

# School Days

Friday  
August 8, 2025

Pilot Point ISD  
Aubrey ISD  
Tioga ISD

THE POST-SIGNAL.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### THROUGHOUT THE AREA

- 3** State bans cell phone use on campuses
- 4** Legislature requires teacher raises for 2025-26
- 6** Area ISDs continue to brace for upcoming growth

### PILOT POINT ISD

- 8** PPISD welcomes four new campus administrators
- 10** PPISD At a Glance
- 11** PPISD New Teachers & Staff

### AUBREY ISD

- 13** Ready and Waiting: Owens Middle opens doors
- 16** AISD At a Glance
- 17** Aubrey FFA works to expand offerings
- 19** Aubrey ISD welcomes new teachers, staff

### TIOGA ISD

- 21** Strike up the band: Speer to head TISD band program
- 23** TISD At a Glance/New Teachers & Staff

## Brought to you by

### The Post-Signal.

Named Best Weekly Newspaper in Texas  
1982, 1994, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2014,  
2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024

Denton  
County's  
Oldest  
Business



#### Contact Us

111 E. Main - P.O. Box 249  
Pilot Point, Texas 76258  
940-686-2169  
[www.postsignal.com](http://www.postsignal.com)



Abigail Allen, Editor & Publisher  
News Coverage/Legal Notices  
[aallen@postsignal.com](mailto:aallen@postsignal.com)

Martin Edwards, Assistant Editor  
Sports/News  
[medwards@postsignal.com](mailto:medwards@postsignal.com)

Kim Fleming  
Advertising Manager  
[kfleming@postsignal.com](mailto:kfleming@postsignal.com)

Carrie Rodriguez  
Designer & Advertising Sales  
[crodriguez@postsignal.com](mailto:crodriguez@postsignal.com)

©2025 Post-Signal Newspapers, Inc. Reproduction of any content  
prohibited without prior written consent.



Your community photos  
Captured by the Post-Signal  
[postsignal.pixieset.com](http://postsignal.pixieset.com)

# State bans cell phone use on campuses

By Tierney Withrow  
For the Post-Signal

School districts are to adopt policies restricting students from using phones and other electronics during school hours, House Bill 1481 states, and the bill also requires districts to enforce punishments for those who break the policy.

Tioga ISD, Aubrey ISD and Pilot Point ISD adopted policies stating students must have their electronics in their bags during the school day.

“We’ve chosen to allow possession on campus but prevent use, which means it can be powered off in their backpack, not on their person, along with all the other communication devices,” Aubrey ISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Saylor said.

Prohibited devices include phones, smartwatches, earbuds and any other electronic device not supplied by the district.

“I think the watches and the earbuds will be more of an issue than the phones,” Tioga High School Principal Kirkland said. “The biggest change is going to be the lack of immediate availability to them.”

All district policies outline the ban is from the start bell to end bell and doesn’t include extracurricular activities before and after school.

“Our choices in law were to either prohibit possession or have a policy regarding storage,” Saylor said to the Aubrey ISD trustees. “We are not providing storage because these are basically \$1,500 computers that their parents own.”

Some districts have bought storage units for devices to comply with the bill.

“I don’t think we have the manpower or the ability to have everybody come and lock them up in a certain spot,” Kirkland said. “I think that’s something that would be very, very difficult to manage and require more manpower than what we probably have—not to mention the disruptions that it would cost.”

Aubrey students will receive detention for the first and second infraction and ISS placement on the third offense. Students will not receive punishment for minor infractions, such as their phone ringing.

“No discipline is black and white because we gotta consider the intent,

**2025-2026**

## Cell Phone Policy

**New Texas Law - HB 1481**



### What’s changing?

- All cell phones, smart watches, tablets, laptops, headphones, and earbuds are prohibited during the entire school day - including lunch and passing periods
- Devices must be turned off and stored in backpacks that will be maintained in the front of the classroom, a locker, or another secure location not on the student’s person during the day
- No exceptions for instructional use
- Exceptions only for:
  - approved medical needs (plan with School Nurse & Principal)
  - Special Education Need (IEP/504)

### Disciplinary Actions

**If a device is visible, vibrates, or rings, it is subject to disciplinary consequences.**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Device will be confiscated; the student may pick up the device at the end of the day
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Device will be confiscated; parents may pick up the device at the end of the school day
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Device will be confiscated and will not be returned until a parent meeting has occurred. School consequences in accordance with the enforcement of campus rules and Student Code of Conduct may also apply
- **4<sup>th</sup> Offense or More:** School consequences in accordance with the enforcement of campus rules and Student Code of Conduct.

**Pilot Point ISD shares the guidelines regarding cell phone storage on school grounds in advance of the school year kicking off on Aug. 11.**

Graphic Courtesy of Pilot Point ISD

the kids’ discipline history and the kid’s ability to understand wrongness and their actions,” Saylor said.

Pilot Point students are subject to disciplinary action if the device is visible, vibrates or rings, the district stated on Facebook. Students who violate the policy will have their device confiscated on the first and second offense. The third offense will result in a parent meeting.

Administrators are curious about how the new policy will affect stu-

dent-teacher relations as it rolls out.

“It’s going to be an adjustment,” Saylor said. “I think it’s gonna be for the good.”

Parents wanting to communicate with their child will have to contact the main office.

“It’s going to be the campus coming up with plans on how children can communicate with their parents or somebody during the school day,” Saylor said.

Aubrey office receptionists are go-

ing to be divided by last name alphabetically to make message management easier for both parents and staff.

“When parents want to get in touch with their kids, it’ll be just like the old-fashioned note system we used to do,” Saylor said.

Previously, Aubrey Middle School had a similar phone policy that required parents to contact the main office.

“Once parents got acclimated, it kind of died off of being crazy about the calls for the front office because you learn to communicate ahead of time,” Director of Student Services Jewelisha Jefferson said.

Tioga’s previous phone policy stated students had to put up devices during class time but were allowed access during lunch and passing periods.

“Our students know lunch is going to be difficult,” Kirkland said. “In between classes is going to be difficult because that’s when they’ve been allowed to have them.”

The bill has faced backlash from both students, parents and staff across the state.

“It’s just a culture shock,” TISD board President Dallas Slay said.

Kirkland agreed.

“It’s the instant connectivity, instant access, instant gratification, if you will, of whatever they need. Our students live in a world, and our adults, for that matter, live in a world where if they need to know something, they can Google it.”

Saylor recognized the policy will be a major adjustment for both students and parents.

“I do think we’re going to have to have some mental health support in place for kids because it’s going to be very difficult for them if they really aren’t practicing being away from their phone,” she said. “In our leadership meeting, we had squish balls so that people did things in their hands besides grab their phone because we do it as adults.”

The policies go into effect on the first day of school.

“This, once again, is a common-sense approach that should be put up,” Kirkland said. “They are not allowed. We are going to follow the law.”

# Legislature requires teacher raises for 2025-26



Tioga ISD Superintendent Josh Ballinger discusses the changes the Texas Legislature have made, including requiring teacher pay raises during the July 21 school board meeting.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

**By Tierney Withrow**  
*For the Post-Signal*

House Bill 2 will give districts across the state around \$8 billion in funding and \$4 billion for staff pay raises.

Teachers with at least three years of experience will earn a \$4,000 raise and teachers with at least five years of experience will earn an \$8,000 raise.

The money will become available to districts in September.

“A really good TEA document

came out,” Tioga ISD Superintendent Josh Ballinger said. “If you want a school finance 101 document, that is basically what that is. It explains in written form, instead of a bunch of formulas and spreadsheets thrown at you, what House Bill 2, how that’s going to intertwine with everything to do with school finance, but also just the general terms of what everything means.”

#### **Aubrey ISD**

State funding is falling behind

where Aubrey ISD originally budgeted but is set to catch up in September when the district gains payment from HB2.

