

WHITE SETTLEMENT ISD

# GUARDIAN GAZETTE

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S SIGNAL**

The WSISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution during the Feb. 23 meeting stating that employees will NOT be required to make up the work days missed due to inclement weather and unsafe travel conditions Jan. 26 through 29. The April 6 and May 15 inclement weather days, included on the 2025-26 Academic Calendar will be holidays for both staff and students.

### **INTERIM LEADERS APPOINTED**

I'm excited to announce that three of our district leaders who have been serving in interim positions were approved for permanent positions at the Feb. 23 school board meeting.

What was Captain America's name when he was younger?  
Answer on pg. 4

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR**

Courtney Berry, who has served as the interim Special Programs Director since May, is now the Special Programs Director. Berry served as North STEAM Academy principal for two years and West Elementary principal for four. She began her 17-year career with WSISD as a teacher at Liberty Elementary, where she also served as Assistant Principal. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Texas Christian University, a Master's in Educational Leadership from Tarleton State University, and her Superintendent Certification.



### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY SERVICES**

Assistant Human Resources Director Randy Summerhill will serve as the district's new Executive Director of Auxiliary Services. Summerhill has worked alongside Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations David Bitters, who will retire at the end of the school year, since December. Summerhill will oversee the Operations, Transportation and Custodial Services Departments.

In his 29th year with WSISD, Summerhill served as principal at Brewer Middle School for four years and Tannahill Intermediate for six. He began his career as a custodian and groundskeeper in the WSISD Operations Department. Summerhill became a teacher and coach at BMS after he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Columbia College. While at BMS, he received a Master of Education in Administration from Lamar University and became the Athletic Coordinator and Assistant Principal.

## BLUE HAZE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Trustees officially appointed John Hebert as the permanent principal of Blue Haze Elementary, after serving in the interim role since November. A retired educator with 35 years' experience—27 in WSISD—Hebert returned to education three years ago, when he became an Assistant Principal at the West Early Learners Academy.

His tenure in WSISD spanned multiple leadership roles, including six years as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, three years as Brewer High School principal, and one year as Blue Haze Elementary principal. He began his career as a teacher and coach at Brewer Middle School and later served five years as the BMS Assistant Principal.

After leaving WSISD, Hebert served three years as principal of Lake Worth High School. He was then promoted to superintendent, a position he held for four years before retiring from education. A 1979 BHS alumnus, he and his wife, Pam, have two sons who graduated from BHS.



## WEST EARLY LEARNERS ACADEMY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Lei McDade was hired as the new assistant principal at West Early Learners Academy. In November, John Hebert, who previously held the position, became interim principal at Blue Haze Elementary.

An educator in Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD for the past six years, McDade most recently served as the Behavior Interventionist for Bryson Elementary. For five years prior, she taught at George Clark Elementary in Fort Worth ISD. She brings 14 years' experience in education.

McDade has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas Permian Basin-Odessa and a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Texas at Arlington.



## 2026-27 ACADEMIC CALENDAR ADOPTED

Thank you to everyone who provided input regarding the 2026-27 Proposed Academic Calendar. The school board adopted the calendar with no changes on Feb. 23. The following address frequently asked questions/recommendations:

### Why does school start in the middle of the week?

The first few days of school are intentionally structured to focus on teaching rules, procedures, and expectations. This time also allows students to become familiar with their schedules, teachers, and classmates.

Starting mid-week benefits students—especially at the elementary level—by helping them gradually reacclimate to the school environment. This approach supports a smoother transition from summer routines to full instructional days. Beginning mid-week also allows time for necessary schedule adjustments at the middle and high school levels.

