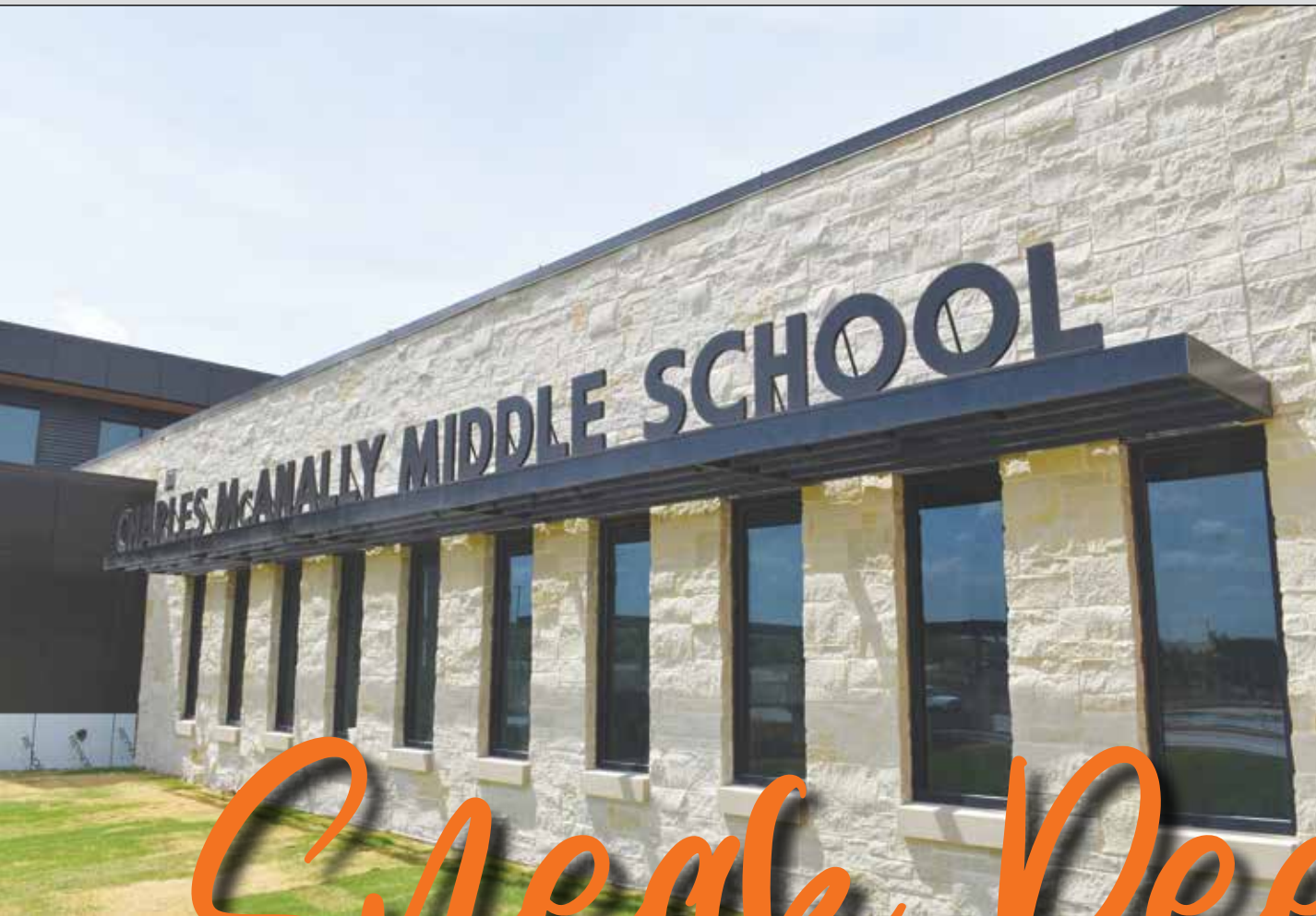


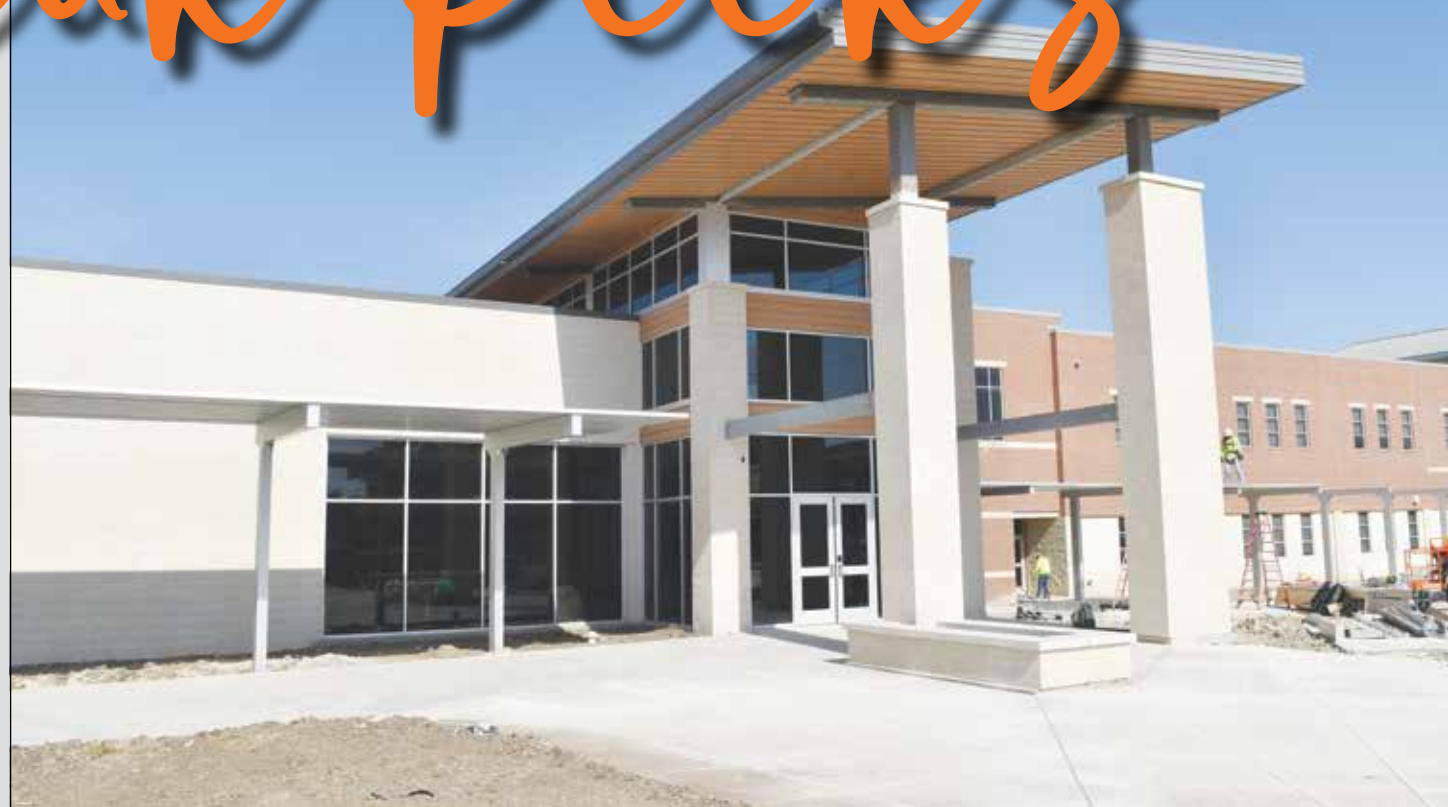
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Back to School 2022

August 12, 2022



Sneak Peeks



THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Back to School 2022

August 12, 2022



Welcome to our annual Back to School Guide! We hope you find the information in this publication helpful as you prepare to go back to school.

More Back to School information will be in the Aug. 12 issue of *The Community News*!

This section is published by:

The Community News
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Coming Up:



FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Meet the Band

The Aledo Band Program will host "Meet the Band" from 6-7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 12 at the U-Drive next to Bearcat Stadium.

Bring a chair and enjoy music, food, fun, and band merchandise. Bands participating include the Bearcat Regiment, McAnally Middle School, Aledo Middle School, and 6-12 grade bands.

