

# School Days

Pilot Point ISD

Aubrey ISD

Tioga ISD

Friday  
August 11, 2023

THE POST-SIGNAL.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## THROUGHOUT THE AREA

- 3** Districts improve school security
- 5** Districts brace for growth

## PILOT POINT ISD

- 6** PPISD to finish 2021 bond projects
- 8** PPISD At a Glance
- 9** PPISD New Teachers & Staff
- 10** Courses teach students life skills

## AUBREY ISD

- 13** Ramping up together
- 16** AISD At a Glance
- 18** AISD welcomes new teachers, staff
- 20** CTE focus helps students, district

## TIOGA ISD

- 21** TISD makes most of rearrangement
- 22** New FFA teacher aims for growth
- 23** TISD At a Glance/New Teachers & Staff

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# Districts improve school security

## AISD, PPISD, TISD prepare security for '23-'24 school year

By Basil Gist  
Staff Writer

The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3 on June 14, which will go into effect on Sept. 1.

In it, the state rolled out new school safety regulations including providing a framework for support from a regional education service center and the Texas School Safety Center for local districts and requiring districts to have certain plans and safeguards in place that include mental health training.

The local districts have made safety a priority in advance of the new laws, however.

“In October of last year, we had put about \$1.2 million back in the bank,” Pilot Point ISD Superintendent Todd Southard said. “I started thinking, are we fully committed to safety and security if we have a campus with no cop on it and we just put over a million dollars back in the bank? To me, the answer was no, and the board agreed.”

That coincided with a \$200,000 grant from the state. As a result, Pilot Point ISD Police Department hired its fourth officer, Rickey Howell, who focuses on the middle school campus.

That also allowed Chief Brad Merritt to shift to the Early Childhood Campus and freed him up to be able to respond to other campuses as needed.

“I’m really pleased with the PD,” Southard said. “I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

He talked, too, about the work the officers have done to connect with and get to know the students.

“That is one of the big things that we preach, is that they need to be out there in the hallways, the cafeterias,” Southard said. “Kids need to be seeing them. If they know you as an SRO, they’re much more likely to tell you things.”

In addition, the district implemented the Go-To-Green system that integrates audio and video surveillance to detect and follow an active shooter or other emergency situation at a discounted rate because it served as the pilot program for the technology.

Security at Aubrey ISD just got one



**Aubrey ISD boosts a six-person police department, having just added the sixth officer to its ranks. AISD, Pilot Point ISD and Tioga ISD have all made strides in improving school safety, augmented by the state’s new requirements.**

Photo Courtesy of Aubrey ISD

officer stronger.

The district’s police department now employs six officers, one for each of their campuses, in addition to the chief who can float between campuses.

“We’ve been really committed to school security for years,” Superintendent Dr. David Belding said. “Before I got here, the district started their own police department; that way, there was someone whose job was security and emergency management.”

The staple of one officer per campus is one that the district intends to continue as the district continues to grow with the several new campuses on the way.

“We’re committed to having an officer per campus,” Belding said. “As our enrollment tends to grow, like at the high school, we’ll analyze when a second officer might be necessary. I think it will be a numbers game; it won’t be because of more instances happening. We’re not predicting any of that.”

In addition to the officers, and without going into detail, Belding said there are several other procedural sys-

tems in place to keep students and staff safe.

“Some of the [new] state mandates we’ve had in place for years, like the ‘panic button,’ we did that five or six years ago,” Belding said. “There is also the filming; those are two things that we’ve had in place for a while and have updated recently.”

Belding said there are several other security measures the school is looking into to “stay ahead of the curve.”

He cited the non-scalable fencing at the high school as an example of a system the district put in primitively to protect without oppressing.

“School is not jail,” Belding said. “A big piece of our focus is ensuring we’re balancing the school experience with great safety procedures. We’re going to make sure that we’re safe.”

He concluded with saying the school has not brushed aside any concerns from students, though to this point they have all turned out to be false alarms.

“We’re going to pursue those things and take action,” Belding said. “We’re

going to take everything seriously and charge ahead.”

