

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS



## BACK TO SCHOOL 2024



### McKinney Elementary to be 'home away from home'



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lynn McKinney humbly and humorously thanked the school board and administration for the honor of being the namesake of the new elementary school at 14748 Lynn McKinney Way in the Morningstar addition.

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

The Aug. 8 dedication ceremony of McKinney Elementary School was a time for memories, laughter, and anxious new students to see their future school.

After beginning her career in Houston ISD, McKinney moved to Aledo and taught first grade at what was then the only elementary campus in the school district. Since then, she taught multiple grades, became elementary school vice-principal, vice-principal, and then Aledo High School principal, where she was voted Region 11 Outstanding Secondary Principal of the Year. She was later assistant superintendent of curriculum and served her last 12 years as deputy superintendent before retiring in 2023.

In introducing the person of honor, husband Randal McKinney, who is also a retired AISD educator, told the crowd in attendance of the fateful day when the two met at a Jack in the Box on Highway 80.

"I just walked over there and introduced myself, and the rest is history," he recalled.

Aledo ISD Board of Trustees president Forrest Collins was among the administrators and staff honoring Lynn McKinney and thanking the community for the new building.

"I know this took a lot of hard work and many conversations, but this is a place we can be proud of," Collins said. "We hope this school serves the community and is a home away from home for all the students."

Lynn McKinney recognized some of the many people she worked with, telling anecdotes and amusing stories and expressed her gratitude for being the namesake of the 107,000 square foot campus. The school can accommodate 889 students grades K-5.

"What a humbling experience it is to have such a beautiful building named after me," she said. "And when you tour the building in a few minutes, be sure to notice the most fun colors throughout the building."

Every day was an opportunity to brighten students' days, according to McKinney. In spite of occasional difficult times, urgent decisions, and long hours, she tried to look for the positive in each situation and

Turn to HOME, page B2

#### ALEDO ISD

### School bond funds at work

#### New elementary school, improvements on display throughout district

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

The fruits of the school bond passed in May 2023 are being revealed in the new school year. AISD school board president Forrest Collins pointed out the \$123.8 means so much more than education to the community.

"Our buildings are more than schools," Collins explained. "They are places where families and kids will meet and make lifelong friends. They are the social center of many of our neighbors and where our communities often gather."

Nearly one-half of the bond has gone to the new Lynn McKinney Elementary School, the school district's seventh elementary school campus. The rest of the bond is

invested in repurposing and remodeling space in the high school, upgrading and expanding security and safety, maintenance and technology, school busses, and securing land for future growth.

Collins said emphasis has also been put on accessibility and ease of mobility for disabled and physically challenged students.

The new elementary school is at 14748 Lynn McKinney Way and serves residents of the northern reaches of Aledo ISD. The campus is one mile north on Farmer Road, one mile east on Old Weatherford Road, then north on Exceptional Lane before passing McAnally Middle School.

Named for Lynn McKinney, who served the school district since 1986 in the capacities of elementary teacher, elementary vice principal, high school vice principal, principal, assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. She retired in 2023.



Sidewalks are poured past one of McKinney Elementary School's two playgrounds.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS





Lynn McKinney Elementary School

# HOME

from page B1

make the job a joy for those around her.

"I never really knew what each day was going to bring," she recalled. "And really, you can't get more fun than that."

McKinney said her most joyous memory is handing the diplomas to her students as they cross the stage during graduations.

The two-story campus is laid out in suites, with a common area for each grade accessing separate classrooms. Older grades are upstairs and younger on the first floor. Bathrooms and a teachers' resource room are in each suite.

New fourth-grader Eesa Nawabi toured the building with his family. His interest with the building was more about accommodation than education.

"I am really excited about the common rooms because each grade is going to have their own bathrooms," Eesa said. "We can have our own area and our own space."

Second-grader Jameson Wortsman found it easy to articulate his excitement as he climbed the soft and colorful seating in his common area.

"This is great!" he smiled. "This is really great!"



AISD superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn



Library shelves are low for easy access and so students can see across the room.



True to form, Lynn McKinney lets a student help during the ribbon cutting ceremony.



The road in front of the school is Lynn McKinney Way. Randal and Lynn McKinney learn for the first time with a map on AISD information officer Mercedes Mayer's phone that the road behind McKinney Elementary School is Boger Road, honoring Lynn McKinney's maiden name.



