

A Message from the Principal

Building communication and self-advocacy skills

Dear Danforth Families,

My oldest son, Seth, is 28 years old and now works for a company that provides advanced screening technology in the cardiac field. But I can still remember when he was a fifth grader and was having difficulty with one of his teachers. We'll call her Mrs. Jones.

We told Seth, "The first thing we want you to do is talk to your teacher. Find an appropriate time when you can speak privately, explain your concerns respectfully, and then tell us how the conversation went."

Seth still remembers that conversation today. He'll tell you, "I was scared to death to talk to Mrs. Jones, but I did it."

I don't remember every detail of how that particular situation was resolved. We may eventually have needed to become involved. What I do remember is the lesson that came from it.

Over the years, Seth has had job interviews, difficult workplace conversations, and situations that required him to advocate for himself. Even as an adult, we have sometimes come back to those same questions: "Have you talked to your supervisor? Have you talked directly with the person involved?"

That lesson started in fifth grade.

I share this story because junior high is a wonderful place for our students to begin developing these important life skills. When appropriate, I encourage you to have your student respectfully approach the adults at Danforth when they have a question, concern, or problem. Encourage them to ask for a private conversation, explain what they are experiencing, listen to the other person, and work toward a solution.

Sometimes parents will need to step in, and when that time comes, we are here to partner with you. But giving our students the opportunity to have that first conversation teaches confidence, self-advocacy, communication, and problem-solving skills that will serve them long after they leave Danforth.

Our students should also know that they can appropriately raise a concern without fear of retaliation. We want them to learn how to communicate with adults, even when the conversation may be difficult.

I have included our communication protocol with this week's newsletter for your review. There has not been a recent issue prompting this message; it is simply a lesson from my own experience as a parent that I thought was worth sharing.

I'm excited to see everyone tomorrow night at Open House! Go Texans!