“If we didn’t have such a healthy fund balance, we would be in trouble,” Assistant Superintendent Eric Hough said. “We’re not going to be having to take out any kind of short-term loan that makes payroll or anything like that.”

The district has received less state funding this year despite the increase in students.

“I am nervous about this year,” Hough said. “Y’all asked two months ago where we were at, and I told you I was cautiously optimistic. I’m more cautious and less optimistic.”

The district’s savings in the bank will be lower than their fund balance level until they receive state funding in the fall.

“It is going to be a substantial settle-up this year,” Hough said. “Their numbers that they show is over \$4.5 million that they’re behind.”

The district is over \$200,000

# Districts decipher state funding mandates

short in federal money for the upcoming school year.

"It's lagging behind, and it is not going to catch up," Hough said. "We have received all the federal money that we're going to get for this year."

The decrease in federal funding is because of the 2023 audit by the government.

"They made some changes to how those things were calculated, and they had paid us above what they thought they owed us," Hough said. "We appealed it. It was not successful."

The board plans to host a public meeting on Aug. 20 to discuss tax increases and budget amendments.

"This year, everything has come in lower than I expected it to," Hough said. "It's going to take a little more effort than it had in the past. I'm not saying we will be in deficit. I'm saying I'm going to work harder to try and not have that happen."

## Pilot Point ISD

Pilot Point ISD has a surplus balance of \$2.4 million and has multiple upcoming projects underway.

The \$20,000 remaining from the 2024-25 CTE funds will be used to purchase 32 new computer stations at the high school. An additional \$10,000 will come from the 2025-26 CTE fund.

"The purpose is for the students to have access to the necessary technology and some of the platforms required to successfully complete [computer science] college courses," Executive Director of Administrative Services and Operations Dr. Brant Perry said.

The district also is spending over \$1 million to redo the turf on the high school's baseball field.

"The Pilot Point High School baseball field is in need of repair for a number of reasons," Perry said. "First and foremost, the surface, which poses significant safety concerns in the outfield, in the infield, around the pitching mound, in and around home plate. This issue re-

quires immediate attention."

The district gained \$433,000 to support math teachers from The Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities.

"[There will be] a shift in 50% of funding priorities to support educated professional learning and spend funds in the best way possible for the district," Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Alica Bonnett said.

The district got a \$73,000 investment gain and has maintained a 4.5% interest rate.

## Tioga ISD

Tioga ISD will receive around \$200,000 for teacher pay raises because of HB2.

"The raises are going to cost just under \$400,000, so we're half covered on that," Ballinger said.

The district receives around 75% of their funding from state aid.

"We're receiving [state aid payments] every month," Ballinger said. "Those were really, really important three years ago when we were trying to figure out how to make payroll. Now, we're in good enough shape that's not nearly as crucial as it was just a couple years ago."

The district's average daily attendance numbers fell a bit short last year.

"[The state] went ahead and adjusted our [average daily attendance] down without me even prompting them," Ballinger said. "It's still a little bit high, but once again, we've already covered the basics. You can be a little low and still come out OK with what you are going to get paid."

The current budget is around \$8.2 million. State aid is projected to be over \$8 million.

"We've talked about how we're probably going to have to make a pretty big adjustment [to the budget] in August, once we set our tax rate," Ballinger said. "It's not going to be as big of an adjustment as what we may be anticipating if all of this holds."

**TEXAS  
REPUBLIC  
BANK**

Est. 1891

*Banking like it oughta be!*

[www.texaspublicbank.com](http://www.texaspublicbank.com)

ASK US ABOUT  
OUR KID  
ACCOUNTS!



Dream Builder  
Savings Account

★ Ages 0-17

Building Dreams  
Together!

Contact us Today!



940-324-5100

Member  
FDIC  
EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER



# Area ISDs continue to brace for upcoming growth



Aubrey High School has a new face to greet incoming students, staff and community members to start the 2025-26 school year.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

**By Tierney Withrow**  
*For the Post-Signal*

With more growth planned for the Ranch Cities area, Aubrey ISD and Pilot Point ISD both have upcoming construction projects to accommodate for rapid student population growth.

## Aubrey ISD

Owens Middle School is set to open for the 2025-26 school year, and other AISD upcoming construction projects include building renovations and Elementary School No. 5.

The middle school is \$3 million below budget.

“Middle School No. 2 is about to move to completed projects,” Director of Operations Matthew Gore said. “Architects have completed punch walks and teacher move-in started [late July]. My group will go walk it one more time and make sure that we are getting everything finalized.”

The building had issues with the internal communication system reaching some parts of campus but was corrected.

“The only other major issue we really ran into was on the thermostats,” Gore said. “They had picked out the wrong kinds. We’ve had to deal with that.”

To celebrate the end of construction, Gore gifted the school board members gold scissors.

“There’s always things at the end of a project you’re thinking that should have been done as well,” Gore said. “But for the most part, I think everything turned out very well. I really enjoyed building the school.”

The high school has been undergoing renovations throughout the summer.

“We’ve got a lot to get done and complete between now and school starting,” Gore said.

The renovations added a new classroom section, 200 parking spots and an additional gym to accommodate student growth. Furniture is stacked in the cafeteria and ready to be moved into the classrooms.

“We’re really down to a lot of the nitty-gritty stuff on most of it and

# Construction plans, work move forward

therefore working seven days a week trying to get it wrapped up before school starts," Gore said.

The athletic part of the building will still be under construction after school begins.

"We're continuing to move forward, and the goal is Dec. 31," Gore said.

The admin and transportation building renovations are in the design phase. The renovations are set to complete in the summer of 2027.

"I know that the architect and the contractor have had some conversations," Gore said. "This hasn't been a big focus yet because of all the stuff we're trying to finish."

Elementary School No. 5 is in the early design phase and is set to open for the 2027-28 school year.

"We've been working some behind the scenes, working on budgets and looking at kind of initial designs," Gore said. "Our goal is construction beginning January 2026."

The campus will be 90,000 square feet and may feature dual-use spaces to save room.

"We're trying to get it at a scale where it's in our budget," Gore said.

One proposed option to cut 400 square feet was to combine the music classroom and the stage.

"I talked to other principals, and they said it works great," Superintendent Dr. Shannon Saylor said. "Then your stage is used every day versus a special occasion."

No new schools will be opened for the 2026-2027 school year, but two more elementary schools are budgeted from the 2022 bond.

"Opening a school every year is a really imminent budget killer," Saylor said. "It's painful. We can go a year without opening one for fall 2026."

## Pilot Point ISD

Pilot Point ISD has recently finished multiple projects and gained three plots of land for future campus sites budgeted from the 2021 bond.

"Back in 2021, we had a group get together and we looked at the long-

term needs of the district students by improving facilities, classrooms and learning environments," said Dr. Brant Perry, executive director of Administrative Services and Operations.

Two different committees were formed: the long-range planning facility committee and the bond planning committee.

"They all got together, and they were able to look at projections and our transportation needs, our future land usage, and a full assessment of where every campus was," Perry said.

The early childhood center gained an additional student drop-off area, and the elementary school gym floor was replaced because of previous damage.

"This new one is absolutely gorgeous," Perry said. "It's fun listening to the kids and watching the kids play on it. It's soft. It feels good and we're very proud of it."

The district fixed campus drainage issues at the middle school and replaced the flooring in the cafeteria and one of the hallways.

"All the jobs are substantially complete," Perry said. "That's very good news."

The high school floors were also replaced, and the storefront doors were fixed.

"We did work at all four schools, but there are some other projects going on in the district as well," Perry said. "We were able to redo 90% of our [air] conditioners for the district, which is huge for us. That's a beautiful thing to have."

The high school baseball field turf was recently voted to be replaced at the July 17 board meeting.

"The Pilot Point High School baseball field is in need of repair for a number of reasons," Perry said. "First and foremost, the surface poses significant safety concerns in the outfield, in the infield, around the pitching mound, in and around home plate. This issue requires immediate attention."