## 2024-2025 ALEDO ISD INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

2024	JULY 2024							AUGUST 2024							SEPTEMBER 2024							
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						
	July 30-31 New Teacher Academy							Aug. 1 New Teacher Academy Aug. 5-13 5 District/Campus PL Days & 2 Work Days Aug. 14 1st Grading Cycle Begins Aug. 30 Student Holiday/Work Day							Sept. 2 Student/Staff Holiday Sept. 20 Student Holiday/Work Day							
	2025	OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024							DECEMBER 2024						
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
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Oct. 9 1st Grading Cycle Ends Oct. 10 Student Holiday/PL Day Oct. 11 Student/Staff Holiday Oct. 15 Student Holiday/Work Day Oct. 16 2nd Grading Cycle Begins							Nov. 1 Student Holiday/Work Day Nov. 22 Student Holiday/PL Day Nov. 25-29 Student/Staff Holiday							Dec. 19 Early Release/Work Day Dec. 19 2nd Grading Cycle Ends Dec. 20-31 Student/Staff Holiday								
JANUARY 2025							FEBRUARY 2025							MARCH 2025								
1		2	3	4				1						1								
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
Jan. 1-3 Student/Staff Holiday Jan. 6 Student Holiday/PL Day Jan. 7 Student Holiday/WK Day Jan. 8 3rd Grading Cycle Begins Jan. 20 Student/Staff Holiday							Feb. 14 Student Holiday/PL Day Feb. 17 Student Holiday/Work Day							March 7 Early Release/Work Day March 7 3rd Grading Cycle Ends March 10-14 Student/Staff Holiday March 17 Student Holiday/PL/WK Day March 18 4th Grading Cycle Begins								
APRIL 2025							MAY 2025							JUNE 2025								
1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30							
April 18 Student Holiday/Flex Day April 21 Student Holiday/Work Day							May 22 Early Release/Work Day May 23 4th Grading Cycle Ends May 23 Staff Work Day May 26 Staff Holiday May 27-28 Flex Days															

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TEACHING

# Aledo's Woodson honored by Education Service Center

## Named Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Elisha Woodson understands the value of a well-rounded career — a career that has now seen her receive recognition as the best at her craft.

Woodson was recently named the Education Service Center (ESC) Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year. This comes on the heels of her being named the Aledo ISD Teacher of the Year.

"In May, I received the remarkable honor of being named Teacher of the Year for Aledo ISD. I was surprised and humbled by the recognition. I am grateful for the acknowledgement and recognize the hard work of my colleagues, the admin team, my students and their parents in making teaching such a rewarding experience," Woodson said.

"The overwhelming feeling I have after being named ESC 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year is a mixture of excitement, pride, and total fear! I cannot say enough how important my team, students, parents, and admin have been to any success I have shown. My team has already worked all summer to ensure we continue our growth."

Woodson's 15-year career in education began as an administrative

secretary. She moved into the classroom 11 years ago.

Woodson came to Aledo in 2018 and has taught freshman biology and pre-advancement-placement biology at Aledo High School ever since. She has been praised for her use of hands-on activities, creating an atmosphere in which all students, regardless of their background or ability, can connect with and understand the material.

In honoring her, judges praised her Positive Impact Project, which fosters a classroom culture of support. They also noted her sponsorship of the Speak Up, Speak Out program, which empowers students to engage in civic issues.

In addition, they were impressed with her proactive approach in addressing campus-wide failure concerns, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

"Ms. Woodson strives to make meaningful connections between the curriculum and the interests of her students. By allowing them to have autonomy in the problems they choose to research, they have a personal stake in the learning process and possible solutions. This is integral in maintaining scholarly curiosity in a world where everything is literally at one's fingertips," said Lisa Day, judge, former winner of this award and a current teacher in the Northwest ISD.

"Along with Ms. Woodson's impressive passion for creating

strong connections between her students, her content, and her community, what really made us smile was her essay entitled, 'Teaching is Like Making Tacos: A Recipe for Success.' Her ability to break down the elements of teaching into simple terms to understand the impact of the school environment, colleague relationships, and student diversity to name a few. It was wonderful! Besides, who doesn't love a great taco?"

Through it all, Woodson has built a bridge from classroom learning to real-world issues. This helps to enable students to develop a strong connection and become active members of the community.

"We are so incredibly proud of Ms. Woodson being named the Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "She is so kid-focused in all that she does — in how she teaches her students to mastery, how she empowers them to help other students, and how she's committed to her students having authentic experiences.

