DECEMBER 2025

ACADEMY ISD

NEWSLETTER



Photo: ECC Kindergarteners perform a Christmas musical for family and friends!

Kindergarten CHRISTMAS MUSICAL 2025

Academy Early Childhood Center kicked off their holiday season with an adorable and delightful Christmas musical!

Kindergarteners recited lines from 'Twas the Night Before Christmas between the sweet seasonal songs!

Congratulations to ECC music teacher, Mrs. Laura Haun, and the entire ECC staff and parents for this wonderful event!



Our Winter Break is December 22nd - January 2nd! All Academy ISD campuses and offices will be closed. Staff return January 5th. Students return January 6th.

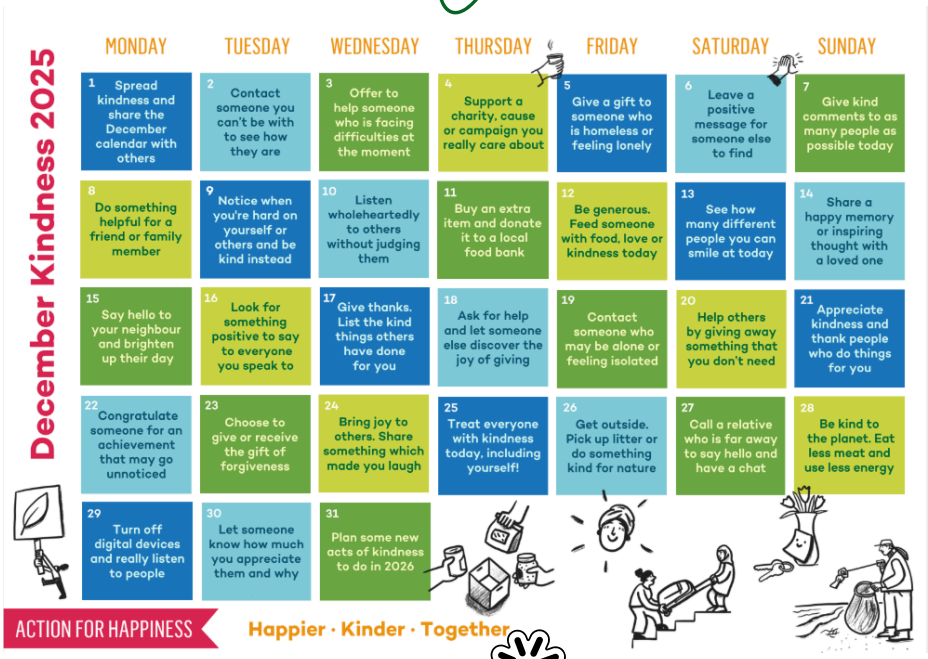


Academy ISD Board of Trustees

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH
JANUARY 2026

January is School Board Recognition Month!
We are grateful for the leadership and dedication of our school board members! Thank you, President Calvin Eshbaugh, Vice President Alex Bass, Secretary Jennifer Burnett, and Trustees, Amy Adcock, Kacee Nabours, Bobby D. Poncik, and Dana White.

COUNSELOR'S *Corner*



Click to view December Kindness**: Action for Happiness!**



to all who donated to the **AISD Bee Tree**! Your generosity will ensure our Bumblebees have a Merry Christmas!



MEET THE *AISD Counseling Team*



Amy Hodges - Lead
AHS Last Names A-K



Charlotte Hussey
AHS Last Names L-Z



Lindsey Heise
AMS Last Names A-L



Michelle Copeland
AMS Last Names M-Z



Sara Childers
AIS



Alesia Ybarra
AES



Brittany Shiller
ECC

Texas School Safety Center

BEFORE YOU TEXT: BULLYING AND SEXTING COURSE



Welcome to the Texas School Safety Center's (TxSSC's) Before You Text: Bullying and Sexting Course. This course may be used in part or in its entirety as an educational tool. This course addresses bullying and sexting, and the legal, social, emotional, educational, and career impact of these activities. Due to the content of this course, this course is recommended only for those 12 years of age and older. This course is linked on our website: https://www.academyisd.net/parents-community/parents-community-a-z/protect-the-a/bullying-resources

2025-2026 BEE CAMP

Location: **Academy Elementary School**

For: **AISD students PK5 - 5th Grade**

Registration is emailed to parents and posted to AISD website.