The project will cost over \$1 million and has no set construction start date.

**Starbright**  
Music & Performing Arts

110 S WASHINGTON ST PILOT POINT, TX 76258

**PRIVATE LESSONS**

*Group Classes*

**WORKSHOPS**

**SUMMER CAMPS**

**Opportunities for  
age 5–adult!**



**MUSICAL THEATRE**

**MUSIC • ACTING**

**SONGWRITING/  
COMPOSITION**



**\$20 OFF**  
USE CODE  
**STAR20**

SCAN



When Registering **FOR NEW STUDENTS ONLY**  
**\*\*\*Cannot be combined with any other offers**

**www.starbrightmpa.com**

**Call/Text (940) 647-4461**



# PPISD welcomes four new campus administrators



Principal Andrea Kennedy, surrounded by her touches to her office, hopes to inspire her teachers to be the best version of themselves for their students at the Pilot Point Early Childhood Center.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal



Pilot Point Elementary School Principal Shana Pike beams with excitement about being back on the elementary campus, where she previously served as assistant principal.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal



Assistant Principal Delicia Pennington aims to show the Pilot Point Middle School students how to make long-range goals.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal



Assistant Principal Eliseo Moreno wants to help the Pilot Point High School students have a broad understanding of their options for life after high school.

Abigail Allen/  
The Post-Signal

By Abigail Allen  
Editor & Publisher

Pilot Point ISD has a new troupe of leaders across the district—Principal Andrea Kennedy at the Early Childhood Center, Principal Shana Pike at Pilot Point Elementary School, Assistant Principal Delicia Pennington at Pilot Point Selz Middle School and Assistant Principal Eliseo Moreno at Pilot Point High School.

Kennedy, who has “lived in multiple states” and “had multiple school experiences,” said that inspired her career.

“I moved to Texas in eighth grade,” she said. “Before that, I had lived in four different states, and I think I had five elementaries and I had three middle schools, so I had quite a variety of experiences, from richer areas like Scottsdale, to poorer areas in Colorado, and so I saw a variety of

what school could be like for kids and the difference in it.”

Kennedy has a bachelor’s degree from what was then Southwest Texas State University.

Early in her career as an educator, she

worked as a self-contained special education teacher at the middle school level before switching to being an early childhood teacher.

After her first foray into academic leadership as a lead teacher in McKinney

# New administrators plan to bring positivity, experience

ISD, the principal she worked under encouraged her to get her master's degree, which she obtained from Concordia Lutheran University.

She took a job at the high school level, "partly because I like to be engaged and I want to be learning new things, but also, I wanted to have a variety of experiences and in leadership so that way I would be more marketable as an administrator because I had a more well-rounded background."

She has also served as dean of students at a high school and as assistant principal at several schools.

"My goal is to make sure that all our kids, no matter who they are, have great experiences," Kennedy said.

She was the compliance officer for special education for Sherman when the ECC principal position came up.

"This is actually my dream position," Kennedy said. "When I went in to get my masters to be an administrator, it was really to be an early childhood principal."

She already feels at home at Pilot Point ISD and is excited about the team at her school.

"It's been truly the best start of a school year that I've had, and this is my 26th year," Kennedy said. "... They embrace you as soon as you join, and they really are supportive."

Shana Pike, who is not a new face to PPISD or even Pilot Point Elementary School and who is starting her 21st year in education, is excited to be back with her younger students.

"There's a lot of things that I know need attention, and so I'm really focused on that, and I want to get as much of it done as possible to make the school as successful as possible," she said.

She claimed her crew as "the best staff in the whole district."

"I kind of already had that support because they knew me, and they knew that I was a hard worker and I'm going to support them," Pike said. "And so, I think that they were pretty confident with me coming in. I've had nothing but support from the staff."

She wants to be there for her teachers to "encourage them and push them and cheer them on," Pike said.

Part of that also includes leading through accountability, both to the staff and from the staff, "making sure we're all giving our best every day."

"I would also like to have [Pilot Point Elementary School] be a school that all the kids are excited about going to, all the par-

ents are glad that their kids are here and just everybody—teachers, staff, community—everybody's proud of it," Pike said.

When Pike moved into the PPES principal slot, she left a hole at Pilot Point Middle School in the assistant principal spot, which Pennington has filled.

Pennington, who grew up in North Texas, earned a bachelor's in English at BYU and in 2001 became a teacher who has worked in a few districts throughout North Texas, including long stints in McKinney and Frisco.

"Most of my time was spent as an English teacher, and then my last few years, I was an instructional coach for Frisco ISD, mainly working with RLA and social studies," she said.

During her time as an educator, Pennington also returned to school and earned her master's in curriculum and instruction from University of Texas at Arlington, which is also where she obtained her principal certification.

Making the move to Pilot Point ISD means adjusting to a different size of district than Pennington is used to.

"I'm always kind of a person willing to try new things, ... and I have really loved Pilot Point," she said. "The people here have been so nice. It really is a great little community."

While the environment might be different, the needs are the same.

"The kids still need good teachers," Pennington said. "They need good admin, whether that's in a big city, a suburb or a small town."

She hopes to put her "passion for education" to good use for the students of Pilot Point Middle School.

"My parents taught me that school was important, that education was something people couldn't take from you, and knowledge is power and empowering," Pennington said. "That is what got me into education."

She also hopes to help her students identify their long-term goals while safely in the PPMS halls.

"Sometimes in middle school, they don't know what those goals are, but showing them what it could be and what it could look like, and giving them the skills for potentially doing that someday is really important," Pennington said. "That's what I hope to bring."

She also hopes to be someone who inspires the kids to be excited about learning.

"I had great teachers who were happy to be there, would dance in the hall-

ways and things like that, and I think kids need to see adults who like being at school, who like their job, who care about them," Pennington said.

Her counterpart at Pilot Point High School, Moreno, also wants to be someone the students feel comfortable approaching.

"It's a really good opportunity to help these kids reach their full potential," he said.

When Moreno grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, there were limited options for employment.

After he earned his bachelor's in psychology from what was University of Texas Pan American, he opted to go into education.

"It sounds cheesy, but it's true," Moreno said. "I always wanted to give back, so this is an opportunity to give back. And that's when I started [in] education out there in South Texas, and then I got recruited to come work in Fort Worth ISD, and that's how I ended up in

North Texas."

Like Pennington, Moreno's experience has been in large districts, including most recently Denton ISD before he took a three-year break to work in the private sector.

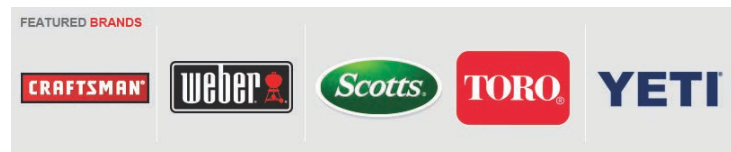
He and his family have called Pilot Point home for about seven years, so being able to jump at the PPHS assistant principal gig made sense.

"And I had a chance to serve and lead again, and this is a perfect fit," Moreno said.

Moreno spent his early years as an educator as a science teacher, so he has a strong focus on the instructional side of education as well as wanting to help them stretch themselves to grow into the best version of themselves.

"We're always constantly looking at the courses that we can offer and just [want to] have those opportunities for Pilot Point kids," Moreno said.