Tioga ISD is using a combination of its safety and security staff, Kurt Hall and Jody Mayo, and armed staff members who have volunteered to do so to meet the requirements by the state government to have armed security guards on every campus.

“Thank goodness for Kurt Hall,” Ballinger said. “He’s helping with a lot of the new standards and annexes onto the emergency operations plan that we’ll cover with all staff throughout the week. That’s his background—city management, emergency management. Anyone with a doctorate degree in that type of work, I should probably listen to.”

He also said the Texas State University Texas Safety Center provides general guidelines that the districts can adapt to fit their local needs, much like the Texas Association of School Boards does regarding policy changes for school districts.

Editor Abigail Allen contributed to this report.



# Districts brace for growth

## Area population growth continues to increase enrollments

By Basil Gist  
Staff Writer

Increasing student populations remain the projection for Pilot Point, Aubrey and Tioga ISDs based on the development slated to come to the area.

So far, the projections Pilot Point ISD received from Templeton Demographics and Davis Demographics have held pretty accurate, but Superintendent Todd Southard wants to get a refreshed look at what might be coming in the near future.

“We are pretty close,” Southard said, which was at 1,524 with many other families having expressed interest in registration information in July.

The projection from Davis for this school year is 1,609, with Templeton projecting 1,786.

Having an updated study that reflects the current real estate trends and inventory present as well as other market factors, however, will help the district know how best to prepare for future facility and staffing needs.

“This is something we’re getting to the point we need to do every year,” Southard said.

Southard said he also stays abreast of the development in the city of Pilot Point’s area of purview through working with City Manager Britt Lusk.

“I’m constantly talking to him,” he said.

Although the 2021 bond secured funding for land, it did not include



**Pilot Point ISD has done part of the work to prepare for upcoming growth by securing land for future school sites, such as the 117-acre lot at the corner of U.S. 377 and Foutch Road.**

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

money for new school construction, which will require another bond election to fund.

After back-to-back years of growth over 10%, Aubrey ISD is projecting a third year in the trend.

The district grew 17.5% in the 2021-22 school year and 14% last year. Superintendent Dr. David Belding said it is expected to grow between 10-13% in 2023-24.

“We’ve had great communication with the cities within our boundaries, and they’re letting us know the permits they’re issuing, what hous-

ing they’re seeing come in, and when they anticipate starting to build more homes,” Belding said. “Some of it may be a couple of years before homes go up, but others have been working for a while.”

Silverado is an example of the latter where sold signs often line the street.

“We have a demographer that we get that information from, and then we work internally on our own projects and try to make sure we’re staffed correctly,” Belding said.

Staffing is a balancing act he said

the district is constantly walking.

“Sometimes people enroll late, and all of a sudden we’ve got 20 kids rolling in at the same grade level,” Belding said. “Last year in August in kindergarten, we thought we were over-staffed by two teachers. By Aug. 10, we were adding a section.”

Belding said that encountering late enrollment in numbers to that extensive a degree is uncommon for most schools.

“Typically, you gain enrollment in the fall which kind of peaks in December,” Belding said. “The last two or three years that has not been our trajectory. We’ve kept steady growth throughout the years.”

He said this has to do as much with when homes are completed and with parents wanting to give their kids a chance to make friends before summer rolls around.

“Last year, it plateaued in April,” Belding said. “... We had kids enrolling as late as May. They want their kids to meet other people in the neighborhood for the summer. Families continue to move to the area, [and] we’re excited to welcome them. We’re all Chaparrals together.”

While Tioga ISD continues to keep an eye on the growth that makes its way north, its primary concern is in repairing the Tioga School campus to be able to reallocate seventh and eighth grade to that campus in the future.

“Unless we get a flood of kids, then we would have to look at different arrangements, but for right now it’ll be OK,” Ballinger said.

*Editor Abigail Allen contributed to this report.*



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# PPISD to finish 2021 bond projects

## Transportation center construction kicks off on Foutch Road

By Abigail Allen  
Editor

Dirt is moving on the final big project from the Pilot Point ISD 2021 bond.

The transportation center, which is on Foutch Road east of U.S. 377, is underway.