Joseph Holzmann Ed.D.
Principal

Upcoming Events

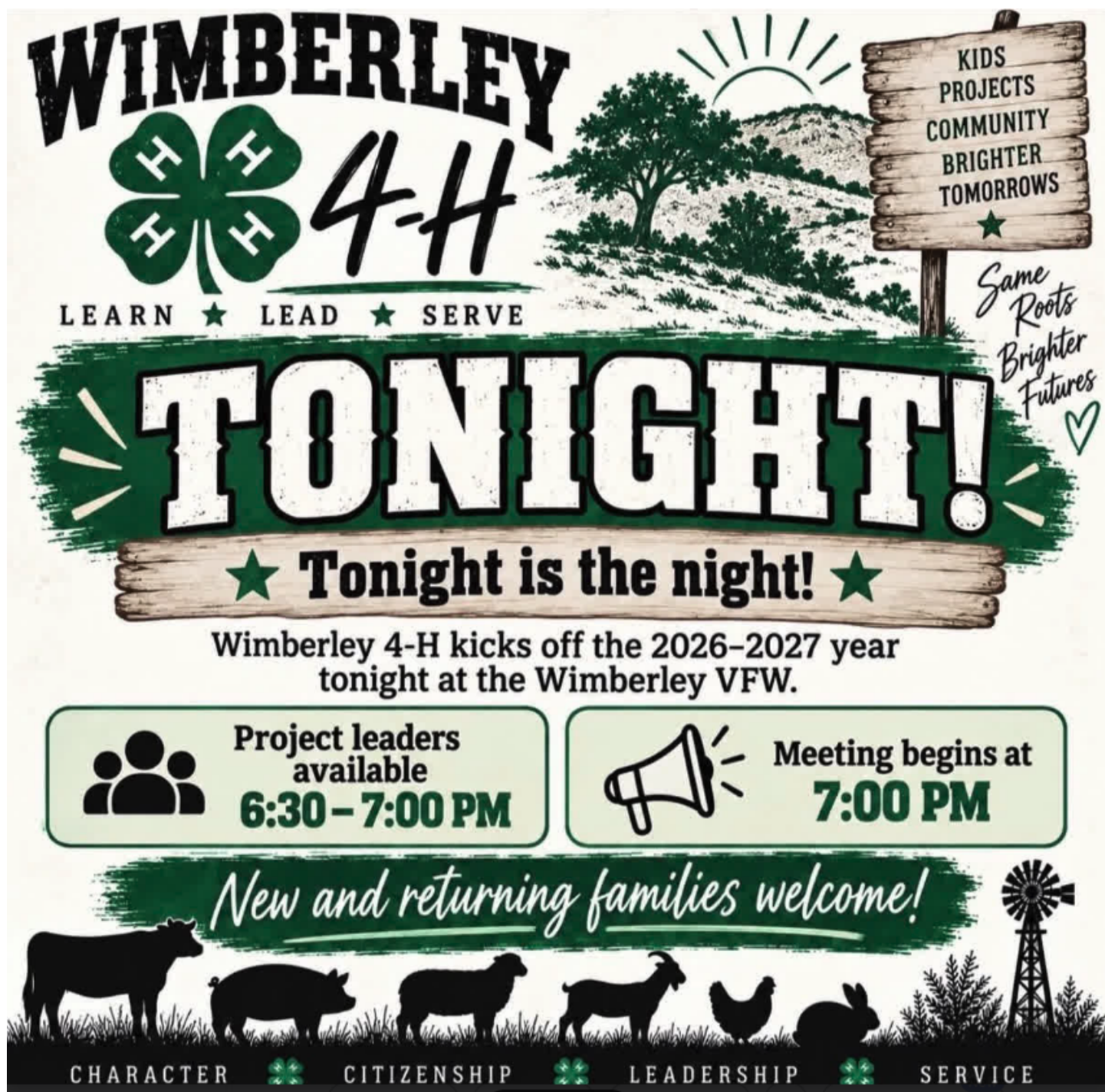
Mark your calendar

Monday, September 14	Wimberley 4-H kickoff meeting • Wimberley VFW • Project leaders 6:30-7:00 p.m. • Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 15	Danforth Junior High Open House • 6:00-7:00 p.m. • Come-and-go format
Thursday, September 17	Campus activity update - additional details will be shared with students as applicable.
Friday, September 18	Students receive Academic UIL information during Texan Time
Thursday, September 24	EF Tours Washington, D.C. & New York information meeting • 6:00 p.m. • DJH Cafeteria
Friday, September 25	Academic UIL tryouts begin during Texan Time

Open House Tomorrow Night!

Wimberley 4-H Kickoff Meeting - Tonight!

Monday, September 14 • Wimberley VFW



The poster features a green four-leaf clover with a white 'H' on each leaf, positioned next to the word '4-H' in a large, stylized font. Above '4-H' is the word 'WIMBERLEY' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the clover and '4-H' are the words 'LEARN', 'LEAD', and 'SERVE' separated by stars. To the right of the clover is a landscape illustration with a sun, a tree, and a hill. Further right is a wooden signpost with the text 'KIDS PROJECTS', 'COMMUNITY', 'BRIGHTER TOMORROWS', and a star. Below the signpost is the phrase 'Same Roots Brighter Futures' with a heart symbol. The word 'TONIGHT!' is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline, set against a green background. Below this is a wooden plank with the text '★ Tonight is the night! ★'. Underneath the plank is the text 'Wimberley 4-H kicks off the 2026-2027 year tonight at the Wimberley VFW.' Two green boxes contain information: the first box has an icon of three people and the text 'Project leaders available 6:30 - 7:00 PM'; the second box has a megaphone icon and the text 'Meeting begins at 7:00 PM'. A green banner with the text 'New and returning families welcome!' is positioned above a row of animal silhouettes: a cow, a pig, a sheep, a goat, a chicken, and a rabbit. To the right of the animals is a windmill. At the bottom, the words 'CHARACTER', 'CITIZENSHIP', 'LEADERSHIP', and 'SERVICE' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, separated by green clovers.