## The one stop for everything you need!



- Fasteners
- Paint
- Carhartt
- Lawn & Garden
- Electrical
- Automotive
- Lumber
- Plumbing
- Cleaning supplies
- Concrete
- Hardware
- Housewares
- Stihl
- Tools
- Ammunition



**ACE**  
The helpful place.  
Hardware & Lumber of Pilot Point

316 S. Hwy. 377, Pilot Point, TX 76258  
940-686-5311

Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug. 11: First Day of School/Begin First Grading Period  
Sept. 1: Student/Staff Holiday  
Sept. 2: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
Oct. 9: End First Grading Period  
Oct. 10: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day/  
Homecoming  
Oct. 13-14: Student/Staff Holiday  
Oct. 15: Second Grading Period Begins  
Nov. 3: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
Nov. 24-28: Student/Staff Holiday  
Dec. 18: End Second Grading Period  
Dec. 19: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
Dec. 22-Jan. 2: Student/Staff Holiday  
Jan. 5: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
Jan. 6: Third Grading Period Begins  
Jan. 19: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
Feb. 13: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
Feb. 16: Bad Weather Make-Up Day  
Mar. 6: End Third Grading Period  
Mar. 9-13: Student/Staff Holiday  
Mar. 16: Fourth Grading Period Begins  
Apr. 3: Student/Staff Holiday  
Apr. 6: Bad Weather Make-Up Day  
May 21: End Fourth Grading Period/Early Release/  
Last Day of School  
May 22: Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day  
May 25: Student/Staff Holiday



## PILOT POINT ISD AT A GLANCE

[www.pilotpointisd.com](http://www.pilotpointisd.com)

### Administration

- 829 S. Harrison St., Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8700
- Fax: 940-686-8705
- Superintendent: Dr. Shannon Fuller, [sfuller@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:sfuller@pilotpointisd.com)
- Executive Director of Administrative Services and Operations: Dr. Brant Perry, [bperry@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:bperry@pilotpointisd.com)
- Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Alicia Bonnett, [abonnett@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:abonnett@pilotpointisd.com)
- Administrative Assistant: Angie Price, [aprice@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:aprice@pilotpointisd.com)

### High School

- 1300 N. Washington St., Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8740
- Fax: 940-686-8745
- Principal: Marzia Infante, [minfante@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:minfante@pilotpointisd.com)
- Administrative Assistant: Paula Gutierrez, [pgutierrez@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:pgutierrez@pilotpointisd.com)

### Selz Middle School

- 828 S. Harrison, Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8730
- Fax: 940-686-8735
- Principal: Taylor Penn, [tpenn@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:tpenn@pilotpointisd.com)
- Administrative Assistant: Alyssa Lynch, [alynch@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:alynch@pilotpointisd.com)

### Elementary School

- 501 E. Carol, Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8720
- Fax: 940-686-8725
- Principal: Shana Pike, [spike@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:spike@pilotpointisd.com)
- Campus Secretary: Ana Bernon, [abernon@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:abernon@pilotpointisd.com)

### Early Childhood Center

- 829 S. Jefferson, Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8710
- Fax: 940-686-8715
- Principal: Andrea Kennedy, [akennedy@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:akennedy@pilotpointisd.com)
- Campus Receptionist: Alicia Alejos, [aalejos@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:aalejos@pilotpointisd.com)

### School Board

- President: Renee Polk, [rpolk@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:rpolk@pilotpointisd.com)
- Vice President: Jacob Stuckly, [jstuckly@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:jstuckly@pilotpointisd.com)
- Secretary: Mandy Kirby, [mkirby@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:mkirby@pilotpointisd.com)
- Trustee: Amy McEvoy, [amcevoy@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:amcevoy@pilotpointisd.com)
- Trustee: Lora Renfro, [lrenfro@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:lrenfro@pilotpointisd.com)
- Trustee: Justin Chance, [jchance@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:jchance@pilotpointisd.com)
- Trustee: Craig Bickers, [cbickers@pilotpoint.com](mailto:cbickers@pilotpoint.com)

### School Board Meetings

- Date: Second Wednesday of Each Month
- Time: 5 p.m.
- Place: Administration Building, 829 S. Harrison, Pilot Point, TX 76258



## Go behind the headlines and save!

Read The Post-Signal for two months **FREE** with a trial subscription.

**SUBSCRIBE**

at [postsignal.com/trial](http://postsignal.com/trial)  
or call 940-686-2169



## PPISD NEW TEACHERS & STAFF

### HIGH SCHOOL

- Wesley Westbrook, ag teacher.
- Jesse Hallmark, geography teacher/coach.
- Jacob Cabaniss, ag teacher.
- Mallory Eichenberger, athletics secretary/attendance clerk.
- Holden Grant, social studies teacher/boys coach.
- Christina Garcia, ISS aide.
- Jonathon Phelps, math teacher.
- Rachel Strait, counselor.
- Thomas Pitts, athletic trainer.
- Melissa Hollingsworth, science teacher.
- Deanna Arbenowske, SPED aide.
- Ryan Menasco, DAEP.
- Justin Martin, English teacher.
- Eliseo Moreno, assistant principal.
- Palma De Charmoy, science teacher.
- Scott Cronian, IT director.
- Kelly Cutler, math teacher.
- Mary Williams-Keeten, Life Skills aide.
- Josie Graycheck, math teacher.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Kaitlyn Howeth, MS dyslexia interventionist/SPED.
- Hannah Lemoine, instructional coach.
- Lynn Miller, MS math/SPED teacher.
- William Chase, assistant band director.
- Cindy Jester, SPED aide.
- Delicia Pennington, assistant principal.
- Tonja Hamel, sixth grade RLA.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Nicole Downs, elementary teacher.
- Kailee Merrill, campus receptionist.
- Elizabeth Escamilla, LVN.
- Aaron Lynn, SPED aide.
- Bobbie Gambill, elementary counselor.
- April Howard, elementary 5th grade teacher.
- Shanna Askew, SPED teacher.
- Madalyn Key, elementary aide.
- Alexya Dane, aide.
- Blanca Arias, bilingual teacher.
- Brenda Cachin, elementary aide.
- Timothy Garbett, SPED teacher.
- Megan Burchfield, student support



One of the newest members of the Pilot Point ISD Police Department is sworn in during late July.

Photo Courtesy of Pilot Point ISD

### facilitator.

- Cheryl Probst, 4th grade teacher.
- Cindy Hewlett, reading interventionist.
- Chelsea Ryan, 2nd grade.
- Forrest Manning, SPED teacher.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- Ashley Lopin, district testing coordinator/counselor.
- Rebecca Johnson, RN.
- Hope Brewer, childcare aide.
- Ileana Garza Villanueva, pre-kindergarten bilingual teacher.
- Irene Perez, kindergarten bilingual teacher.
- Dominique Gauthier, kindergarten teacher.
- Yvette Rand, kindergarten teacher.
- Rachel Contreras, pre-kindergarten teacher.
- Nancy Menasco, teacher.
- Betty Davis, pre-kindergarten teacher.
- Patricia Egenbacher, daycare para.

### PPISD POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Lauren Luttkus, police officer.

### DAEP

- Kimberly Frazier, DAEP aide.