"Ms. Woodson doesn't hesitate to provide extra time, support and intervention to make sure her students really learn the material she's teaching. We are fortunate that she's helping us grow greatness in Aledo ISD each and every day!"

Prior to coming to Aledo, Woodson taught in Maypearl and Lake Worth.



Elisha Woodson, biology teacher at Aledo High School, was named Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Science from Western Governors University in 2013, where she also received her Master of Science in Instructional Technology in 2019.

Woodson's award advances her to compete for Texas Teacher of the Year from the Texas Association of School Administrators. Six semi-finalists (three elementary, three secondary) will be announced on Sept. 4.

They will then participate in an interview with the selection committee on Oct. 24, with the elementary and secondary state winners announced on Oct. 25.

## Weatherford duo recognized

Two instructors from the Weatherford School District were among 10 essay finalist award winners by the ESC.

In the Defining Lesson/Unit Essay category, Weatherford High School instructor Tiel Jenkins received the secondary schools award.

In the National Teacher of the Year Platform Essay division, Tonya Martin won at the elementary schools level.



Linley Marra is excited to start her first day of Kindergarten.



Lynn McKinney and Shannon Elliott were among the greeters at McKinney's namesake school.



Marshall Benavides began a new first-day adventure with parents Mia and Taylor and siblings Luke and Ella.



Titan and Kimora Macon were ready for classes on the first day of school.



It was all smiles for the kids in the Vandergriff carpool line.



Students and parents swarm Walsh Elementary School for the first day of school.



Aledo ISD Chief Financial Officer, Earl Husfeld, talks with a young Walsh Elementary student



Saisha Jain was excited about her first day of school at McKinney Elementary School, while younger brother, Shaurya and parents Rishabh and Tanvi Kotie Jain accompanied her.

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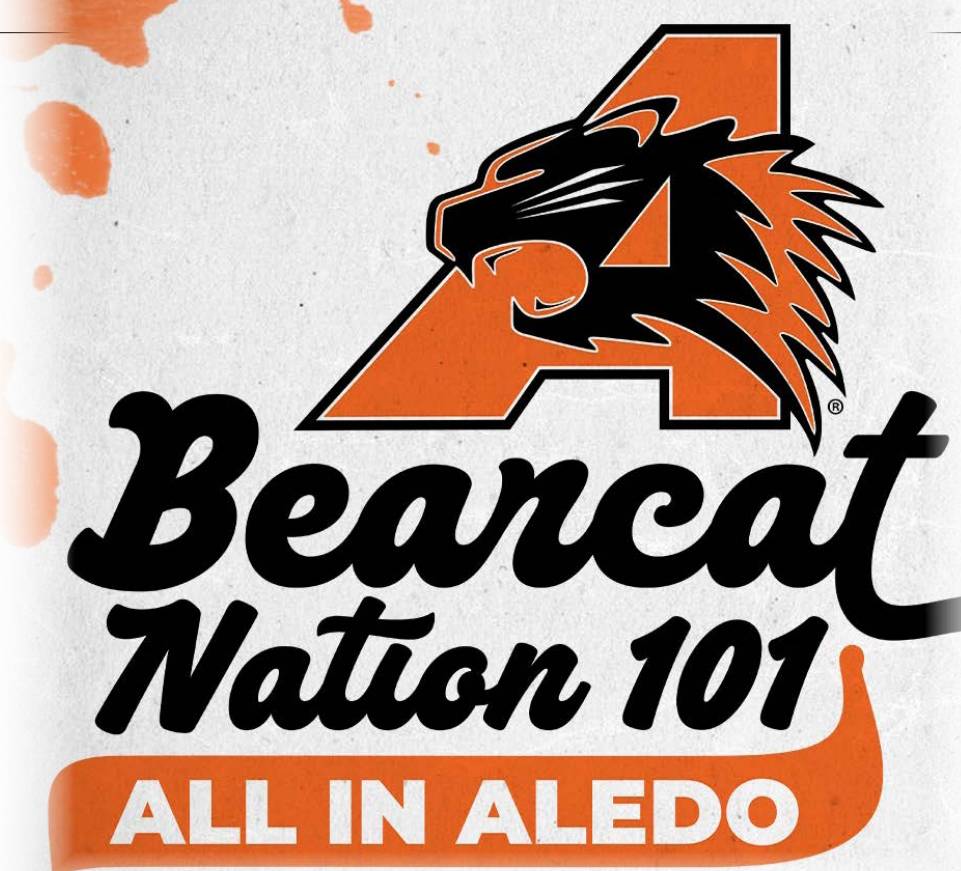
# Bearcat Nation 101 brings crowds to new location



Margaret Bloodworth and Keshia Chaney



Coder 5th graders Addison Bashen and Brady Smith



Shelby Morrison and Karen Kirkland handed out fruit.