WIMBERLEY
4-H
LEARN ★ LEAD ★ SERVE

TONIGHT!
★ Tonight is the night! ★

Wimberley 4-H kicks off the 2026-2027 year tonight at the Wimberley VFW.

 Project leaders available
6:30 - 7:00 PM

 Meeting begins at
7:00 PM

New and returning families welcome!



CHARACTER  **CITIZENSHIP**  **LEADERSHIP**  **SERVICE**

Homecoming Spirit Week: TEXAN Roots Edition

September 21-25 • Dress code will be enforced during all dress-up days.



HOMECOMING SPIRIT WEEK: TEXAN *Roots Edition*



	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST Day 1 - T: Thoughtful Decision Making Think Smart, Dress Smart Day Students can: Dress as what they want to be when they grow up (career day)
	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND Day 2 - E: Each Other (Empathy & Kindness) Show Your Strongest Root Day Students can: Wear a shirt with their chosen letter, create a sign or badge with their letter, or wear the following colors to coordinate with their chosen letter: T(RED)--E(Gray)--X(Navy)--A(White)--N(Light Blue)
	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD Day 3 - X: X-Factor (Your Uniqueness) Show Your Spark Day Students can: Wear your favorite colors, mismatched socks, crazy hair, or anything that shows what makes you special
	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH Day 4 - A: Achieving Goals MVP Day Students can: Wear jerseys or gear from their favorite sports teams, musician, actor, or influential person to show who inspires them to be GREAT!
	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH Day 5 - N: Neighborly (Relationship Skills) Wimberley TEXAN Day Students can: Wear school colors (navy, red, and white) to show unity and community spirit

★ — **Be a TEXAN every Day! | Go Texans!** — ★
Dress code will be enforced during all dress-up days.

Tuesday, September 15 • 6:00-7:00 p.m. • Come-and-go format

Danforth families, we look forward to welcoming you to Danforth Junior High tomorrow night! Stop by anytime between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. to visit our campus, meet your student's teachers, and learn more about what is happening at Danforth. We look forward to seeing you!

Academic UIL: Find Your Event!

Information Friday, September 18 • Tryouts begin Friday, September 25

UIL Academics gives our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students an opportunity to compete in a variety of academic events against students from Fredericksburg, Bandera, and Llano.

Students may try out for one, two, or three events, but no more than three. Students interested in multiple events will rotate through tryouts on designated Fridays.

Students interested in a second event may try it on Friday, October 2. Students interested in a third event may try it on Friday, October 16; there is no school October 9. Coaches will select competitors by mid-December at the latest.

Most events select three competitors per grade level plus one alternate. Art Smart and Music Memory select five competitors and two alternates.

Events include: Number Sense, Calculator Applications, Mathematics, Science, Chess Puzzle, Spelling, Dictionary Skills, Listening Skills, Maps, Graphs & Charts, Social Studies, Oral Reading, Modern Oratory, Impromptu Speaking, Ready Writing, Editorial Writing, Art Smart, Music Memory, and more.

Two UIL Academic attachments are included with this newsletter for your review: an informational video and a handout with additional details about UIL events and participation.

EF Tours: Washington, D.C. & New York

Current 8th graders • Summer 2027

Your student is invited to travel to Washington, D.C. and New York in Summer 2027 with Ms. Pollard and EF Tours!

Information Meeting: Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the DJH Cafeteria. Families who attended the previous informational meeting do not need to attend again.

Register for the information session: [EF Tours RSVP](#)

Families will learn about the educational benefits, itinerary, what is included, opportunities to earn academic credit, safety and affordability, and how to enroll. Space is limited, and families attending the meeting will have access to a limited-time enrollment discount.

Shelby Pollard

6th Grade World Cultures • Cheer Coach

DJH Counselor's Corner

Students and parents can join the Counselor's Corner Google Classroom for important information, resources, reminders, and updates from the counseling office.