MIDWAYCHURCH

HELPING PEOPLE LIVE FULLY FOR GOD

ENGLISH & SPANISH SERVICES

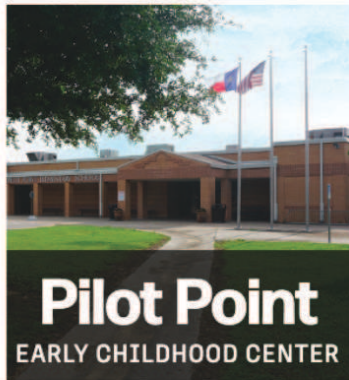
LEARN MORE →





# WELCOME BACK BEARCATS

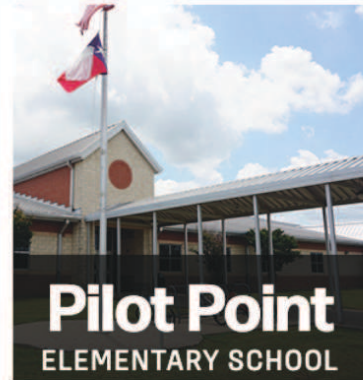
PILOT POINT ISD | 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



PRE-K &  
KINDERGARTEN

829 SOUTH JEFFERSON  
940-686-8710

PRINCIPAL  
ANDREA KENNEDY

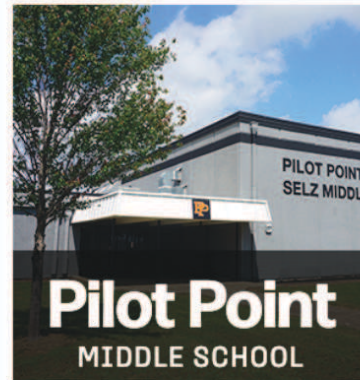


1<sup>ST</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADES

501 E. CAROL  
940-686-8720

PRINCIPAL  
SHANA PIKE

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
DEEANN WOOLISON



6<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADES

829 S. HARRISON  
940-686-8730

PRINCIPAL  
TAYLOR PENN

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
DELICIA PENNINGTON



9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADES

1300 N. WASHINGTON  
940-686-8740

PRINCIPAL  
MARZIA INFANTE

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
ELISEO MORENO

DEDICATED TO  EXCELLENCE

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

August 9<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Bash

August 11<sup>th</sup>: First Day of School

Be sure to visit our website at [www.pilotpointisd.com](http://www.pilotpointisd.com) for more information including school supply lists, calendars, registration information, child nutrition information, and more!



# Ready and waiting

## Owens Middle opens doors for inaugural year

By Abigail Allen  
Editor & Publisher

Starting Aug. 13, Aubrey ISD students will filter through the wide, bright halls of Evalois Owens Middle School.

The two-story, more than 100,000 square-foot facility features spacious classrooms, a lot of natural light and a red iron bridge connecting the sides of the building that passes over the library and main atrium area.

"I love having the opportunity to really think about what we're creating for our kids," Principal Pamela Foster said.

Thought has gone into how each section of the school has been allocated for optimal flow of students as well as to group like-uses in one area.

"It eliminates the travel time, because if I'm a sixth grader and most of my classes are sixth grade, I go from this room to that room in the same hall," Foster said. "They only have to leave their hall to go to fine arts, athletics and the cafeteria. ... And so sixth grade, with the shorter legs, are downstairs. ... Eighth grade is furthest from everything because they have longer legs."

The academic wing has A Hall and B Hall, both upstairs and down.

Extracurricular activities such as fine arts and agriculture classes will be in C Hall, while D Hall will be the



**Evalois Owens Middle School Principal Pamela Foster shares her hopes to welcome everyone, students and families, into the school during the ribbon cutting ceremony on July 24.**

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

home of the athletic wing, including the competition gym, auxiliary gym and weight room, which can open out toward the practice field at the back of the school.

As is now standard practice in school construction, the auxiliary gym will serve as the school's storm shelter. The core areas, which have been built to handle up to 800 students, include not only the front office with attached nurse's office and isolation

# Aubrey opens Owens to public, for use

room, separate office suites for the assistant principals downstairs and counselors upstairs, and a cafetorium with a kitchen that will eventually be able to run four lines at once and an enclosed patio area attached.

The theater classroom, too, is strategically placed with a door leading to backstage in the cafetorium and itself can double as a black box theater.

The two art classes share a kiln room and a storage room between them to give both teachers use of the space without needing to duplicate them.

In the special education rooms, there are access points to a fenced-in outdoor patio to allow the students and staff a chance to venture outside safely, and there is a utility room connecting two classrooms with a washer and dryer.

The band hall and choir room have acoustic panels built into the ceiling and were constructed with growth and expansions of the programs in mind.

The campus was also built with future expansion in mind, as there are areas where the building itself can be added onto.

One of the components inside the classrooms that Foster is most excited about is the furniture, saying they were her "big have-to-have" items.

"Each one of our teachers is outfitted with those fancy little curvy desks, and then they all have a conference table," Foster said, demonstrating how they can nestle together or split apart.

The teacher's desks provide ways for the functionality to match the teaching style of the staff member, and the student desks will lead the use of the space toward collaboration.

"I just like that fact that they're automatically paired up, and it's easier to move the desks around," English teacher Rose Hill said at the Owens Middle School ribbon cutting on July 24. "I just love [the new school]."

Creating an "environment [that's] conducive to educating our kids, making sure they have an environment that they feel safe, they can grow and learn, and our teachers can do what they need to do" is Foster's goal.

The building itself also offers areas for collaboration, with small spaces available at most of the ends of the hallways for small groups of students to work together.

Throughout the building are nods, some subtle and some overt, to the Elm Fork Bridge on FM 428, one of Aubrey's most eye-catching landmarks.

"One of the things that we do with each one of our schools ... is pull [something historic] from the city of Aubrey ... to make sure it's a continuation of what we're used to," Foster said in reference to the red trusses throughout the school.

The campus' namesake, Evalois Owens, worked for Aubrey ISD for 40 years and has continued to dedicate herself to the district since her retirement as a steadfast and frequent volunteer.

Owens shared a prayer with the crowd at the ribbon cutting of the school bearing her name.

"Please agree to join me and pray and ask God to keep safe and make successful all those who pass through these doors ... not only today, but for all generations to come," she said. "Amen."



Fuller Elementary School namesake Jackie Fuller, AISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Saylor and former Superintendent Dr. David Belding step into the newly finished Evalois Owens Middle School building following the ribbon cutting ceremony on July 24.  
Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal



Ballet • Tap • Adult Tap  
Pre-Pointe • Lyrical • Jazz • Hip Hop  
Acro • Contemporary

Ages 2 & UP



*Davis Dance*  
*of Pilot Point*

940-231-7010 • [davidscancetx.com](http://davidscancetx.com)  
10279 FM 455 #1100, Pilot Point

## Welcome Back!



If you're new to the area or  
looking for a new dentist,  
we are here to help.

**PILOTPOINT**  
DENTISTRY

Dr. David Lee  
1246 Hwy 377S #500  
Pilot Point, TX 76258  
940-686-2201

# WELCOME TO AUBREY ISD



## Administration

415 Tisdell Lane  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-0060

## Aubrey High School

510 Spring Hill Road  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-3900

## McNabb Middle School

815 West Sherman Drive  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-0200

## Owens Middle School

5000 FM 2931  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-0015

## Brockett Elementary School

900 Chestnut Street  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-0036

## Fuller Elementary School

10825 Quicksilver Blvd  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-3800

## Monaco Elementary School

9350 Cape Cod Blvd  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-0000

## West Elementary School

3408 Bonniebridge Lane  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-1500

## Early Bird Learning Center

415 Tisdell Lane  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-668-0066

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS  
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13, 2025**

## Athletics:

[aubreysports.rankonesport.com](http://aubreysports.rankonesport.com)  
For Sports Schedules and Updates

# 2025-2026

THE MISSION OF THE AUBREY ISD CHAPARRAL FAMILY IS TO INSPIRE, NURTURE, AND EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL AND TO SUCCEED IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD.

## START AND END TIMES

### Elementary Schools:

7:35 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

### Middle School:

8:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.

### High School:

8:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### Early Bird Learning Center:

6:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

## Communication Tools for Parents

**Notification** - Please make sure your school's front office has your up-to-date contact information (emails, phone numbers). We will use that information to contact you through a mass notification system about upcoming events, bad weather and emergencies.

**Website** - Families can access important information such as student handbooks, policies and general information from our website at: [www.aubreyisd.net](http://www.aubreyisd.net)

**Social Media** - For up-to-date information and announcements, like our Facebook page, follow us on X (Twitter) and Instagram.

**Parent Portal** -- For information on your child's registration, grades and attendance, log in to Parent Portal.

**MySchoolBucks**-- Families can purchase t-shirts, add to their child's food balance and pay for fees with a MySchoolBucks account. Visit [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com) to create an account.

