

School Days

Pilot Point ISD

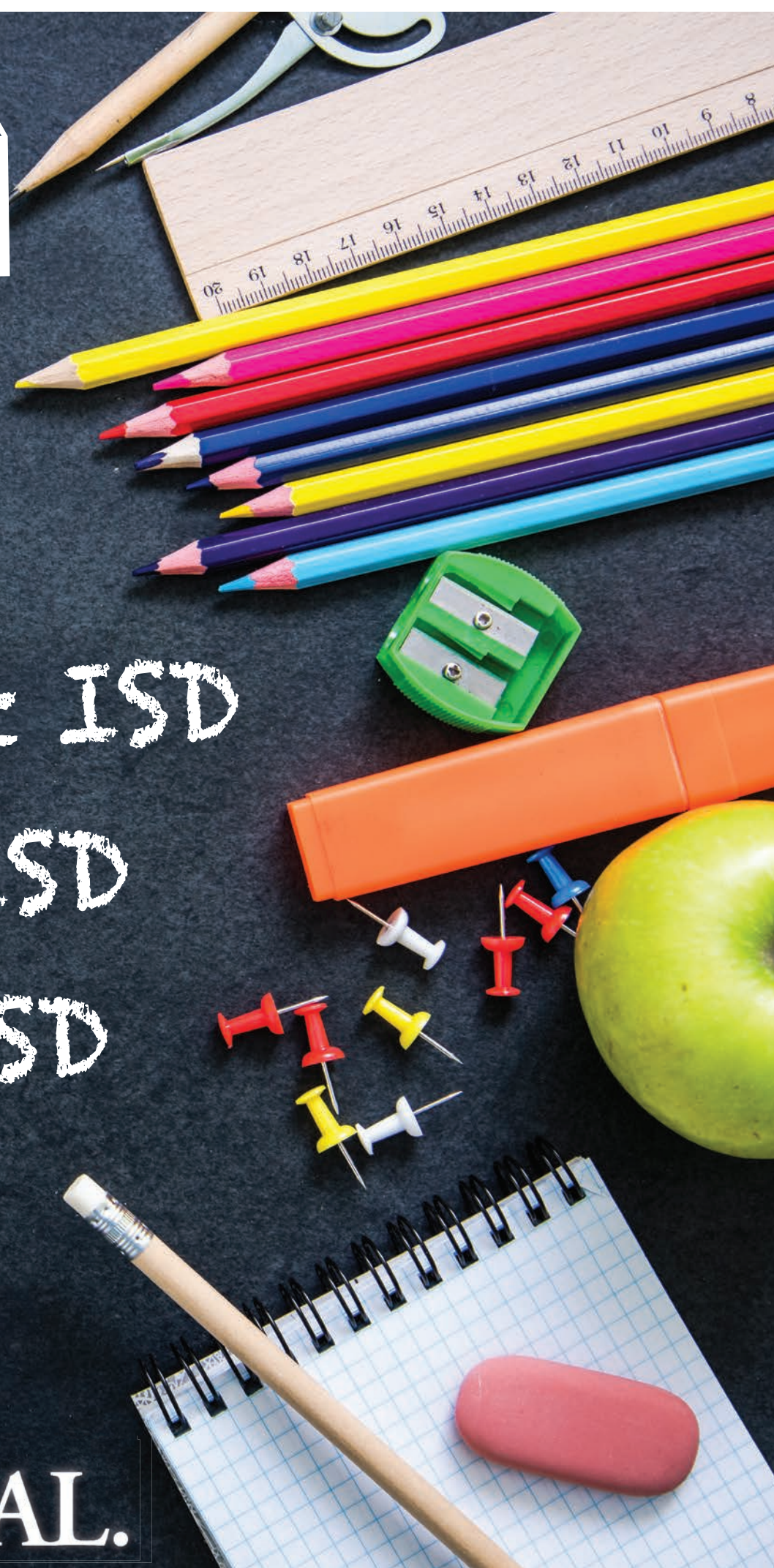
Aubrey ISD

Tioga ISD

Friday

August 16, 2024

THE POST-SIGNAL.



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111 E. Main - P.O. Box 249
Pilot Point, Texas 76258
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www.postsignal.com

Abigail Allen, Editor & Publisher
News Coverage/Legal Notices
aallen@postsignal.com

Basil Gist, Staff Writer
News/Sports
bgist@postsignal.com

Martin Edwards, Staff Writer
Sports/News
medwards@postsignal.com

Kim Fleming
Advertising Sales
kfleming@postsignal.com

Carrie Rodriguez
Designer/Advertising Sales
crodriguez@postsignal.com

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Security improvements continue



PPISD Chief of Police Brad Merritt, center, stands surrounded by his officers—Melinda Zehetner, Eric Dortch, Rick Howell and Jason Peacock.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

AISD, PPISD, TISD grow in ability to respond to danger

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Safety and security upgrades remain on the forefront for area school districts.

Pilot Point Independent School District has made multiple securi-

ty changes across the district to improve the overall safety of students and staff.

“Here in Pilot Point, we’ve gone over and above and added bullet-resistant glass where we thought it was necessary, in addition to state requirements,” PPISD Chief of Police Brad Merritt said. “Another is fencing, which is not a requirement, but we felt we needed to enhance our fencing a bit.”

The district has installed 8-foot, powder black chain link fencing at the

Early Childhood Center and plans to erect matching fences at the Don Holy Transportation Center, Massey Stadium and the elementary school.

Merritt joined PPISD in March of 2022 and made improving the district’s security measures his top priority.

“One thing I noticed right off the bat was four different camera systems in six different buildings and only certain people had access to them,” he said. “That was priority No. 1, getting one central camera system that more

people had access to.”

That focus led the district to integrate the Go-to-Green directional evacuation system.

Go-to-Green uses sensors to detect the location of security threats and overhead lighting to direct people away from potential danger.

“It provides a pathway to safety for the kids,” Merritt said. “What we say is, ‘[Kids] go to green. Responders go to red.’ Red is telling kids not to go that way, but ... first responders go upstream following red [lights] to the

Districts work to improve safety, security features

bad guy.”

PPISD was also the first district in the nation to have cameras integrated into the Go-to-Green system.

“When we were going through the process of implementation, we needed cameras, so I talked to the CEO of the company, ... [and] they added a camera system for us,” Merritt said. “We haven’t had any critical incidents, but it’s nice knowing that we have that level of comfort to help get kids to safety.”

Pilot Point is also replacing keys and locks throughout the school district with non-duplicate keys and an electronic access control system that is integrated with Go-to-Green.

“The big picture is that we know who has access to the buildings and when,” PPISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Fuller said. “We can guarantee safety for all staff, students and visitors. ... It should be finished by the end of September.”

In addition to its technological alterations, PPISD also increased the strength of its police force with the addition of Officer Eric Dortch.

Dortch joins the department after almost two years with Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD in Fort Worth.

