



# Community Connection

Lead from the Heart • Lead for Results • Lead with Character

May 2024



Andres Lucvano Villa  
**Valedictorian**



**CLASS OF  
2024**



Skylar Leigh Goodman  
**Salutarian**

**University High School**



Samuel M. Everett  
**Valedictorian**



**CLASS OF  
2024**



Alexis JoAnn Hookham  
**Salutarian**

**Waco High School**

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Nearly 800 graduates received their high school diploma during the University High School, Waco High School, and Brazos High School graduation ceremonies. Best of luck to the newest group of Waco ISD alumni! [Click here](#) to learn more information about the remarkable valedictorians and salutarians from UHS and WHS.

[Click here](#) for photos and [here](#) to view the video from the University High graduation.

[Click here](#) for photos and [here](#) to view the video from the Waco High graduation.

[Click here](#) for photos and [here](#) to view the video from the Brazos High graduation.

**G.W. Carver Middle School Dedication Ceremony**



G.W. Carver Middle School added to its rich history with a dedication ceremony of the new state-of-the-art facility. A very special thank you to the G.W. Carver Middle School National Junior Honor Society, G.W. Carver Middle School Choir, G.W. Carver Middle School Panther Band, G.W. Carver Middle School student speakers, G.W. Carver Alumni Historical Committee, Waco High School JROTC Color Guard, Fiona Bond of Creative Waco, and the Cooper Foundation for helping to make the dedication possible. To view more photos from the dedication, [click here](#).

## Student and Staff Accolades



The Waco ISD District Art Show was recently held at Art Center Waco to showcase the creative talents of the district's students. The event provides an opportunity for the community to appreciate the artistic abilities and diverse expressions of the student artists. [Click here](#) to view more photos from the art show.



Waco ISD officially retired its Waco ISD Police Department K9, Dalton, after more than 900 service calls, more than 50 K9 presentations, and responded to inquiries, invitations, and pleas for assistance in many departments in McLennan County, including Waco, Hewitt, Lorena, McGregor, and other municipalities with his handler, Sgt. Larry Martinez. Together, Sgt. Martinez and Dalton have confiscated more than

70 pounds of illegal narcotics, uncovered 15 illegal weapons, seized more than \$20,000 in drug money, assisted in apprehending five dangerous criminals, located two missing senior citizens, and ensured one missing child was returned safely to his family. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Dalton!

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The Waco Education Foundation's SurPRIZE Patrol surprised 49 teachers with the exciting news that their 37 grant applications were approved for funding for the 2024-2025 school year. This year, the Foundation awarded \$153,902, bringing the total amount of grants funded over the past decade and a half to more than \$2.3 million! [Click here](#) to learn more about the 2024-2025 grants. [Click here](#) to view photos from the grant presentations.

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Waco High School Theatre students recently competed in the UIL state championship competition. Congratulations to the following students as you all demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication, and represented Waco ISD well at the state level!

- Lydia Allen - State Qualification in Hair and Makeup Design
- Lily Howell - 6th place in Scenic Design
- Eisely Lawson - 4th place in Costume Design
- Eleanor Rhodes - Selected to serve on Honor Crew



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Congratulations to the Waco ISD 2023-2024 Principal of the Year, Lake Air Montessori Principal Christi Yourman! Waco ISD could not be more grateful for Mrs. Yourman and her leadership.



Congratulations to the 2023-2024 District Teachers of the year! Giselle Vento and Gina Pasisis will represent Waco ISD at the Region 12 Teacher of the Year competition with the goal of advancing to the Texas Teacher of the Year contest.



Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Virginia DuPuy First Year Teacher Award recipients, Deanna Carreon at Kendrick Elementary School, and Cole Alex at Cesar Chavez Middle School!

The Virginia DuPuy First Year Teacher Award was established by Waco ISD 13 years ago and is given to an elementary teacher and secondary teacher who are selected from one of the district's many "rising stars" in the teaching profession. The award is named after a former teacher, a former mayor, and one of Waco's strongest and most well-known education advocates, Mrs. Virginia DuPuy.

Congratulations to Principal Alonzo McAdoo of University High School for being named the 2023-2024 ESC Region 12 Secondary Leader of the Year Award - High School at the



Bilingual and ESL Award Awards Ceremony! This is a testament to his outstanding leadership, dedication, and passion for bilingual education!