**Aubrey ISD App** -- The Aubrey I.S.D. mobile app is a one-stop shop for everything that involves Aubrey schools. The app provides the latest news from the District and individual schools, access to students' classes and grades. Available free for iPhones and Androids.

[www.aubreyisd.net](http://www.aubreyisd.net)



**Aubrey ISD**



**@aubreyisd**



**@aubreyisdchaps**

## AUBREY ISD AT A GLANCE

[www.aubreyisd.net](http://www.aubreyisd.net)

### Administration

- 415 Tisdell Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0060
- Fax: 940-365-2627
- Superintendent: Dr. Shannon Saylor
- Deputy Superintendent: Terrie McNabb
- Assistant Superintendent for HR and Student Services: Daniel Barrentine
- Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations: Eric Hough

### Aubrey High School

- 510 Spring Hill Road, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-3900
- Principal: Dr. Vanessa Zavar, [vzavar@aubreyisd.net](mailto:vzavar@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Dina Gayer, [dgayer@aubreyisd.net](mailto:dgayer@aubreyisd.net)

### McNabb Middle School

- 815 W. Sherman Drive, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0200
- Principal: Dr. Heather Vandiver, [hvandiver@aubreyisd.net](mailto:hvandiver@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Tricia Noyes, [tnoyes@aubreyisd.net](mailto:tnoyes@aubreyisd.net)

### Owens Middle School

- 5000 FM 2931, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0015
- Principal: Pamela Foster, [pfoster@aubreyisd.net](mailto:pfoster@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Yesica Hernandez, [yhernandez@aubreyisd.net](mailto:yhernandez@aubreyisd.net)

### Brockett Elementary

- 900 Chestnut St., Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0036
- Principal: Lindsey Girlinghouse, [lgirlinghouse@aubreyisd.net](mailto:lgirlinghouse@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Rebecca Caranna, [rcaranna@aubreyisd.net](mailto:rcaranna@aubreyisd.net)

### Fuller Elementary

- 10825 Quicksilver Blvd., Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-3800
- Principal: Nathan Smith, [nsmith@aubreyisd.net](mailto:nsmith@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Tonya Harris, [tharris@aubreyisd.net](mailto:tharris@aubreyisd.net)

### Monaco Elementary

- 9350 Cape Cod Blvd., Providence Village, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0000
- Principal: Brett Dobbs, [bdobbs@aubreyisd.net](mailto:bdobbs@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Norma Rodriguez, [nrodriguez@aubreyisd.net](mailto:nrodriguez@aubreyisd.net)

### West Elementary

- 3408 Bonniebridge Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-1500
- Principal: Jennie Petrasic, [jpetrasic@aubreyisd.net](mailto:jpetrasic@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Brittany Walker, [bwalker@aubreyisd.net](mailto:bwalker@aubreyisd.net)

### Early Bird Learning Center

- 415 Tisdell Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0066
- Director: Bryttini Hardin Combs, [bcombs@aubreyisd.net](mailto:bcombs@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Tina Cundiff, [tcundiff@aubreyisd.net](mailto:tcundiff@aubreyisd.net)



## 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

- Aug. 13: First Day of School/First Grading Period Begins
- Sept. 1: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Sept. 26: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Oct. 10: First Grading Period Ends
- Oct. 13: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Oct. 14: Second Grading Period Begins
- Oct. 14-17: Parent Conference (window of opportunity)
- Nov. 24-28: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Dec. 18: Second Grading Period Ends
- Dec. 19: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Jan. 2: In Lieu/Staff Development
- Jan. 5-6: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Jan. 7: Third Grading Period Begins
- Jan. 19: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Feb. 16: In Lieu/Staff Development
- Mar. 6: Third Grading Period Ends
- Mar. 9-13: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Mar. 16: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Mar. 17: Fourth Grading Period Begins
- Apr. 3: Bad Weather Day
- Apr. 6: Bad Weather Day
- May 20: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
- May 21: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS/Fourth Grading Period Ends
- May 22: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development

## AISD SCHOOL BOARD INFO

### School Board

- President: Jim Milacek, [jim.milacek@aubreyisd.net](mailto:jim.milacek@aubreyisd.net)
- Vice President: Colleen Dow, [colleen.dow@aubreyisd.net](mailto:colleen.dow@aubreyisd.net)
- Secretary: Jody Gonzalez, [jody.gonzalez@aubreyisd.net](mailto:jody.gonzalez@aubreyisd.net)
- Trustee: Jana Temple, [jana.temple@aubreyisd.net](mailto:jana.temple@aubreyisd.net)
- Trustee: Benton Bland, [benton.bland@aubreyisd.net](mailto:benton.bland@aubreyisd.net)
- Trustee: Terry Brockett, [terry.brockett@aubreyisd.net](mailto:terry.brockett@aubreyisd.net)
- Trustee: Trey Duncan, [trey.duncan@aubreyisd.net](mailto:trey.duncan@aubreyisd.net)

### School Board Meetings

- Date: Third Wednesday of Each Month
- Time: 6:30 p.m.
- Place: 415 Tisdell Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227

# Aubrey FFA works to expand offerings



Aubrey FFA Chapter President Carmela Castiglione helps the attendees of the Aubrey FFA Adventure Camp with one of their activities in late July. Castiglione said she loves seeing the way the program has grown over the last year and continues to change.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

**By Abigail Allen**  
*Editor & Publisher*

Growth is the name of the game for the Aubrey FFA program, not just in the number of kids in the program but also in the opportunities available to them.

Aubrey's ag science teachers have made it a priority to not only keep the animal project side active and robust but to also expand what's open to students who can't or don't want to show animals.

"Two of the new classes we added are advanced animal science and plant and soil science, which both count for a science credit," ag teacher Chelsea Fewell said. "So now, kids are getting their elective credit, FFA eligibility and a graduation requirement out of the way at the same time."

They also integrated a "school-based agricultural experience" in the form of collecting compost.

"We did that through scraps and also waste from different floral proj-

ects," Fewell said. "With the compost, we started that in the fall, and so in spring, we were able to start a big garden with the life skills department."

They have also incorporated more teams into the FFA program, including Quiz Bowl teams.

"We had somebody do the agriculture fair experiment and the sustainable agriculture CDE, which is a newer contest, and the teach ag CDE, where they go pretend that they are ag teachers in a contest setting," Fewell said.

For the sustainable agriculture CDE, the students had to demonstrate an understanding of factors such as runoff risk based on evaluating a map, as well as their ability to identify all native Texas grasses as well as pests under a microscope.

Those students, in their first year of competition, placed in the Top 5 at state.

In general, agricultural science classes are designed to teach students skills they can apply in real-world jobs,

# AFFA increases teams, competitions

and the department is helping promote that in a direct way, as well.

“Our practicum program, where they have a paid or unpaid job or experience outside of school, we have over 30 kids signed up for that this next year,” Fewell said, an increase from five the previous year.

Ag teacher Steve Seale is also passionate about giving students a chance to participate in contests and classes that interest them.

“We started a barbecue team,” Seale said.

The Food Science CDE team was successful at state, bringing home a sixth-place Texas-shaped plaque.

“A lot of our traditional CDEs are horse judging, livestock judging, rule judging, and we still want to hold onto those, but add in all the new, kind of more modern CDEs,” Fewell said.

The floral design program is also

blossoming, Fewell said.

“We went to two different hands-on floral design contests,” she said. “It was like a multi-round elimination contest where you’re judged by industry professionals.”

The ag teachers want to make sure everyone who wants to have a place in ag does have a place that fits them.

“There’s a big variety of interests and careers that this can lead [to], so whatever your background is, there’s something for you,” Fewell said. “Whatever career you want, there’s something for you. There’s a lot of stuff that’s transferable.”

Seale has not just lived that and helped his students realize that, but he has also seen it in his own daughters, who worked under Fewell in a different district.