“You’re trying to get everything done, get everything done in a timely manner and everything has to hit just right,” Superintendent Todd Southard said. “... We’ve made facilities our top priority. That’s one of our biggest priorities over the last few years.”

The new center is estimated to be completed in March 2024 with a maximum guaranteed price of \$3,025,777 by JC Commercial Inc.

By late July, dirtwork at the site had been done to prepare for the foundation of the parking lot and the facility, with locations notched out for employee parking near the future building pad site.

“One of the things we’re doing to this site that we actually added is we’re running conduit to where later on down the road for electrical vehicles, we’ve already got that set up and ready to roll,” Southard said.

The site is about three-fifths of the way through the 117-acre property the district purchased for a new high school site along Foutch Road.



Crews work on preparing the ground for Pilot Point ISD’s new transportation center along Foutch Road in late July.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

“I really didn’t want to put it there, because you have to go around it,” Southard said. “I wanted to put it in the [back] corner so you didn’t have to worry about that.”

However, he said, the added expense of more concrete made that plan less viable.

“I’m trying to get every penny I can out of this one bond because we’ve

still got a lot of stuff to do,” Southard said. “... The economics kind of forced it there.”

The facility that houses the buses on the corner of Main and Harrison streets will be converted into a maintenance shop once construction is finished on the new center, Southard said.

“One of the things that we’re going to have a problem with is storage,” South-

ard said. “That always becomes a problem with a growing district.”

The district used the community input to handle the renovations.

“We’ve knocked out Priority 1’s on the list,” Southard said. “We’ve knocked out some of the Priority 2’s, and we’re going to start work on some of the Priority 3’s. It just depends how much money we have left.”

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# Renovation projects wrap up as staff heads back

During his July presentation to the school board, Southard gave updates about the progress of the district's bond projects.

At that time, the high school ACs had been installed, the grid was up and the lighting had been installed, with the PA and fire alarm systems at 70% completion and the roof patches remaining to be done.

At the middle school, the ACs, grid and lighting had all been installed.

Some projects were still in progress there, too. The roof was at 70% completion as was the PA and fire alarm system re-installation. The drainage work was roughly halfway completed, and the doors and hardware were about 80% done.

At the Early Childhood Center, the lighting, drainage, canopy, and doors and hardware projects had all been wrapped up.

In progress were the grid installation, which was at 90%;



**A worker checks the wiring in the Pilot Point High School cafeteria as part of the 2021 bond issue renovations.**

Abigail Allen/  
The Post-Signal

This year's projects were a continuation of work done in the summer of 2022 to make building improvements.

Some of the 2022 changes included the secured vestibules at the high school and middle school campuses and other school safety features.

Overall, the district has come in underbudget, with \$7,913,358.66 left in July and at least \$3.5 million projected to remain following the completion of the current projects.

"We're going to have to do something about panic buttons," Southard said. "More than likely, that could be [done] with bond money because it's security."

The district is also installing new ACs on the elementary building as well as fixing the roof over the cafeteria and gym.

Pilot Point ISD's later start this year was a result of the projects happening throughout the district's facilities.

the roof at 70%, as were the PA and fire alarm system; fire sprinklers, which were 80% completed; and AC installation,

which was 30% done.

The district had budgeted \$293,000 for BTC to work on the renovation projects, and

in July, the balance stood at \$209,091, according to the presentation Southard gave to the board.

