Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

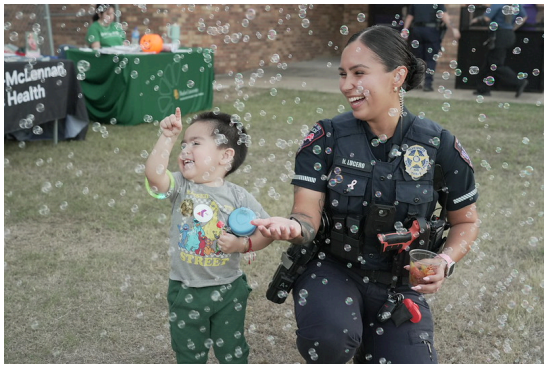
October 2026

60 seconds WITH SPICER



In the October edition of *60 Seconds with Spicer*, Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Spicer, had the privilege of highlighting the incredible talent, passion, and discipline of both University High School and Waco High School band programs. Watching Waco ISD's student musicians perform is a powerful reminder of the energy and pride that run through the district, but their impact extends far beyond the stadium lights and halftime shows.

Beyond the Badge: Waco ISD Police Department Hosts National Night Out





Smiles and warm conversation were all around as the Waco ISD Police Department welcomed families, staff, and neighborhood partners to its annual National Night Out. While free food and fun activities drew the crowd, the event's real impact was creating meaningful, trusting relationships among officers and local families.

For the Waco ISD Police Department, school safety extends well beyond security cameras, door locks, and emergency plans; it is rooted in human connection. By stepping away from official duties to play games, share resources, and chat with students in a relaxed setting, officers help break down the natural barriers that can sometimes exist between youth and law enforcement. Click **HERE** to read more, and **HERE** to view more photos.

University High School Named Top 40 Finalist in National T-Mobile *Friday Night 5G Lights* Competition



University High School was selected as one of 40 finalists nationwide in T-Mobile's national *Friday Night 5G Lights* competition, securing a $25,000 cash grant for the Trojan athletic program and earned the opportunity to compete for a $1 million stadium upgrade package.

Chosen from nearly 2,500 participating high schools across the country, University High was one of only two Texas schools to advance to the Top 40. This milestone

marks the deepest run for University High in the national competition after securing three consecutive $5,000 awards in prior years. Unfortunately, UHS's participation in the competition came to an end, as they were not one of the top four finalists to move forward and compete for the $1 million. However, Waco ISD celebrates these amazing Trojan student athletes and coaches for representing the district on a national stage! Click **HERE** to read more.

Student and Staff Accolades

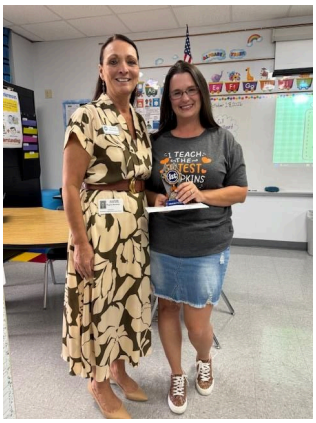
Waco ISD is proud to announce that every district middle school, high school, and Hillcrest PDS—along with the district as a whole—achieved "Exemplary" status as Texas Educational Theatre Association (TxETA) Campuses and District of Distinction Honorees.

Congratulations to the following educators for their outstanding leadership:

- Waco High School: Savannah Jones & Joey Dumas
- University High School: Hailey Perritt & Adrian Gallardo
- Cesar Chavez Middle School: Jennifer Lopez
- G.W. Carver Middle School: Elmer Mejia
- Lake Air Montessori: Valerie Davis
- Tennyson Middle School: Riley Lohr & Amanda Cummings
- Hillcrest PDS: Paula Hoover & Kevin Rivera



Congratulations to Crystal Stanford, GT teacher at Cedar Ridge and Provident Heights, for being named the First National Bank of Central Texas Educator of the Week! The bank presented Ms. Stanford a $500 check in recognition of her hard work and dedication to her students.





Three cheers for Coach Gilliam and Coach Carr, WISD's October PE Teachers of the Month! They both show incredible leadership, hard work, and total dedication to the students at G.W. Carver Middle School each and every day.

Bravo to the Waco High Varsity Choir for their recent landmark collaboration with the Central Texas Choral Society. Click **HERE** to read more, and **HERE** to view more photos. The full concert is also available for viewing **HERE**.





University High School students Sam Marin, Jacob Mendoza, and Angelina Milan were recently selected as UIL Mariachi Area participants. They will now compete for a position in the TMEA All-State Mariachi Ensemble, with the opportunity to perform at the state convention in February. Best of luck to these talented student musicians!

Board Meeting



Did you miss the October 29 Board of Trustees meeting? Visit Waco ISD's YouTube channel **HERE** to watch the full meeting, which will be posted next week.

The next regular meeting will be held on November 19, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Waco ISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street.

Outstanding Community Partner

Each month, Waco ISD recognizes a community partner making a difference for students and families with the Waco ISD Award for Outstanding Community

Partners. October's Community Partner is the Waco Police Department.

From hosting the annual Trunk or Treat event with Waco ISD PD—welcoming over 3,000 community members—to mentoring students through the PALS Program and teaching the LEAD curriculum, the Waco Police Department makes an impact every day throughout the district. Their engagement through career days, classroom visits, Red Ribbon Week SWARM demonstrations, and after-school support shows a deep commitment to WISD students' success and safety.

The district is also immensely grateful for the vital work of the Crimes Against Children Detectives and their daily commitment to protecting our youth.
Thank you, Waco Police Department, for your incredible dedication and hands-on involvement across the Waco ISD school community!



Lake Air Montessori brought one if its most timeless traditions back to the street surrounding the campus, the Tarleton State University Parade. Students, staff, and Tarleton State representatives wore their vibrant purple as parade watchers gathered to cheer them on! Click **HERE** to view more photos.



Notable District Events

Waco ISD is always busy celebrating and bringing together our students and staff. Click the photo(s) below to view more pictures from each event.









Mark your calendar!

WACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thanksgiving Meal Available Dates/Times

4	University high - Dinner @ Home
10	Kendrick El. - Dinner @ UHS Waco High - Dinner @ Home
11	Bell's Hill El. & CCMS (Combined) - Dinner @ UHS Tennyson MS - Dinner @ Home
12	J H Hines El. - Lunch Crestview El. - Dinner @ TMS Hillcrest PDS - Dinner @ Home
13	Lake Air Montessori - Lunch Mountainview El. - Lunch
17	Wiley, Challenge - Lunch Cedar Ridge El. - Dinner @ Home GW Carver MS - Dinner @ Home
18	West Ave El. - Lunch Provident Heights El. - Lunch Brook Ave El. - Dinner @ Home Parkdale El. - Dinner @ TMS




2026 WACO ISD
CHILDREN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL
★ ★ ★
WITH
TENNYSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
VARISTY TREBLE CHOIR
UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF JACOB GARCIA
CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN MUSIC
•SATURDAY NOV 14 •
2:00PM
WACO HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
THIS CONCERT WILL FEATURE STUDENTS FROM ALL WISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
FREE ADMISSION

ICYMI



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