



Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

April 2025



Congratulations to the 2025 Waco ISD Academic Achievers! These 280 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from both University High and Waco High have maintained a 96.5 GPA or above in all courses taken in order to qualify for the distinction. Congratulations to this amazing group of students. Your hard work and dedication to academics is paying off!

Click [HERE](#) to view additional photos and [HERE](#) for a recap of University High School's Ceremony.

Click [HERE](#) to view additional photos and [HERE](#) for a recap of Waco High School's Ceremony.

Newest Trojan in Charge



Waco ISD Names Charles Foster as Head Football Coach at University High School!



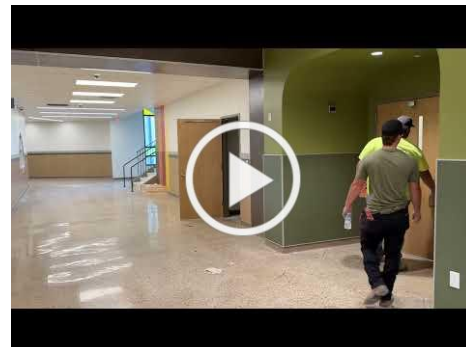
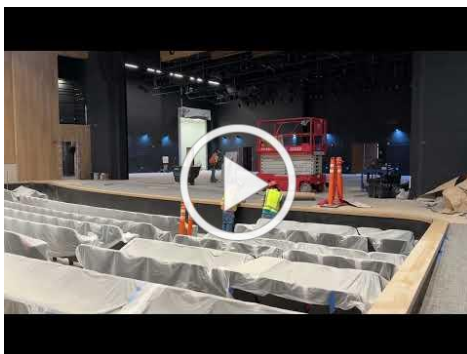
Charles Foster

Wisdom works wonders.

Waco ISD is proud to announce the selection of Charles Foster as the new head football coach and athletic coordinator at University High School. With more than a decade of coaching and teaching experience, and a clear passion for student success, Foster steps into this leadership role ready to build on the foundation of excellence and push forward with purpose and pride. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Coach Foster and his amazing career.

2021 Bond Program Updates

The new Kendrick Elementary is nearing completion. The 93,000 square foot state-of-the-art campus will come complete with a puppet studio for students' imaginations to run wild! Click [HERE](#) to view photos.



The final touches are underway at the new Waco High School and the countdown has begun for its doors to officially open. The Lions will roar with pride over their new campus come fall. Click [HERE](#) to view photos.

The renovation and expansion of South Waco Elementary is almost complete, and will be ready to welcome the Spartans for the 2025-2026 school year. Click [HERE](#) to view photos.



Student and Staff Accolades

Waco High School Business and Marketing Teacher Mandy Moss was awarded the district Tom P. Kirkham Jr. Leadership Award, given to only one Lion's Club member annually for service to the club and community. Way to go, Mrs. Moss!



Waco ISD Fine Arts Director Larry Carpenter was selected as the Texas Educational Theatre Association Theatre Administrator of the Year. This is a true testament to his exceptional innovation, passion, and effectiveness in promoting Texas theatre!

Waco ISD Warehouse Supervisor Ron Willis was honored with the Texas for State Parks Outstanding Volunteer Award for Region 5. This award recognized his exceptional dedication and service to the community. Congratulations on this well-deserved award, Mr. Willis! Click [HERE](#) to view

the story covered by KWTX.



University High School Lady Trojans and Waco High School Lions soccer coaches were both named the District 16-5A Coaching Staff of the Year! These fantastic teachers coach their students to be role models both on and off the field and lead by example!



The University High School Speech Team members, coached by teacher Savannah Jones, competed in the UIL District Academic Contest where they placed in the top 10 and advanced to the regional competition. Senior Derrick Thomas captured first place at the regional contest in the Prose category and advances to the state contest in May.

Lake Air Montessori students received the Outstanding Regional Award for the best presentation in the Heart of Texas Region at the National History Fair

competition! Their project presented the Radium Girls, about female factory workers in the early 20th century who contracted radiation poisoning while painting luminous watch dials with radium paint. Tennyson Middle School student Caroline Taube also qualified for the state contest with her research paper, Japanese American Internment: The Rights and Responsibilities of America During WWII.



Waco High School's theater arts students performed in the state one-act-play contest, and ranked in the top 48 schools in Texas. Congratulations to this amazing group of thespians who came home with multiple awards!

University High School students earned state recognition in the Texas Science and Engineering Fair for their chemistry research project. Fantastic job, gentlemen!



Congratulations to Waco ISD's incredible student athletes who recently celebrated their signings to continue their academic and athletic careers! There is no doubt this

special group of student athletes will represent Waco ISD well at the collegiate level. University High (photo above) and Waco High (photo below).



The Waco High Boys Soccer Team was named the UIL District 16-5A Defensive Team of the Year. This amazing honor was voted on by high school coaches in the area.