***"What did you learn in school today?"***

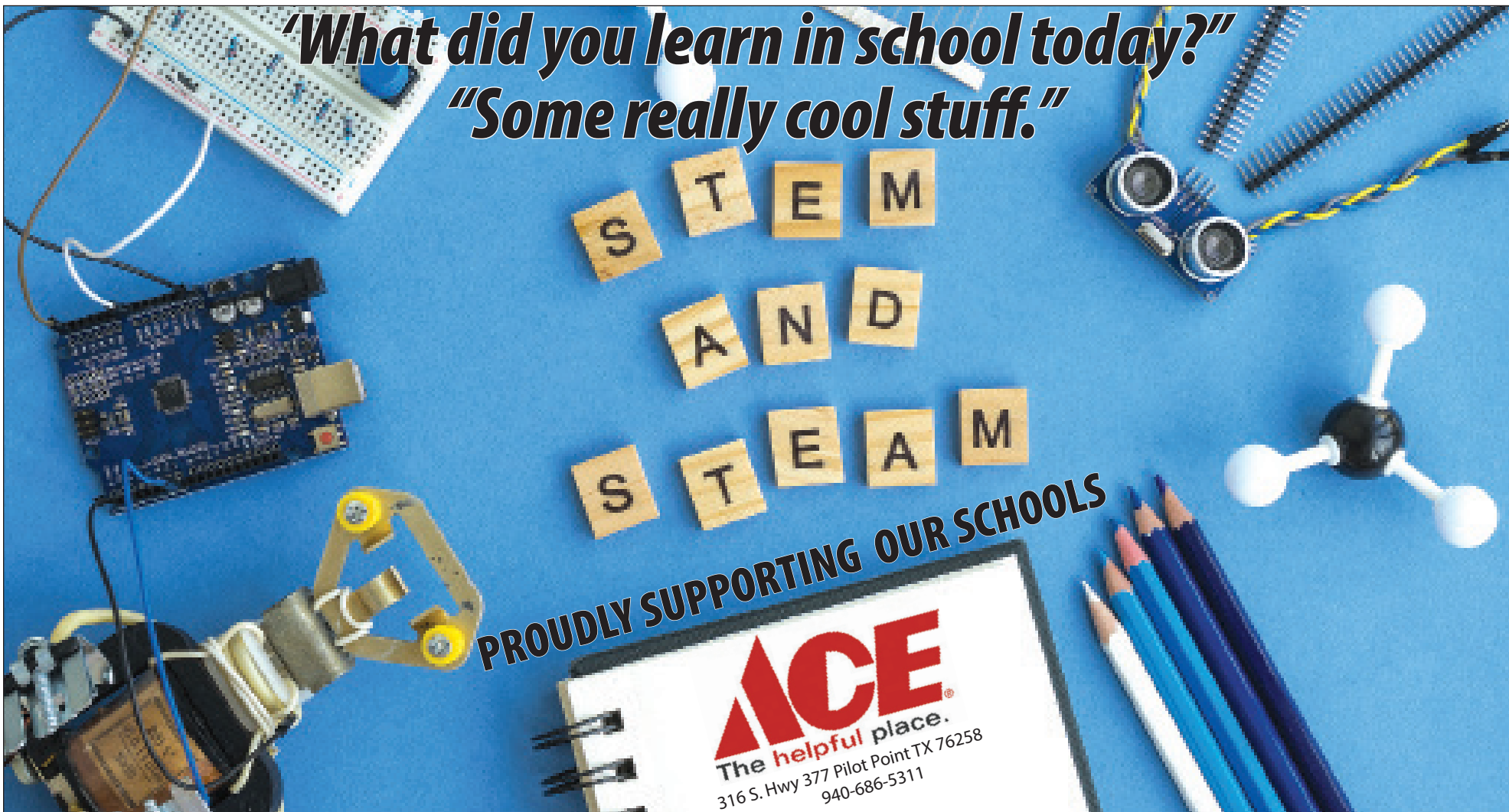
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## PILOT POINT ISD AT A GLANCE

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- Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Pelzel, [mpelzel@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:mpelzel@pilotpointisd.com)

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- Fax: 940-686-8745
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- Administrative Assistant: Dorcas Boerner, [dboerner@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:dboerner@pilotpointisd.com)

### **Selz Middle School**

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

### **Elementary School**

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

### **Early Childhood Center**

- 829 S. Jefferson, Pilot Point, TX 76258
- Phone: 940-686-8710
- Fax: 940-686-8715
- Principal: Rae Ann Strittmatter, [rstrittmatter@pilotpointisd.com](mailto:rstrittmatter@pilotpointisd.com)
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### **School Board Meetings**

