

Willis Junior High School 2017-18



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

Principally Speaking

Jeff Delp, Principal

A warm welcome to all of our new, and returning, Firebird students and families! As part of our goal of keeping you informed, 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. You will want to keep this newsletter handy as you get ready for the first student day on Monday, July 24th.

At Willis, we have adopted the mantra “Empower. Achieve. Lead.” Our goal is to prepare our students for future success by empowering them to think critically, and make good choices; take significant and consistent strides toward academic growth and achievement; and be positive leaders in our classrooms, on our campus, and in our school community.

Our students and families will frequently hear references to the three Willis Core Value Statements. We believe that our actions related to each one of these statements plays a critical role in the success of our students, our staff, and our school community.

1. Willis is a place where everyone must feel safe, and valued.
2. Willis is a place where learning is a priority, and time spent in class is very important.
3. Willis is a place where we take pride in our school, and doing little things makes a big difference.

You can read our full core value statements, as well as examples, on our school web site. Please take the time to discuss these as a family and help your student understand their role in upholding these values on a daily basis.

As a school, our goal is to make a significant investment in the continuous improvement of programs and practices so that students reap the maximum benefit. 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 their greatest levels of academic and social development during the upcoming school year. See you soon. GO FIREBIRDS!

Stay Connected



www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs



twitter.com/willisfirebirds



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



<http://on.fb.me/1yoHKI3>

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

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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

Homework Hub

In addition to tutoring with individual teachers, students have an opportunity to attend Homework Hub, **Monday through Thursday, from 4:10 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. In order to attend, students must arrive on time, and adhere to the Willis Core Value Statements (maintaining a positive learning environment). A late bus is available for students who are assigned to a regular bus route. **Homework Hub will begin on Monday, July 31st.**

Firebird Day

Thursday, July 20th 8:30 – 11:00 AM

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

- Pick-up class schedules
- Put money into lunch accounts
- Purchase required school supplies
- Purchase spirit wear, PE uniforms, and yearbooks
- Pick-up athletic physical packets
- Locate classrooms
- Ask questions

Students unable to attend may report to the cafeteria when they arrive on the morning of July 24th to receive their schedules.

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



Important Dates

July 20 – Firebird Day
(8:30 - 11:00 AM)

7th Grade STEAM Academy Orientation
(5:30 PM)

July 24 – First Day for Students

July 31 – First Season Sports Tryouts

Aug 1 – Willis Community Night / Open House (6:00 – 8:00 PM)

Aug. 24 – Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

Attendance Counts

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. *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 must 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 (this is a part of our second core value). Students who demonstrate a pattern of tardiness will receive disciplinary consequences and potential loss of privileges.

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.

Lunch Periods



Students are assigned to one of two lunch periods. They have the option of bringing a lunch from home, or purchasing a meal from food services. Parents may put money in the student's lunch account, which students can access via a keypad in the cafeteria. 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.*

Purchase a Yearbook

Beginning Firebird Day, Thursday, July 20th, students will have the opportunity to pre-order their 2017—18 yearbook. More information about cost, and the pre-order process will be available on the 20th. Students who purchase a yearbook have the opportunity to attend a yearbook signing party at the end of the school year.

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.**

- One 3-4 inch (hard back) three-ring binder
- Minimum of 6 tabbed notebook dividers
- One pencil pouch – that can be placed in the binder
- A minimum of 3 pens (blue or black ink)
- A minimum of 3 pencils
- Loose-leaf notebook paper

These materials may be purchased at Firebird Day on July 16th. All students will be required to have these materials, beginning the first day of school. Individual teachers may make additional requests, but they will communicate this information during the first week of school.

Athletics

Students interested in representing WJHS in our after school sports program should complete an eligibility packet prior to the start of the athletic season. These packets include emergency contact and insurance information, as well as a sport's physical. Packets are available on the Willis web site (under Athletics), and can be completed online. Hard copies are available in the Willis front office.



Our first athletic season begins on Monday, July 31st. First season sports include:

- Co-Ed Flag Football
- Boy's Baseball
- Girl's Volleyball

Our athletic web site also has information about where to get sports physicals.

Dress for Academic Success

The district dress code is actively 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/shear 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
- BLVD Palm Tree shirts (drug related)
- FATAL shirts with inappropriate images
- Unnatural color/combinations of color in hair
- Hats or headwear (beanies, bandanas, etc.)
- Shirts or jewelry promoting sex, drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence, weapons, etc.
- Belts hanging below the waist
- Piercings, other than earrings

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.

E-Alerts

Parents are encouraged to create an account on the Willis web site and sign-up to receive e-alerts from your student's teachers, counselors, and administrators. Visit the Willis website and click on "Register" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

www.chandler.k12.az.us/wjhs

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.

Checking Students in and Out

To maintain student security, a parent/guardian must present a photo I.D. before the release of a student. Students may only be released to persons listed on the emergency card. All CUSD junior high schools are closed campuses. Students may not be released to anyone other than the parent/guardian during the lunch period. 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 a student.** One-hour advance notice is requested.

Become a Millionaire

Reading is a critical part of student success. Students will have the opportunity to use the Willis media center to check out books – on their own, and through their language arts class. **In addition to their required school**

supplies, Willis students should ALWAYS be in possession of a book. There will be opportunities for students to read in class when they complete assignments early, during lunch periods, and before and after school.



In addition to reading for pleasure, all Willis students have an opportunity to become a member of the Millionaire's Club – students who have read a minimum of one million words. Every year

we have a significant number of students who reach this milestone and we look forward to seeing that number grow!