



THE CARDINAL NEWS

WILLOWS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
August-September 2019



Message from the Principal

With Summer Vacation now a memory, it is hard to believe the first day of school is here. As students progress from elementary school to middle school there can be a period where they must deal with change and make adjustments. Social and academic pressures, such as longer school days, more teachers to get to know, and more homework are just a few that come to mind. To help your child make these adjustments, we encourage parents to actively participate in your child's education. A positive attitude (.....life is what we make of it) and plenty of enthusiasm (.....it is contagious) can go a long way to helping a teenager or pre-adolescent achieve at a high level. Communication and cooperation between the School and the home is critical to your child's success at school. Please know we believe by working together we can make this school year one of the best ever for your child.

Upcoming Events

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| August 1 | 6 th Grade/New Student Parent Meeting, 5:30pm |
| August 1 | School Board Meeting – City Civic Center, 7:00pm |
| August 7 | Class Lists Posted 5:00pm |
| August 8 | 1 st Day of School |
| August 14 | PLC/Collaboration Day, Early Release 1:30pm |
| August 21 | Picture Day |
| August 21 | Back to School Night, 6:00pm |
| August 28 | PLC/Collaboration Day, Early Release 1:30pm |
| September 2 | Labor Day Holiday – No School |
| September 5 | School Board Meeting – City Civic Center, 7:00pm |
| September 11 | PLC/Collaboration Day, Early Release 1:30pm |
| September 13 | 1 st Quarter Progress Report Day |
| September 16 | Co. Wide In-Service Day – No School |
| September 25 | PLC/Collaboration Day, Early Release 1:30pm |

Communication/Contact with School (website: www.willowsunified.org/wis)

We encourage parents to be active in their child's education. To assist you in this very important parental task, please know you may contact your child's teacher, as well as most other staff members by telephone and/or e-mail or the Parent Portal (see information below). To access voice mail, dial the school's phone number (934-6633) and listen for when the recording states you may enter an extension. At that time, you may reach a teacher's voice mail by entering the number 4+the room number. Please remember during business hours when calling the school (934-6633), you may always get a staff member by dialing zero.

You may also contact most of the school's staff by e-mail. All staff members with e-mail may be reached by the first letter of their name with their last name followed by @willowsunified.org. Example: ssailsbery@willowsunified.org which will access the principal by e-mail.

Cafeteria

We are pleased to inform you that all schools in the Willows Unified School District will continue to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2019-20 school year. All students will continue to be eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school daily at no charge to your household. While CEP eliminates the need for Free or Reduced Meal applications, we ask that all families take a few moments to complete a Confidential Family Survey – School Funding Form for the 2019-20 school year. This information is critical to ensure that our schools receive our full and fair

share of funding under the federal provision. We are implementing a new, online option to collect this information. A link and additional information will be available under the "Parent" section of the District website on August 8th. We encourage families to use the online portal whenever possible as it is completely private and secure. To ensure all families have an opportunity to provide this vital information, paper forms will also be available from all school sites and the district office. The food service staff have been working on new recipes and menu improvements during the summer. Please watch for surveys, food tastings and other opportunities to help the food service staff to grow and improve the meal program.

Hallway Lockers

As implemented last school year, we will not be providing students with the combination locks on the hallway lockers due to the lack of resources, i.e. - costs, parts availability, etc. Students will still be issued wall lockers and may choose to bring a combination lock (no key locks allowed). If a student chooses to utilize a combination lock, she/he will provide the office with a copy of the combination prior to use. This practice has been in use at Willows High School for many years. ***Please note: any unauthorized locks on a locker may be cut off.**

School Attendance

Good attendance is an absolute must if your child is going to be successful at WIS! Your strong parental influence is needed to ensure that your children are in school everyday this year. Should it be necessary for them to be absent, a telephone call confirming the reason on the morning of the absence would be greatly appreciated. If this is not possible, please remember to send a written note on the day of return, which the student needs to turn into the office before the start of school. The student will then pick up an admit slip to turn into his/her first period teacher. Please Note: A student who returns to school after being absent without verification will be assigned lunch detention. This may be enforced for up to three days after which the absence will be declared unexcused and possibly referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) for further action.

Parent Portal

Willows Unified School District (WUSD) uses Aeries by Eagle Software for student information management. Eagle Software has developed a parent portal tool for parents/guardians to view the records of their child via the internet. WUSD will provide parents/guardians of currently enrolled students the privilege of free access to WUSD Parent Portal. Only parents or guardians of students enrolled in the district will be allowed access to WUSD Parent Portal. WUSD reserves the right to deny or cease access to WUSD Parent Portal due to the abuse of the system, court orders, or any other legal proceedings that limit the availability of private educational data. If you haven't already signed up and wish to do so, please come into the WIS Office to sign up.

Fall Pictures

"School Picture" Day is August 21st. However, if your child missed out, there will be a "make-up" day in October 11th.

Message from the Nurse

No medication, prescription or over-the-counter, can be given out at school without authorization from both a parent and physician. If your child needs medication while at school, please obtain a "medication authorization form" from the office. Should you have any questions, please call Celeste Baker, R.N., or Raina Arnold, Health Aide, at 934-6633 or 934-6640.

If you become ill and do not have any insurance, contact Medi-cal/Healthy Families @ 1-800-880-5305.

Message from the School Counselor

The counseling services at WIS are designed to help students have a successful school experience - both academically and socially. Programs include individual counseling, group counseling, classroom guidance, parent-teacher consultation, information services and referral assistance to community services. We also hold Student Study team meetings after school for students who have academic concerns.

The counselor's office is located near the school library and appointment can be scheduled by calling Bibiana McNeil at 934-6633 ext. 4120.

Policies and Procedures at Willows Intermediate School

Please be aware that each student is issued a Student Handbook at the beginning of the school year. It is required of each child and at least one parent (preferably both) to review the policies and procedures listed in the handbook.

We are having some issues with DRESS CODE violations. Recently, a parent stated, "...school was her son's job, and she is teaching him and expects him to dress appropriately for work."

Please review this policy and be aware of what your child is wearing to school. Please teach them the importance of appearance "on the job", and coach them on what is "appropriate and in good taste". We appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

SPARK/ASAP = After School Activity Program

SPARK/"ASAP" is a federally funded program under the supervision of Glenn County Office of Education. In partnership with Willows Intermediate School, ASAP is a three hour after school program designed to enhance the learning experience for participating students. The program is administered on campus from 2:45 PM to 6:00 PM every day. For more details please call Philip James at 781-4356. Applications are available in the WIS office.