“I have twins; ... one of them, her favorite contest was ag communications,

and she got an ag communication degree from A&M, and it’s not an ag communications thing, but she works at ... a digital media place in Waco,” he said. “The other one, her favorite one was marketing plan. .... It led her to the ag economics, ag business, and she works at a bank.”

Because Aubrey ISD is still small enough that the students participate in multiple different activities, Seale said, the FFA sponsors work to keep the events they compete in on days with minimal conflicts with team sports and other extracurriculars.

“We had over 400 students in grades eight through 12 in ag classes and as an FFA member, and then 20 more in Junior FFA, which is third through seventh grade,” Fewell said.

Seale said the ag teachers are “going to try to grow” the Junior FFA program this year.

Aubrey FFA Chapter President Carmela Castiglione, who placed in the Top 10 in the state for public speaking, said she loves the way the Seale and Fewell’s team of teachers have grown the program.

“The more inclusion there is, the more there is to do and ... we can prosper,” she said. “I love being a part of it, to not only throw in my ideas, but hear other people’s.”

She has been involved in the program since her freshman year of high school.

“There’s been so many changes, and I think definitely for the positive,” Castiglione said. “There’s so much more that we’ve added to the chapter, and I think it really has benefitted the students a whole lot more ... and they’re getting to choose what they want to do as well, so I think that’s a really good thing for our chapter.”

## The Aubrey Independent School District

### Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs

2025-26

Aubrey ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Arts, A/V Technology, & Communications; Business, Marketing, and Finance; Education & Training; Health Science; and Information Technology. Admission to these programs is based on interest, aptitude, prerequisite credits, and schedule availability.

It is the policy of Aubrey ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Aubrey ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Aubrey ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator Jewelisha Jefferson and Section 504 Coordinator Karen Wright at 415 Tisdell Ln. Aubrey, TX 76227, 940-668-0060.

## The Aubrey Independent School District

### Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales

2025-26

The Aubrey Independent School District ofrece programas vocacionales. La admisión a estos programas se basa en disponibilidad en el programa maestro.

Es la norma de The Aubrey Independent School District no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda es la norma de The Aubrey Independent School District no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

The Aubrey Independent School District tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Título IX, Jewelisha Jefferson y la Coordinadora de la Sección 504, Karen Wright en 415 Tisdell Ln. Aubrey, TX 76227, 940-668-0060.

# Aubrey ISD welcomes new teachers, staff



The attendees of the Aubrey ISD New Teacher Academy gather for the traditional group photo.

Photo Courtesy of Aubrey ISD

## HIGH SCHOOL

- Mayra Baek, Spanish.
- Tiffany Becker, science.
- Amber Cottingham, assistant principal.
- Manuel De Leon, Spanish.
- Tatum Dobson, SPED/coach.
- Bob Dohm, computer.
- James Garner, social science/girls coach.
- Derrick Gonzalez, math/boys coach.
- Brooke Hartzler, Choices.
- Andrea King, law/CTE.
- David Lakeman, social science/boys coach.
- Patrick Murphy, social science/soccer.
- Bodie Noles, ag/CTE.
- Toby Perkins, social science/coach.
- Melanie Stout, bus/CTE.
- Rachael Streubel, AV/graphic.
- Hannah Travascio, science.
- Cathy Webb, SPED.

- Samuel Gonzalez, CTE.
- Vanessa Zavar, principal.
- Felisa Jimenez-Kelly, campus testing coordinator

## MCNABB MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Savannah Ketchum, theater.
- Sergio Moreno, Spanish.
- Bailee Sconce, RLA.

## OWENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Courtney Abernathy, math/science.
- Chris Butler, CTE.
- Jenean Culberson, SPED/inclusion.
- Amy Eugster, social science/core/girls coach.
- Shelby Kennedy, art.
- Alisha McCormick, functional academics.
- Kelly Nelson, social studies/girls coach.
- Vivian Radziminski, Spanish.
- Debra Renner, PE/coach - girls coordinator.

dinator.

- Amy Scott, RLA 6th grade.
- Brian Shovlin, RLA/girls coach.
- Jade Bobo, social studies teacher.
- Brittany Summers, band director.

## BROCKETT ELEMENTARY

- Maureen Sterling, 1st grade.
- Laura Smith, 2nd grade.
- Lindsey Girlinghouse, principal.
- Allison Stahl, SPED/resource.
- Rita Greeley, SPED/resource.
- Lisa Bannerman, Life Skills.

## FULLER ELEMENTARY

- Pamela Almon, art.
- McKenzie Blumerich, 3rd grade.
- Destiny Ceaser, kindergarten.
- Karen Cleare, 1st grade.
- Brandon Cunningham, 5th math.
- Amanda Goodson, kindergarten.
- Megan Hinson, functional academics.
- Ashley Kinsey, 4th grade.

- Jayda Watzlavik, kindergarten.
- Logan Weaver, 3rd grade.

## MONACO ELEMENTARY

- Casey Blad, art.
- Wendy Crow, Rise.
- Sara Head, assistant principal.
- Kaia Saylor, 2nd grade.
- Hayden Waller, BASE.
- Stephanie French, 3rd grade.
- Katherine Reynolds, 5th RLA.

## WEST ELEMENTARY

- Lauren Allen, music.
- Madison Arrington, 3rd grade.
- Manoranjitham Babu, 3rd grade.
- Rebecka Chase, kindergarten.
- Charlie Cole, 4th grade.
- Monique Contreras, kindergarten (bilingual).
- Kayla Guerra, reading interventionist.
- Ashleigh Howland, 2nd grade.
- Susan Ketterer, resource/inclusion.





# Strike up the band

## Speer to head Tioga ISD band program

By Martin Edwards  
Assistant Editor

Tioga Independent School District is continuing to make changes to improve the school district, and one of the most recent changes is the addition of Jesse Speer as Tioga High School's new band director.

Jesse brings with him a passion for teaching and an experienced ear, with almost two decades of experience in music education.

"He's been a part of several successful programs in his career, so we're excited about getting him in here and working with our students," Tioga High School principal Keith Kirkland said. "We're still a relatively new high school, but we have a band program that we feel is on the cusp of really taking off, and with the experience that he brings, we're hoping he can help it continue to grow."

Jesse grew up in the small town of Marietta, Oklahoma, which is 15 minutes north of WinStar World Casino and Resort, where he said he was inspired to pursue music as a member of the Marietta High School marching band.

"I got my love of music from my high school band director, [Eric Calloway]," Jesse said. "He was amazing at instilling a lifelong yearning to love music, and I just couldn't imagine my life or my future without band or music in it, so I thought, well, [music] is what I'm going to do, and the rest is history."

After graduating from Marietta High School, Jesse attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant,



Jesse Speer, decked out in his Tioga Bulldog gear, prepares for his first year as the Tioga band director.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

Oklahoma, where he met his wife, Amber Speer, and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

Jesse has taught at multiple schools around the Dallas-Fort Worth area, with his two most recent stops being Honey Grove High School and Whitesboro High School.

"Both of those opportunities were amazing for me," he said. "I learned a lot and really loved them both, but Tioga is

home now."

Jesse said working closer to his home in Whitesboro was a big factor when he initially considered the job, but it was Tioga's sense of community and support for their kids that truly sold him on the opportunity.

"One of the things I've always admired about Tioga, just looking in from the outside, is they always seem to always have high expectations for their students and

for their town while also still having that small-town feel," he said. "I grew up in a small town in Oklahoma, and I gravitate towards small towns because it's what I grew up knowing, and I love the community here. The kids are involved in everything. ... Whether it's theater or football or track, whatever it is that they have going on, they just seem to have kids that want to strive for the highest, and I wanted to be a part of that."

# Speer excited to grow Bulldog band program

He added that he's received a warm reception from the Tioga community since he arrived.

"My experience here at Tioga has been nothing but positive," Jesse said. "From the moment I set foot on campus, even just to sign my paperwork, all the administra-

tion has been wonderfully welcoming. ... Everyone's just jumped at the opportunity to help me and make me feel at home."

