

WILLIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2020 – 21



September 25, 2020

Dear Willis Families,

We are so excited to be welcoming our students back to campus on Tuesday, October 13. It has been a long absence and we are anxious to get back to in-person learning and activities. As you might imagine, while we want to establish some sense of normalcy, things will look a little different as we implement routines, procedures, and expectations designed to minimize risk of exposure to the coronavirus. This newsletter is designed to provide a brief overview, but [details about our return to school can be found on the Willis website \(Academic Resources > In-Person Learning\)](https://bit.ly/3cCr0QY) <https://bit.ly/3cCr0QY>. I would ask that all members of our school community review this information and assist in preparing students for the changes and new expectations. We recognize that all of our students will have some holes in their learning and we are going to do our absolute best to provide the academic support necessary to fill those gaps. As always, I encourage you to reach out to a teacher, one of our staff members, or me if your child needs assistance. We are here to help. Together, we look forward to making the most of the 2020-21 school year!

Jeff Delp, Principal

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Our first official day on-campus will be Tuesday, October 13. Students should plan to arrive on campus between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. The first bell will ring at 9:01 AM. For the safety of ALL, parents will not be able to escort students on campus. However, our staff will be here to assist students in finding their classrooms. We will make sure everyone has the assistance needed.

MATERIALS FOR THE FIRST WEEK

During the first week of school, your child's teachers will provide a specific list of materials needed. However, for the first day of school we recommend that all students bring:

- One 3 inch, three ring binder with dividers
- Lined, loose leaf paper
- Black or blue ink pens
- Several pencils and a small sharpener
- Highlighters (4 colors if possible)
- Colored pencils
- Small scissors
- A composition notebook (for Science)

In addition to school supplies, all students are encouraged to bring the following items every day.

- One cloth mask/face covering and one spare
- A water bottle with cold water (campus water fountains are out of service)
- Snacks – lunch may be a little early, or late

MASKS / FACE COVERINGS

In order to ensure that we keep our school community members safe, all students and staff members will be required to wear an appropriate face covering. Please be certain that masks cover the mouth and nose, and that they are worn appropriately. Masks / face coverings will be required at all times while students are on campus and in classrooms (except when eating lunch). Additional [information about health and safety routines, procedures, and expectations can be found on the Willis website.](#)

LUNCHES

In an effort to safely accommodate all students, we have increased the number of our lunches from two to four. We do have our cafeteria marked off to encourage social distancing. While having four lunch periods will certainly reduce the number of students in the cafeteria, lines may still be long for the first few weeks as students adjust to the process of ordering their food. We will ensure that ALL students have the opportunity to eat. However, students may want to consider bringing a lunch from home for the first few days of school.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Our parking lot is extremely small, making drop-off and pick-up a challenge. Afternoon pick-up is particularly difficult. We encourage you to consider picking your student up along Frye Road (near our baseball fields), arranging to meet them at another location in the neighborhood, or wait about 10

minutes after dismissal when the traffic clears a bit. Most important, we ask all parents to be patient and watch out for our students while in our parking lot. Thank you.

THE WILLIS CORE VALUES

Our three core values are central tenets that guide our actions on campus. It is very important that all of our school community members understand these values and expectations.

1. Willis is a place where everyone must feel safe and valued.
2. Willis is a place where learning is a priority.
3. Willis is a place where we take pride in our school and doing little things can make a big difference.

Please take a few minutes to carefully [review our Core Values and view the video explanations on our website](#).

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students will have a variety of resources available for academic support. Each one of our teachers will announce a tutoring schedule and they will be available to support students on an as needed basis. In addition, beginning on Monday, October 19 we will begin our after school Homework Hub program. Homework Hub provides a quiet space for students to work, use technology and get assistance from an adult. HW Hub runs Monday through Thursday from dismissal until 4:50 PM. A late bus is available for students who stay on-campus for tutoring or for Homework Hub.

ATTENDANCE

Research indicates that small improvements in attendance can yield large gains in academic performance. Help your student understand the link between attendance and success by making sure they are in school every day – unless they are feeling ill. If students are ill, they must remain at home and a parent/guardian must notify the school every day of their absence. This can be done via our 24-hour attendance line: 480-883-5703. [For more information about health and COVID-19 related precautions, please visit the district website](#).

In addition, students are expected to arrive to each class period, on time, and prepared to work (this is a part of our second core value). It is important that students use the time between classes to move to their next classroom. *During the first week of school, we will be lenient, and will assist students in finding their classrooms. We understand that learning a new schedule takes time.*

DRESS CODE

The district dress code is enforced at Willis. Dress code expectations are specifically outlined in the student agenda. However, **we want to outline several issues related to student dress before students begin shopping for back to**

school clothes. The following items are prohibited on the Willis campus:

- Spaghetti strapped or see-through/sheer clothing (undergarments should never be visible)
- Tank tops (boys and girls)
- Short shorts (as a guide – thumb length when arms are fully extended to the side)
- Clothing bearing the midriff, revealing cleavage or undergarments, or sagging below the waistline
- Hats, headwear (beanies, bandanas, etc.), or hoods (hoodies/sweatshirts may be worn with the hood down)
- Shirts or jewelry promoting sex, drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence, weapons, etc.

Students who are in violation of the dress code will be asked to change, or call their parents to bring a change of clothes. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary action. We appreciate your early attention to compliance with these standards of dress.

ATHLETICS

Willis is proud to announce that we will be providing students with an athletic program this school year. We recognize the importance that extracurricular activities play in the development of the whole child. CUSD junior highs will compete in the East Valley Conference (EVC) this school year. Seasons will look slightly different due to school closures during the first quarter. Precautions will be put in place to ensure the safety of all student-athletes and coaches. Tryouts for season one will begin on October 19. Sports offered first season will include co-ed flag football, girls volleyball and boys baseball. All students must be “cleared” in order to participate. Please [visit the Willis website for additional information](#).

STAY CONNECTED

We encourage all of our families to stay connected with what is happening at Willis using a variety of resources.

- [The Willis Website](#) www.cusd80.com/wjhs
- The Willis One – a weekly newsletter [posted to our website](#), social media accounts, and sent via [Infinite Campus](#)
- [Willis Facebook Page](#) facebook.com/wjhsfirebirds
- [Willis Instagram](#) Instagram.com/wjhsfirebirds
- [Willis Twitter Account](#) twitter.com/willisfirebirds
- [Mr. Delp’s Twitter Account](#) twitter.com/principaldelp
- Remind Account – to join and receive messages text @wjhs3 to 81010

We do a lot of cross posting and messaging, so as long as you are connected via one or two of these methods, you should receive all critical information.

SEE YOU SOON FIREBIRDS!