Miranda Castiglione, Kate Overstreet, Caroline Howard and Lyla Cook



Dr. Susan K. Bohn greeted everyone.



Robotics team showed their skills

The annual Bearcat Nation 101 event had a new location but the same enthusiastic group of organizations that provided much needed information to new and veteran residents in the Aleido ISD. The tradition location at Aleido High School gave way to McAnally Middle School due to construction at AHS. Cities, campuses, and school organizations provided handouts, samples, and lots of sweets to participants.

PHOTOS BY LAURA FINER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



The Bearcat mascot



Eleanor Rogers, Emmaline Rogers, and Abigail Rogers with cheerleaders.



Shopping for Aleido merchandise.



Cheerleaders Jenna Smith, Elena Bracero, Stella Towns, and Tryniti Chiles



Jeff Fink handed out smores.



People gathered to talk about different school activities.



# Welcome Back Bearcats!

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# New year brings new leader to TCA

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

For only the fourth time in its history, Trinity Christian Academy will enter a school year with a new Head of School. Craig Smith took the helm following the retirement of Dr. Steve Newby, concluding a nationwide search.

"Craig Smith is a long-time Christian administrator in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who brings his considerable leadership experience to TCA. I could not ask for a better person to take over as Head of School than Craig," Newby said. "His strong faith, business acumen, and love of Christian education will enable TCA to continue growing and contributing to the Parker County community."

Smith brings 24 years of leadership experience in administration in the Christian school environment in Taylor and Tarrant Counties. He most recently served as Associate Head of School for Southwest Christian School in Fort Worth before starting his own consulting firm in July of 2023.

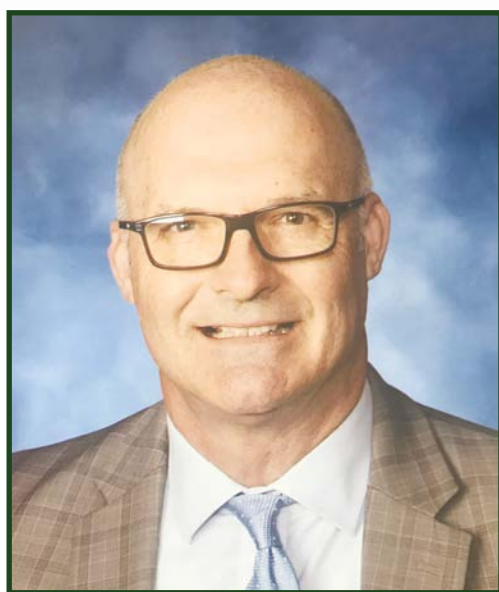
Smith attended Abilene Christian University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications. He later earned a certification in Leading School Strategy and Innovation from the Harvard Graduate School of Education/Harvard Business School.

"I've been blessed to be a part of God's work at multiple schools and, along the way, learn something about best practices," Smith said. "I'm a life-long learner and that's part of the perspective I will bring."

Smith said he was attracted to TCA because of the school's rich history.

"I'm excited to help build on that success. Our location in Parker County is unbeatable," he said.

TCA School Board President Bert Thompson said Smith's extensive experience, commitment to excellence, and visionary leadership make him the ideal choice to lead the school into an exciting future of growth and success.



"The Board is confident that God's will, purpose, and plan were evident for this process, for TCA, and for Craig. We are incredibly excited about the promising days ahead," Thompson said.

Smith stressed that at the top of his mission and goals list is "students first."

"We will continue to partner with families to train students in a Christ-centered environment," he said. "Our land next to our new stadium and track gives us lots of options for expansion. We will do our best to follow God's direction for our school and never grow complacent."

He and his wife Jan have been married for 39 years. She is a first-grade teacher, most recently at Birdville Elementary School in North Richland Hills. They have three adult children, two sons, and one daughter, all of whom are married.

They also have two granddaughters, whom they love to talk about with anyone who will listen.