Jesse said he's happy he's found a new home in Tioga and plans to help his students do their best.

"Whenever I walk into a classroom,

I try to think of every [student] in there as if they are my own children," he said. "Meaning, I want to provide them with the same opportunity I had when I was in high school, which is a place where they feel like they can be themselves, a place where they can be challenged, but also a

place where they can be successful. I'm going to work as hard as I can to uphold Tioga's tradition of excellence and help make the band program just as successful as any of the other programs at this school."

**DAVID**  
**AUTO PARTS**

20+ years of serving your auto parts needs

Locally owned & operated

Parts for all makes of vehicles

- Lubricants for tuneups (oil, filters, plugs)
- Oxygen & acetylene • Welding supplies
- New brand of car detailing

**PARTS PLUS**

**Russell David, Owner/Manager**  
221 S. Jefferson • Pilot Point • 686-0775

**CHROME FEST**  
CAR SHOW AND COMMUNITY EVENT

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

PILOT POINT HISTORIC SQUARE  
SATURDAY AUG 30, 2025 8AM-1PM

BEARCAT BAND & CHEERLEADERS

GRACEPOINTNAZ.NET



For many people, the dream of home ownership is truly The American Dream. At Chapin Title Company, we're committed to protecting that dream.



500 S. Hwy. 377, Pilot Point  
940-686-4445

**CT** Chapin Title Company  
Established 1872

Great schools ...



Great community!

**NEU**  
PLUMBING

SPECIALIZING IN SCHOOL BUILDS AND RENOVATIONS  
1117 Foundation Dr. • Pilot Point • 940-580-2200

## TIOGA ISD AT A GLANCE

[www.tiogaisd.net](http://www.tiogaisd.net)

### Administration

•P.O. Box 159, Tioga, TX 76271  
 •Superintendent: Josh Ballinger, josh.ballinger@tiogaisd.net  
 •Athletic Director: Zach Birdwell, zach.birdwell@tiogaisd.net

•Phone: 940-202-2536  
 •Fax: 940-202-2587  
 •Principal (9th-12th): Keith Kirkland, keith.kirkland@tiogaisd.net  
 •Administrative Assistants: Heather Garrison, heather.garrison@tiogaisd.net; Terri Tackett, terri.tackett@tiogaisd.net

### Tioga Elementary/Middle School

•405 N. Florence St., Tioga, TX 76271  
 •Phone: 940-437-2366  
 •Fax: 940-437-9986  
 •Principal (Pre-K-5th): Jana Hansen, jana.hansen@tiogaisd.net  
 •Elementary Administrative Assistant: Beth Hale, beth.hale@tiogaisd.net  
 •Principal (6th-8th): Pamela Moore, pamelamoores@tiogaisd.net  
 •Middle School Administrative Assistants: Heather McDonald, heather.mcdonald@tiogaisd.net; Terri Tackett, terri.tackett@tiogaisd.net

### School Board

•President: Dallas Slay  
 •Vice President: Trina Colteryahn  
 •Secretary: Ryan Walters  
 •Trustee: Billy Smith  
 •Trustee: James Hurt  
 •Trustee: Nick Oliver  
 •Trustee: Vacant

### School Board Meetings

•Date: Third Monday of Each Month  
 •Time: 7 p.m.  
 •Place: High School Library, 855 McKnight Road, Tioga, TX 76271

### Tioga High School

•855 McKnight Road, Tioga, TX 76271



## 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug. 13-22: Staff Workday	Holiday
Aug. 25: First Day of School/ Begin First Nine Weeks	Feb. 9: School Holiday
Sept. 1: School Holiday	Feb. 16: School Holiday
Sept. 15: School Holiday	March 2: Staff Workday/Student Holiday
Sept. 22: Staff Workday/ Student Holiday	March 13: End Third Nine Weeks
Oct. 6: Staff Workday/Student Holiday	March 16-20: Spring Break Holiday
Oct. 13: School Holiday	March 23: Staff Workday/Student Holiday
Oct. 17: End First Nine Weeks	March 24: Begin Fourth Nine Weeks
Oct. 20: Begin Second Nine Weeks	Apr. 3: School Holiday
Oct. 27: Staff Workday/Student Holiday	Apr. 6: Bad Weather Day
Nov. 10: Staff Workday/Student Holiday	Apr. 20: Staff Workday/Student Holiday
Nov. 24-28: School Holiday	April 27: School Holiday
Dec. 1: Staff Workday/Student Holiday	May 4: Staff Workday/Student Holiday
Dec. 19: End Second Nine Weeks	May 11: Bad Weather Day
Dec. 22-Jan. 2: School Holiday	May 18: Staff Workday/Student Holiday
Jan. 5: Staff Workday/Student Holiday	May 25: School Holiday
Jan. 6: Begin Third Nine Weeks	June 4: Last Day of School/End Fourth Nine Weeks
Jan. 19: School Holiday	June 5: Staff Workday/Student Holiday
Feb. 2: Staff Workday/Student	

## NEW STAFF

•Adam Davis, district technology director	kitchen
•Austin Kemp, 6th/7th grade science	•Marilyn Kearns, Elementary/MS kitchen
•Charity Goree, HS SPED aide	•Megan Chambers, 4th grade math teacher & district social media
•Dawn Womble, HS kitchen	•Penny Washington, HS SPED teacher & district social media
•Heather McDonald, MS PEIMS & SPED aide	•Ryan Griffin, 1st grade teacher
•Jesse Speer, HS & MS band director	•Steven Stadler, math teacher & MS boys' coach
•Kayla Dossey, Elementary/MS	•Trevin Robinson, MS electives-health, PE & girls' coach

## Welcome back Bulldogs!

**Friday, August 15 • 8 PM**

Meet the Bulldogs (All Fall Sports, Cheer and Band)

**Wednesday, August 20 • 9-11 AM or 4-6 PM**

High School Schedule Pickup Grades 9-11

**Wednesday, August 20 • 5-7 PM**

Elementary Meet the Teacher & Middle School Meet the Teacher  
 MS Students will also pick up their schedules and supply lists at Meet the Teacher

**Thursday, August 21 • 9 AM-Noon or 1-3 PM**

Schedule Pick Up & Senior Yearbook Pictures

Elementary & Middle School School Day: 7:50 - 3:40

High School Bell Schedule: 7:55 - 3:45



## Bulldog Brave and Bold

Tioga Elem./Middle School • 405 N Florence St • 940-437-2366

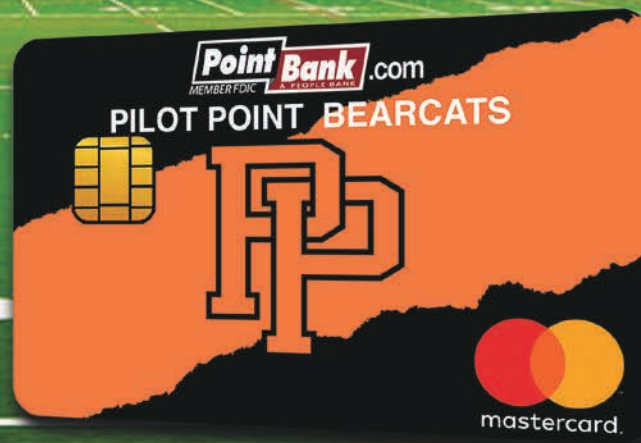
Tioga High School • 855 McKnight Rd • 940-202-2536



Supporting you and your kids!  
It's not just banking.



GO  
BEARCATS!



YOUR NEIGHBORS LOVE US  
YOU WILL TOO

940-686-7000 • pointbank.com • 972-434-3200



AS SEEN IN

Fortune | Forbes



Argyle Aubrey Denton Flower Mound Lake Cities Lewisville Little Elm Pilot Point