Dortch shared his excitement to work in a smaller, more close-knit community.

“Coming from a bigger district, I’m actually looking forward to slowing down,” he said. “My last high school had 2,200 kids. ... I’m looking forward to being able to reach out, mentor and help a wide range of kids.”

Merritt stressed that despite the electronic advancements, the security of the district still depends heavily on the people in it.

“Technology is great, but it doesn’t replace the person [and] doesn’t replace our brains,” he said. “If somebody sees something, say something. We can use all of this [tech], but we can’t do our jobs if people don’t jump in and help. ... We still need people, relationships and communication.”

As the largest Ranch Cities district, Aubrey ISD has remained ahead of the legislation for security requirements.

“With Aubrey ISD, we’ve had a police department in place and have always kept up with our campuses to have an officer per campus,” AISD Police Chief Kevin Clayton said. “As the district keeps growing and we add schools, we’ll add officers as well.”

This applies to physical security as well.



A construction fence around Aubrey High School helps secure the area where the renovation projects have affected the shell of the school.

“With the physical security requirements, we were fortunate that we already had pretty much everything in place,” Clayton said. “Our administration really takes safety and security to heart. They always give us an officer when we need them and make sure we’re fully staffed.”

When Clayton joined the district in 2022, he explained he wanted to make sure campuses got the same officer every day, and he has kept that approach going forward.

“The officers are out in the hallways and parking lots engaging with students and parents and that’s what we want, that presence there at the school,” Clayton said. “We want our kids and our staff and parents to know that there is an officer there, and if they have questions, they can have an open relationship to talk to them.”

Clayton further explained that a key piece of the AISD security plan is unilateral training for staff.

“Here in Aubrey, we do a really good job of making sure our staff is trained on safety and security protocols,” Clayton said. “We train all the staff members before school starts,

including substitutes, people who work in the cafeteria, bus drivers—everyone gets the same training so everyone is on the same page.”

With the construction continuing at the high school, both on renovations and at the field house, Clayton said ensuring the high school’s security despite the additional bodies on campus will be a focus this year.

“We’ve already been having meetings with the district and construction workers as far as what’s going to be secure so they understand, and if we need to do anything else to make sure they can get to where they need to get to, we’ll make sure that happens,” Clayton said.

During the summer, the TISD trustees approved an updated list of on-campus guardians who are able to respond in the case of an intruder.

Those staff members go through extensive training and background checks to qualify as a guardian and are an additional safe guard along with Kurt Hall and Jody Mayo, who are the district’s safety and security personnel.

Work also continues on door and lock repairs, Superintendent Josh

Ballinger added.

“The heat of summer seems to really do a number on doors that face direct sunlight when it comes to them closing,” Ballinger said.

He credited the maintenance and custodial staff for their efforts to fix issues around campus.

“We are really proud of the hard work our maintenance and custodial staff has been doing all summer to get our campuses in tip-top shape,” Ballinger said. “They are a great group and really want the best for our students. They are led by Jodi Corbin as our custodial/maintenance & transportation director.”

Tioga ISD also continues to make changes to its access points as well as reinforcing the windows on each campus with safety film.

“Our next steps for the fall will be completing some fencing projects at all three campuses to create one more layer of secure area in the event any kind of intruder is trying to gain access,” Ballinger said.

Staff Writer Basil Gist and Editor & Publisher Abigail Allen contributed to this report.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

Growth projections grow



Members of the Aubrey ISD staff and community make their way through the library during their tour of West Elementary School, following the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

Area population increases prompt districts to make space

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

With thousands of homes on the horizon in the Ranch Cities area in various stages of development, growth has been a constant concern for Pilot Point, Aubrey and Tioga ISDs.

The recent estimate Pilot Point ISD received in July from Davis De-

mographics appears to be on the mark with 1,622 students registered for the upcoming school year.

The number of registered students in the district has increased by 6.4%, up from the 1,524 from 2023.

“They projected us to have 1,642 students that are enrolled [and] that live in our district,” Dr. Shannon Fuller PPISD Superintendent said. “We’re not talking about teachers’ kids or transfer students. Families are currently registering, ... so we won’t get an accurate count until the first week of school when

kids actually show up.”

Having regular updates from a demographer is a practice that the district plans to continue annually.

Despite the growth, Fuller remains confident that the district is well-prepared to meet the increased number of students.

“This year we have room for everybody,” Fuller said. “We’re closely monitoring our enrollment based on the projections because if we come under or over it tells a different story about our growth patterns. ... Right now it looks like we’re on track, if not a little bit

ahead of where they’re projecting, so we’ll keep watching those numbers as kids show up to school.”

Aubrey’s growth has already caused a swell in enrollment, with the district growing by more than 10% for multiple years, with streams of students coming into the district throughout the academic year.

Aubrey ISD’s enrollment exceeds 4,000, and it is projected to hit 9,667 within 10 years.

“We’ve got kids coming who need somewhere to sit and learn,” AISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Say-

Growth projections hold true for impact on districts

lor said. “So, we’re building schools as fast as we can that meets the needs of the growth without building them and not having anybody in them.”

Wednesday marked the first time students entered Pete and Myra West Elementary School, which was built within the Silverado development, which Dr. Shannon Saylor said “is the fastest growing community in North Texas,” based on the information provided by the district’s demography report.

“I think there’s been some things about it being Top 5 in the nation,” Saylor said. “... We have 13 active developments right now, with about 8,000 platted homes ready to be built, along with about 800 that are vacant and developed, meaning that the house is ready to be lived in.”

The district is also building a second middle school and doubling the capacity of the high school to try to keep pace with the growth, all funded through the May 2022 bond election.

“We’ll be opening schools prob-



Volunteers and contractors have helped renovate a wing of the Tioga School, allowing the district to have additional room into which it can grow without needing to add more facilities yet.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

ably every other year from here on out because of the growth that keeps coming to us,” Saylor said at the West ribbon cutting on Aug. 5.

AISD has grown in more than just its student population and the more than 240 teachers needed to educate them, as well.

There are now 47 languages spoken within the district.

North in Tioga, the district has just regained an academic wing at the elementary campus, which for a 2A district can make a big difference, Superintendent Josh Ballinger said.

“Gaining access to eight classrooms when we are not going to be able to build any new structures for the next few years is tremendously helpful,” he said.

Ballinger said he expects enrollment to be in the 695-700 student range.

Editor & Publisher Abigail Allen contributed to this report.



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PPISD welcomes three new principals

Herring, Infante, Penn ready to lead campuses, serve families

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

Two fresh faces and one familiar one will lead three of Pilot Point ISD's campuses during the 2024-25 school year.

After two long-standing principals retired and another moved to a different district, Pilot Point is looking at a collection of new leaders, starting with Lisa Herring at the Early Childhood Center.

"A lot of our personal things were already here—our pet groomer, my girls' competitive cheer, Beto was our favorite waiter in Prosper and now he's got his own restaurant here," Herring said. "It's been very welcoming."