In his off time, Smith loves the outdoors - walking, biking, kayaking, and rafting - and being still in creation. He and Jan love to travel, see their children and grandchildren, and explore new places.

COURTESY OF TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - WILLOW PARK/FACEBOOK

# TCA

## 2024/2025

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<span style="color: orange;">■</span> HOLIDAYS	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30AM
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> KEY DATES (GRADING PERIOD)
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> STUDENT HOLIDAY	
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> STUDENT TESTING	

AUGUST 2024							SEPTEMBER 2024							OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024														
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT								
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8/1-8/2...New Staff In-Service 8/5-8/14...Faculty/Staff In-service 8/12...Parent Night - Evening 8/13...Student Day - Morning 8/15...First Day of Class							9/2...Labor Day 9/13...Grandparents' Day - Early Dismissal							10/10-10/11...Faculty Inservice Fall Break 10/14...Columbus Day 10/16...PSAT Grades 10&11							11/1...Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences, no school for Elementary students 11/21...Turkey in the Ground 11/22...Family Feast/Early Dismissal 11/25-11/29...Thanksgiving Holiday														
DECEMBER 2024							JANUARY 2025							FEBRUARY 2025							MARCH 2025														
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT								
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12/19-12/20...Grades 6-12 Exams & Early Dismissal (12/20...Elementary Early Dismissal) 12/23-12/31...Christmas/New Year Holiday							1/1-1/3...Christmas/New Year Holiday 1/6...Staff Professional Development 1/20...Martin Luther King Jr Holiday 1/30-1/31...Faculty In-Service							2/17...Presidents' Day							3/4-3/7...Term/Care week 3/7...Early Dismissal - Elementary 3/10-3/14...Spring Break 3/17-3/18...Faculty In-Service														
APRIL 2025							MAY 2025							<b>GRADING PERIODS</b> Q1: AUG 15 - OCT 09 - 37 DAYS Q2: OCT 15 - DEC 20 - 44 DAYS Q3: JAN 07 - MAR 07 - 40 DAYS Q4: MAR 19 - MAY 22 - 45 DAYS SEMESTER 1: 81 DAYS SEMESTER 2: 85 DAYS TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS: 166																					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
4/18...Good Friday 4/21...Easter Holiday							5/16...Senior Graduation 5/20-5/22...Grades 6-12 Exams & Early Dismissal 5/22...Last Day of School 5/23...Teacher Work Day							<b>**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS &amp; SPRING HOLIDAYS (EXCLUDING SPRING BREAK) MAY BE RECLAIMED &amp; USED TO MAKE UP FOR BAD WEATHER DAYS IF NEEDED**</b>																					

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Welcome Back to School  
Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy!

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**WEATHERFORD ISD**



# Food science teacher hungry new school year

**By John English**  
The Community News

With classes starting for the Weatherford ISD, Tiel Jenkins is gearing up for what promises to be an exciting and engaging school year.

The Weatherford High School Science & PALs teacher said objectives for the coming semester are to expose students to a variety of fruits and vegetables, engage them in creative hands-on learning opportunities and encourage her pupils to explore and experiment.

"When students decide to take my food science course, I give a disclaimer the first day that while food science falls under our hospitality and tourism career pathway, it is different from culinary, as we do not cook every day," Jenkins said. "We create."

In Jenkins' class, students can expect to learn the four P's of food science: production (growing food in the school's garden or inside via microgreens or our hydroponics system), processing (canning, freezing and dehydrating food), packaging (different design types and required information) and preparation (creating recipes).

Her classes are mainly upper-level students and count for a fourth-year science credit.

"If students take and pass the food science and safety certification exam they will be able to apply for careers in food safety and quality assurance as well as management positions," Jenkins said.

**Education through determination**

Jenkins, 43, grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Everman High School.

She received her bachelor's of applied arts and science degree from the University of North Texas with a concentration in human service and nonprofit management and a master's degree in family studies from Texas Woman's University.

She began teaching in the Weatherford ISD in 2021 and said it really was a case of love at first sight.

"Once I stepped into the school and was genuinely greeted by everyone I met, I knew that this was where I could work if offered the position," Jenkins said.

The CTE teacher said she was drawn to education from an early age.

"I always wanted to be a teacher and a nurse and anytime I could, I volunteered with my church and other community groups teaching children and adults," Jenkins said. "So when COVID happened, I knew it was time to go into public education as healthcare and the nonprofit sector was changed."

Jenkins was working for a hospice company at the time and has a background in non-profit and healthcare work.