Food trucks will arrive at 5 p.m. The annual Band Olympics will follow at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Meet the Bearcats

The Aledo Quarterback Club will host Meet the Bearcats from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Aledo High School Indoor Practice Facility.

Traditionally, the Bearcat football players and coaches will be on hand and players will sign posters as well as performances and sign-

ing by AHS cheerleaders, dance team, and the Bearcat Regiment Drumline.

Full details of plans for this year's event were not available at press time.



MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Meet the Teachers

All Aledo Elementary Schools will host "Meet the Teacher" on Monday, Aug. 15. Parents are requested to use the following schedule if possible to prevent overcrowding at a particular time

- A-G: 2-3 p.m.
- H-N: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- O-Z: 5-6 p.m.



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Aledo ISD transitions back to paid school lunches

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized spending that allowed schools to serve free meals for all students.

That program is no longer in effect, so Aledo ISD will transition back to a paid school meal program.

Free and reduced price meals are available to those who qualify.

Aledo ISD will begin distributing letters and applications to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits beginning on Aug. 17.

Families are encouraged to complete the Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals (also available at www.nlappscloud.com) and return the completed online form or completed paper application to any school office.

The application will determine a child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and may assist in the determination of eligibility for other state or federal benefits. Only one application needs to be completed per household. Schools will notify the household of the child's eligibility. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers school nutrition programs in



Texas and offers an eligibility calculator at www.SquareMeals.org/ProgramEligibility.

Decisions regarding payment for school meals are made at the national-government level, not by the school nutrition team or TDA.

Patty Willhite, Director of Child Nutrition at Aledo ISD, said "the dedicated staff at Aledo ISD is looking forward to serving healthy, balanced meals to students in the new school year.

Turn to MEALS, page 6

**WELCOME
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MEALS

from page four

These meals, whether paid, free, or reduced-price, offer a good source of nutrition for children.”

Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child’s eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income Eligibility

Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out free and reduced-price meal application and return it to the AISD Child Nutrition Office (817-441-5142) or their campus office (also available online at nlappscloud.com). Those individuals filling out the application

will need to provide the following information:

- Names of all household members
- Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
- Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for “No Social Security number”
- Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

Categorical or Automatic Eligibility and Program Participant Eligibility

Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Child’s status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or

displaced by a declared disaster

Child’s enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Aledo ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Aledo ISD will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should can contact AISD Child Nutrition Office at 817-441-5142.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact AISD Child Nutrition Office.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.



Read this story online

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Nutrition Secretary, Renee Goodenough and/or Nutrition Director, Patty Willhite, will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official’s eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Earl Husfeld, CFO/AISD, 817-441-5111.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household’s income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

IT’S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME.



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Opportunities to Serve and Resources

Aledo ISD and Parker County have numerous opportunities to serve the school district and the youth and families of the community. Find opportunities to get involved here.

Connections Mentoring Program

The Connections Mentoring Program of Aledo ISD helps to empower youth in our community to make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their potential. The mentoring program uses adult volunteers to commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young person for a period of at least one year. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about the youth, the mentor can help youth develop and reach positive academic, career, and personal goals.

For more information, email Scott Kessel at skessel@aledoisd.org or visit aledoisd.org/page/4142.

Aledo PTO

The Aledo PTO is a district-wide organization supporting the staff and students of the Aledo ISD and supplementing the needs of each school within the boundaries of the Aledo ISD. It is made up of four executive officers, campus representatives, committee chairs, Aledo ISD staff, parents, grandparents, and more. Anyone who is a parent, grandparent, protector, guardian, and/or a person who is employed by Aledo ISD is eligible to become a member.

For more information, visit <https://aledopto.membershiptoolkit.com/>

Aledo Children's AdvoCats

Aledo Children's AdvoCats is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization led by women volunteers committed to raising charitable funds to help fulfill and aid unmet needs of children and their families in the Aledo area.

Established in 2002, the Aledo Children's AdvoCats organization has donated more than \$1,000,000 to our community. One-hundred percent of monies raised through fundraising are used towards charitable efforts, such as medical, dental and vision expenses, counseling, career and technical education courses, living expenses, clothing needs, and crisis intervention.