Google Classroom Code: rpg6wjlc

[Join DJH Counselor's Corner](#)

Help Us Celebrate Our Danforth Staff!

We want to create fun opportunities throughout the year to encourage and celebrate our teachers and staff.

We are planning special appreciation treats such as a soda bar, pizza day, trail mix bar, and other fun surprises. Danforth families will have opportunities to participate by donating items or helping us provide these treats.

Be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities to help us show our staff how much their work for our students is appreciated.

Student-Athlete Safety: Continuing to Learn and Improve

Awareness • preparation • continuous improvement

The safety and well-being of our students remains our highest priority. Our staff has been hard at work reviewing heat-safety and emergency-response procedures and identifying additional steps we can take to protect our student-athletes.

Our in-season coaches and athletic training staff have reviewed heat-safety procedures, emergency response processes, and available resources. We will continue monitoring WBGT conditions and following UIL heat-safety requirements for practices and competitions.

We are strengthening emergency preparedness by ensuring rapid full-body cooling can be brought directly to an athlete when necessary. Our out-of-town football staff will travel with portable rapid-cooling equipment rather than relying solely on equipment available at a host facility. We are also evaluating technology that may provide another useful monitoring tool during outdoor activity.

We greatly appreciate parents who have offered additional water, ice, cooling towels, and the shade.

Parent Resources:

[UIL Heat Stress & Athletic Participation Required Plan](#)

[UIL Heat Stress Information & Resources](#)

[UIL Health & Safety Resources](#)

Wimberley 4-H Kickoff Meeting - Tonight!

Monday, September 14 • Wimberley VFW

New and returning families are welcome to kick off the 2026-2027 Wimberley 4-H year.

Project leaders available: 6:30-7:00 p.m. **Meeting begins:** 7:00 p.m.

Students can learn more about 4-H projects, leadership, citizenship, service, and ways to become involved in the community.

Campus Reminders

Arrival Reminder

Any student arriving after the 8:00 a.m. bell must be checked in at the front office by a parent or guardian. Thank you for helping us keep our school safe.

Toys, Fidgets & Related Items

Toys, NeeDohs, and Fidgets: These items must be left at home for the remainder of the school year unless a teacher gives an individual student specific permission to use one in class.

Hallways and Common Areas: Fidgets and similar items are strictly prohibited during passing periods.

Hacky Sacks: These are only permitted outdoors during lunch. At all other times, they must remain securely stored inside the student's backpack.

Extended Absences

If your student will be absent for three or more consecutive school days, please complete the Extended Absence Request Form in advance.

The form serves as notification to teachers and helps make arrangements for missed academic time. Use of the form does not automatically excuse the absence. The form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications

Families who believe they may qualify for free or reduced-price meals may apply online at linqconnect.com. Online applications reach Child Nutrition directly and help expedite processing.

Reduced-price breakfast continues at no cost, and reduced-price lunch is also available at no cost. Paper applications are available in the front office.

Extended Absence Request Form

Advance notice for absences of three or more consecutive school days

Use of this form does not excuse absences. It serves as notification to teachers of upcoming absences and the need to make arrangements for missed academic time.

Student Name: _____ Student ID #: _____ Grade: _____

Dates School Will Be Missed: _____

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Instructions & Signatures

Period / Class	Teacher Signature	Due A / B / C	Penalty
Period 1 - Math	_____	A B C	None / Max 70
Period 2 - English	_____	A B C	None / Max 70
Period 3 - Science	_____	A B C	None / Max 70
Period 4 - History	_____	A B C	None / Max 70
Period 5 -	_____	A B C	None / Max 70
Period 6 -	_____	A B C	None / Max 70
Period 7 -	_____	A B C	None / Max 70

Danforth Junior High School Communication Protocol

Below is our communication protocol, designed to foster direct, open, and respectful dialogue to ensure that issues are resolved quickly and effectively between all parties involved. We strongly encourage students and parents to follow this protocol.

By working together, we can continue and strengthen our commitment to success for ALL.