"After high school, I went to college and life happened, so I dropped out and went to medical assistant school," Jenkins said. "I worked as a dialysis technician and then a patient care technician at the hospital before going back to



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIEL JENKINS

Tiel Jenkins teaches food science in the Weatherford ISD, instructing students on all things fruits and vegetables.

school to become a nurse. Well, life happened again and I couldn't progress in the nursing program.

"So I switched majors and focused on human service and nonprofit management, graduating from UNT with my bachelor's degree while working in a variety of nonprofits."

These included such places as a night shelter, a senior citizen center and an agency where she helped families with bills and daily needs.

"I then continued school and received my master's degree in family studies from TWU as much of the work I did centered around families," Jenkins said.

**Career influence**

The Weatherford ISD teacher said her former positions have definitely influenced her current profession as an educator.

"The various careers I have had taught me resilience and I try to instill that in my students," Jenkins said. "In food science, there is always an opportunity to try something new or look at something in a different way. This is one of those classes where mistakes are the lesson. My class is about the process not the end result and that's a hard concept for students to grasp when they have me."

Jenkins' teaching motto is to "learn something new every day," and she hopes her students take away a few important lessons, both academically and socially, from her classes.

"I hope that students leave my class knowing that there are many opportunities available to them," Jenkins said. "And there truly is something that can be learned every day and that doesn't always mean academically — it means learning about yourself and others."



**Weatherford ISD**  
2024-2025 School Calendar

Updated 6-10-2024

July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 H 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 4 PD PD WD PD PD 10 11 WD WD 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 H 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 PD 21 22 WD 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 6 7 8 9 PTC H 12 13 H 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025
S M T W T F S 3 WD 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 H H H H H 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 ER WD 21 22 H H H H H 28 29 H H	S M T W T F S 5 WD PD 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 H 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 PD 15 16 WD 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025
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**IMPORTANT DATES: FALL SEMESTER**

- July 4 - Holiday
- August 1 - New Professional Orientation
- August 1-13 Staff Professional Development/Work Days
- August 14 - First Day of School
- September 2 - Holiday
- September 20 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- September 23 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- October 10 - Parent/Teacher Conference Day - Student Holiday
- October 11 & 14 - Holidays
- November 1 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- November 4 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 19 - Early Release Day for Students
- December 20 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- December 23-January 3 - Winter Break

**LEGEND**

- ER Early Release Day
- EXPD Exchange Day / Professional Development Day for Staff
- H Holiday
- NP New Professionals Training
- PD Professional Development Day for Staff
- PTC Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- WD Work Day for Staff

**IMPORTANT DATES: SPRING SEMESTER**

- January 6 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- January 7 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- January 20 - Holiday
- February 14 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- February 17 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- March 17-21 - Spring Break
- March 24 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- March 25 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- April 18 - Holiday
- May 22 - Last Day of School/Early Release for All Students
- May 22 - WHS Graduation for the Class of 2025
- May 23 - Work Day for Staff
- May 26 - Holiday

**GRADING PERIODS**

- 1st Six Weeks: August 14 - September 19
- 2nd Six Weeks: September 24 - October 31
- 3rd Six Weeks: November 5 - December 19
- 4th Six Weeks: January 8 - February 13
- 5th Six Weeks: February 18 - April 11
- 6th Six Weeks: April 14 - May 22



PlainsCapital Bank salutes all of the hard working teachers and administrators across Aledo ISD. Your unwavering commitment to excellence and achievement continues to make a positive impact on our community and Aledo youth. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.





# New staff welcomed to local schools

Growing communities mean growing schools. Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy added several new staff members for the beginning of this school year.

## Aledo ISD

### Aledo High School

- Brian Blackburn, credit recovery teacher/coach
- Grace Brown, English/RLA teacher
- Ashley Harris, English/RLA teacher
- Megan Beard, English/RLA teacher
- Corey Whitehead, history teacher
- Michael Martinak, principal
- Cortney Wood, journalism teacher
- Brendan Adams, math teacher
- Benjamin Shaw, math teacher/athletics coach
- Travis Jones, math teacher/athletics coach
- Cassie Hanson, RLA/English teacher
- Phillip Nowlin, science/CTE health science teacher
- Morgan Willmer, science teacher/athletics coach
- Jamie Whitehead, science teacher/athletics coach
- Abril Hahn, social studies teacher
- Blake Burns, social studies teacher
- Rhonda Psencik, special education coach/teacher, science/athletics
- Bambi Flores, special education coach/teacher, RLA or SS
- Brian Maloney, special education coach/teacher, RLA
- Steven Rivera, special education coach/teacher, RLA/athletics
- Marissa Sugg, special education/FA teacher