Cost: **Free! Courtesy of Academy ISD**

Registration for Designated Fridays:

Opens Saturday at 8:30 pm
Closes Monday at 5:00 pm

Academy ISD

BEE CAMP 25-26 DATES

SEPTEMBER 12	OCTOBER 10	NOVEMBER 7	DECEMBER 5
SEPTEMBER 19	OCTOBER 24	NOVEMBER 21	DECEMBER 12
SEPTEMBER 26	OCTOBER 31		
JANUARY 16	FEBRUARY 6	APRIL 3	MAY 8
JANUARY 30	FEBRUARY 20	APRIL 10	MAY 15
	FEBRUARY 27	APRIL 24	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Wednesday, December 17
- AHS Fall Exams
- School Board Meeting

Thursday, December 18
- AHS Fall Exams
- ECC, AES, AIS Class Christmas Parties
- AMS 1:1 Chromebook Parent Meeting

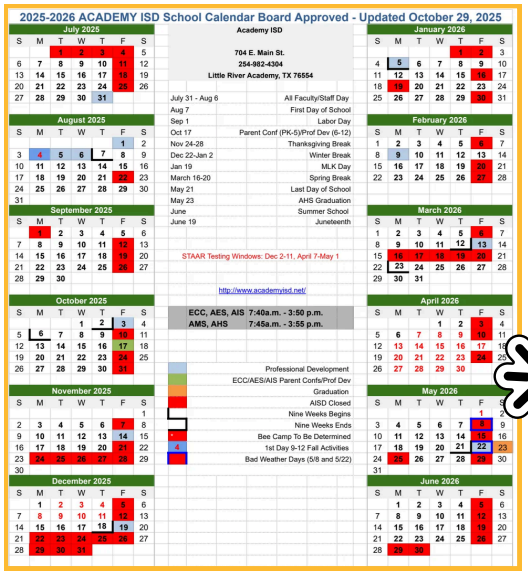
Friday, December 19
- Student Holiday/Staff Workday
- No Bee Camp

December 22 - January 2
- Winter Break - Student Holiday
- AISD staff return Jan. 5

Tuesday, January 6
- Students return for spring semester

Monday, January 19
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Student and Staff Holiday

CALENDAR UPDATE



Click on the calendar image, or click here, to view the updated AISD district calendar.

PROTECT THE A with Stopit

STOPit is an anonymous way for you to share information or get help as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Use the STOPit mobile app to report incidents to your school. Reporting is completely anonymous. You can include text, images or video.

Download the STOPit app today, or visit the AISD website and select,

Protect the A

Code: aisdbees

OUR WEBSITE HAS A

NEW LOOK

www.academyisd.net



ACADEMY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Kara Antal - AEF VP, Garrett Ashby - AEF President, Alex Bass - Board Liaison, and Ashley Marshall - AEF Secretary

Who We Are:

Created in 2021, the Academy Education Foundation's purpose is to engage the community to fund additional learning opportunities and resources to enrich and support all students and teachers in Academy ISD. These funds are used to facilitate student scholarships, skill development, and support academic programs of the teachers and staff of Academy ISD.

How You Can Help:

- Give - donate time or resources to the AEF mission
- Serve - join our monthly meetings and get involved with our organization
- Support - share the news of the AEF with family, friends, and business contacts





Buzzing into Books

Congratulations FALL 2025 Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following Academy ISD employees for receiving the **Fall 2025 Academy Education Foundation Innovative Teaching Grants**!

