LONGHORN STAMPEDE

February District Newsletter

From the Desk of: Dr. Elna Davis, TISD Superintendent of School



As we move through this semester, I want to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students and staff. This past month has been filled with moments of pride, and I couldn't be more honored to recognize the talent, dedication, and commitment that make Tarkington ISD truly special.

First, congratulations to our **art students** who showcased their creativity at the **Rodeo Art Show**! Their hard work and artistic talent have been recognized, and we are incredibly proud of how they represented our district. Their achievements remind us that excellence comes in many forms, and we celebrate each student's unique gifts.

Additionally, this month, we had the privilege of awarding **eight outstanding students** with **Character Awards**—a testament to their integrity, leadership, and kindness. These students embody the values we hold dear at **Tarkington ISD** and set an example for their peers.

Our **Employee of the Month visits** were another highlight, allowing us to personally recognize the hard-working individuals who go above and beyond for our students every day. Their dedication is the foundation of our district's success, and we are grateful for their unwavering commitment.

A special honor also goes to **Georgia Yancey**, who was recognized as the **Tarkington ISD 2024 Commitment to Education: Community Award Honoree**. Her impact on our schools and students is immeasurable, and this award is a well-deserved recognition of her efforts to support education in our community.

Celebrating these accomplishments, we remain focused on our ultimate goal—student academic growth and success. Please work with your child's teacher and school to support growth and learning by ensuring your child completes all assignments timely. Remind them that if they are not behaving in school, they will not learn. Take time to listen to your elementary students read and/or encourage your middle school and high school students to read chapter books. The final stretch of the school year is upon us, and our teachers, staff, and students are committed to finishing strong. Every lesson taught, every challenge overcome, and every moment of effort contributes to the bigger picture of preparing our students for their future.

Together, we will continue to **Strive, Thrive, and Achieve**—ensuring that every student reaches their fullest potential.



Celebrating Mrs. Chambers

Recognizing Mrs. Chambers earning her degree!



Georgia Yancey

Tarkington Independent School District 2024 Commitment to Education: Community Award Honoree



Students of Character

Students recognized for their integrity, kindness, and leadership.



Leading the Way!

Jessica Hamilton-HS Art
Lee Williams-MS Art
Susan Greak-TES Art



Life's a Canvas

Make it colorful!



Art Show(down)!

This gallery has me drawn in!

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Powerlifting Meet @Sabine HS THS Baseball@ Pollok Central HS
2	3 TMS Girls Basketball @ TMS TMS Boys Basketball @ Hardin Jefferson TECS Kinder Fieldtrip- Children's Museum Belles Dance Recital @ THS Gym	← ← ← School 4 Jr Beta Meeting 5pm TMS Band Booster 6:30pm THS 2/3 UIL Writing Comp 1-3pm THS Boys/Girls Basketball @ Huffman TMS Second Cup Coffee 7:30ar THS Baseball @ Vidor HS JV Tennis Match @ Splendora	Counselor Appreciation Week 5 THS Boys Golf @ Chambers Country Club THS College/Career Fair 9-11am 4/5 UIL Writing Comp 1-3pm **Donkey Basketball THS 6pm**	6 THS Juniors Youth Career Expo Fieldtrip Powerlifting Meet@ TMS THS Girls Golf @ Brentwood CC Belles @ Dance Competition	→ → → 7 THS Baseball scrimmage **TMS Valentines Dance 6pm** Belles @ Dance Competition	8 Powerlifting Meet @ Trinity HS Belles @ Dance competition
9	10 Belles Mandatory Parent Try Out Meeting THS 6:30pm	11 TMS STEM club Rm 305 4pm THS Boys Basketball @ Hardin Jefferson THS Baseball @ LCM HS TMS Campus Improvement Meeting @ 5:30pm	12 THS Career Prep Seniors- Intern for a Day @ Toyota Ctr. 1st grade fieldtrip @ Houston Interactive aquarium **100th Day of School**	13 THS Boys Golf @ Bayou Din THS Baseball Media Day 11:30am	14 2nd Grade Field Trip @ Children's Museum THS Var Baseball Scrimmage-Home THS JV Baseball @Sealy HS **THS Senior Retakes** Happy Valentine's Day!	15 **National School Resource Officer Day**
16	President's Day **No School** 17 Var Baseball game @Diboll THS Girls golf @Wildwood CC THS Cheer Tryout Week **FFA Week**	18 THS Cheer Tryout Week THS Baseball @home THS Tour Lamar Inst. Tech TMS Girls track meet @ Splendora TMS Boys Track Meet home **FFA Week**	19 THS Cheer Tryout Week **FFA Week**	20 THS Cheer Tryout Week JV Tennis Match @ Livingston THS Boys Golf @ Henry Homberg GC TMS Mandatory Parent Cheer Tryout Meet 6pm Var Baseball @Lufkin Hudson JV Baseball @ Onalaska	21 THS Cheer Tryout Week Var Baseball @Lufkin Hudson JV Baseball @ Onalaska Solo/Ensemble Contest @TMS FFA Week HS Track Meet @Dayton **4th Six Weeks Ends**	22 Solo/Ensemble Contest @TMS
23	24 THS Girls Golf @ Liberty GC Belles Tryouts **5th Six Weeks Begins**	25 Belles Tryouts THS Baseball (Home Opener) TMS Girls Track @ New Waverly TMS Boys Track @ Coldspring TMS PTO Meeting 5:30pm **Night of Percussion Concert 7pm TMS Auditorium**	26 Belles Tryouts SCG Parent Engagement Meeting @ TES 5:30 JV/Var Tennis Match @Liberty HS THS boys golf @ Liberty GC	27 THS girls golf @ Babe Zaharis GC SCG Team Meet 4:30pm Var Cleveland Rotary Baseball Tourn@ Cleveland Belles Tryouts HS Track Meet @ Liberty **Report Cards Go Home**	28 Belles Tryouts Var Cleveland Rotary Baseball Tourn@ Cleveland Belles Tryouts THS JV Baseball @ Liberty	

