



Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

August 2024



Class is officially in session as the first school bell rang on August 14 to kick off the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you to our students, parents, staff, and community partners for making these first few weeks so successful. Click [here](#) to view more first day photos from across the district.

New Tennyson Middle School Opens



The new Tennyson Middle School officially opened its doors, marking the historic first day of school in the new building. Band members, cheerleaders, student athletes, and staff brought fantastic excitement and showed the community that the Tennyson Texans plan to make this the best school year yet! Click [here](#) to watch KWTX's coverage and [here](#) to watch KCEN's coverage.

**TENNYSON
MIDDLE SCHOOL
DEDICATION**

TEXANS



WACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



You're invited to
the dedication of
Tennyson Middle School
to honor the
past, present,
and future!

Monday, September 23, 2024
11 a.m.
6001 Sanger Avenue

Kendrick Elementary Beam Signing & Topping Out



Kendrick Elementary students, staff, alumni and community members had the opportunity to 'leave their mark' on the final beam that was used in the construction

of the new school. Once the signatures were collected, the beam was hoisted and placed in its final location. The 93,000 square foot building is scheduled to open August 2025. Click [here](#) to view more photos from the event.



Student and Staff Accolades



Waco ISD students and staff continued to work through the summer to prepare our final graduating class of the 2023-2024 school year. Congratulations to the 2024 summer graduates! Click [here](#) to view more photos.





In the 2023-2024 school year, 20 Waco ISD campuses earned the designation as No Place for Hate schools. Each school formed a coalition of students and staff who developed and implemented at least three school-wide activities during the year. Examples of these activities included donation drives for Pack of Hope, participating in "Stomp Out Bullying Day," and class discussions on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. Click [here](#) to view more photos.



Congratulations to 40 Waco ISD high school students who qualified for and competed at the Texas Association of Future Educators Conference with 21 advancing to the National Educators Rising Conference in Washington, DC. Click [here](#) to view more photos.

Through the Subaru Loves Learning® initiative, Douglass Subaru surprised 10 Kendrick Elementary teachers with \$500 each to purchase classroom supplies! Thank you, Subaru! Click [here](#) to view more photos.



Congratulations to UHS Coach Kyle Chapman who was honored by the McLennan County Commissioner's Court for his impact on students through sports programs and community service work.

9th grade students on an accelerated academic track from both University High and Waco High Schools visited McLennan Community College for Highlander Day. Many of these students will begin working toward an Associate Degree.



Congratulations to the UHS Theater Arts Department for earning Distinction status from the Texas Educational Theatre Association, Inc. This honor is earned by offering advanced classes in Theatre Production, Stagecraft, Design,



and Management and following a TEKS-aligned curriculum. Katy Davis is the UHS Technical Theatre Director. Larry Carpenter is the Fine Arts Director.

Message from the Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,

The school year has gotten off to a fantastic start, and I am thrilled to see our schools come alive with learning from Pre-K students all the way to our Senior Class of 2025! It will be a great year watching our students build on their achievements and grow academically.

Our school leaders, teachers, and staff did an amazing job of preparing for and welcoming our students and families. It was extremely rewarding to see our community come together to support our students as well. From providing backpacks full of school supplies to greeting students on the first day of school, Waco ISD's students were shown that they are important to the community and loved. We are truly blessed with wonderful community partners.

In true partnership fashion, Waco ISD is committed to being a good community partner as well. Together, with the support and collaboration of students, parents, teachers, and the community, this school year, we are destined for greatness!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Korteweg



Board Meeting Recap



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

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

The next regular meeting will be held on September 19 at 6 p.m. in the WISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street.

Outstanding Community Partner

In August, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District was selected as Waco ISD's Outstanding Community Partner for their ongoing support and ensuring that

students' immunizations were up to date for the start of the school year.



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

As we begin a new school year, I am filled with excitement about the opportunities that lie ahead for our students, teachers and staff. It warms my heart to have our schools filled with classrooms of students eager to learn and teachers ready to impart wisdom in our journey to meet Waco ISD's vision of creating a better future for all.

I was thrilled to start the 35th first day of school of my professional career celebrating the opening of the new Tennyson Middle School. The joy I witnessed from students and staff that morning will certainly be a highlight of my career. The new school brings improved instructional spaces and modern technology, all in a safe and secure building.

Tennyson Middle School students will have every advantage in securing a great foundation for the future. I know that next year's opening of the new Kendrick Elementary will be equally as special for our elementary students.

Prior to the start of the school year, the district unveiled a new logo as well as a new branding campaign. I hope you will take time to watch the video below. It captures what we heard from students, staff, parents and community leaders about the unique and special ways that Waco ISD nurtures and educates students. Each and every day, our students and staff remind us that *Wisdom Works Wonders!*

Sincerely,

Susan Kincannon, Ed.D.





WACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Waco ISD is excited to share its new brand. Please take a moment to watch this video explaining the representation and meaning of the new logo, and help the district share its story.

The Highly Mobile Department received 500 pairs of shoes from the Soles for Souls organization to benefit students who are homeless. This is the second year the district has received the donation. 7th & James Baptist Church in Waco oversees and stocks the Clothing Closet and has shelved the shoes so that they are available to our students.



Family Fest was a huge success! The event offered free health screenings, immunizations, entertainment, lunch and a free backpack filled with school supplies for each registered student. Many thanks to our numerous community partners and staff for making the event possible for our students and families. Click [here](#) to view photos from the event.

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



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.

concerns anytime by following this link:
www.wacoisd.org/STOPit.

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

Waco ISD | 501 Franklin Ave | Waco, TX 76701 US

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