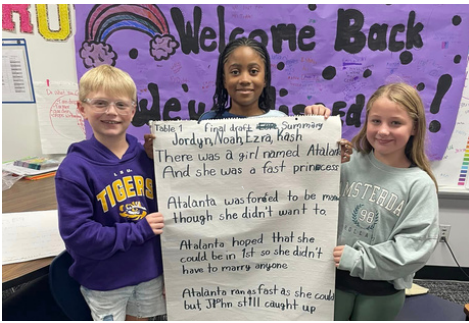
AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



AS SEEN ON Social Media



AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



WHAT'S THE

WORD

ON

Twitter?

2:02 PM · Nov 14, 2023 · 474 Views

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**
[@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!

DISTRICT PROFILES

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**Willis Independent
School District**