PDF **February.pdf**

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176.2 KB

Strive ★ Thrive ★ Achieve
TARKINGTON ISD

Campus Updates



Early Childhood/Elementary

Tarkington Elementary welcomes Dr. Robert Davis as our Discipline Coordinator for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Robert Davis comes to us with a wealth of experience, having served as both a principal and assistant principal for over 10 years in Splendora ISD. He will be joining us on a part-time basis each day, helping to ensure that our campus runs smoothly and that all students' needs continue to be met with care and attention.



Jan Wolcik
TECS Teacher of the Month



Theresa Eiland
TECS Paraprofessional of the Month



Tonya Rawls
Administrator of the Month



Deanna Hawthorne
TES Teacher of the Month



Cynthia DeYoung
TES Para of the Month



Welcome to TES!
Dr. Robert Davis
Discipline Coordinator

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Tarkington Middle School

After fall benchmarks at TMS, all core teachers presented their middle of the year data to the TMS admin team. The teachers have some great plans moving forward on how best to respond to the data and move students to where they need to be ahead of STAAR. Last week, TMS counselor and campus admin worked together to ensure all students chose their course preferences for next year. We are excited to work on schedules in the coming weeks!

Yearbook Information: Would you like to purchase your child's yearbook for the 2024-2025 school year? If so, please follow the directions below to order.

1. Go to jostens.com/buyyearbk
2. Click "Order Yearbook" button
3. Type in Tarkington into the search bar.
4. Choose the Middle School or High School. (depending upon which school your student attends)
5. Click "Order My Yearbook"
6. The next steps offer optional add ons, such as personalization, icons, and accessories.
7. Finish with the student's information and payment.



Sean Howard
TMS Teacher of the Month



Shari Gilmore
TMS Paraprofessional of the Month



DR. MARY LARIVIERE
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Tarkington High School

Attention Senior Parents
FAFSA is officially open, and it's time for your student to apply for financial aid if they haven't already. This is a graduation requirement, so don't miss this important step!
Need assistance
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mECzYkY0eE
https://studentaid.gov/resources#college-prep-and-play

If your student has already filed for FAFSA, please complete this form to let Mrs. Patrick know so she can update transcripts accordingly. Please use the link below:
https://docs.google.com/.../1BiWL2GqLSpeOpFst.../viewform...
Questions: please contact apatrick@tarkingtonisd.net or 281-592-7739

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2. Click "Order Yearbook" button
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7. Finish with the student's information and payment.



Kerry Bentley
THS Teacher of the Month



Toye Dugat
THS Paraprofessional
of the Month

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Department Updates



Athletics

The athletic department is in full swing with multiple sports going on. Baseball, softball, Track, Tennis, and Golf have all began. Boys and Girls basketball are finishing up the regular season, the boys are currently in 4th place with a record of 23-8 ready for another playoff run. Jackson Stovall recently scored his 1000th point on Jan. 31, Calvin Ellington reached this goal of 1000 points back on Dec. 12th. Powerlifting team recently competed at Sabine High Multiple athletes received medals for outstanding performances. The Athletic department has began its Student character development lessons and will continue those every week until school is out.

