



Community Connection

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

February 2024



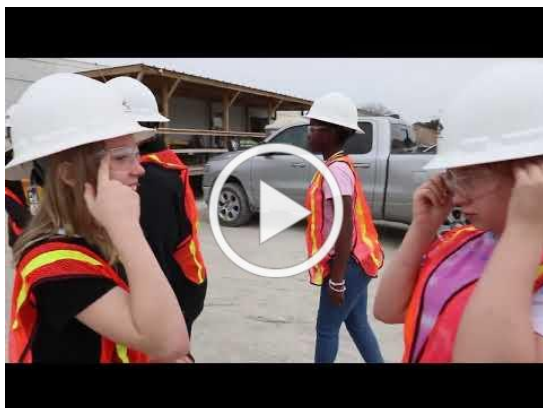
Kendrick Elementary *Groundbreaking Ceremony*



Campus Construction Updates

Demolition of Kendrick Elementary is officially complete, and clean-up is now underway at the site. The new 93,000 square foot building will be completed in 2025. [Click here](#) to learn more about the benefits the new school will provide our students and staff. [Click here](#) to

view photos of the demolition.



Construction Ambassadors, a group of 30 students from Tennyson Middle School, had the opportunity to experience hands-on STEM lessons provided by CORE Construction. The new 184,000 square foot building will be completed in Fall 2024. [Click here](#) to view more construction updates. [Click here](#) to view photos of the students and this fantastic learning experience.

Staff, School Board members, and members of the community celebrated the progress at South Waco Elementary. The new 91,600 square foot additions and renovations with the capacity of 750 students will be completed in 2025. [Click here](#) to view more construction updates. [Click here](#) to view photos from the celebration.



Instructional Calendar Revision

All campuses will be closed on April 8, 2024, due to the eclipse. Students will now attend school on April 15, which was originally reserved as a bad weather day.

Waco ISD 2023-2024 Instructional Calendar

JULY						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY						
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27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY						
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SEPTEMBER						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

OCTOBER						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL						
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NOVEMBER						
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26	27	28	29	30		

MAY						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Total Minutes: 78,045
 Total Student Days: 162
 Additional Minutes: 2,445
 Additional Days: 5.26
 Teacher Workdays: 187

Protected Planning Days
 9/15, 10/20, 12/8, 2/2, 3/28

Professional Development Days
 9/25, 10/30, 11/17, 3/1

Campus Days 1/8 (half-day)
Teacher Work Day 8/9, 1/8 (half-day), 5/24

Key	
 	Student Holiday/Staff Inservice or Workday
 	Staff Inservice/Comp Day
 	Student and Staff Holiday
 	Beginning of 6-week
 	End of 6-week
 	Early Student Release/Staff Inservice
 	New Staff Orientation
 	Bad Weather Day

Holidays	
9/4/2023	Labor Day
10/9/2023	Columbus Day
11/20/2023-11/24/2023	Thanksgiving Break
12/21/2023-1/5/2024	Winter Break
1/15/2024	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
2/19/2024	President's Day
3/4-3/8/2024	Spring Break
3/29/2024	Good Friday

Six Week Instructional Days		
28 days	8/14/2023	9/22/2023
26 days	9/26/2023	11/3/2023
26 days	11/6/2023	12/20/2023
1st Semester	80	
27 days	1/9/2024	2/16/2024
30 days	2/20/2024	4/12/2024
28 days	4/16/2024	5/23/2024
2nd Semester	85	
Total	165	

Early Release Day(s)	
Wednesday, December 20, 2023	
Wednesday, May 22, 2024	
Thursday, May 23, 2024	

Bad Weather Make-up Day(s)	

School Start and End Times	
ES Regular	7:45 - 3:30 / 465 min
ES Early Release	7:45 - 12:30 / 285 min
MS Regular	8:30 - 4:15 / 465 min
MS Early Release	8:30 - 1:15 / 285 min
HS Regular	8:30 - 4:15 / 465 min
HS Early Release	8:30 - 1:15 / 285 min
LAMMS Regular	7:45 - 3:30 / 465 min
LAMMS Early Release	7:45 - 12:30 / 285 min