For more information, visit <https://aledoadvocats.com/>



FILE PHOTO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Zoe Cooley shops at The Clothes Closet. Proceeds from the shop, run by the Aledo Children's Advocats, go to benefit Aledo ISD students in need.

Aledo Education Foundation

The Aledo ISD Education Foundation was established by business, civic and community leaders to support the mission of the Aledo Independent School District by supporting innovative educational projects and activities that are beyond traditional funding and/or for which tax dollars cannot be expended. Foundation funds will be used for educational enrichment programs such as innovative grants and programs to enhance student achievement, to recognize exemplary staff involvement and to foster community support and involvement.

For more information, visit <https://www.aledoef.org/>

SilverCats

The SilverCats program is designed for community members who are 55 years and older. The program provides members an opportunity to learn more about the district, free admission to all home Aledo ISD events and the chance to become volunteers and mentors.

Aledo ISD will host special SilverCats events during the school year providing members a chance to engage with staff and students.

For more information, visit <https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/5344>

Parker County Center of Hope

The Center of Hope provides short- and long-term poverty assistance for Parker County, Aledo, and Weatherford.

Programs include food assistance, education and career development programs, family empowerment programs, and ministry.

For more information, visit <https://centerofhopetx.com/>

Children's Advocacy Center

The Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County coordinates the collaborative efforts between Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and prosecution, in the investigation of child abuse cases by providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services for the victim and their families, medical evaluations, and victim support and advocacy. They will also provide education for schools and communities on child abuse.

For more information, visit <https://www.cacparkercounty.org/>



Read this story online

Sneak



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Read this
story online

LEFT: Cafeteria and stage at McAnally Middle School | Hallway inside a grade level at McAnally

By Randy Keck

The Community News

The rapid growth in the Aledo ISD has led to the need for ever more facilities needed to educate increasing numbers of students.

In 2019, Aledo ISD voters approved issuing bonds to, among other things, renovate the existing Aledo Middle School, build a second middle school, and transition what was McAnally Intermediate School into an elementary school.

The bonds also financed the construction of Annetta Elementary School, which opened last year.

Changes to campus makeups will take effect this school year as the intermediate school (sixth-grade campus) concept goes away. Sixth graders will be moved to the middle schools, which will now accommodate grades 6-8.



Looking down to the cafeteria and entrance to the athletic wing at McAnally

The chain reaction looks like this:

The former Vandagriff Elementary School has been converted to an Early Childhood Center (to be featured in a future issue of The Community News.) The former McAnally Intermediate School becomes Vandagriff Elementary School. The McAnally name now belongs to AISD's second middle school that will open next week. And Aledo Middle School gets a makeover.

McAnally Middle School
14700 Old Weatherford Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76008

The "new kid on the block" is McAnally Middle School. This brand-new campus sits north of Aledo sandwiched between Morningstar and Walsh on Old Weatherford Road.

Joshua Jenkins will serve as the principal of the new campus.

Peeks



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Grade level pod at Aledo Middle School | Bearcat Den under construction. The temporary wall at left will be taken down when complete for access to the kitchen.



The Community News got a sneak peek of the new campus last week, and it promises to be a state-of-the-art learning facility.

The environment at the new school is enhanced by a variety of textures and colors on the walls and ceilings. The cafeteria features wood planks on the ceiling and a stage ready for school productions.

The library, as most of the rest of the building, includes a lot of natural light. The library has light colors enhanced by orange decorations and some creative ceiling fixtures.

Classroom seating is flexible — desks can be arranged in traditional classroom formation or reconfigured for more collaborative work.

Many students at the new campus will have extraordinary views of the developing Walsh area.

Each grade level will have its own section of the school, and each of the three sections



Entry hallway at Aledo Middle School

is identical in terms of number and size of classrooms and labs. The entrance to each grade level features a mural with a historic scene from around the school district.

Outdoor athletic facilities will be ready for the campus to host teams this football season, as will the indoor gym for volleyball.

Mascot-wise, McAnally will have the same Bearcats to rally behind.

From a fine arts perspective, McAnally has facilities for band, choir, a future orchestra, dramatic arts, and dance.

