

WILLIS STEAM ACADEMY FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED

Mr. Prichard – Science

Ms. Roberts – Social Studies

Mr. Kimble – Language Arts

Mr. Schultz - Math

Mr. Delp- Principal

Mr. Epstein – Assistant
Principal

Ms. Stewart – Dean of
Students



WILLIS CORE VALUES

1. Willis is a place where everyone must feel safe, and valued.

Bullying, threats, physical confrontations, fighting, and gang related activity are not allowed, and will not be tolerated. Please find appropriate ways to deal with challenges and frustrations.

2. Willis is a place where learning is a priority, and time spent in class is very important.

In the classroom, Willis students will behave in a manner that does not interfere with the teacher's ability to teach, or other student's ability to learn.

3. Willis is a place where we take pride in our school, and doing little things makes a big difference.

Model appropriate actions and behaviors, and encourage others to do the same. Be a positive difference-maker on our campus.



WILLIS STEAM ACADEMY

The Willis STEAM Academy for Gifted and Talented Students is a challenging, accelerated, cross-curricular opportunity for students in the Chandler Unified School District. Students learn the foundations of problem solving and critical thinking, while enjoying extensive content rich activities that will prepare them for the Honors/AP/IB programs of CUSD high schools and beyond. Students advance through three years of math curriculum in the two years they are at Willis and can enter high school ready to take Honors Algebra II. A science modeling curriculum engages students with dynamic inquiry-based experiences where they gain an understanding of science that is integrated, deep, and complex. In Social Studies, students are exposed to extended opportunities for critical thinking as topics are covered more in-depth and primary sources are used for multiple perspectives. Students synthesize causes and effects of events of history to current events of today.



TECHNOLOGY

Willis STEAM Academy teachers leverage technology effectively in order to engage students, enrich student understanding of content, and enable ease of student workflow. Willis is a Verizon Innovative Learning School and a Google Apps For Education school and is equipped with WI-FI, computer labs, netbooks, and Chromebooks that enable us to foster 21st century skills daily.

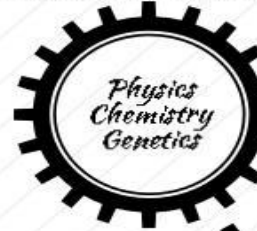


The Willis STEAM Academy for Gifted and Talented Students

Do you like...



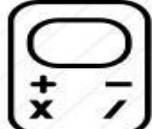
Science



TECHNOLOGY



ART



Math



Chandler IB
Perry STEM
Barrett Summer
Honors Program



College and Career
Ready



Rating	Percentage	Title	Description
0	0%	Missing – No Evidence	Work is missing –time was given, but student did not submit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used when a student chooses not to complete an assignment or for students that frequently miss formatives.
0	50%	Incomplete	Work is incomplete or insufficient to apply to scale
0.5	55%	Minimal Proficiency	Work is complete but does not demonstrate understanding of the key concepts or application of skills required for the standard, errors in logic or basic comprehension may be present
1	60%	Minimal Proficiency	Work is complete but does not demonstrate understanding of the key concepts or application of skills required for the standard, errors in logic or basic comprehension may be present
1.5	68%	Developing Proficiency	Work is complete and demonstrates understanding of some of the key concepts and/or some of the application of skills required for the standard, errors in logic or basic comprehension may be present
2	75%	Partial Proficiency	Work is complete and demonstrates understanding of the most important key concepts and/or application of some of the skills required for the standard – no errors in logic or basic comprehension
2.5	82%	Approaching Proficiency	Work is complete and demonstrates understanding of the most important key concepts and application of some of the skills required for the standard – no errors in logic or basic comprehension
3	88%	Proficient	Work is complete and demonstrates understanding of all of the key concepts and application of all necessary skills. No errors in logic or comprehension are present. The student has learned the information taught.
3.5	95%	Mastered Proficiency	Work is complete and demonstrates understanding of all of the key concepts and application of all necessary skills. No errors in logic or comprehension are present. The student did something exceptionally well: added depth to the assignment, transferred a skill from another standard etc. The student did something exceptionally well: added depth to the assignment, transferred a skill from another standard etc.
4	100%	Exceeds Proficiency	Work is complete and demonstrates understanding of all of the key concepts and application of all necessary skills. No errors in logic or comprehension are present. The student did something exceptionally well: added depth to the assignment, transferred a skill from another standard etc. The student did this deliberately and was able to explain what they did that was special or unique and why they did it. The student did something exceptionally well: added depth to the assignment, transferred a skill from another standard etc. The student did this deliberately and was able to explain what they did that was special or unique and why they did it.

INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOKS

- ALL students are expected to keep an interactive notebook for each core class. We will refer to these daily and they will be the basis for review and instruction.
- There is a format that is expected to be followed.
- These will be checked for notetaking, understanding and application of information.



SCIENCE

7th Grade	8th Grade
Geology	Genetics, Heredity, Adaptations, Health
Astronomy	Chemistry
Ecology/Environmental Science and Health	Physics
Science Process Skills	Science Process Skills



LANGUAGE ARTS

- Using technology to sift through information to evaluate and synthesize.
- Thematic Units

7th Grade	8th Grade
Who Am I?	Literature and Human Nature
Dark and Stormy Night	Macro-history of English Language Arts
Rhetoric, Argument, and Persuasion	Rhetoric, Argument, and Persuasion
In Pursuit of Happiness	In Pursuit of Greatness



SOCIAL STUDIES

- **7th grade Social Studies: Geography, Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization, Immigration, Progressive Era, Imperialism, World War I, Great Depression, economics, and civics.**
- **8th grade Social Studies: Government, philosophy of government, types of government, American Revolution, Constitution, state and federal governments, World War II, the decades, and economics.**
- **Students watch CNN Student News daily to connect to current events.**



MATH

7th Grade Algebra	8th Grade Geometry
Linear Functions, Equations, and Inequalities	Congruence and Similarity
Statistical Models	Right Triangles and Trigonometry
Quadratic Functions and Equations.	Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations
Exponential Functions	Geometric Measurement and Dimension
	Circles
Problem Solving	Problem Solving



WJHS MATH FACTS

1. 7th Graders begin math in 9th grade Honor's Algebra
2. 8th Graders begin math in 10th grade Honor's Geometry
3. WJHS follows the CUSD 9th and 10th grade mathematics blueprints, which are aligned to the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards
4. College and Career Readiness is our #1 Goal for WJHS students.





COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE
PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

Mathematical Practice

- ★ **1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
- 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**
- ★ **3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**
- 4. Model with mathematics.**
- 5. Use appropriate tools strategically.**
- 6. Attend to precision.**
- 7. Look for and make use of structure.**
- 8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**



Four Keys To College And Career Readiness

Key Content Knowledge

- + Key terms and terminology
- + Factual information
- + Linking ideas
- + Organizing concepts

Key Cognitive Strategies

- Hypothesize
- Strategize

- Organize
- Construct



- Identify
- Collect

- Analyze
- Evaluate

Key Learning Skills & Techniques

- + Time management
- + Study skills
- + Goal setting
- + Self-awareness
- + Persistence
- + Collaborative learning
- + Student ownership of learning
- + Technology proficiency
- + Retention of factual information

