

# Willis Junior High School 2021-22



Willis Junior High School 401 S. McQueen Road, Chandler, AZ 85225 480-883-5700 www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs

## Principally Speaking

A warm welcome to all our new, and returning, Firebird students and families! This newsletter is one avenue of early communication intended to provide an overview of essential details so that your preparation for the upcoming school year is as stress-free as possible.

We are excited about the new school year and the associated opportunities. We are anxious to have a productive, and uninterrupted, year that will afford us the chance to grow academically, address social-emotional needs, and enjoy spending time with our school community.

It is important for you to know that we ask all our students, families, and staff members to follow our Willis Core Value Statements.

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 makes a big difference.

We believe that our actions related to each one of these statements is essential to providing a positive learning environment that will ensure the success of our students, our staff, and our school community.

As a school, our goal is to make a significant investment in the continuous improvement of programs and practices so that the needs of ALL of our students are met and they have every opportunity to succeed. At Willis, we have a pathway to success for every child and will work tirelessly to meet the individual needs of all students. We are anxiously waiting to partner with you in guiding your student to academic success and social development during the upcoming school year. See you soon. GO FIREBIRDS!

Jeff Delp, Principal

*Este boletín está disponible en español en el sitio web de Willis.*

## Stay Connected



[www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs](http://www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs)



[twitter.com/willisfirebirds](https://twitter.com/willisfirebirds)



[instagram.com/wjhsfirebirds](https://www.instagram.com/wjhsfirebirds)



<http://on.fb.me/1yoHK13>

Chandler Unified School District #80

**Willis Junior High School**

401 S. McQueen Road

Chandler, AZ 85225

Phone: 480-883-5700

[www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs](http://www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs)

## Firebird Day

Friday, July 16 8:30 – 11:00 AM

During Firebird Day, students and families are invited to visit Willis to:

- Pick-up class schedules
- Fund lunch accounts & complete free-and-reduced lunch forms
- Purchase spirit wear, PE uniforms, and yearbooks
- Pick-up athletic physical packets
- Locate classrooms and ask questions
- Visit our Community Resource Room

Students unable to attend may pick up their schedule in our front office on Monday, Tuesday, or in the cafeteria before school on Wednesday.

*A reminder that schedule changes will not be made except in cases of school error in academic placement.*

## Important Dates

July 16 – Firebird Day (8:30 – 11:00 AM)

July 21 – First Day of School

July 26 – First Season Sports Tryouts Begin

Aug. 3 – Willis Community Night / Open House (6:00 – 8:00 PM)

Aug. 19 – Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

## General School Information

**School Office**  
**480-883-5700**

**Attendance Line**  
**480-883-5703**

**Health Office**  
**480-883-5702**

## School Hours

First Bell Rings at 9:01 AM

School Ends at 3:59 PM

## REMIND – School Text and Reminders

Parents, you may sign-up to receive periodic text reminders about upcoming events using the **Willis Remind account**. **NOTE: if you already receive our reminders, you do not need to sign-up again.** To join, text @willisjh4 to the number **81010**. See [remind.com](http://remind.com) for more information.

## Homework Hub

In addition to tutoring with individual teachers, students have an opportunity to attend Homework Hub, **Monday through Thursday, from 4:05 PM until 5:00 PM**. Homework Hub is held in the Willis Media Center. Students have access to teacher and tutor assistance, as well as the computer lab. A late bus is available for students who are assigned to a regular bus route. **Homework Hub will begin on Monday, July 26.**

## Attendance Counts

**Research indicates that small improvements in attendance can yield large gains in academic performance.**

Please emphasize with your student the link between attendance and success by making sure that they miss as few days as possible. *Even students who complete their make-up work cannot replicate the activities and experiences they miss in class.* If a student must be absent, a parent/guardian should notify the school every day of the absence.



In addition, **students are expected to arrive to each class period, on-time, and prepared to work.** Arriving to class on-time will be **a point of emphasis for the 2021-22 school year.** Being on-time sets the tone for effective learning and reduces disruptions for our classroom communities. You may monitor your student's attendance using Infinite Campus.

*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 for Academic Success

We recognize that fashion trends are constantly changing. However, clothing that may be appropriate in other settings may not be appropriate for school. Our district dress code expectations are specifically outlined in the handbook. Please review this information with your student. **We want to address several points related to student dress before families begin shopping for back to school clothes.** The following items are not permitted on the Willis campus:

- **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 are not permitted on campus** (this includes beanies, bandanas, hoods, etc.)
- **Spaghetti strapped or see-through/shear clothing**
- **Clothing or jewelry that display/imply messages that are inappropriate for school:** profane language, illicit/suggestive images, drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence, weapons, etc.

Students in violation of the dress code will be asked to change, or call their parents to bring a change of clothing. We appreciate your attention to compliance with these standards of dress so that all students are able to focus on learning.