The practice gym will also function as a tornado shelter for the school. The shelter, constructed of 12-inch concrete walls, also houses the dance team's practice area.

Turn to PEEK, page 10

PEEK

from page nine

**Aledo Middle School
416 FM 1187 S.
Aledo, Texas 76008**

Aledo Middle School was once a 7-12 campus before it became strictly a middle school upon completion of the current high school.

The building has been added to on a number of occasions, and in many cases was showing its age.

It was important to the school district that the two middle schools have as equal facilities as possible, and the design changes to the existing building make it the same state-of-the-art facility as it's new sibling.

The design changes creatively took spaces in the old building and repurposed them to create equivalent spaces in both building.

Shapes may vary, but floor space in classrooms and labs are equivalent.

Like McAnally, Aledo Middle School has three distinct areas for each grade level. Each grade level area has collaboration space where outside-the-class learning can take place.



McAnally Library

The same classroom furniture will be in the classrooms at both schools.

More outdoor lighting has been brought into the building where possible, and lines of sight down hallways has been improved.

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TO OUR BEARCATS, EAGLES,
AND ALL OTHER STUDENTS,

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TO SCHOOL!*

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TEXAS**



Library at Aledo Middle School

The old practice gyms became the band hall last year, though vestiges of the gyms remain.

Given that new construction can be accomplished quicker than renovations, and that Aledo Middle School was holding

classes this past school year while construction was going on, some area of the building will not be complete when school starts.

One of those items will be the make-over of the revered Bearcat Den, which will retain its shape with a new face.

A temporary wall has been constructed to separate the construction of that area from the rest of the school.

One change in the Bearcat Den is the removal of the old kitchen, which will become a performance stage.

The old band hall at the school will now house the school library on two levels.

A brand new kitchen has been constructed on the south side of the Bearcat Den. Until it is complete, the Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) will serve as the lunchroom.

Speaking of the MPC, it is now attached to the main building, so students will not have to leave the building to have activities there.

A wall now stands where the stage once was, and the area behind the wall will be the dance rehearsal area.

New locker rooms and coaches' offices have been added adjacent to the MPC. In addition, a new practice gym with the same tornado protection has been added.

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and one
teacher can
change
the world."*

Malala Yousafzai

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Teacher workroom at McAnally



Classroom at McAnally



Hallway collaboration area at McAnally



Stools awaiting placement in science labs at McAnally



Entrance to a grade level at McAnally



Science lab at McAnally

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BEARCATS!**



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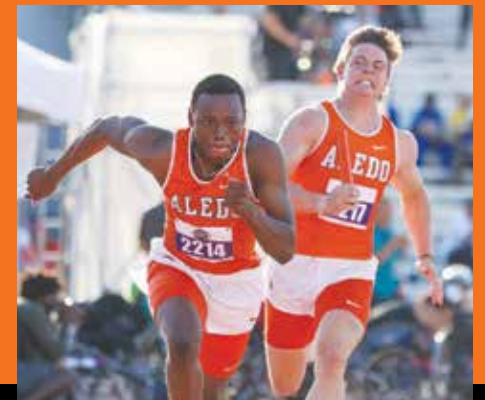
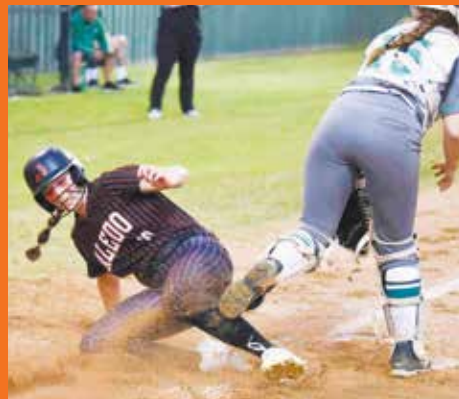
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We look forward to seeing you in our next ad!



Lab at Aledo Middle School



Choir room at Aledo Middle School



New kitchen at Aledo Middle School



The gym floor at the MPC. The wall on the right is where the stage once was.



Dance studio at Aledo Middle School.



New locker room at Aledo Middle School

Welcome

Back to School!




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Rainer Maria Rilke

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