- Buzzing into Books - Denise Pennington, Amber Pugh, Stacy Shackelford, ECC PreK Team
- Storage for Success - Cheyenne Murrow, ECC
- Self-care Stations - Michelle Copeland & Lindsey Heise, AMS
- Decodable Readers for Upper Elementary - Kori Hutson, AIS



Storage for Success



Self-Care Stations



Decodable Readers



ACADEMY ISD STAFF RECOGNITION
The Heart of the Hive Award at Academy ISD is a prestigious recognition designed to honor outstanding staff members who exemplify dedication, compassion, and excellence in their roles within the school community. Click here to nominate someone today!

Academic UIL Events

It was Academic UIL season for AES, AIS, and AMS students! We are incredibly proud of the efforts of our students! Thank you to the staff members who coached the teams and the U.I.L. coordinators for organizing it all!





AMS ACADEMIC UIL

Bryson Marek , Art Grade 6, 1st place
Hyden Goolsby, Art Grade 6, 3rd place
Paul Hutchinson, Art Grade 7, 2nd place
Vanessa Venegas, Art Grade 7, 4th place
Rowyn Duke, Art Grade 7, 5th place
Jake Czerwinski, Art Grade 8, 1st place
Kylie Arnold, Art Grade 8, 2nd place
Reagan Bland, Art Grade 8, 3rd place
Ryleigh Peterson, Art Grade 8, 4th place
Wesley Thorpe, Calculator Applications Grade 6, 1st place
Ethan Conine, Calculator Applications Grade 7, 4th place
Jake Czerwinski, Calculator Applications Grade 8, 3rd place
Landry Marshall, Calculator Applications Grade 8, 5th place
Caden Wuest, Calculator Applications Grade 8, 6th place
River Wilde, Chess Puzzle Grade 6, 6th place
Torin Garcia, Chess Puzzle Grade 7, 1st place
Weston Krcha, Chess Puzzle Grade 7, 3rd place
John Mark McNeal, Chess Puzzle Grade 7, 5th place
Emma Hanusch, Chess Puzzle Grade 8, 3rd place
Jake Czerwinski, Chess Puzzle Grade 8, 6th place
Rose Lyon, Dictionary Skills Grade 7, 2nd place
Paul Hutchison, Dictionary Skills Grade 7, 6th place
Olivia Martinez, Dictionary Skills Grade 8, 1st place
Norah Spuriell, Editorial Writing Grade 6, 4th place
Rose Lyons, Editorial Writing Grade 7, 2nd place
Paul Hutchinson, Editorial Writing Grade 7, 6th place
Olivia Barr, Editorial Writing Grade 8, 4th place
Julia Robert, Impromptu Speaking Grade 6, 1st place
Elysium Chorenziak, Impromptu Speaking Grade 6, 3rd place
Sadie Bass, Impromptu Speaking Grade 6, 5th place
Caleb Marshall, Impromptu Speaking Grade 7, 1st place
Paul Hutchison, Impromptu Speaking Grade 7, 4th place
Olivia Barr, Impromptu Speaking Grade 7, 2nd place
Reagan Bland, Impromptu Speaking Grade 7, 5th place
Maddyson Wellman, Listening Grade 6, 4th grade
Elysium Chorenziak, Listening Grade 6, 4th place
John Mark McNeal, Listening Grade 7, 1st place
Paul Hutchinson, Listening Grade 7, 3rd place
Rowyn Duke, Listening Grade 7, 4th place
Alayna Mock, Listening Grade 8, 1st place
Jenny Taylor, Listening Grade 8, 4th place
Emma Westbrook, Listening Grade 8, 6th place
Ava Mendez, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 6, 5th place
Rooster Mauldin, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 7, 4th place
Paul Hutchison, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 7, 5th place
Ethan Conine, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 7, 6th place
Jake Czerwinski, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 8, 2nd place
Emma Hanusch, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 8, 4th place