Living in Lake Kiowa and having experience in administration both as an assistant principal and principal of Callisburg elementary for five years, Herring said she feels primed to hit the ground running at the ECC.

"There is quite a bit of new leadership, and there is the Bearcat BEST mission where we're all on the same page and the same team, moving in the same direction," Herring said. "It was really exciting in our leadership meetings to hear that message."

Herring, a mother and recent grandmother, said the ECC's reputation for flexibility with teacher schedules is



Lisa Herring poses in the corner of her new office at the Pilot Point Early Childhood Center.

something she's looking to maintain as she starts her first year at PPISD.

"A lot of the teachers at this level have young children who are elementary age, and they said they've had the flexibility to be moms sometimes," Herring said. "We'll allow them to be a professional but also keep that work-life balance."

She cited the national teacher shortage in the same breath, explaining that fostering an environment where young teachers feel elevated will be key to keeping them on.

"We really need to value the staff we have and help them grow," Herring said.

A concern she's looking to shore up is communication.

"Just making sure teachers are abreast of what's coming up," Herring said. "I can't map out every event or detail, but I did go ahead and get every calendar date that I can—every fire drill, picture day and things that could interrupt a teacher's classroom and got them all on a Google calendar."

That also extends to parents.

"I hope to utilize those communication tools to keep them updated weekly, daily if needed, for our parents as well so if they have an event for their child, they can plan to take off work and attend if they're able to," Herring said.

Herring said her position with PPISD isn't the only new development in her life, with a trio of grandsons shaking things up as well.

"I've had three grandsons in the last two years, so it's really shifted my priorities," she said. "Before, I would say I was 200% on at work and 10% at home. I liked to just be a homebody, Netflix binging. Now that I have grandsons, I've really been balancing my time, utilizing a lot of my time hanging out with them."

The second new Bearcat principal is Marzia Infante, who comes to Pilot Point with a background as a coordinator for multilingual learners from Little Elm ISD.

"I got to the district level and wanted to come back to the campus," Infante said. "I felt I wasn't making as big of an impact as I wanted. I wanted to work with students one on one."

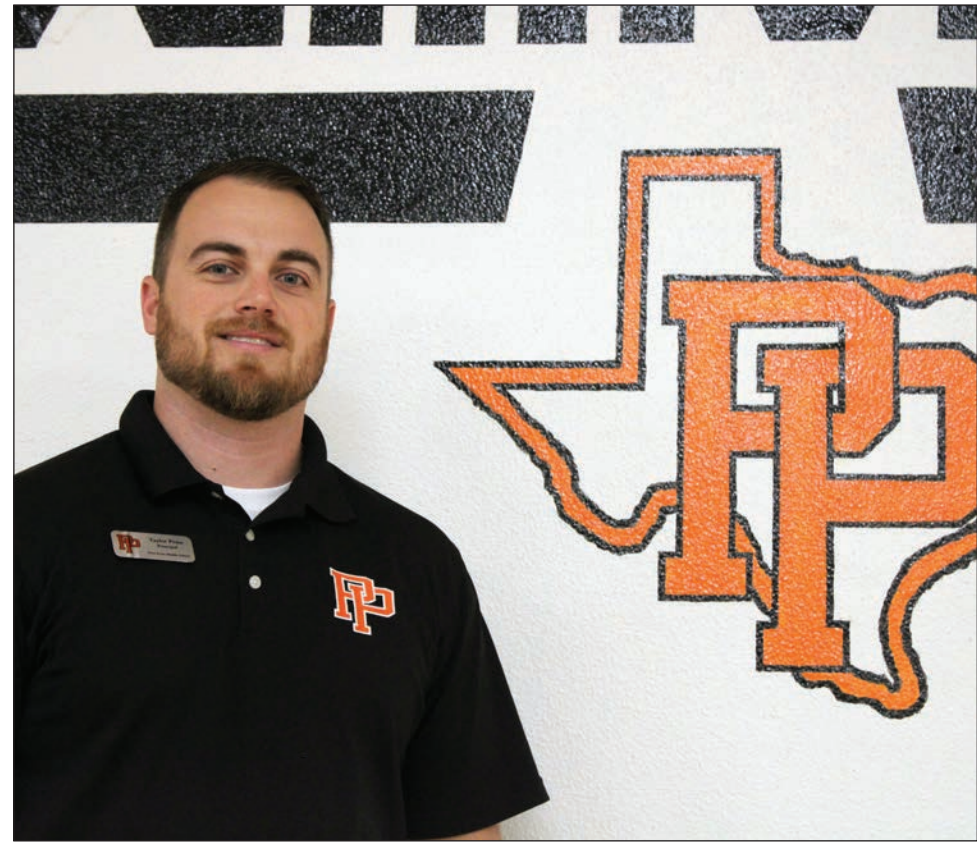
She said the much smaller campus will be perfect to let her do that.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

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New principals want to emphasize communication



Principal Mariza Infante smiles in the entranceway of the high school.

Photos by Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

Pilot Point Middle School Principal Taylor Penn poses beside the recently painted mural in the middle school cafeteria.

“I love small communities, and coming from Little Elm where you have 2,500-2,600 kids to a school of less than 500 kids, I know I’ll get to meet and really get to know them,” Infante said.

She’s got three goals for the campus on her docket, the first of which was taken from the staff survey the district completed last year.

“One of the big things is professional growth,” Infante said. “As educators, we’re learners as well, and I want to support them in their learning.”

She said she’s offering opportunities for that growth but is also interested in supporting the opportunities teachers find for themselves.

“Finding opportunities within Region 11 or Region 10 and asking, ‘Hey can I go to this,’ I’m absolutely all for it,” Infante said. “If you have happy teachers, you’re going to have happy students as well.”

That mentality leads into her second point: student-centered learning.

“By creating those environments for those teaches, I know I’ll also impact

those student-centered learning environments for those students as well,” Infante said.

Her final focus for the year is to improve community communication, starting with a newsletter for parents with updates and upcoming dates and going further.

“I want the community to know that they have a voice at Pilot Point ISD, that they are guests here, they can come when they want to have a conversation with me,” Infante said. “Communication is the biggest thing. I want them to know and understand what’s going on here.”

Infante said travel is her hobby of choice when given the opportunity. She’s been as far abroad as Europe, China and Morocco before having her kids, but Cancun has become her family’s happy place, where Infante taught for a year at the International American School.

“Our rule in our family is whoever invites is the person that pays,” she said, explaining the last trip was on her and it’s her husband’s turn next. “Usually around November he asks.”

The final principal of the trio, new to the seat but not to the district, is Taylor Penn at the middle school.

“This first year as a principal I know there is going to be a big learning curve, so I’m just focused on making this place the best it can be for kids, staff and community members,” Penn said. “The past two years if I didn’t know something I could just say, ‘I don’t know. Why don’t you go ask Mrs. Jurecka?’ Now the buck stops with me.”