Congratulations to the University High Lady Trojans goalie, Aviana, as she was named Goalie of the Year All-District! The team as a whole was selected to the District 16-5A 1st team.



Three cheers for University High's baseball team, which clinched a playoff berth for the first time in 12 years! Best of luck in the playoffs, Trojans!

The University High Lady Trojan softball team also made a run in the playoffs. Unfortunately, their season came to an end over the weekend. Congratulations to a fantastic group of student athletes!



Message from the Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,

As we near the end of the school year, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the vital role you play in the success of Waco ISD. This year, I've had the privilege of witnessing our students achieve incredible things—from academic and extracurricular accomplishments to standout performances and personal growth—even during high-stakes testing. Their success is a direct reflection of the strong support system surrounding them.

And that includes you.

Your partnership, time, and investment help turn possibilities into realities for our students. Because of your involvement, they have not only the tools they need to succeed but also the confidence to dream bigger and reach higher.

Waco ISD is stronger because of the relationships we've built with you. Your commitment to public education is helping shape a brighter future—not just for our students, but for our entire community.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in our mission, and making a lasting impact.

With sincere appreciation,

Stephanie Korteweg



Board Meeting Recap



Did you miss the April 24 Board of Trustees meeting? Get a quick update by watching the meeting recap video. Check out this [LINK](#) for the full board meeting from April 24, 2025.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 15, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the WISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street.

Outstanding Community Partner

O'Connell Robertson was honored as the Waco ISD Community Partner of the Month for April. Their partnership has proven to be invaluable to the district, not only through their expertise in designing and helping bring to life our state-of-the-art facilities, but also through their unwavering support in countless ways. It is evident O'Connell Robertson's partnership extends beyond architecture as they have a genuine commitment to our students, staff, and the broader school community. Thank you for your continued support of Waco ISD!



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

Spring is in full bloom, and so is the energy across our campuses! April has ushered in a season of reflection, celebration, and anticipation as we enter the final stretch of the school year.

First and foremost, I want to recognize the tremendous efforts of our students and staff during this pivotal time. From academic competitions and fine arts performances to athletic accomplishments and STAAR testing, our students have demonstrated resilience, focus, and pride in representing Waco ISD. I am especially grateful to our dedicated teachers and staff, whose commitment continues to drive student success both in and out of the classroom.

As we look ahead, we are excited to honor one of the most meaningful milestones of the year—graduation season. The Class of 2025 has shown perseverance, leadership, and heart. We look forward to celebrating their achievements and cheering them on as they take their next steps into college, career, or service. Their future is bright, and their journey is just beginning.

This season also reminds us to recognize those who help shape those bright futures. Teacher Appreciation Week is right around the corner (May 5–9), offering a special opportunity to celebrate the educators who make a lasting difference in our



students' lives. A heartfelt note, a kind word, or a small gesture of appreciation can go a long way in showing how much their work matters.

Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and belief in our students and in Waco ISD. Together, we're building a stronger future—one student at a time.

Warm regards,

Tiffany Spicer, Ph.D.
#InspireExcellence

Save the date and join Waco ISD in celebrating the Class of 2025!



Waco ISD's first Comic Fest was seriously super! Students and the community geeked out with authors, illustrators, and publishers—and even learned a thing or two in workshops. This is proof that comics can be educational! Thank you to University High School teacher Matt Menefee and Librarian Kelly Cunningham for spearheading this event. Click [HERE](#) to



view more photos from the event.

Tennyson Middle School played host to the annual 3-on-3 mini-basketball tournament for Special Olympic athletes from all four middle schools. This wonderful event was not only fun for the students, it also promoted teamwork, sportsmanship, and inclusion on the court. Click [HERE](#) to view more photos from the event.



Waco ISD Special Olympics athletes took to the starting line at the Heart of Texas track and field meet where they brought home several medals and ribbons. The winners will participate in the state contest in May. Congratulations to all of these amazing student athletes! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos from the event.

The Waco ISD Advanced Academics Department held its annual Elementary Gifted & Talented Showcase. Each of the district's 15 elementary campuses were represented by select 4th and 5th grade GT students. This group of students showcased their research projects, using artistic and creative methods to bring them to life. Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the event.



Alta Vista Elementary recently celebrated its 115th birthday where attendees walked the halls one last time



before the school closes permanently in June. The campus put together a photo montage celebrating its rich history.



The annual Pre-K Registration Round-Up Fun Fest was a huge success! This event encourages parents to register their children for the upcoming school year. Many thanks to our community partners for supporting the event and future WISD families and students for attending. Click [HERE](#) to view more photos from the event.



Are you interested in joining the Waco ISD team? The district's Human Resources Department is looking for top notch folks to make WISD even better! Check out our vacancies [HERE](#).

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



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.

bullying, violence, and other safety concerns anytime by following this link:
www.wacoisd.org/STOPit.

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

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