TOBY BELT
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Attendance, PEIMS, and Registration

The PEIMS Department would like to welcome Ms. Brittany Ridge to our PEIMS team. Ms. Ridge has accepted the position of our Registrar/Counselor's Secretary at Tarkington High School. Ms. Ridge comes to us with Four years of experience and has done a great job of stepping in and rocking like a rock star!
The PEIMS department is busy with closing out the first semester and starting the second semester. The secondary campuses have begun the process of scheduling for the upcoming

school year.

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Business & Finance



After **30 incredible years** of dedication and service to **TISD**, **Sandy Abke, Business Office Specialist**, has retired. Her hard work, kindness, and commitment have made a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed. 💜
Please join us in wishing Sandy a happy and fulfilling retirement! 🎉
We also welcome **Mrs. Alyna Hitchcock**, who will be stepping into the role. We're excited to have her on board and look forward to the great work she will do!
The annual audit has successfully been completed and is located on the TISD business page.
https://www.tarkingtonisd.net/departments/business-office

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Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Campuses are actively developing tutoring schedules and STAAR prep activities to ensure students are well-prepared for the upcoming testing season. These efforts will include incentive plans to reward students for attending tutorials and engaging in their learning, such as prizes, recognition, or special events.

Parents should watch for letters or notifications from their child's campus containing important dates, details about tutoring sessions, and information on the incentive programs. Teachers have been working diligently all year to cover all required TEKS in every content area, providing students with the knowledge and skills needed for success. Your support and involvement as parents are vital during this preparation period and throughout the year!

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Child Nutrition & Custodial Services

Child Nutrition:
Kicking off in February, students and staff at designated campuses will have the opportunity to sample foods and offer evaluations for the 2025-2026 school year's menu during ***Taste it Tuesdays***.

Custodial Services:
With the changing weather, illness-causing germs are more prevalent. Our dedicated **custodial team** is working hard to keep our schools clean and safe by implementing **enhanced cleaning protocols**. We appreciate their efforts in minimizing the spread of germs! Their enhanced cleaning efforts include:
✓ **Disinfecting high-touch surfaces** like doorknobs, desks, and handrails
✓ **Deep cleaning classrooms and common areas** to eliminate lingering germs
✓ **Restocking hand sanitizers and soap** to promote healthy habits
We appreciate their hard work in keeping our schools safe and encourage everyone to do their part by practicing good hygiene!



Carla Alaniz
Custodial
Employee of the Month

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CRYSTAL MOORE
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Communications

February is full of fun days to celebrate. While not all of them are recognized locally, you might find one or two that you might wish to take part in.

Groundhog Day:
Celebrated every year on February 2, **Groundhog Day 2025** falls on a Sunday. It's a day when townsfolk in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, gather in Gobbler's Knob to watch as an unsuspecting furry marmot is plucked from his burrow to predict the weather for the rest of the winter.
Shadow vs. No Shadow Folklore
People often get confused about what it means if the groundhog sees his shadow or not. Let's clear it up. According to folklore:

- If Phil *does* see his shadow (meaning the Sun is shining) on Groundhog Day, winter will not end early, and we'll have another 6 weeks of it.
- If Phil *doesn't* see his shadow (cloudy) we'll have an **early spring**.

What Did Punxsutawney Phil Predict for 2025? Phil predicted six more weeks of winter in 2025.

Other Fun Dates in February:
Feb 9 – National Pizza Day (Perfect excuse for a pizza party!)
Feb 11 – Super Bowl Sunday (Game day snacks, anyone?)
Feb 13 – Galentine's Day (Celebrate friendship!)
Feb 14 – Valentine's Day (Show some love and kindness!)
Feb 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day (Do something nice for someone!)
Feb 20 – National Love Your Pet Day (Give extra cuddles to your furry friends!)
Feb 26 – Tell a Fairy Tale Day (Great for storytelling fun!)

STEPHANIE YOUNG
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
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Health Services

Our school nurses have been working hard to keep all of our students healthy. Here's how you can help to:

When you should keep your child home from school for illness:
- A student with a fever (a temperature of 100 or higher) must stay home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
-A student with severe cold symptoms such as consistent coughing or significant lack of energy should stay home until symptoms improve.
-Keep a student at home if they're diagnosed with strep throat. They can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.
-A student with any vomiting or diarrhea must stay home until diarrhea/vomit free for 24 hours.
-A student with pink eye (conjunctivitis) should be kept at home until evaluated by a medical provider and return to school 24 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment.
-Do not send a student with a rash of unknown origin to school until evaluated by a medical provider – especially with additional symptoms like itching, fever or appearing ill.