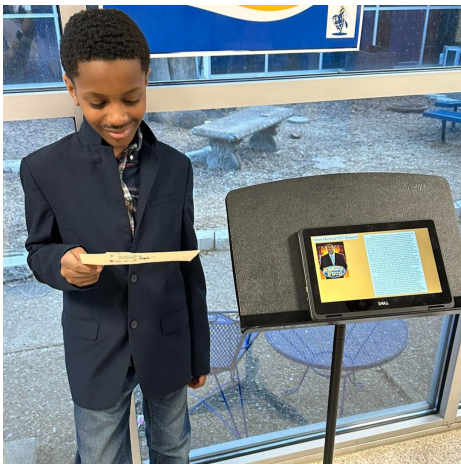


H-E-B Celebrity Cookoff



The 19th Annual H-E-B Celebrity Cookoff was a huge success! Twenty-five "celebrity" chefs/teams along with community sponsors helped to raise more than \$134,000. The event benefits the Waco ISD Education Foundation, and all funds go directly back into classrooms for innovative teacher grants. To view more photos from the event, [click here](#). To watch a recap video of the event, [click here](#).

Black History Month Celebrations



Black History Month was celebrated across the district with campuses hosting multiple events and students participating in learning opportunities that highlighted the contributions and history of African Americans.



Kids Future Chefs National Challenge

Waco ISD 3rd-5th graders whipped up their favorite homemade recipes in the Kids Future Chefs National Challenge! Thank you to our WISD Child Nutrition Services team for partnering with each student to ensure their success! To view more photos from the event, [click here](#). To watch a recap video of the event, [click here](#).



Career and Technical Education Month

February is Career & Technology Education Month! Students can enroll in career classes such as criminal justice, health sciences, welding, robotics, culinary arts, and more. Featured here, Waco ISD's Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy (GWAMA) students created metal roses ahead of Valentine's Day. This project helped them to learn not just about different welding techniques, but also how to using their welding skills to create art.



Message from the Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,

The Educational Foundation's Celebrity Cookoff event was an incredible reminder of the community's support of Waco ISD. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the event, purchased tables, made donations, and attended the event. It was great to see the community come together for such a fun evening.



This past month, the district hosted a series of focus groups for parents, community leaders, students, and staff to provide feedback as a part of our re-branding efforts. Facilitators from World Design Marketing received rich examples that illustrate what makes Waco ISD so special. All of the information that was gathered will shape the story of a new brand and logo for the district. I am excited to see what our consultants recommend, and look forward to sharing it with the community in the coming months.

Waco ISD is blessed to have such a supportive community! On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for your unwavering support of our kids and staff.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Korteweg

Board Meeting Recap



Did you miss the February 22 Board of Trustees meeting? Get a quick update by watching the meeting recap video.

[Click here](#) for the full board meeting from February 22, 2024.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 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 February, H-E-B was selected to receive the award for its generous contributions to WISD.



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Leaders,

Waco ISD's decision to close school on April 8th was a hard one as we truly wanted to enjoy a day of learning activities about the eclipse with our students. However, we realized the significance of the unique event on our community resources and felt it necessary to close for the day. We will actively work to set our students up in advance to safely enjoy the event at home. I'm thankful to our teachers who are providing resources and activities to make this possible.

It has been so gratifying to celebrate the successes of our students and staff this month. Each celebration reminds me of the positive momentum that's happening in Waco ISD in so many areas. On Tuesday evening, the University High School boys basketball team will compete in Regional Quarter Finals, the third round of playoffs. This is the furthest that the team has advanced since 2017. I am looking forward to cheering them on at Gatesville High School at 7:00 p.m.

I am grateful for the support of this wonderful community. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

Susan Kincannon, Ed.D.



Congratulations, Round of Applause, Kudos!



Isabel Lozano, principal at Kendrick Elementary, was named the Region 12 Principal of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals & Supervisors Association.

TEPSA REGION 12 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Diana Guajardo, Assistant Principal of Kendrick Elementary in Waco ISD, has been named the 2024 Region 12 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). The peer-based award recognizes assistant principals from the 20 TEPSA Regions across the state for their commitment to student learning as evidenced by exceptional school leadership.



Chantel Gunness, counselor at Hillcrest PDS, was named the ESC Region 12 Primary Counselor of the Year.



Coach Kaeron Johnson, University High School football coach, was named a regional Texas High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year.



In celebration of Black History Month, February's Classroom Close-Up discusses the history of Stepping and features demonstrations with students from Dean Highland Elementary, Waco High, and G.W. Carver Middle School.



We are grateful for our amazing bus drivers who safely transport our students to and from school! These amazing members of the Waco ISD family were honored on School Bus Driver Appreciation Day and we appreciate them every single day.

Community Resources



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.

Free Bus Rides
for all Waco ISD students

More Information:
254-750-1900
www.waco-texas.com/transit

Waco ISD
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.

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