Teacher Communication Protocol

#1 Speak Directly to the Teacher

All students are encouraged to express their concerns directly to the teachers. If you as a parent are concerned about an issue involving your child's education, classroom experience, or grade, go right to the source and contact the teacher. Staff emails are found on the [DJH website](#). Teachers will make every effort to get back to you as quickly as possible, we strive to get back within a 24 hour time period. Please be patient. If you do not receive a return email or call within that time, try again. If there is no reply after the second try, proceed to the next step.

#2 If you have not heard back from the teacher in a reasonable amount of time or if the concern has not been resolved after the teacher conference, contact:

Instructional Appraiser

If your concerns stem from a classroom practice, grade, or particular book or assignment, contact Dr. Holzmann or Mrs. Huebner

Assistant Principal

If you wish to discuss specific disciplinary concerns, contact the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Huebner

#3 PRINCIPAL

Most concerns will have been resolved by this point. However, if you still need to speak with someone about your situation,

#4 If your concern has not been resolved through the principal's office, contact an Assistant Superintendent at 512-847-2414.

#5 If your concern has not been resolved through the Assistant Superintendent's office, contact the Superintendent.

Protocolo de Comunicación de Danforth Junior High School

A continuación se presenta nuestro protocolo de comunicación, diseñado para fomentar un diálogo directo, abierto y respetuoso, y asegurar que las inquietudes se resuelvan de manera rápida y eficaz entre todas las partes involucradas. Recomendamos firmemente que los estudiantes y padres de familia sigan este protocolo.

Trabajando juntos, podemos continuar y fortalecer nuestro compromiso con el éxito de TODOS.

Protocolo de Comunicación con los Maestros

#1 Hable Directamente con el Maestro

Animamos a todos los estudiantes a expresar sus inquietudes directamente a sus maestros. Si usted, como padre de familia, tiene alguna inquietud relacionada con la educación de su hijo(a), su experiencia en el salón de clases o una calificación, vaya directamente a la fuente y comuníquese con el maestro. Los correos electrónicos del personal están disponibles en el [sitio web de DJH](#). Los maestros harán todo lo posible por responder lo antes posible; procuramos responder dentro de un período de 24 horas. Por favor, tenga paciencia. Si no recibe una respuesta por correo electrónico o teléfono dentro de ese tiempo, inténtelo nuevamente. Si no recibe respuesta después del segundo intento, continúe con el siguiente paso.

#2 Si no ha recibido respuesta del maestro en un tiempo razonable o si la inquietud no se ha resuelto después de la conferencia con el maestro, comuníquese con:

Evaluador de Instrucción

Si sus inquietudes se relacionan con una práctica del salón de clases, una calificación, un libro en particular o una tarea, comuníquese con Dr. Holzmann o la Sra. Huebner

Subdirectora

Si desea hablar sobre inquietudes disciplinarias específicas, comuníquese con la Subdirectora, Sra. Huebner

#3 DIRECTOR

La mayoría de las inquietudes se habrán resuelto a este punto. Sin embargo, si aún necesita hablar con alguien sobre su situación,

#4 Si su inquietud no se ha resuelto a través de la oficina del Director, comuníquese con un Superintendente Adjunto al 512-847-2414.

#5 Si su inquietud no se ha resuelto a través de la oficina del Superintendente Adjunto, comuníquese con el Superintendente.

Academic UIL Event Information 2025–2026

What is Academic UIL?

The University Interscholastic League is an academic competition in several subject areas in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students take tests, write, and/or participate in speaking events. We compete with other students from Fredericksburg, Navarro, and Bandera.

Tryouts & Team Info

Tryouts begin: Friday, September 26 (during Texan Time on Fridays). Students may try out for 1, 2, or 3 events. Attendance will be taken during the first 4 practices. To be eligible to compete, students must go to at least 1 of these 4 initial tryout sessions. Parental consent forms will be distributed and must be signed and returned by the next practice (Friday).