Miles Herrington, Maps, Graphs & Charts Grade 8, 6th place
Wesley Thorpe, Mathematics Grade 6, 2nd place
Archer Duke, Mathematics Grade 6, 5th place
Paul Hutchinson, Mathematics Grade 7, 4th place
Maggie Holt, Mathematics Grade 7, 5th place
Rowyn Duke, Mathematics Grade 7, 6th place
Jake Czerwinski, Mathematics Grade 8, 2nd place
Addison Braun, Mathematics Grade 8, 4th place
Caden Wuest, Mathematics Grade 8, 6th place
Julia Robert, Modern Oratory Grade 6, 1st place
Sadie Bass, Modern Oratory Grade 6, 2nd place
Caleb Marshall, Modern Oratory Grade 7, 1st place
Abigail Cupps, Modern Oratory Grade 7, 5th place
Paisleigh Williams, Modern Oratory Grade 8, 1st place
Reagan Bland, Modern Oratory Grade 8, 2nd place
Emma Westbrook, Modern Oratory Grade 8, 5th place
Vera Simmons, Music Memory Grade 6, 4th place
Penelope Aleman, Music Memory Grade 6, 6th place
Arehli Lopez, Music Memory Grade 7, 3rd place
Katie Jo Vogelsang, Music Memory Grade 7, 4th place
Kayleigh Coopeland, Music Memory Grade 7, 6th place
Aivy Nguyen, Music Memory Grade 8, 4th place
Bella Ramirez, Music Memory Grade 8, 5th place
Wesley Thorpe, Number Sense Grade 6, 4th place
June Bindi, Number Sense Grade 7, 4th place
Jake Czerwinski, Number Sense Grade 8, 2nd place
Claire Roberts, Oral Reading Grade 6, 1st place
Julia Robert, Oral Reading Grade 6, 4th place
Gracen Krcha, Oral Reading Grade 6, 5th place
Hadley Hunt, Oral Reading Grade 7, 1st place
Grace Dudik, Oral Reading Grade 7, 3rd place
Reagan Bland, Oral Reading Grade 8, 1st place
Jake Czerwinski, Oral Reading Grade 8, 3rd place
Olivia Barr, Oral Reading Grade 8, 5th place
Claire Roberts, Ready Writing Grade 6, 1st place
Rose Lyon, Ready Writing Grade 7, 1st place
Maddie Rondeau, Ready Writing Grade 7, 2nd place
Olivia Martinez, Ready Writing Grade 8, 1st place
Bella Ramirez-Richards, Ready Writing Grade 8, 4th place
Alodia Bridenbaker, Science Grade 6, 6th place
Rose Lyon, Science Grade 7, 1st place
Mason Mendoza, Science Grade 7, 2nd place
Torin Garcia, Science Grade 7, 3rd place
Jake Czerwinski, Science Grade 8, 1st place
Emma Hanusch, Science Grade 8, 2nd place
Miles Herrington, Science Grade 8, 3rd place
Norah Spruiell, Social Studies Grade 6, 6th place
Rooster Mauldin, Social Studies Grade 7, 1st place
Jakob York, Social Studies Grade 7, 6th place
Miles Herrington, Social Studies Grade 8, 1st place
Caden Wuest, Social Studies Grade 8, 3rd place
Wesley Thorpe, Spelling Grade 6, 1st place
Morgan Ayala, Spelling Grade 6, 2nd place
Robert Thawng, Spelling Grade 6, 6th place
Paul Hutchison, Spelling Grade 7, 1st place
Katie Jo Vogelsang, Spelling Grade 7, 2nd place
Jolie Posey, Spelling Grade 7, 3rd place
Emma Hanusch, Spelling Grade 8, 4th place
Jake Czerwinski, Spelling Grade 8, 5th place
*AMS OAP Event results are not in at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS

Academy Fine Arts

THEATRE



Academy High School Theatre put on an amazing performance of Frozen Jr.! With participation of 64 students from Academy High School and Academy Middle School, it took everyone to make this show a success! This was Academy High School's inaugural play in the Performing Arts Center (PAC), but you would never have known with the professionalism and execution from the cast and crew! A warm round of applause to the students and theatre director, Mr. Michael Bell.