## Student Health

As we begin the new school year, we are looking forward to getting back to some of our normal routines. This school year, masks/face coverings are OPTIONAL for students and staff members. **We expect all members of our school community to abide by our first core value (everyone must feel safe and valued) and respect individual choice in this regard.** If your child is more comfortable wearing a mask, they should feel free to do so. You may [read more about beginning of the year policies and mitigation procedures on the CUSD website.](#)



As a site, we are committed to continued sanitization efforts, routine cleaning of common areas, and we will encourage frequent hand washing and sanitization. This will not only help us keep COVID in-check, but it will hopefully reduce the transmission of colds, flu, and other common illness.

As always, if your student is not feeling well, we do encourage you to keep them at home and notify our attendance office.

## Cell Phones at School



While we recognize the role that cell phones play in the lives of our students and families, there is an appropriate place and time for their use at school. We do not want them to be a distraction during instruction. With this in mind, students may use their cell phones before and after school, during passing periods and while at lunch. However, **during the class period, phones must be in silent mode and in the student's backpack (not in pockets, etc.).**

Please know that if you text your student during the school day, they may not be able to respond immediately. We do have phones for student use in the front office, student services, and the classroom (if they need to call you). In addition, we will gladly pass along messages from guardians, or help connect you with your student.

## Infinite Campus

If you do not already have one, we encourage our family members to create an [Infinite Campus Parent Portal account](#). This will allow you to monitor your students grades and attendance, providing information you may use to help them achieve success at school.

<https://bit.ly/3vxsF2j>

## First Day Supplies

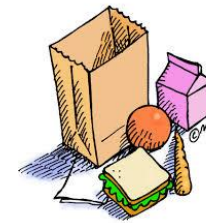
Being prepared to learn with the right materials is the best way for students to achieve early success. **Students should be prepared with the following supplies to begin classroom activities on the first day of school.**



- At least one folder, or binder
- A minimum of 3 pens (blue or black ink)
- A minimum of 3 pencils
- Loose-leaf notebook paper

Individual teachers may make additional requests, but they will communicate this information with students and parents, and allow time for students to get the required materials.

## Lunch Periods



Students are assigned to one of three lunch periods. They have the option of bringing a lunch from home, or receiving a meal from food services. This year, all students may receive free breakfast and lunch. Parents may put money in the student's lunch account, which students can access via a keypad in the cafeteria. These funds may be used to purchase snacks, water, and additional food items. Money may be added to student accounts during Firebird Day, or via a link available on our school web site.

*Please note that lunch lines can be long during the first few weeks of school. **In order to avoid long lines, students may want to bring a lunch from home.** However, we will make sure all students have the opportunity to eat lunch. Encourage them to see an adult if they do not have enough time.*

## Transportation

Bus stop and route schedules will be provided by the CUSD Transportation Department prior to the first day of school. Families will receive this information in the mail with clear information pertaining to bus stops, pick-up times, and route numbers. Once issued, students must carry ID cards and show them to the bus driver in order to ride the bus.

## Athletics

Students interested in representing Willis Jr. High in our after school sports program should complete the Athletic registration through "Register My Athlete" (RMA). All forms can be viewed and signed electronically. [Register My Athlete](#)



The additional required forms (below) can be uploaded to your RMA account via pdf or jpg.

- [2021-22 AIA 15.7A Parent Physical Form](#)
- [2021-22 AIA 15.7B Physician Physical Form](#)
- [2021-22 AIA 15.7C Concussion Form](#)
- [2021-22 AIA 15.7D Consent to Treat Form](#)
- [CUSD Parent COVID Waiver and Assumption of Risk](#)

More information can be found on the Willis website under athletics. Hard copies are also available in the Willis Student Services office.

Our first athletic season begins on Monday, July 26. First season sports include:

- Co-Ed Flag Football
- Boys' Baseball
- Girls' Volleyball

Feel free to contact student services at 480-833-5700 with any questions.

## Checking Students in and Out

To maintain student security, a parent/guardian must present a photo I.D. before a student may be released. Students may only be released to persons listed on the emergency contact form. All CUSD junior high schools are closed campuses. Students may not be released to anyone other than the parent/guardian or emergency contacts during the lunch period (or any other time). Sign in/out sheets are located in the front office.

To help us provide uninterrupted class sessions, please make every effort to communicate special pickup information to your student prior to the school day. **If you contact the school office prior to picking up a student, we can issue a pass for the student to report to the office, thereby avoiding calling into the classroom for the student.** One-hour advance notice is requested.

## Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Our parking lot is VERY small, so student drop-off and pick-up can be a challenge. It takes about a week before things settle and run smoothly. We thank you for your patience -- watching for students, yielding to busses, and keeping our kids safe.