Last Tryout: Friday, November 21 (Friday before Thanksgiving break)

Teams Set: Tuesday, December 2 (upon returning from Thanksgiving break)

Competition Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Fredericksburg Middle School We will leave early in the morning and return around 5:30 PM, depending on when the last event ends.

Speaking Events

Oral Reading

Reading literature out loud provides opportunities for students to analyze the text, grow and develop as a performer, communicate a message to an audience, and perform an artistic creation. Students will choose from a variety of prose or poetry selections.

Coaches: Ms. Pollard, Ms. Garza (Room 306)

Modern Oratory

Students select one topic, determine the critical issues, and acknowledge both pro and con points citing support from their research. Students then choose a side to defend and support it with additional evidence.

Coach: Mrs. Novak (Room 215)

Impromptu Speaking

Provides opportunities for students to explore the use of voice and body, examine purposes for speaking, organize ideas, prepare and deliver speeches, and develop self-confidence.

Contestants draw three topics, choose one, and have three minutes to prepare a speech presented without notes.

Coaches: Mrs. Tatum, Mrs. Williamson (Room 116)

Math & Science Events

Number Sense

Students use quick mental calculations to solve problems in a 10-minute, fill-in-the-blank test (no paper or calculators).

Coaches: Mrs. Gilley, Mrs. Thames (Room 120)

Calculator

Contest designed to develop mathematical and calculator skills. Students take a test with 80 problems in 30 minutes.

Coach: Ms. Bernick (Room 216)

Mathematics

Students further develop and apply math knowledge. The test has 50 multiple choice problems.

Coach: Mrs. Mebane (Room 202)

Chess Puzzle

The study of chess teaches analytical thinking, pattern recognition, and creativity. The contest consists of 20 chess puzzles (fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, true/false).

Coach: Mrs. Dutta (Room 103)

Science

Emphasis on scientific facts, principles, and problem-solving. The test has 35 multiple choice questions.

Coaches: 6th Grade – Mrs. McCullough (Room 217), 7th Grade – Mrs. Young (Room 117), 8th Grade – Mrs. Wright (Room 109)

Fine Arts Events

Music Memory

In-depth study of fine music literature across genres. Students listen to short selections and identify the major work, selection title, and composer.

Coach: Mrs. Daniels (Room 307)

Art Smart

Students study 40 paintings from the National Gallery of Art and Texas museums. The test requires identifying artist names, painting titles, and answering 30 art-element questions.

Coach: Ms. Doherty (Room 100)

English/Language Arts Events

Spelling

Students study a wide variety of vocabulary words. The test has 80 words plus 20 tiebreakers.

Coach: Mrs. Ruiz (Room 210)

Listening Skills

Students listen to a 7–10 minute script, take notes, and answer 25 test questions.

Coach: Mrs. Shand (Room 206)

Dictionary Skills

Students demonstrate thorough knowledge of the dictionary. The test has 40 multiple choice questions.

Coach: Ms. Parker (Room 208)

Social Studies Events

Maps, Graphs & Charts

Students learn to obtain information from maps, graphs, and charts. The test has 75 multiple choice and true/false questions.

Coach: Mrs. Nance (Room 106)

Social Studies

Students expand knowledge of history, government, economics, citizenship, and culture. The test has 40 multiple choice questions.

Coach: Mr. Nietfeld (Room 301)

Writing Events

Writing events occur 1–2 weeks before the meet. Judges evaluate entries, and winners are announced at the meet. Students in writing events may still attend UIL Fun Day.

Ready Writing

Contestants choose between two prompts to refine writing skills.

Coach: Mrs. Hill (Room 218)

Editorial Writing

Prepares students to write persuasive papers.

Coach: Mrs. Bauman (Room 220)

Recognition

Medals: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place

Ribbons: 4th, 5th, 6th place

All participants who attend the meet will have a UIL Fun Day (field trip) in May.

Have a Question?

If you would like more information, please contact the coach(es) listed. You may also ask Mrs. Gill (Room 212). teresa.gill@wimberleyisd.net.