ACADEMY THEATRE BOOSTER CLUB
PRESENTS

THE 3rd ANNUAL FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Save the Date for the

Arrendale Winter Ball

Kings everywhere are invited to
escort their princesses
to a magical evening of dancing,
sparkle, and winter enchantment

February 21, 2026
6:00pm

Academy High School
850 St Hwy 95, Little River-Academy, TX

ART

Congratulations to Academy High School junior, Jocelyn Caldera, on creating this year's Academy ISD Christmas card! It is the perfect blend of holiday and school spirit!





Artwork provided by
Jocelyn Caldera, 11th Grade
ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Yay, Band!



Congratulations

SVEN PAYPA

Bands of America Honor Band

2026 Rose Parade

AHS junior, Sven Paypa will join hundreds of performers from across the nation to perform in the 137th Rose Parade at 8 a.m. PST on New Year's Day. The 5.5-mile parade will be televised worldwide through the parade's broadcast partners. Congratulations, Sven! We look forward to watching the Rose Parade!



HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Academy Middle and High School Bands gave us a wonderful evening of holiday music! Thanks also to special guest storyteller, Mr. Brent Peters. We also enjoyed the debut of the first Academy High School Jazz Band. Click on the music note above for a video of this new musical group!

ALL-REGION BAND HONORS

29 Academy Middle School band members made the All-Region Band, including 4 FIRST CHAIR titles. Academy High School Band Members Eli, Sven, and Evelyn represented us well. Congratulations to these hard-working students for earning these recognitions!

Academy High School

2026 ALL-REGION BAND MEMBERS

AREA QUALIFIER

ELI MARTINEZ, CLARINET
FIRST CHAIR SYMPHONIC BAND

AREA QUALIFIER

SVEN PAYPA, BASS TROMBONE
2ND CHAIR SYMPHONIC BAND

EVELYN RAMIREZ, TRUMPET
6TH CHAIR CONCERT BAND

Congratulations!!!
2026 ATSSB
All- Region Band Members

Honor Band

Bella Ramirez
Zoey Lynn
Katelynn Nguyen- 1st chair
Brennan Houston- 1st chair
Raegan Bland
Emma Hanusch- 1st chair
Kylie Arnold
Riley McDonald
Christian Asante- 1st chair
Landen Reeves
Haeli Randall

Alternates

Addalyn Gunn
Greyson Urban

Symphonic Band

Aivy Nguyen
Peyton Spruiell
Vanessa Venegas
Nevaehly Bauman
Kyler Bunch
Maliah Brown
Rowyn Duke
Lazaro Esparza
Ariaha Short
Landon Kelemen
Jesse Treese
Abilee Mckinley
Isabel Evans
Olivia Barr
John Mark McNeal
Miles Herrington
James Weekes
Caden Wuest

Get Ready for Game Day







It's
BASKETBALL & SOCCER
Season



Click to View Soccer Schedules on Rank One

2025-2026 BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

2025-2026 GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

55+ Available at AISD
SENIOR CITIZEN PASSES
Administration Building

Academy ISD Athletics 2025-2026 Family Pass

A Family Pass allows the cardholder and immediate family members into all AISD regular season sporting events, except for varsity football and playoff games.

Only valid at Academy ISD facilities.

Family Passes are available for purchase for $80 (cash only) during school hours at:

Academy ISD Administration
704 East Main Street
Little River Academy, Texas 76554

ACADEMY ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
introduces
DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Have what you love about a traditional program, while enjoying the benefits of a digital one!