After having Principal Angie Jurecka’s back for the past two years, he explained he’s ready to move into the leading role.

“In the past I was in a supportive role, whatever Mrs. Jurecka’s vision was, I was the person that helped support that,” Penn said. “Now it’s my vision that’s leading the school, and I’m responsible for the learning that happens here.”

In his third year at Pilot Point, with 10 years in the classroom prior, he said, improving culture at the middle school has been a focus, but now that he feels the school is pointing in that direction,

he’s looking to pick a new heading.

“Some of the things we’re looking to change is making the next step in our academics,” Penn said. “The culture and teachers are great, but now we’re looking to up the rigor, up our scores, to be on a better standing.”

He explained the school will be looking at ensuring each student is challenged in their learning, and getting the most out of their time will take time.

“Acknowledging where we’re at and where we need to go is the first step,” Penn said. “There is no one way it happens. It kind of takes a team approach, getting everyone onboard.”

On the personal side, he has been married a decade and has two young children that take most of his time.

“My daughter is 8 and my son is 4, so we’re pretty busy with them,” Penn said. “We’re also involved with our church, and I’m a big yard guy. Duck hunting in the fall is one of my bigger hobbies.”



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PILOT POINT ISD AT A GLANCE

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Administration

- 829 S. Harrison St., Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8700
- Fax: 940-686-8705
- Superintendent: Dr. Shannon Fuller, sfuller@pilotpointisd.com
- Executive Director of Administrative Services and Operations: Dr. Brant Perry, bperry@pilotpointisd.com
- Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Alicia Bonnett, abonnett@pilotpointisd.com
- Administrative Assistant: Kayla Raber, kraber@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
- Administrative Assistant: Dorcas Boerner, dboerner@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
- Administrative Assistant: Alyssa Lynch, alynch@pilotpointisd.com

Elementary School

- 501 E. Carol, Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8720
- Fax: 940-686-8725
- Principal: Kelli Brown, kbrown@pilotpointisd.com
- Campus Secretary: Ana Bernon, abernon@pilotpointisd.com

Early Childhood Center

- 829 S. Jefferson, Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8710
- Fax: 940-686-8715
- Principal: Lisa Herring, lherring@pilotpointisd.com
- Campus Receptionist: Alicia Alejos, aalejos@pilotpointisd.com

School Board

- President: Renee Polk, rpolk@pilotpointisd.com
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- Secretary: Mandy Kirby, mkirby@pilotpointisd.com
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- Trustee: Craig Bickers, 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

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

- Aug. 13: First Day of School/Begin First Grading Period
- Sept. 2: Student/Staff Holiday
- Sept. 3: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- Oct. 4: Early Release
- Oct. 10: End First Grading Period
- Oct. 11: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- Oct. 14: Student/Staff Holiday
- Oct. 15: Second Grading Period Begins
- Nov. 1: Student/Staff Holiday
- Nov. 22: Early Release
- Nov. 25-26: Employee Trade Day
- Nov. 25-29: Student/Staff Holiday
- Dec. 2: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- Dec. 20: End Second Grading Period/Early Release
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3: Student/Staff Holiday
- Jan. 6: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- Jan. 7: Third Grading Period Begins
- Jan. 20: Student/Staff Holiday
- Feb. 14: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- Feb. 17: Bad Weather Make-Up Day
- Mar. 7: End Third Grading Period/Early Release
- Mar. 10-14: Student/Staff Holiday
- Mar. 17: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- Mar. 18: Fourth Grading Period Begins
- Apr. 18: Student/Staff Holiday
- Apr. 21: Bad Weather Make-Up Day
- May 22: End Fourth Grading Period/Early Release/Last Day of School
- May 23: Professional Learning (Non-instructional Day)
- May 26: Student/Staff Holiday

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PPISD NEW TEACHERS & STAFF

HIGH SCHOOL

- Ann Hamilton: English.
- Brianna Harrison: English.
- Marzia Infante: Principal.
- Robby Perez: Social studies/coach.
- Tyler Lawson: Social studies/coach.
- Jenna Lawson: English.
- Chase Kliever: Assistant band director.
- William Reed Eichenberger: Special education teacher/coach.
- Cody Kimbrell: Social studies/coach.
- Christopher Payne: English.
- Kinlee Cobel: Ag.
- Christina Worrell: Dean of Students.
- Jian Hao: Math.
- Rick Baker: Business and CTE teacher/coach.
- Kirk Kaps: Athletic trainer.
- Sara Porter: Ag.
- Frederick Alonzi: Assistant band director.
- Wade Houchin: World geography/coach.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Kennedee Jo Squier: 6th grade technology/coach.
- Kylie Roos: 6th grade CTE/coach.
- Lexie Roos: Special education inclusion teacher/coach.
- Grady McCrea: 7th grade Texas history/coach.
- Tiffany Braddock: 6th RLA.
- Shawn Vincent: 7th grade RLA/coach.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Olga Bailon Quinones: Bilingual teacher.
- Caroline Branning: Art.
- Kassi Kincaid: Dyslexia.
- Rhonda Dewilde: 2nd grade.
- Mikell Owens: Special education teacher.
- Martha Salinas: Inclusion aide.
- LeighAnn Stapp: 3rd grade math



New Pilot Point ISD teachers work together, learning about their new district and highlighting what they plan to bring to their students for the school year.

Photo Courtesy of Pilot Point ISD

and science.

- Jamie Satchell: 1st grade.
- Ana Holloway: Counselor.
- Presley Chandler: PE teacher/coach.
- Christina Miller: 5th grade RLA.
- Victoria Rodriguez: 4th grade bilingual teacher.
- Samantha Striplin: 3rd grade RLA.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- Lisa Herring: Principal.
- Amanda Howard: Special education teacher.
- Joanne Phillips: Counselor/district testing coordinator.
- Mikayla Rider: Kindergarten.
- Arianna Cordero Gonzalez: Pre-K bilingual teacher.

PPISD POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Eric Dortch: Police officer. coach.

DAEP

- Steven Nichols: DAEP teacher/

DISTRICT

- Nicole Smith: District Librarian.

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Honoring the past

Pilot Point ISD's new Don Holly Transportation Center on Foutch Road continues toward completion. The new center will allow the district to expand out of its current facility on Main Street.