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

## 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

- Aug. 10-11: New to PPISD Training (Non-instructional Day)
- Aug. 14-22: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- Aug. 23: First Day of School/Begin First Grading Period
- Sept. 4: Holiday
- Sept. 18: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- Oct. 6: Early Release
- Oct. 20: End First Grading Period
- Oct. 23: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- Oct. 24: Second Grading Period Begins
- Nov. 17: Early Release
- Nov. 20-24: Holiday
- Nov. 27: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- Dec. 21: End Second Grading Period/Early Release
- Dec. 22-Jan. 5: Holiday
- Jan. 8: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- Jan. 9: Third Grading Period Begins
- Jan. 15: Holiday
- Feb. 19: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- Mar. 8: End Third Grading Period/Early Release
- Mar. 11-15: Holiday
- Mar. 18: Bad Weather Make-up Day
- Mar. 19: Fourth Grading Period Begins
- Mar. 29: Holiday
- Apr. 1: Bad Weather Make-up Day
- Apr. 29: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)
- May 27: Holiday
- May 29: End Fourth Grading Period/Early Release/Last Day of School
- May 30: Staff Development (Non-instructional Day)

## BACK TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Aug. 16**
  - Fish Camp, 6-7 p.m.
- Aug. 17**
  - Early Childhood Center Meet the Teacher, 5-6 p.m.
  - Elementary School Meet the Teacher, 5-7 p.m.
- Aug. 21**
  - Middle School Meet the Teacher, 5-7 p.m.
  - High School Meet the Teacher, 5-7 p.m.
- Aug. 23**
  - First day of school.



## PPISD NEW TEACHERS & STAFF

### HIGH SCHOOL

- Jessica Ledbetter: ESL/credit recover/girls head soccer coach.
- Buelah Hess: ISS aide.
- Eric Neal: Generalist/coach.
- Brenna Gournay: Assistant band director.
- Raul Casterona: Spanish 1 teacher/coach.
- Meagan Hill: Nurse.
- Jennifer Fronterhouse: Art I-IV.
- Jennifer Davidson: Biology teacher.
- Stephen Young: SPED inclusion/defensive coordinator.
- A. Farley Styles: Business I/coach.
- Javier Errisuriz Jr.: Sports medicine.
- Brandon Middleton: World geography teacher/coach.
- Alexandria Fauntleroy: Dean of students/instructional coach.
- Darci Middleton: Chemistry/

physics teacher.

- Bryan Jones: SPED 2 inclusion/offensive coordinator.
- Guadalupe Florez Jr.: World history teacher/coach.
- Grazielle Fancher: Spanish 1 teacher.
- Jaye Jones: English 1 teacher.
- Cody Gull: Agriculture teacher.
- Jason Crow: Principal.
- Chase Adams: Athletic director.
- Christin Coile: Counselor.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- David Maple: Seventh grade CTE/boys coordinator.
- Alyssa Crow: Eighth grade ELA/coach.
- Iseed Khoury: Learning lab/boys head soccer coach.
- Cheryl Vergauwen: Eighth grade reading teacher.
- Jennifer Locey: Instructional coach.

- Kristi Scholl: Nurse.
- Colleen Pierce: ESL/resource math teacher.
- Tyler Vernon: Eighth grade CTE/coach.
- Angelica Adkins: Art teacher.
- Griffin Fauntleroy: Seventh grade history/coach.
- Mariana Chavez: Inclusion aide.
- Alice Coe: Eighth grade science teacher.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Vanessa Howard: Fifth grade science/SS teacher.
- Breann Decker: SPED resource teacher.
- Shelby Motley: P.E. teacher.
- Jessica Betancourth: Nurse.
- Catherine Ross: Third grade math/science teacher.
- Laura Williams: Third grade RLA/SS teacher.
- Alexandra Massey: Fourth

grade math/science teacher.

- Britani Gann: P.E. aide/inclusion.
- ### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
- Daniela Martinez: Bilingual kindergarten teacher.
  - Mary Green: Pre-K teacher.
  - Audra Litchfield: STEAM aide.
  - Irma Peraza Recinos: Aide.
  - Randee Sirak-Wynn: Childcare aide.
  - Erin Dombkowski: Kindergarten teacher.
  - Ryan Omalley: P.E. teacher.

### MAINTENANCE

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- Mark Tell: Maintenance.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Joseph Woolison: Computer technician.