### Aledo Middle School

- Taygen Fromme, CTE ag science teacher
- Arnold, Kelley, CTE computer science
- Donald Ott, health teacher/athletics coach
- Geena Powell, science teacher/athletics coach
- Ashley Moore, social studies teacher

- Lindsey Fry, social studies teacher/athletics coach
- Samantha Martinez, special education/FA teacher
- Gretchen Turdo, special education coach/teacher, RLA

### McAnally Middle School

- Christopher White, principal
- Ryan Rothermel, special education coach/teacher, RLA
- Terry Alexander, special education coach/teacher, RLA

### Annetta Elementary

- Amy Egesdal, third-grade teacher
- Lauren Drew, fourth-grade teacher

### Coder Elementary

- Kaleb Curnow, special education/PRIDE teacher

### Lynn McKinney Elementary

- Nora Hawkins, first-grade teacher
- Marissa Anzelmo, second-grade teacher
- Honor Ridings, third-grade teacher
- Callie Clyde, third-grade teacher
- Sara Baeza, fourth-grade teacher
- Blair Nix, fifth-grade teacher
- Chelsea Rhoads, art teacher
- Olivia Jean Ramirez, music teacher
- Andrea Reyher, PE teacher
- Kate Grimmell, special education coach/teacher

### McCall Elementary

- Sheri Griswold, third-grade teacher
- Giselle Vento Noack, music teacher

### Stuard Elementary

- Bianca Swart, second-grade teacher
- Madison Gilbert, special education coach/teach
- Kelsey Smith, special education coach/teach
- Kimberly Willems, special education FA teacher



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Aledo ISD hosted training for new teachers in the district at the end of July.

- Richele A. Walker, special education FA teacher

### Vandagriff Elementary

- Sarah Mooney, fifth-grade teacher
- Anne Navarrette, special education coach/teacher

### Walsh Elementary

- Melanie Atkins, first-grade teacher
- Allison Dale, second-grade teacher
- Jennifer Campbell, third-grade teacher
- Katelynn Newman, digital learning professional/library
- Lori Vinson Cain, principal
- Erin Westendorff, special education FA teacher

### Aledo Learning Center

- Anita Masaniai Robert, RLA teacher

### Daniel Ninth-Grade Center

- Scottee Brower, science teacher
- Shay Garcia, special education coach/teacher, math

### Administration

- Hannah Garner, intervention counselor

### Curriculum

- Maria Rossi, ESL lead teacher

### Special programs

- Kelly Dyson, dyslexia teacher

### Trinity Christian Academy Elementary

- Shami Ayala, Spanish teacher
- Wendy Baker, teacher aide
- Alison Baker, elementary art teacher
- Terri Bales, first-grade teacher
- Meagan Bixler, second-grade teacher
- Jessica Blackburn, teacher aide
- Lori Bratcher, PK4 Bridge teacher aide
- Brenda DeLaCruz, pre-K teacher
- Jessica Estes, lunchroom coordinator
- Kelly Hajj, kindergarten teacher aide
- Elizabeth Jacobs, first-grade teacher
- Becca Low, lunchroom assistant
- Elizabeth Motes, teacher aide
- Valerie Perkins, PK4 Bridge teacher
- Elizabeth Saadeh, full-time substitute teacher
- Valerie Shelman, lunchroom assistant

- Lyricia Squyres, second-grade teacher
- LaDonna Stoker, kindergarten teacher

### Junior High

- Andrea Franklin, cheer coach
- Becca Perales, Academic Learning Center teacher

### Secondary

- Matthew Hahn, science teacher and track/cross country coach
- Katherine Mullen, PE teacher and varsity volleyball coach
- Josh Phillips, math teacher
- Kendall Smith, academica learning teacher assistant

### Administration

- Craig Smith, TCA Head of School
- Ashley Turne, Early Bird worker
- Tressa Trumbula, Eagles Nest assistant
- Tammy Ward, director of technology
- Katy Bishop, Eagles Nest coordinator
- Dr. Marilyn Dardenne, Director of Academic Innovation
- Jana and Lyle Bremmeyer, Eagles Nest workers

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