Basil Gist/
The Post-Signal



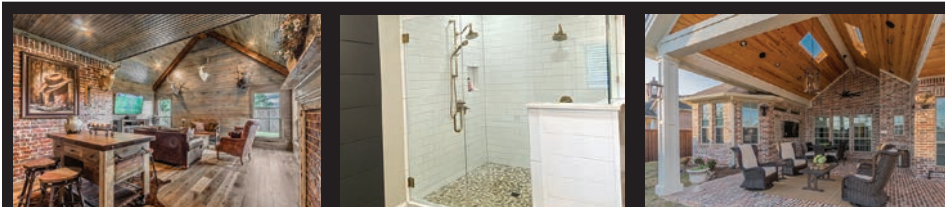
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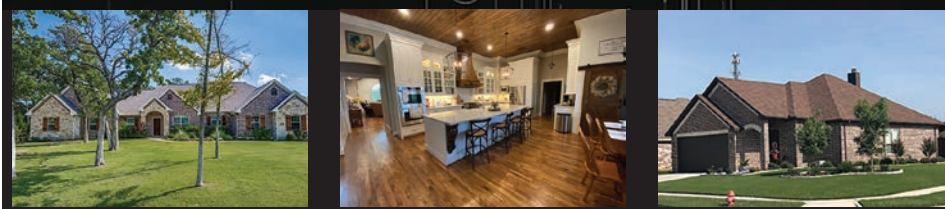
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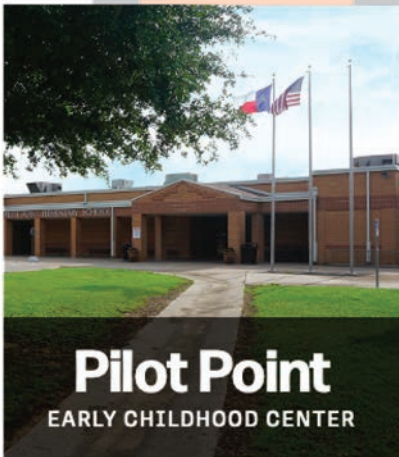


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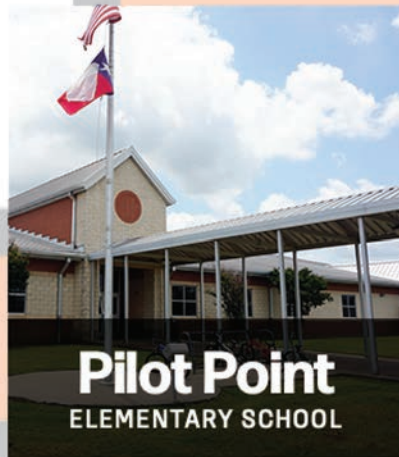
Our Mission

The school where every student wants to grow,
The district where every educator wants to teach, and
The community where every family wants to live.

Your Campus At a Glance



Pilot Point
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Pilot Point
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Pilot Point
MIDDLE SCHOOL



Pilot Point
HIGH SCHOOL

**Pre-K &
Kindergarten**

829 S. Jefferson
940-686-8710

School Hours
7:50 - 3:30
Early Release: 1 PM

Principal
Lisa Herring

**1st-5th
Grades**

501 E. Carol
940-686-8720

Student Hours
7:50 - 3:30
Doors open: 7:20

Principal
Kelli Brown

Assistant Principal
DeeAnn Woolison

**6th-8th
Grades**

828 S. Harrison
940-686-8730

School Hours:
7:50 - 3:30
Doors open at 7:20

Principal
Taylor Penn

Assistant Principal
Shana Pike

**9th-12th
Grades**

1300 N. Washington
940-686-8740

School Hours
7:50 - 3:30
Doors open at 7:20

Principal
Marzia Infante

Assistant Principal
Dr. John Middleton

Central Administration Info

829 S. Harrison • 940-686-8700 • pilotpointisd.com

After School Care (Pre-K through Grade 5)
Open to students enrolled at PPECC & PPES in pre-K-5th
From school dismissal-6:00 p.m. at PPES
Transportation provided by district from ECC
On PPSD school days and will follow PPSD calendar
Annual registration fee of \$50 per student
For additional information contact 940-686-8720



**Pilot Point ISD
Extended
Day Program**

Bearcat Nutrition Info 2024-2025 Meal Prices

Breakfast All Campus - \$2.00
Breakfast All Campus - Reduced \$0.30
Lunch ECC & PPES - \$3.25
Lunch PPMS & PPHS - \$4.00
Lunch All Campus Reduced - \$0.40

Pilot Point Independent School District



Preparing for new Chaps

AISD opens new school, continues bond projects

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

As students throughout Aubrey ISD settle into their new classes, a select group of students gets the chance to be the inaugural inhabitants of their school.

Pete and Myra West Elementary School, Aubrey ISD's fourth primary school, is the first major project of the May 2022 bond election to be completed.

"I think it's a huge honor to name [the school] after them," AISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Saylor said.

The district maintained its tradition of naming its elementary schools for long-time community members who have made significant contributions to the school district, adding the Wests to the list alongside H.L. Brockett, James A. Monaco and Jackie Fuller.

West's opening comes only four years after Fuller Elementary opened.

That campus went from a space with empty classrooms to a burgeoning school that hit capacity in certain grade levels.

Meteoric growth such as that in 2021 helped prompt the district to go out for the \$385.9 million bond, with voters approving both propositions.

"In the fall of 2021, we grew by 17% as a school district, so we assembled a facilities planning committee," Saylor said at the West Elementary ribbon cutting on Aug. 5.

That committee took the lessons learned at the Brockett, Monaco and Fuller campuses, as well as models of other districts' elementary schools to arrive at the plan for West.

"We learned that we like open library



Teresa West-Mancuso, left, speaks on behalf of her parents, Pete and Myra West, and the rest of the West family at the ribbon cutting for West Elementary on Aug. 5.

spaces," Saylor said.

West is the district's first two-story elementary school.

"There's not a slide, but it's really still kind of cool," Saylor said, drawing chuckles from the crowd.

Unlike at Fuller Elementary, where there are several teacher planning spac-

es sprinkled throughout the campus, the staff asked for one centralized break room "so that the faculty could bond."

There are also still collaborative learning spaces where more than one class can gather, but "each grade level has ... a shared space among the grade level versus sharing among several oth-

ers," Saylor said.

The basic shell of West is intended to be a model that the district can reproduce for elementary schools No. 5 and No. 6, to help streamline the design process.

West Elementary School Principal Jennie Petrasic, who was hired a year be-

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

Aubrey continues on 2022 bond projects

fore the school opened, helped have a hand in the look and feel of the campus.

“I can’t believe we’re finally here,” she said at the ribbon cutting ceremony. “The building is really complete. It is a beautiful building. ... I can’t wait for y’all to see it as it continues to develop and our graphics come on the wall and the building comes to life. And, more importantly, I cannot wait for your children to enter the doors.”

At the ceremony, Teresa West-Mancuso spoke of the honor she and her family felt in having the school named for her parents, who both dedicated a combined 38 years of service to Aubrey ISD—Pete 15 and Myra 23.

“They both loved reading, they loved education, but most of all, they loved us,” West-Mancuso said, speaking of the example of service to their community that her parents set. “... I hope this school will continue

their tradition of teaching children to strive to always do their best, achieve academic excellence and embrace civic duty.”

The days of being able to focus on the construction of one building are long since behind the Aubrey ISD administration team, with work active on both Middle School No. 2 and the renovation of the high school that will roughly double its capacity.