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# Courses teach students life skills

By Abigail Allen  
Editor

The Pilot Point FFA sponsors strive to serve not only the needs of their students but also the needs of the community.

Leads Hope Cotten and Bailee Greiner are working on expanding the program to help provide the students with useful instruction that will prepare them well for their lives beyond public school.

“It kind of exposes those kids to an option if they don’t want to go the college route [to] try this instead or other tech school options that could go with that career,” Greiner said.

In addition to the other career and technical education courses available in Pilot Point ISD, the ag sciences teachers offer pathways in floral design, welding and animal science.

That doesn’t mean the benefits are only for kids who don’t want to go to college. They can also provide skills for a student to use in a job while pursuing a degree.

“They can work as a welder, they can work as a florist, they can work at a vet’s office with the certifications they achieve in high school and those are typically higher paying jobs than your base entry level, minimum wage jobs you can get as a college student,” she said.

Some of those skills can also make the student stand out to college programs, similar to athletes who go on to play at the next level.

Recent graduates Dakota David and Reese Harpool have gone on to compete on livestock judging and meat judging teams at the collegiate level thanks to the skills they learned through the Pilot Point FFA program.

Cotten said she appreciates the state’s recent focus on the value of CTE courses.

“It gives some of these opportunities for students who did not want to go to a two-year or a four-year institution and wanted to go right into the workforce,” she said.

She drew on her husband’s experience as a horse trainer who first went to college as an example of how high school certifications can be helpful.

“You don’t necessarily need a degree to do that,” Cotten said. “Some of the opportunities I tell him about, he is like, ‘Man, I wish that would have been a focus when I was in high school.’”



Members of the Pilot Point FFA program line up with their cattle at the Local Show in February. Although the animal sciences portion of FFA is one of the best well known, the discipline offers many other options for its participants.

File Photo/The Post-Signal



# CTE, ag courses offer options for all students

The trades are necessary fields, Cotten added.

“Everything is slowly moving electric, or that’s kind of the plan in some states,” she said. “Well, if you don’t have an electrician, you can’t do that.”

CTE programs also help retain students who often would be considered high risk for dropping out of school.

Greiner credited the state with incentivizing school districts through extra funding to provide CTE courses for their students.

She works closely with the ag mechanics students.

“Some kids come into ag mechanics not realizing the type of skills they’re going to learn,” Greiner said. “They think it’s all just about the animals and dealing with animals and things like that. They don’t realize that you can learn welding, wood-working, plumbing, electrical.”

One highly sought after local skill

Greiner will focus on in the 2023-24 school year is carpentry, “just to fit the needs of our community.”

“Something that the state’s really pushing for is to fit the needs of your community, because more of your trades kids are going to go into their trades within the community they already live in,” she said.

The department also plans to have a work-based learning course “where kids can go get a job that fits within our scope and actually go work that job during the school day as part of their curriculum for school,” Greiner said.

That has been designed with the goal of student retention at the forefront after working with the program’s students for the last year.

“That was exactly my goal for wanting to introduce the class, was to hit that audience of kids, because I actually see that a lot within our more hands-on programs,” Greiner said.



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Dr. Raghav Mohindra, MD is an Internal Medicine & Geriatrics specialist in Crossroads, TX and has over 23 years of experience in the medical field. He trained at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

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PILOT POINT ISD

## **BACK TO SCHOOL DATES**

**AUGUST 10TH & 11TH – NEW TEACHER TRAINING**

**AUGUST 16TH – FISH CAMP AT HIGH SCHOOL 6:00**

**AUGUST 17TH – MEET THE TEACHER AT ECC 5:00 – 6:00**

**AUGUST 17TH – MEET THE TEACHER AT ELEMENTARY 5:00 – 7:00**

**AUGUST 21 – MEET THE TEACHER AT HS AND MS 5:00–7:00**

**AUGUST 23 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**







# Ramping up together

## AISD strives to provide support to students, families

By Basil Gist  
Staff Writer

With the consistent growth in the district, Aubrey ISD has put a focus this year on welcoming in new parents and staff.