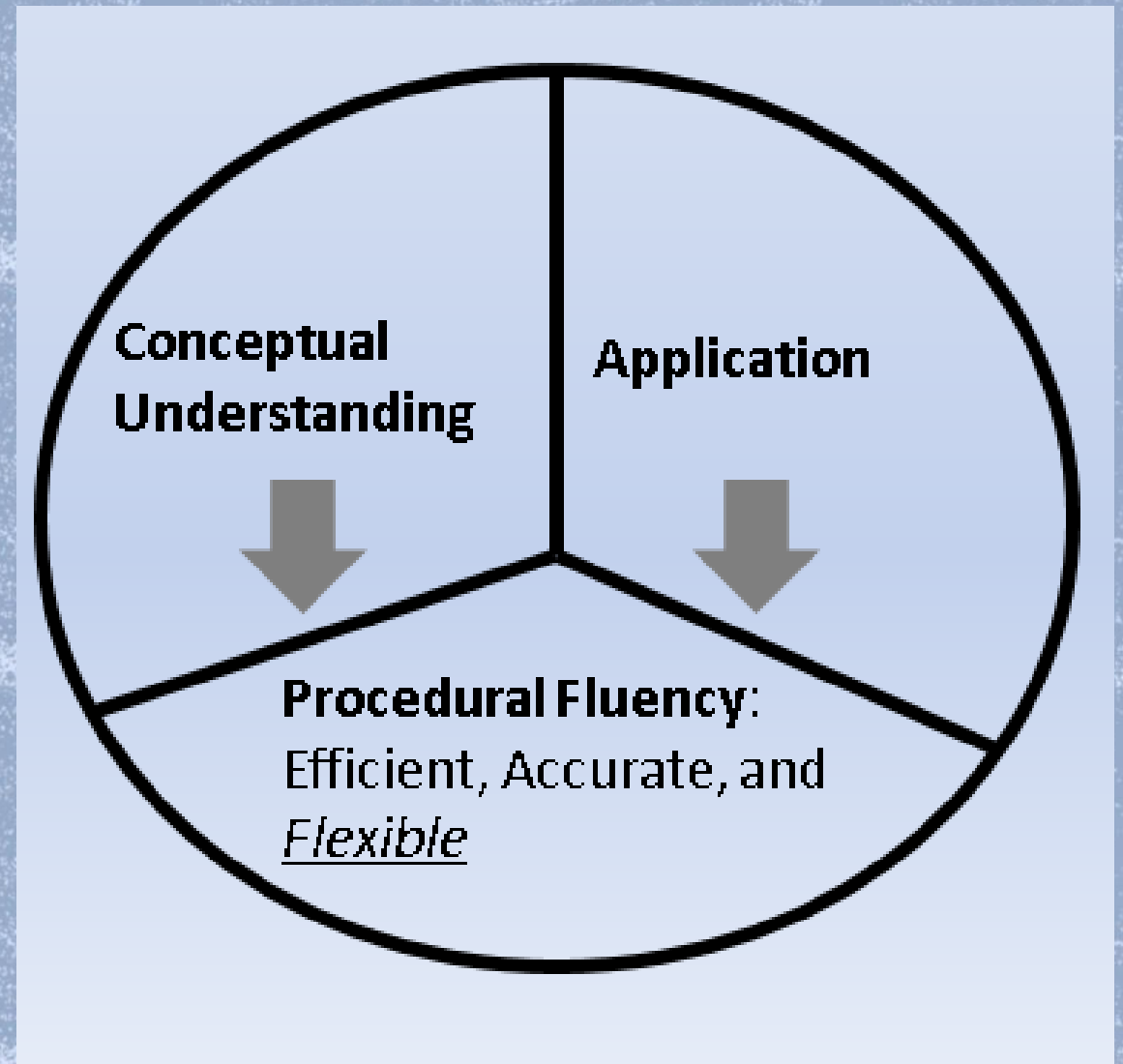
Key Transition Knowledge & Skills

- + Postsecondary program selection
- + Admissions and financial aid requirements
- + Career pathways
- + Affording college
- + Postsecondary culture
- + Role and identity issues
- + Agency

Key Cognitive Strategies



WJHS INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL:



ACADEMIC PERSEVERANCE

This is a unique opportunity at Willis. ALL students have Academic Perseverance four times a week. Monday through Thursday, students meet for 45 minutes for differentiated instruction. For the STEAM academy students, this is our time for INSPIRE projects. Students will research and present an idea to solve or make awareness to a community/world problem. Students will present their progress throughout the year at the Showcase in November and at the IGNITE festival in February.



INSPIRE



INSPIRE

- I=Investigate (Question and find a goal)
- N=Network (Find others; interviews, communication)
- S=Support (Find EVIDENCE to support)
- P=Persuade (Convince us and others to contribute and make the CHANGE)
- I=Impact (What impact? Who does this affect?)
- R=Reflect (How is it going? Who is it helping or educating?)
- E=Execute (SHOWCASE in November and IGNITE Festival Feb. 3)



PARENTS

- We welcome parent volunteers to assist during projects throughout the year.
- Please check Infinite Campus frequently for grades
- We use Google Classroom for communication. There is a parent portal.
- Students are expected to fill out and show the agenda and weekly reflection to you weekly.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us!



WILLIS TEAM EFFORTS

- We develop units that allow curriculums to work together.
 - Example- Reading and Writing is taught in all subjects.
- Willis strives to embrace the “**whole**” child. We work on academic, social, and emotional skills.
- Goal setting and individual needs are assessed as a team.
- We use the Habits of Mind for common language and community expectations.



THANK YOU!

- It is a collaboration of parents, students, teachers, and administrators that make Willis such a special place.



**YOU REALLY CAN
CHANGE THE
WORLD IF YOU CARE
ENOUGH.**

Marian Wright Edelman

American Activist