The goal is to have the new middle school, which as of press time was still unnamed, to be ready to open for the 2025-26 academic school year.

Changes at the high school will include larger classrooms for the Career and Technical Education courses, as well as expanding portions of the school that were previously one story up to add more classroom and support service space.

“That’s going to be a 2026 finish, so it’s going to be a long project,” Saylor said.

Fencing has been placed around any open spaces caused by construction to help with safety and security during the renovation project.

There are additional renovations at Brockett and Monaco.

In addition to the academic spaces, the bond included money for athletic facilities.

One such project, a lighted outdoor practice field covered in artificial turf, provides more space for multiple programs to use at once.

The district hopes to break ground on the indoor multipurpose facility in October.

“That can be used by dance kids, drill team kids, flag corps, band, soccer, softball, baseball—all the sports and activities can use it,” Saylor said.

She also acknowledged that established Aubrey ISD students and their families have been dealing with construction for many years.

“These kids haven’t real-



Aubrey ISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Saylor leads the way through the high school’s recent renovations. The changes will improve functionality and double the campus’ capacity.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

ly been in the high school without construction, and we realize that, and we’re not trying to make traffic worse or trying to impede on their parking ability

close to the campus, but they’re some things that we need to get us to the big 4A, next 5A level. ... It’s going to be very much worth it when it’s done.”

The Aubrey Independent School District

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs

2024-25

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 and Section 504 Coordinator, Terrie McNabb, at 410 Tisdell Ln. Aubrey, TX 76227, 940-668-0060.

The Aubrey Independent School District

Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales

2024-25

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 el Coordinador del Título IX, el Coordinador de la Sección 504, Terrie McNabb en 410 Tisdell Ln. Aubrey, TX 76227, 940-668-0060.

WELCOME TO AUBREY ISD



Administration

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

Aubrey High School

510 Spring Hill Road
Aubrey, TX 76227
940-668-3903

Aubrey Middle School

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

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

Athletics:

aubreysports.rankonesport.com
For Sports Schedules and Updates

2024-2025

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:

7:40 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Middle School:

8:10 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

High School:

8:10 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

Early Bird Learning Center:

6:45 a.m. - 5 p.m. (M, Tu, Th)

Closes 5:15 p.m. (W) 4:30 p.m. (F)

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

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 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



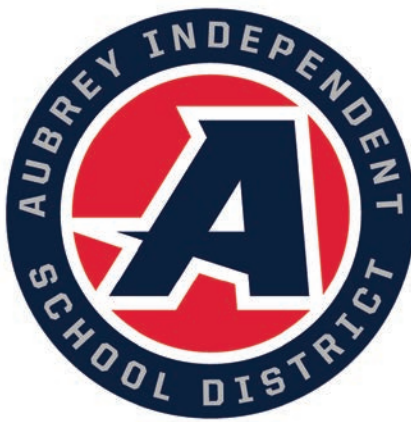
Aubrey ISD



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AUBREY ISD AT A GLANCE

www.aubreyisd.net

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug. 14: First Day of School/First Grading Period Begins
 Sept. 2: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
 Sept. 27: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
 Oct. 11: First Grading Period Ends
 Oct. 14: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
 Oct. 14: Second Grading Period Begins
 Oct. 15-18: Parent Conference (window of opportunity)
 Nov. 1: In Lieu/Staff Development
 Nov. 25-29: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
 Dec. 19: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
 Dec. 20: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
 Dec. 20: Second Grading Period Ends
 Dec. 23-Jan. 2: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
 Jan. 3: In Lieu/Staff Development
 Jan. 6: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
 Jan. 7: Third Grading Period Begins
 Jan. 20: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
 Feb. 14: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
 Feb. 17: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
 Mar. 7: Third Grading Period Ends
 Mar. 10-14: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
 Mar. 17: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
 Mar. 18: Fourth Grading Period Begins
 Apr. 4: Bad Weather Day
 Apr. 18: Bad Weather Day
 May 21: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
 May 22: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
 May 22: Fourth Grading Period Ends
 May 23: Student Holiday/ Teacher Staff Development

AISD SCHOOL BOARD INFO

School Board

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

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

High School

- 510 Spring Hill Road, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-3900
- Principal: Brett Phipps, bhipps@aubreyisd.net
- Campus Secretary: Dina Gayer, dgayer@aubreyisd.net

Middle School

- 815 W. Sherman Drive, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0200
- Principal: Dr. Heather Baker, hbaker@aubreyisd.net
- Campus Secretary: Tricia Noyes, tnoyes@aubreyisd.net

Brockett Elementary

- 900 Chestnut St., Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0036
- Principal: Courtney Siggers, csiggers@aubreyisd.net
- Campus Secretary: Rebecca Caranna, rcaranna@aubreyisd.net

Fuller Elementary

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

Monaco Elementary

- 9350 Cape Cod Blvd., Providence Village, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0000
- Principal: Brett Dobbs, bdobbs@aubreyisd.net
- Campus Secretary: Jill Bruce, jbruce@aubreyisd.net

West Elementary

- 3408 Bonniebridge Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-686-1500
- Principal: Jennie Petrasic, jpetrasic@aubreyisd.net
- Campus Secretary: Brittany Walker, bwalker@aubreyisd.net

Early Bird Learning Center

- 415 Tisdell Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0066
- Director: Pam Bloedel, pbloedel@aubreyisd.net
- Campus Secretary: Tina Cundiff, tcundiff@aubreyisd.net

A dedicated option

Vice President Colleen Dow, left, President Jim Milacek, and trustee Jana Temple of the school board take a tour of one of Aubrey ISD's new activity buses. The buses were donated and wrapped by Durham after the board renewed their transportation contract.

Basil Gist/
The Post-Signal



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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

- Lance Low: Special education/coach.
- Nicole Black: English/girls basketball coach.
- Meredith Hernandez: Spanish 1.
- Susie Dean: Counselor.
- Casey Kelly: RLA.
- Shantrey Glenn: RLA.
- Kye Ranton: Science/coach.
- Christine Billmeier: Math/coach.
- Jamie Alexander: Art.
- Tara Fitts: Medical terminolo-

gy.

- Kyle Kelson: U.S. history and world history.
- Kelli Baker: AP human geography/coach.
- Chase Marler: World geography/coach.
- Teagan Crane: Sports medicine.
- Tyler Mooney: Computer science.
- Christin Coile: Counselor.
- Vinny Thomas: AP.
- Duane Flowers: AP.
- Chelsea Fewell: Ag.
- Blake Barbee: Ag.

- Steve Seale: Lead ag teacher.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Chris Oresic: 6th science.
- Jeremy Black: 8th math.
- Kim Knox: 7th RLA.
- Aaron Frederick: Special education.
- Gray Trentman: Social studies/high school coach.
- Darron Moore: BIM.
- Caleb McCombie: 7th math.
- Kylee East: 6th RLA.
- Dustin Leinenbach: Behavior.
- Hannah Nicholson: Teen lead-

ership.