TEAM ROSTER

SENIOR MESSAGES

GAME RULES

BUSINESS SPONSORS

FREE
COURTESY OF AABC!

new this season

INCLUDES ALL SPORTS, ALL SEASONS

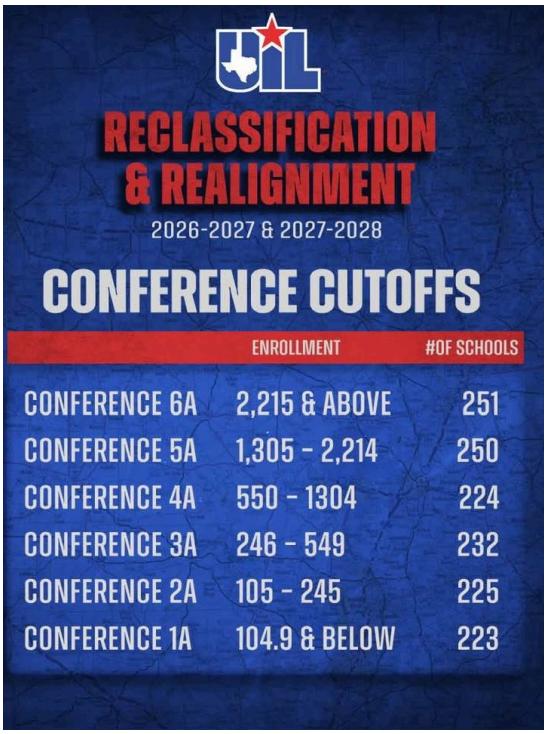
DIRECT LINKS TO PLAYER INFORMATION, HUDL VIDEOS, & STATS

UPDATED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

BUSINESS SPONSORS ALL YEAR

PRINT COPY AVAILABE AT END OF YEAR

ACADEMY BUMBLEBEES ATHLETICS





CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL SPORTS SCHEDULES!

2026-2027 and 2027-2028
It was time for UIL reclassification and realignment. AHS submitted their enrollment of 544.

Academy ISD is 3A-Division 1.

According to the enrollment submissions, Academy ISD is the largest 3A in the state of Texas.

2025 FOOTBALL Recognitions

Congratulations to the following athletes for their recognitions for the 2025 season.

Offensive MVP: Brian Grissom
Defensive Line MVP: Elijah Lavan
Utility Player of the Year: Carter Kuhn

First Team All District:
Deuce Nabours
Vincent Williams
Tyler Hoffman
Landon Stewart
Senator Robinson
Josh Mann
Jayvion White
Brayden Hoffman

Academic All District:
Garyson Davis
Charlie Butler
Kamron Barker
Carter Kuhn
Preston Rowe
Liam Macal
Rylander Eidson
Emmanuel Martinez
Gavin Davis
Jacob Chaffin
Josh Mann
Reid White
Brody Allen
Deuce Nabours
Jayden Norwood
Shayd Norwood

THSCA Academic All State:
Liam Macal - First Team All State
Jacob Chaffin - Second Team All State
Reid White - Second Team All State
Shayd Norwood - Honorable Mention
Charlie Butler - Honorable Mention
Josh Mann - Honorable Mention
Carter Kuhn - Honorable Mention
Caleb Holcomb - Honorable Mention



Congratulations, Brian Grissom!

Brian was named Built Ford Tough Texas High School Football Player of the Week for Week 10. This is a recognition that only one player in each UIL classification receives per week throughout a football season! Brian broke the school record for the most rushing yards and touchdowns in a single game. When the Bumblebees played McGregor this season, Brian led the team to victory with 480 rushing yards and seven touchdowns on 29 carries!

WINTER SPORTS

SOCCER

Soccer season has started off for the Bees and Lady Bees! They had a successful matchup against Cameron on December 12th! Lady Bees won 9-0, Bumblebees won 3-2.





Friday, December 19th, the boys soccer team fall to the Connally Cadets 0-2. Lady Bees pick up 7-0 win against Waco Connally.

