



Wharton High School

1 Tigers Avenue
Wharton, Texas 77488
(979)532-6800

Diana C. Bell Principal

Alysha Sessions Owens, Associate Principal

Dr. DeWayne McCurdy, Assistant Principal

August 18, 2026

Happy New Year, Parents and Guardians of Wharton High School!

It is my sincere pleasure and privilege to serve Tiger Nation for another year! As we move swiftly into this academic year we welcome you, as well as our Scholars. I am excited about the opportunities that lie within the 2026–2027 school year.

Celebrating Wharton High School as a C Rated Campus **Destined 2B Greater Every Student, Every Day All In!**

We have much to celebrate as we reflect on the accomplishments of the 2025–2026 school year. Our STAAR and CCMR data demonstrated significant growth in our accountability outcomes, and that is certainly something worth celebrating being a C Rated Campus. Our Wharton High School discipline data also reflected meaningful progress, including a reduction in out-of-school suspensions. We increasingly utilized restorative *and* connection-driven classroom strategies to help our scholars reflect, make better decisions, repair relationships, and return to learning. Most importantly, these approaches reinforced our belief that our scholars belong in school, engaged in high-quality, first-time instruction every day.

While English I and English II remain areas of growth for our Tigers, I am confident that, through intentional instruction, targeted intervention, strong family partnerships, and a relentless focus on student achievement, we will make significant progress toward our goals and continue advancing student performance and accountability.

Attendance: An Urgent Priority

One area that requires our collective attention and a strong sense of urgency is student attendance. This year, one of my primary campus goals is to increase student attendance. As per the Texas Education Code Section 25.092 student's kindergarten to 12 grades are expected to attend school 90% of the school year, while understanding and adhering to state and district attendance requirements, including the expectation of no more than 4 per grading cycle or 8 per semester.

Every minute matters. Every class matters. Every day matters.
Students are expected to:

- Attend school regularly and consistently.
- Arrive on campus and to class on time.
- Be in their assigned class before the tardy bell sounds.
- Remain in their assigned class throughout the instructional period.



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- Work with their families to address transportation challenges that may interfere with timely arrival.

If transportation is a concern, please utilize WISD Transportation resources to help ensure your scholar arrives at school on time.

Please be reminded that students who exceed allowable absences may be subject to loss of academic credit and required attendance recovery/make-up opportunities, in accordance with district policy and applicable attendance requirements.

We need your partnership. Please support WHS Administration and our Instructional Staff as we work toward our goal of having every scholar present, engaged, and on time every day.

WHS Tardy Matrix 2026–2027

- All students are expected to be in their assigned classroom and ready to learn on time; tardies accumulate each semester.
- Please review the attached WHS Tardy Matrix for clear expectations and consequences related to student tardies.



WHARTON HIGH SCHOOL
TARDY MATRIX
2026-27

TARDY COUNT	ACTION TAKEN
3-6	WARNING STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE
7-9	AFTER SCHOOL D-HALL
10+	SATURDAY D-HALL, TSC, REVOKE EARLY RELEASE PRIVILEGES LOSS OF FIELD TRIP PRIVILEGES

WHS ADMINISTRATOR'S WILL CONTACT
PARENTS HOWEVER, A REQUIRED PARENT, STUDENT,
ADMIN CONFERENCE ON OR BEFORE 10+

DESTINED 2B GREATER EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY ALL IN!
EFFECTIVE 8/17/2026

Important Information Regarding School Hours of Operation:

Campus Doors Open: 7:30 a.m.

Free Breakfast: 7:30 –7:50 a.m.

Transition to First Period: 7:50 – 8:00 (All Scholars are expected to be seated in their respected classroom within that 10 minutes transition time).

Student Drop-Off Safety Procedures

Safety is our priority!

Parents/guardians dropping off students must follow the designated drop-off procedures:

- **Drop-off location:** Veer to the left and drop students off by the **Old Gym**.
- **Drop-off time:** 7:30–7:50 a.m.
- **Before 7:30 a.m.:** Students are not supervised and should not be dropped off on campus.
- Students left unsupervised before 7:30 a.m. have been observed engaging in unsafe behaviors, including walking or jumping in front of school buses.

At 7:30 a.m., doors will open, and all students are expected to line up to enter through the designated doors for the required security check. Students will not be permitted to congregate **outside**, wait for friends, or remain outside until they decide to enter.

Please help us keep every Tiger safe by following the designated drop-off procedures.



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Dress Code

The WISD Dress Code will be enforced beginning on Day One. Please review the WISD Student Handbook, beginning on page 61, with your scholar prior to the first day of school.

Student IDs

All students will be issued a student ID. Once on campus, students must wear their IDs in plain sight at all times. Students must also present their ID to attend home games at the WHS Tiger Gym. This requirement helps staff identify individuals who have currently lost their campus privileges.

Student ID Replacement Fees

- Temporary ID: \$1.00 per replacement.
- Permanent ID with Lanyard: \$5.00 for a complete replacement set.

Cell Phone Expectations

All students will be issued a new cellphone case. Cell phones must be powered off and secured inside the assigned cellphone case during the instructional day.

Please review this expectation with your scholar before school begins so there is a clear understanding of the policy and the consequences for noncompliance.

Students who fail to follow the cellphone expectations may have their devices confiscated and returned only in accordance with the campus cellphone policy and parent/guardian procedures.

Our Partnership Matters

As we begin this new school year, I ask that you have conversations with your scholar about the importance of:

Attendance.

Being on time.

Following expectations.

Making positive choices.

Respecting others.

Giving their best effort.

Taking ownership of their education.

At WHS, we believe that student success is a shared responsibility. When families, scholars, teachers, staff, and administrators work together, we create the conditions necessary for our Tigers to thrive.

This year's campus theme aligns directly with our mission: **Destined 2B Greater Every Student. Every Day. All In!** We are ready to level up instruction, strengthen attendance, build



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relationships, increase student achievement, and create even greater opportunities for every Wharton High School scholar.

Thank you in advance for your partnership, trust, and support. I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to working collaboratively with you as we make the 2026–2027 school year an exceptional year for **Tiger Nation!**

Kind regards,

Diana C. Bell, Principal