- Jerry Hunkapiller: Spanish.
- Courtney Hampton: Ag.
- Donald McEwan: Social studies/coach.

BROCKETT ELEMENTARY

- Kimberly Cargile: 1st grade.
- Khadijah McDonald: 1st grade.
- Melanie Scott: 2nd grade.
- Amy Stanley: 3rd grade.
- Christy Sayer: 3rd grade.
- Hannah Laughlin: 5th grade.
- Alexis Cunningham: 5th grade.

AIISD adds new teachers

- Kacie Harrigan: Rise.
- Wanda Coltrane: Special education.
- Deborah Swindler: Art.

FULLER ELEMENTARY

- Ashleigh Fisher: 1st grade.
- Michelle Baker: 1st grade.
- Kristi Padilla: 1st grade.
- Tanya Collins: Pre-K.
- Jennifer Hicks: STEM.
- Madeleine Low: Kindergarten.
- Lisa Paisley: 3rd grade.
- Caroline Burr: 2nd grade.
- Sarahi Contreras: 1st grade.
- Carlee Williams: 2nd grade.
- Jillian Schroyer: 3rd grade.
- Jackie Peet: Rise.
- Melissa Paisley: 4th grade.
- Ashley Fowler: 4th grade.
- Elaine Nolting: 5th grade.
- Brady Endres: Elementary and high school coach.
- Rachael Olivares: Music.

MONACO ELEMENTARY

- Stephanie Jordan: SSF.
- Leah Walters: 3rd grade.
- Sherrie Orr: 3rd grade.
- Kylie Catton: 3rd grade.
- Kayleen Jones: 5th grade.

- Kelly Odell: Kindergarten.
- Amy Metting: 4th grade.
- Joy Boyd: 4th grade.
- Wendy Mayes: 2nd grade.
- Danielle Baker: Resource.
- Casey Blad: Art.
- Yaminah Tucker: Counselor.

WEST ELEMENTARY

- Jane Loudenback: 1st grade.
- Jessica Carter: Counselor.
- Mary Beth Bowman: Pre-K.
- Shanette Richins: Pre-K.
- Sandra Garcia: Pre-K (Bil.).
- Dr. Patsy Sosa-Sanchez: Kindergarten (Bil.).
- Kaitlin Rayburn: 1st grade.
- Natalie Rushing: 2nd grade.
- Diane Martin: 3rd grade.
- Courtney Bock: 4th grade.
- Gabi Grisso: 5th grade.
- Brandylin Ogan: 5th grade.
- Olivia Kamesch: PE/coach.
- Zachary Wetchensky: STEM.
- Alyssa Mosher: GT.
- Sissy Shephard: ESL.
- Jenny Singleton: Teacher facilitator.

DAEP

- April Emerson: Principal.



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Feeling at home again

Tioga reopens 8 classrooms within Tioga School campus

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Through a combined effort of volunteers and contractors, Tioga ISD has reclaimed and reopened eight classroom spaces within the Tioga School building.

Getting the wing reopened alleviates congestion that had formed throughout the district last year.

“I’ve told the guys that have helped numerous times they were the positive light when other things weren’t so bright,” Superintendent Josh Ballinger said.

Having the eight added classrooms gives the district, which will not have the bonding capacity to go out for new bonds for a few years because of its current debt load, some breathing room to handle growth for the foreseeable future.

“This is where the growth will be—in the elementary,” Superintendent Josh Ballinger said. “There’s a reason why districts start with elementary grade levels and elementary schools first. This is where we’ll grow.”

Health concerns about mold and mildew that had developed because of drainage problems prompted the closure of the classroom wing.

“We thought we had it corrected two or three times, and as we would correct, it would just kind of push the water somewhere else,” Ballinger said.

Jimmy Anderson helped fix that issue in the breezeway area next to the wing, asking only to cover his costs partway into the extensive drainage project, Ballinger said.

“Now [water] flows away from the building,” he said.

Jared McGill helped with demolition on the front-end of the project for free.

“And then he helped me line up all the subs to come in afterwards, his contacts,” Ballinger said. “Which is a tre-



Ammie Scott sets up a comfortable corner to encourage her students with dyslexia who work to grow in their reading skills. Scott feels at home in the reopened room, where she has taught in the past.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

mendous help.”

Garry Burchett “continually keeps coming” to help, Ballinger said.

“He’s the grandfather of several of our students and father of one of our teachers, and he was just in here a couple of days ago, hanging these hooks,” he said. “... Never has collected a dime.”

Bill Norwood, too, helped with hands-on work in the renovated wing.

Beth Hale, the administrative assistant at the elementary and middle school campus, praised the work that went into the restoration project.

“This is my third district to work in, and I’ve not been where there’s a community that helps up this much,” she said. “And they jump in on everything—everything. Whether it’s supplies or manual labor—whatever. It’s great.”

Regaining those eight elementary school rooms created a chain reaction of freeing up space throughout the district so that staff members who were having to float into other spaces can have a set room.

Principal Jana Hansen, who will be over pre-K through fourth grade, said she’s grateful to have the rooms again.

newed wing, which is extra special for her.

“I had this room in 1996 till 2003, and then I came back to this room in 2012—I was in this room, different subject,” she said. “And then, I’m back in it now.”

Knowing that people such as Norwood, Anderson, McGill and Burchett were willing to step in to help has made a big impact on Tucker.

“It’s been really amazing,” she said of the efforts of the people who have restored the space. “I didn’t think it would be anything like this. It has just been fantastic, what they did. It makes me feel good that they’ve given their time and their money and their energy to help us out.”

Just down the hall, another Tioga teacher feels like she’s come home, too.

Ammie Scott, who is focusing on dyslexia and elementary response to intervention, is also back in a familiar room this year.

“I used to teach second grade in this room a while back,” she said. “And now I’m back [in here].”

She’s excited about how the room will help inspire the students she will get to serve, saying “it’s a blessing that we’ve had this much help.”

“We have a beautiful space for our kids, plenty room to do multisensory activities and it just feels like home,” Scott said.

“I’m looking forward to having all the lower elementary on this side of the building and being able to split it with middle school,” she said.

Pam Moore will serve as principal for the middle school section, fifth through seventh grade.

The eighth graders will stay on the high school campus, where they attended school last year.

