

# WILDCAT IDEAS & INSPIRATIONS

AUGUST 2023 ISSUE 1



**Martin Torres**  
Interim Superintendent

## Welcome Back

I am delighted and privileged to begin the 2023-24 school year as your interim superintendent.

I am fully committed to our district and the extended community. To better serve, I learn from Fabens every single day. As Aristotle once said, "he who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader."

I have been visiting campuses as much as possible. These are exciting new days for this great Wildcat nation.

# Wildcat Ideas & Inspirations

Martin Torres - *Interim Superintendent*

There are several projects underway with a view to improving the district's buildings. By the end of July and beginning of August, O'Donnell Intermediate had three air conditioning units replaced in the gym. The community library had two units replaced and Fabens Middle School a total of five.

El Paso County is working with the district to get our crosswalks painted.

The middle school's parking lot was resurfaced and painted over the course of the summer. Additionally, the parking lot for the warehouse was completed.

The roof at the high school over the English wing was fixed.



## First Day of School





# Fabens Middle School

Monica Lyons - *Principal*

We held the 6th grade open house on Wednesday July 26th, to give out snacks, supplies, schedules, parent t-shirts and student draw stick back packs with wildcat logos.

We had a fantastic turnout.



# Fabens Elementary School

Veronica Brashear - *Principal*



FES has been busy preparing for our beginning of year. Our campus theme is “Learning, Growing, Succeeding, Together” We began our Professional Development with a fantastic convocation at Region 19 Starlight Center. It was a great day of learning and motivational speakers. FES had some time to get to know and introduce the new members of our Wildcat Family.



During our campus PD day teachers were received with garden themed decorations and pancakes made by the principals for breakfast. Then it was a full day of learning and fun. We invited Region 19 to present “6 ways to bring the Science of Reading into the Balance Literacy Class” and gave away Starbucks gift cards to our ice breaker winners.



Our Meet the Teacher on July 26 was a great success. Parents and students were able to stop by and meet their teacher. Parents were also able to complete their student registration. Our PEIMS clerk Ms. Blanca and district PEIMS Ms. Rosemary were on hand to help our parents.

# Special Education

Diane Flores - *Director*

Our Special Education Department provided amazing training for our teachers and paraprofessionals this past week that build on the district wide training of the Leader in ME. The trainings provided were:

- Together WE Work with Sheryl Wilcox for Elementary ECSE teachers and instructional paraprofessionals
- UDL (Universal Design for Learning) with Lisa Culler for all special education teachers and instructional special education paraprofessionals
- PLAAFP Training with Monica Quesada for all Sped teachers, diagnosticians, speech therapists, sped counselor, transition coordinator, at-risk coordinator
- X-Logs (Shars Training) for all special education staff documenting personal care data for students
- Make and Take session with district COTA (Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant) for all district special education paraprofessionals
- Behavior Strategies with David Saucedo (SPED Counselor) for all district special education paraprofessionals

## #SpedForward





# Technology & Security

Michael Perez - *Director*

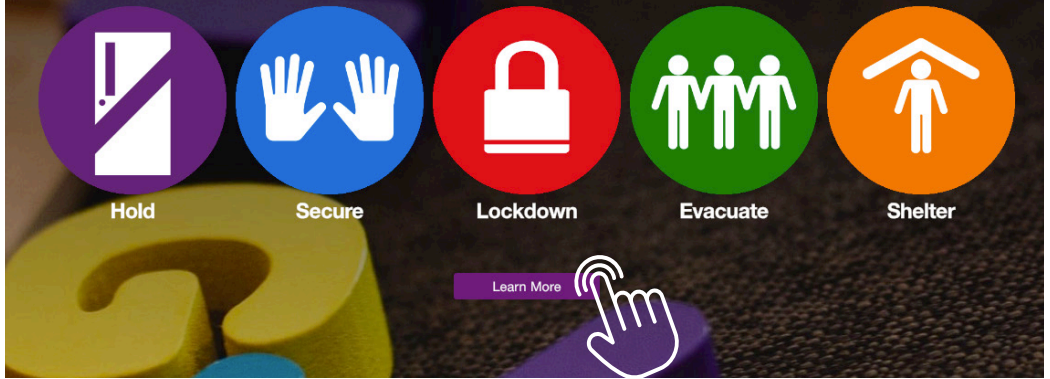
All new teachers have received a warm welcome with some training that included all technology services that the district has to offer. Very exciting to see ex-students that have made the decision to come back and give back to our district and students.

All classrooms now have a Meraki wireless access point to be able to connect quickly and have the necessary bandwidth for the everyday online homework, testing, and research.

Campus technicians are working closely with campus personnel to make sure all equipment is updated, connected, and ready for day one. This includes Chromebooks, labs, and all classroom equipment. Classlink is rostered, all network servers are updated, and all cloud services are ready for the new year.



# The building blocks of crisis response. New action. New look. SRP-2023



All new teachers, auxiliary, and campus support staff has been trained on school safety and procedures. We will build on what has been implemented and functioning at the campus and begin to create emergency plans and drills at all facilities. A mighty facility safety team has been put together to include a staff member at each facility that will take the lead to make sure safety is priority and drills are practiced throughout the year. Very excited to put this plan in action, as it has never been done before! Here we go! Safety First!

Phase 2 classroom rekey is in progress at all campuses. FHS and FMS completed, FES and O'Donnell are in progress.

Protective film purchase order has been submitted and will begin as soon as material arrives. A graphic rendering will be produced and shared before the work is started.

New 8-megapixel cameras have been installed to include mounts for exterior cameras at FES and O'Donnell. I am very excited about this much-needed surveillance upgrade.

New rear access control entrances have been installed at FES and FHS so that staff members can use their id cards to enter the buildings from the back of the campus. FES front entrance doors will be replaced/remodeled to provide a more secure entry way with center square tubing.

# Elementary

Jesus Barba - *Director*

There has been very positive feedback about the focus on building leadership skills through “Leader In Me.” We had positive Feedback about our District Convocation at the Starlight Event Center. This will be the first year of our Dual Language Expansion into FMS (6th grade only) and the 2nd year of our Dual Language Handbook. The District Literacy Framework began work this summer with a focus on Writing and Writing Across the Curriculum. There will be a continued partnership between Title III, Federal Programs, Migrant, MKV and SPED to ensure that we are giving multiple opportunities for Parent and Community Engagement.



# Secondary

Dr. Samuel Hogue - *Director*

Teachers and Staff participated in staff development activities beginning with Leader in Me on July 20, 2023. Throughout this past week, there were various sessions tailored to each content and grade level. Presenters were brought in which included Texas Reading + Writing, who worked with elementary and secondary ELA/reading teachers on the STAAR Short Constructed and Extended Response. Region 19 also provided sessions for math, science and social studies on instructional strategies and resources in each of their subject areas.

Elective teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals were also provided with professional growth opportunities in their respective areas. Fine Arts had the opportunity to attend presentations at UTEP on July 26, 2023, in cooperation with Socorro ISD. Career Tech Education and Physical Education/Health teachers were also able to join Socorro ISD for sessions at Pebble Hills High School on July 27, 2023.