BASKETBALL



The Bumblebees were Champions for the 2025 Bumblebee Classic. Jayvion White and Isaac Steeves received All-Tournament recognitions. Josh Mann was the Tournament MVP. Congratulations, Bumblebees!





The Lady Bees picked up a hard fought win over Savio to go 5-0 in the Jarrell Tournament. Congratulations to Hailey Lambert (SR) Tournament MVP, Willow Dorsey (SR), and Hope Tomasek (SR) All Tournament Team.





Congratulations, Willow Dorsey, on scoring her 1,000th point in the Championship game of the Bumblebee Classic!

WOW!

Boys head basketball coach, James Holt, received his 200th career win on December 6th! Girls head basketball coach, Brian Pursche, captured his 400th career win on December 12th! AISD is proud to have such dedicated and successful coaches! Congratulations to you both!





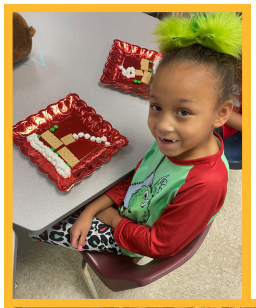
AROUND THE HIVE

Academy Early Childhood Center





Principal Schwake and Mrs. Shiller greeted students in cheerful snowman and gingerbread costumes to the students' delight!



Kindergarten students made their own "Polar Express" in class! What a delicious and artistic endeavor!









Pre-K students worked on fundamental arithmetic concepts and fine motor skills by stacking cups to make the shape of a Christmas tree!





Academy Elementary School



Our Bees are too cute in their "ugly" Christmas sweaters!









Channel your flannel day = success!





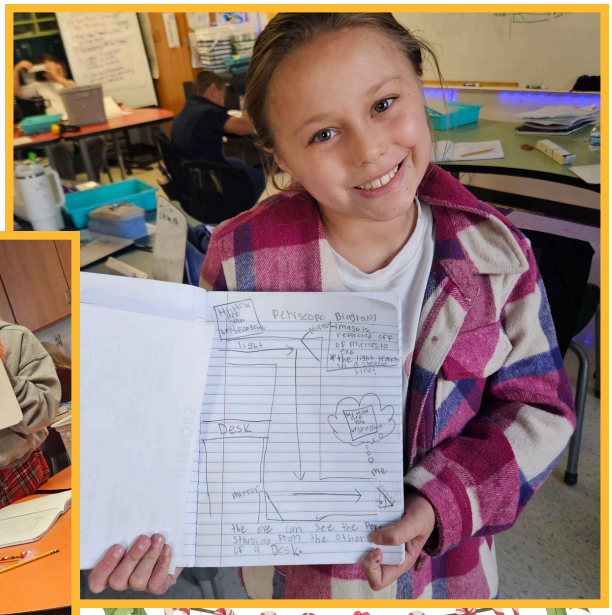
Did a Who from Whoville come to AES? Oh, Mrs. Soliz, in character dress!