Penny Tucker is one of the teachers who got the chance to set up in the re-

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TIOGA ISD AT A GLANCE

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

Tioga Elementary/Middle School

- 405 N. Florence St., Tioga, TX 76271
- Phone: 940-437-2366
- Fax: 940-437-9986
- Principal (Pre-K-4th): Jana Hansen, jana.hansen@tiogaisd.net
- Principal (5th-7th): Pam Moore, pame-la.moore@tiogaisd.net
- Administrative Assistant: Beth Hale, beth.hale@tiogaisd.net

Tioga High School

- 855 McKnight Road, Tioga, TX 76271
- Phone: 940-202-2536

- Fax: 940-202-2587
- Principal (8th-12th): Keith Kirkland, keith.kirkland@tiogaisd.net
- Administrative Assistant: Heather Garrison, heather.garrison@tiogaisd.net

School Board

- President: Stacy Price
- Vice President: Dallas Slay
- Secretary: Ryan Walters
- Trustee: Mica Bates
- Trustee: Brandon Miller
- Trustee: Dugan Rainey
- Trustee: Trina Colteryahn

School Board Meetings

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

NEW STAFF

- Julie Armstrong: 6th and 7th math/middle school coach.
- Christa Barnet: 5th language arts.
- Stephen Fewell: history/coach.
- Ryann Fox: health science/athletic trainer.
- Windy Guenther: 8th and 11th U.S. history/middle school coach.
- Tanner Hash: vocational agriculture.
- Terry Hooks: 6th and 7th science and middle school electives.
- Luther Kirkpatrick: social studies/coach.
- Leslie Mascari: secondary language arts.
- Ragan Smith: business CTE/coach.
- Rickey Smith: outdoor education/PE/coach.
- Cole Wills: history/coach.

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug. 15-26: Staff Workday	Holiday
Aug. 27: First Day of School	Feb. 17: School Holiday
Aug. 27: Begin First Nine Weeks	March 3: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Sept. 2: School Holiday	March 10-14: Spring Break Holiday
Sept. 16: School Holiday	March 17: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Sept. 23: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	March 21: End Third Nine Weeks
Oct. 7: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	March 24: School Holiday
Oct. 14: School Holiday	March 25: Begin Fourth Nine Weeks
Oct. 25: End First Nine Weeks	April 7: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Oct. 28: Begin Second Nine Weeks	April 18: School Holiday
Nov. 11: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	April 21: Bad Weather Day
Nov. 27-29: School Holiday	April 28: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Dec. 2: School Holiday	May 5: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Dec. 20: End Second Nine Weeks	May 12: Bad Weather Day
Dec. 23-Jan. 3: School Holiday	May 19: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Jan. 6: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	May 26: School Holiday
Jan. 7: Begin Third Nine Weeks	June 2: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Jan. 13: School Holiday	June 6: End Fourth Nine Weeks
Jan. 20: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	June 6: Last Day of School
Feb. 3: School Holiday	
Feb. 10: Teacher Workday/Student	

Welcome back Bulldogs!

Monday, August 19 • 4-6 PM

8th-12th Grade Schedule Pick-Up
& Campus Walk-Through
(AM Option on Tuesday as well)

Tuesday, August 20 • 9-11 AM

8th-12th Grade Schedule Pick-Up
& Campus Walk-Through
(No Need to Attend If Came Monday Evening)

Wednesday, August 21 • 5-7 PM

Elementary & Middle School (PK-7th Grade)

Meet the Teacher

"Come and Go" in Classrooms
(Information Set Up All Over Campuses)

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New trainer brings pathway to THS

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Tioga's athletic program appears to be reaching its full potential with the addition of the new trainer, Ryann Fox.

As the new Bulldogs athletic trainer, Fox focuses on preventing and treating injuries and training the next generation to do the same, bringing with her a new health science pathway for Tioga's Career and Technical Education program.

"When I was in high school, I didn't have any of these programs, but I was very much a hands-on learner," she said. "... When I went into athletic training, everything was very hands-on. During my clinical time, we got to go to different schools, work under their trainers and see what they were doing. My last one did the CTE teaching, ... and that's when I really got into it."

CTE courses integrate traditional educational classes with more interactive instruction to help students prepare to enter the labor market.

"CTE really focuses on helping kids figure out what careers they might be interested in," Fox said. "It also gives them a [head start] into what the job may look like. ... These classes try to focus on what it would be like to actually do that job."

The first three classes in the new pathway are medical terminology, health sciences and sports medicine, all taught by Fox.

Medical terminology will focus on introducing students to words that are used in medical offices and how they all relate to the inner workings of the human body.

"It will teach them what those words mean [and] how they come to-



Tioga's new athletic trainer, Ryann Fox, beams as she stands in the Bulldogs training room. Fox also brings with her a healthcare pathway for Tioga's career and technical education program.

gether to form the words that we hear doctors use," Fox said. "Then we'll talk about the anatomy of our body [and] how it works, what's actually inside of us, [and] what it does for us."

Health sciences will offer a more technical perspective on the medical field, such as certification and licensing, providing a more in-depth look at what it takes to become a medical professional.

"It mainly focuses on what are their options, and we'll dive into what education you need for that," Fox said.

The focal point of the sports medicine course is teaching students the ins and outs of athletic training.

"The goal for that course is to have kids that are interested [form] a club [and] be my student trainers," Fox said. "I'm going to teach them how to tape and [handle] minor wound care. On game days they'll be able to be on the sidelines with me and let them see what it's like."

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

Fox emphasized how the CTE program offers more opportunities for students who may have more nontraditional career goals.

"It reaches a different audience," she said. "Those kids that can't just sit in a classroom and listen, they re-

ally need that first-hand experience. ... It gives the students the opportunity to branch out and figure out what they want if the traditional path isn't something that will work for them."

Fox highlighted the warm welcome she's received since joining the Tioga staff and the interest she's already receiving from students.

"The coaches are all thrilled to have me here," she said. "... They've been great and willing to listen to my opinions. The kids have been nice [and] very respectful. I've had some students say they're interested in the sports medicine club, and Principal [Keith] Kirkland also told me there's a good group that wants to do it."

One group Fox wants to connect with is the families of the interested students.

"I'm hoping to start bridging the gap [of] letting parents know what I can do for their kids," she said. "[That's] what I'm here for, to start forming those relationships because, at the end of the day, that's the most important thing."

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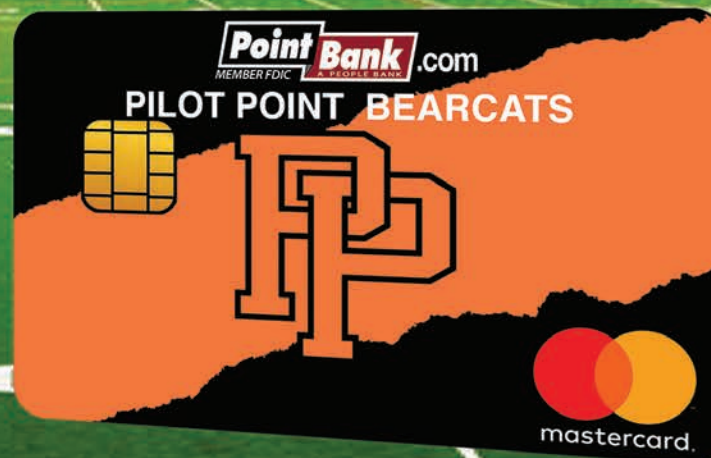
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