### Can the first day of school be Wednesday (as it has been in the past) rather than Thursday?

If students begin 1 day earlier (on Wednesday), staff would be required to return on Friday, July 31 or work one of the designated holidays (teachers are contractually required to work 183 days). (continued next page)

WHITE SETTLEMENT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 26|27 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

@whitesettlementisd



AUGUST 2026							SEPTEMBER 2026							OCTOBER 2026						
Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
					31	1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Sept. 7	Holiday						Oct. 8	1st 9 Weeks Period Ends					
30	31						Sept. 27	Staff Development/						Oct. 9	Staff Development					
Aug. 3-12	Staff Development						Aug. 13	First Day of School/1st 9 Weeks						Oct. 12	Holiday					
														Oct. 13	2nd 9 Weeks Period Begins					
NOVEMBER 2026							DECEMBER 2026							JANUARY 2027						
Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
29	30						Nov. 30-Dec. 11	STAAR/EOC Testing						Jan. 1	Writer Break					
Nov. 3	Holiday						Dec. 17	2nd 9 Weeks Ends						Jan. 4 & 5	Staff Development					
Nov. 23-27	Staff Development/						Dec. 18	Staff Development/						Jan. 6	Student Holidays					
Nov. 23-27	Student Holiday						Dec. 21-31	Student Holiday						Jan. 8	3rd 9 Weeks Begins					
														Jan. 18	Holiday					
FEBRUARY 2027							MARCH 2027							APRIL 2027						
Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Feb. 16- March 26	TELPAS Testing						March 11	3rd 9 Weeks Ends						March 15-April 16	STARR ALT2 Testing					
Feb. 12 & 15	Holidays						March 12	Staff Development						April 5-29	STAAR/EOC					
							March 15-19	Spring Break							Testing Window					
							March 15-April 16	STAAR ALT2 Testing						April 30	Inclement Weather Day					
							March 22	4th 9 Weeks Begins												
							March 26	Holiday												
MAY 2027							JUNE 2027							JULY 2027						
Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31						June 14-17	STAAR Retesting						July 5-9	Offices Closed					
May 3	Inclement Weather Day																			
May 21	4th 9 Weeks Ends/Last Day																			
May 24-25	Staff Development																			
May 31	Holiday																			



AUGUST 2026							SEPTEMBER 2026							OCTOBER 2026										
Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat				
						31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30														
30	31						Sept. 7	Holiday					Oct. 8	1st 9 Weeks Period Ends				Oct. 8	1st 9 Weeks Period Ends					
Aug. 3-12	Staff Development						Sept. 26	Staff Development/					Oct. 9	Staff Development				Oct. 9	Staff Development					
Aug. 13	First Day of School/1st 9 Weeks						Sept. 28	Student Holiday					Oct. 12	Holiday				Oct. 12	Holiday					
													Oct. 13	2nd 9 Weeks Period Begins				Oct. 13	2nd 9 Weeks Period Begins					

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## Will WSISD move to a 4-day week?

District officials and the District Planning Committee consider the possibility of a four-day work week every year during the calendar development process. They carefully consider:

- The economic impact on working families
- The effect on students who rely on school-provided meals.

More than 60 percent of WSISD families are classified as low socioeconomic. The district remains committed to prioritizing decisions that best meet students' needs.

## How many inclement weather days are included, and will students have to make them up?

The calendar includes flexibility to cover five weather-related closure days. Two additional inclement weather days are designated on the calendar. If no more than five inclement weather days are used, the two designated inclement weather days will become holidays for students and staff.

## Can the Monday after Easter (March 29) be a holiday?

In 2027, March includes Spring Break and Good Friday. DPC members determined it would be more beneficial to place a holiday in another month to better distribute time off throughout the year.

## Can we add a holiday in April?

The STAAR/End of Course exam testing window is April 5 through 29. The calendar prioritizes student academic success; therefore, additional holidays are not scheduled during this important time.

WSISD will continue the Blackout Calendar for 2026–27. Based on staff input, only the days before and after major holidays will be Blackout Days. Testing dates will apply only to the campuses involved, and campus-specific dates will be shared this spring. Click the [link](#) for full guidelines.

## WSISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION BLUE JEAN INCENTIVE WINNER

Congrats to Brewer High School teacher Briana Hudson, who won a \$100 gift card as part of the WSISD Education Foundation's Blue Jean Incentive program. Employees who participate in the program are eligible for the monthly drawing, Innovative Teaching grants and jeans the first Monday of every month.



## March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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				

## **INSTRUCTIONAL ALL-STARS**

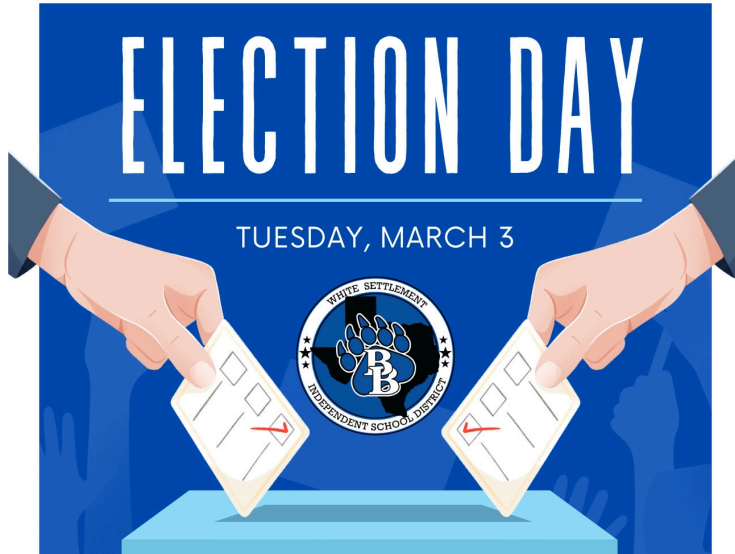
West Early Learners Academy kindergarten teacher Becky Rhymes and Brewer High School AP biology teacher Jonathan Cox are the district's Instructional All-Stars. Teachers must exemplify excellence by consistently implementing district curriculum, modeling district initiatives, and maintaining a positive, student-focused attitude.

Rhymes consistently aligns her instruction with district initiatives and thoughtfully internalizes the curriculum to ensure high-quality learning experiences for all students. She creates an engaging classroom environment where students feel connected, supported, and excited to learn. She differentiates instruction to meet diverse learning needs and actively includes families as partners in the learning process.

A true team player, Rhymes collaborates closely with colleagues to share ideas, support one another, and strengthen instructional practices. Her ability to build meaningful connections with students and staff makes her an invaluable member of our school community.

Cox is deeply committed to implementing a rigorous Pre-AP Biology curriculum. He plans with the end in mind, thoughtfully anticipating areas where students may struggle and designing engaging, high-impact lessons that support every learner's success.

He is highly goal-oriented, setting ambitious targets for both himself and his students. He continuously researches and implements innovative instructional strategies to reach those goals. Through strong relationships and hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences, Jonathan creates an engaging classroom environment where students are motivated, challenged, and supported.



## **DISTRICT COMPLIANCY UPDATES**

### **10 COMMANDMENTS POSTERS**

SB 10 requires school districts to display Ten Commandment posters in classrooms when they are privately donated. Districts are not required to purchase them. WSISD has received approximately 180 posters (enough for about 39 percent of the classrooms in WSISD).

To ensure that the posters are distributed equitably, our attorneys have advised us to distribute 39 percent to each school and utilize an alphabetical system (i.e. teachers with the last name starting with A will be at the top of the list). More information will be provided to staff members in the coming weeks.

### **PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

Early voting in the Texas Primaries ends Friday, Feb. 27. Individuals can vote at the White Settlement Public Library from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during early voting and on Election Day, Tuesday, March 3. Visit the websites below to learn more about the candidates, find additional voting locations, register to vote and more!

- <https://www.votetexas.gov/>
- [League of Women Voters](#)
- [Vote 411](#) is a non-partisan site that enables individuals to research the candidates who will be on their individual ballot based on their address.