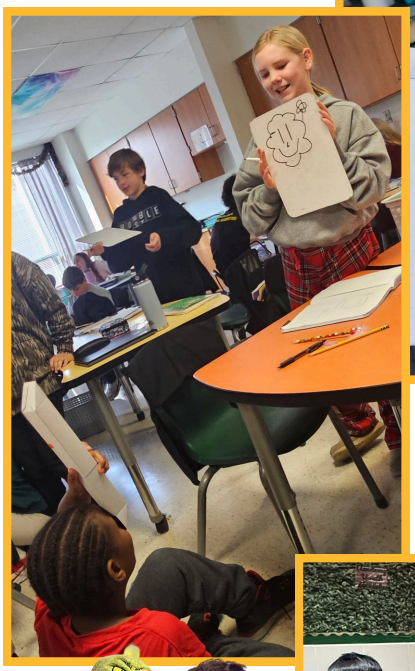


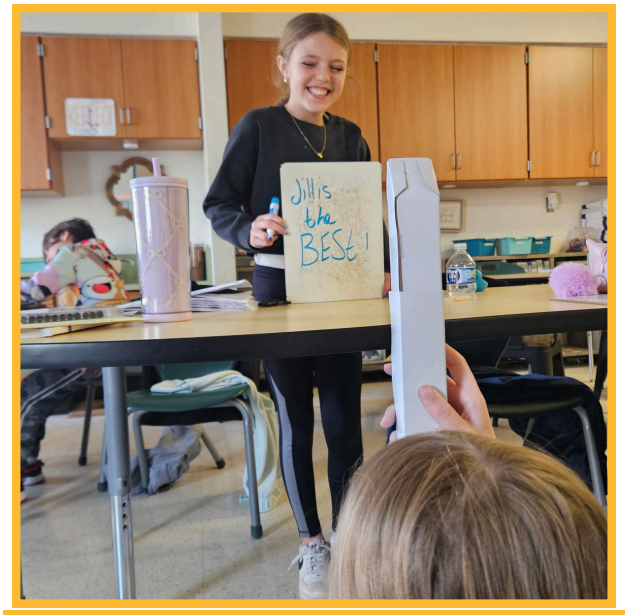
Mrs. Duckworth's creates a camping atmosphere in the classroom!

Academy Intermediate School

Mrs. Eidson's 5th graders have been studying the principles of light reflection by using and diagraming periscopes.







AIS had festive participation during our holiday themed dress up days!







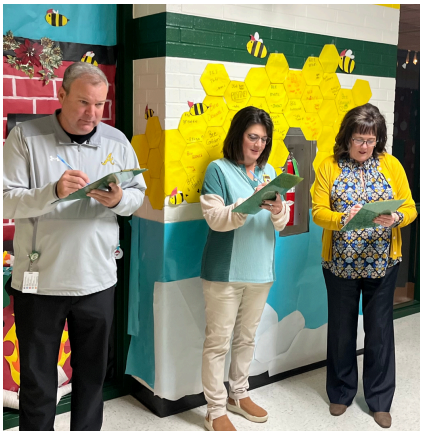
MERRY CHRISTMAS







Academy Middle School



AMS Door Decorating Contest 2025

AMS took their door decorating very seriously! Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Itz, Director of Business Services, Mrs. Tish, and Superintendent, Mrs. Nolen, weighed in on the contest. Congratulations to Mrs. McGuire for winning first place with her Academy Ski Resort! She incorporated the AMS staff in the creative decoration! Coach Kelton was the runner-up with a nod to some favorite holiday movies and getting into character himself!











AMS Life Skills Class and their buddies celebrated the holiday season with a gift exchange and lunch together! It is heartwarming to see the sweet friendships that are formed through this program.

3rd Annual Queenie & Baxter's AG Camp

Academy FFA had another very successful AG camp! Academy FFA middle and high school volunteers took the opportunity to help 50 students in 3rd-5th grades expand their knowledge and appreciation of agriculture. Thank you to the businesses that supported this fun day!











Academy High School

It was a season of service for our AHS students!







Academy Bumblebee Athletics donate toys to benefit the Toys for Tots toy drive.

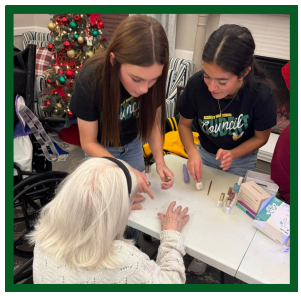




HOSA volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House Light-a-Light event and gave to the McLane Children's Hospital Toy Drive!







AHS Student Council visited an assisted living center to bring holiday cheer!

Academy FFA participated in a Sock Drive to benefit the VA of Central Texas.





Congratulations!



Nine newly certified Phlebotomy Techs are pictured with their teacher, Mrs. Williams, after taking the very rigorous exam!

It's a great thing to be a Bumblebee!