Congratulations to Waco ISD Special Education teacher Ethan Morris who was named Whataburger's WHATATeacher in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week! Mr. Morris received a \$1,000 grant that will benefit WISD's Special Olympics program. Many thanks to Whataburger for its support of Waco ISD's staff and students!



## Message from the Board President



Dear Waco ISD Community,

I can not think of a better way to end the school year than by shaking hands to congratulate the nearly 800 graduates as they crossed the stage during the three graduation ceremonies. This year was nothing short of amazing, and I loved having a front row seat watching the Waco community support our students and staff time and again.

On behalf of the board, a simple “thank you” cannot begin to express how much your partnership is valued and appreciated. Working together, we will continue to help our students flourish creating a better future and ultimately a stronger community. None of it would be possible without your continued support. We are so appreciative of your partnership and hope you and your family have a fantastic summer break!

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Korteweg*



# Board Meeting



Did you miss the May 16 Board of Trustees meeting? [Click here](#) for the full board meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, beginning at 6 p.m. in the WISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street, Waco, Texas.

## Outstanding Community Partner

Each month, Waco ISD recognizes a community partner making a difference for students and staff with the award for Outstanding Community Partner. In May, McLennan Community College and Texas State Technical College were selected to receive the award for their unending support of our students and staff.



## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

The 2023-2024 school year has officially come to an end. May was filled with many wonderful celebrations and recognitions of our students. The highlight, of course, was graduation. Although weather presented challenges for us, we persevered and had beautiful ceremonies to honor the Class of 2024. As this group of alumni prepare to join the workforce or further their education, I am proud to watch each of them thrive. Each has the potential to do great things and will no doubt make Waco ISD proud!

The school year began with the opening of the new G.W. Carver Middle School and beam signings at Tennyson Middle School and Waco High School. South Waco Elementary renovations began and ground was broken for the new Kendrick Elementary. Last week, we ended the school year with a dedication event for G.W. Carver Middle School. It was an honor to celebrate a new chapter in the school's rich history,



and I hope you were able to see some of the media highlights of the event.

This summer, the new Tennyson Middle School will be completed and will welcome its first group of students in August. This new school will improve the environment for teaching and learning for students and staff with new equipment and furnishings all designed and carefully selected for today's students. The new Tennyson will add its story to the rich history of Waco ISD.

Important work will continue to happen over the summer with staff professional development, summer feeding programs, construction projects forging ahead, and facility cleaning and enhancements all across the district. The summer months will go by quickly as we prepare to welcome students and staff back in August for another amazing year!

Sincerely,

*Susan Kincannon, Ed.D.*



Waco ISD bid a fond farewell to fifty employees who are entering life's next journey of retirement. The retirees service to public education totaled 1,255 years with 958 of those in Waco ISD! These incredible members of the Waco ISD family will truly be missed! [Click here](#) to view more photos from the retirement ceremony.



This month's Classroom Close-Up highlights the district's Special Olympics program.



# WACO ISD AUXILIARY JOB FAIR SUMMER 2024

- Child Nutrition
- Custodial
- Transportation
- Maintenance
- Utility
- Plumbers
- Groundskeeping
- HVAC

June 26, 2024  
4 p.m.- 6 p.m.  
Heart of Texas Goodwill  
1700 S. New Road

REGISTER AT [WWW.WACOISD.ORG/HUMANRESOURCES](http://WWW.WACOISD.ORG/HUMANRESOURCES).

## Community Resources



**WISD SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM**  
May 28, 2024 - August 8, 2024  
Closed June 19 and July 4

Free breakfast and lunch at various campuses, community and mobile sites.

Children ages 18 and younger, regardless of where they live or go to school.

No paperwork required.

**WACOISD.ORG/SUMMERMEALS**

Please contact WISD Child Nutrition Services with any questions: 254-405-9638. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



We can all play a part in helping to keep Waco ISD safe! Our anonymous online reporting system, STOPit, is available to all students, staff, families, and the community. You can report bullying, violence, and other safety concerns anytime by following this link: [www.wacoisd.org/STOPit](http://www.wacoisd.org/STOPit).



**Free Bus Rides**  
for all Waco ISD students

More Information  
**254-750-1900**  
[www.waco-texas.com/transit](http://www.waco-texas.com/transit)

WISD  
FREE APP  
RIDE SYSTEMS

Did you know ALL Waco ISD students ride FREE on the Waco Transit System? Yes, even during summer break! Take advantage of this great resource today.

Visit <http://wacotransit.ridesystems.net/routes>  
Download the Ride System app.





Try email marketing for free today!