PDF **School health advisory council.pdf** Download 177.1 KB

TIFFANY MORGAN
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Human Resources



Sub Trainings

The next substitute training is scheduled for February 12, 2025. If you would like to be a substitute in the district; please click the link below and fill out an application. Once your application is processed, HR will reach out to you with information on attending the training.

https://tarkingtonisd.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx

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Maintenance

Our **maintenance team** works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our schools safe, functional, and looking great! Their hard work makes a difference every day—**thank you, Maintenance Team!**



Clark Jefferson
Maintenance
Employee of the Month

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SARA DAVIS
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Special Programs

Through our Stronger Connections Grant, TISD has been able to partnership with Daybreak Mental Health. Free telehealth counseling is available to our students. With parent consent, our school counselors have been making referrals and setting students up for Daybreak Psychotherapy sessions with Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC's). We have already seen great success with this program.

TISD is offering **Parent Engagement Mental Health Services nights** for our community. The first meeting was held January 29th with a Meet & Greet of Nick Beard, LPC with Daybreak. Please join us for our next upcoming Family Engagement Night on February 26, 5:30pm at TES.

The following dates have been scheduled:
February 26, 2025 - TES cafeteria 5:30 pm
March 26, 2026 - THS Commons 5:30 pm

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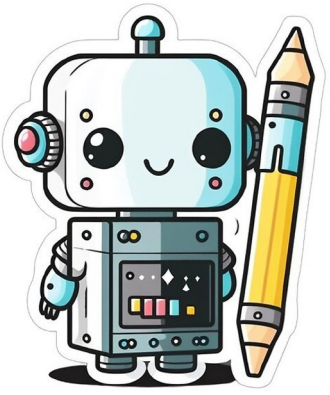
AIMIE PATRICK
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School and Student Services

Tarkington ISD has successfully completed a District Vulnerability Assessment conducted by the Texas School Safety Center. The results of this assessment and the School Safety Center's recommendations were presented to the board of trustees during a January Board Meeting. This comprehensive evaluation happens every four years and included assessments of our exterior security measures, emergency plans, and overall safety infrastructure. The results from this audit will help us enhance the safety and security of our schools, ensuring a secure learning environment for all students and staff. We remain committed to continuously improving our safety protocols and appreciate the community's support in this important endeavor.

CHRIS CONNER
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL & STUDENT SERVICES
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Technology Department



As we move further into the semester, the **Technology Department** remains committed to enhancing the digital experience for our staff and students. Here's what we've been working on:

Tech Tips & Best Practices – Our ninjas have been sending out **weekly communications** with helpful tech tips and best practices to support staff in making the most of our technology resources. We appreciate your feedback and engagement!

Network & Infrastructure Improvements – Our team continues working behind the scenes to **optimize our network** in preparation for the upcoming testing season. A reliable and efficient network is key to a smooth testing experience, and we're making sure it's ready to handle the demand.

Classroom Technology Upgrades – With the help of our **amazing maintenance team**, we have been upgrading classroom technology throughout the year as needs arise. These improvements ensure that students and teachers have access to the best possible tools for learning.

Improved Chromebook Care – We are seeing a noticeable improvement in **Chromebook care and maintenance** across the district! A huge shoutout to **Tech Ninja Melanie Lasater** for leading a **district-wide effort** to educate staff and students on proper device care. Thank you, Melanie, for your dedication to keeping our technology in top shape!

Testing Logistics & Graduation Streaming – Our **Tech Ninjas** across all campuses are working closely with staff to **plan and communicate testing logistics** to ensure a smooth testing experience with devices. Additionally, we have begun discussions and planning for **graduation streaming**, a major end-of-year project for our department. Stay tuned for more updates!

Cool Tech Fact: Did you know that the average person blinks about **20 times per minute**, but when using a screen, that number drops to **7 times per minute**? This is why your eyes may feel dry or strained after long periods of screen time. Remember to follow the **20-20-20 rule**—every **20 minutes**, look at something **20 feet away** for **20 seconds** to reduce eye strain!

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Transportation



We are thrilled to announce some exciting updates for our Transportation Department!

Please join us in welcoming Linda Chapman, who has joined our team as a Dispatcher. We are confident she will be a great asset to our operations. We are also happy to share that we have received two fairly new Special Education buses, which will help enhance our service for our students. Additionally, we welcome Kimberley Randall, our newest driver, who will be taking on Route 4.

February is "National Love the Bus Month." It is a tribute to the "Iconic Yellow School Bus." Schools and communities across the country come together to honor the iconic yellow school bus and the dedicated drivers who transport millions of students safely each day. This month-long celebration provides a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude and raise awareness about the importance of school transportation. By highlighting the vital role of school buses, Love the Bus month reminds us all of the essential service they provide, ensuring that every child can access education with safety and reliability.

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