Among the year's new hires, the school has brought on a teacher facilitator for each campus and two at the high school.

"Whether they're starting their careers or coming in from somewhere else, every campus has a teacher facilitator," Superintendent Dr. David Belding said. "That is an instructional coach for the academic teacher who is really there to support them and help them get off to a great start."

That support ranges from assistance with instructional delivery, making sure kids are mastering the content and classroom management.

"All these are the kinds of things teachers learn to do early in their careers," Belding said. "It's a huge piece of the puzzle for us because if our teachers experience success, our kids are successful."

Belding also cited the current shortage of teachers in Texas.

"If we can come alongside and support them ... help on overcoming the challenge [of getting settled in], we're going to keep them," Belding said. "We're really committed to keeping great teachers here."

That mentality, Belding said, allows the district to not shy away from promising young candidates if that's what they're presented.

"If they've got 20 years, that's



Members of the Aubrey ISD community mill about the Fuller Elementary School gym for the Third Annual Chaparral Showcase on Saturday morning.

Photo Courtesy of Aubrey ISD

great; if they're just starting out, that's great, too," Belding said. "We're not afraid to hire a brand new teacher because we know they'll have that support. We want to pick the very best people that apply."

Belding also explained that the facilitators spend just as much time of-

fering support to the veteran Chaparrals. They are there for anyone who needs them.

The support for newcomers extends to parents as well. Kids get it every day in class, but the district looks for opportunities to introduce parents to one another.

"We have a variety of parent involvement opportunities at all of our campuses," Belding said. "Whether its PTO or a volunteer program like Watchdogs at the elementary school. We have our Chaparral Showcase [every year] that's again trying to connect people with community orga-



# Aubrey continues on 2022 bond projects

nizations and businesses and what's available in the area."

He also mentioned meet the teacher nights as a way for parents to get familiar not just with their children's teachers but with other parents in the class.

"As the pandemic is behind us, we can invite people to come up to school again and be a part of it," Belding said.

In addition to support for new parents and teachers, the school continues to expand what it can offer to students, like the new soccer program last year or the bevy of career and technical classes added to the roster this year.

"We continue to look for other programs to add and grow while supporting the programs we have," Belding said. "For instance, we add two teachers to the middle school [for theater and choir]. In the past, we've had one teacher for each. They're working together to build each program."

The high school renovations, which include spaces for dance, an



The sign sitting along FM 2931 declares that it sits on the future site of Aubrey ISD's second middle school.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

expansion of the welding shop and a space for wrestling, are further examples of growing existing and new

programs.

"We want kids to get experiences so they have a better idea of what

they want to pursue in their post-secondary opportunities," Belding said. "We're starting more of those CTE pathways even at the middle school level."

The other big priority, on a more administrative front, is the various construction projects the district has going in response to the 2022 bond election.

"Construction is underway," Belding said. "Elementary 4 is under construction and I'm excited about delivering that building next summer. Middle School 2 should be under construction by November or December, and the high school should be under construction sometime in February."

Belding explained the school board is determined to keep the facilities in line with the growth.

"Our board is really focused on delivering the facilities we need for our capacity," Belding said. "We continue to do design work for the middle school and the high school, but we're getting close to rounding that out."

## ***The Aubrey Independent School District Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs 2023-24***

The Aubrey Independent School District offers career and technical education programs. Admission to these programs is based on availability in the master schedule.

It is the policy of The Aubrey Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities 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 The Aubrey Independent School District 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.

The Aubrey Independent School District 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 415 Tisdell Ln. Aubrey, TX 76227, 940-668-0060.

## ***The Aubrey Independent School District Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales 2023-24***

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 por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el 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 por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el 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 415 Tisdell Ln. Aubrey, TX 76227, 940-668-0060.



# WELCOME TO AUBREY ISD



## Beginning of School Activities

### Brockett Elementary

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation  
Tuesday, Aug. 8 from 6-7 p.m.  
Meet the Teacher Night  
Monday, Aug. 14 from 5:30-7 p.m.

### Fuller Elementary

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation  
Thursday, Aug. 10 from 6-7 p.m.  
Meet the Teacher Night  
Monday, Aug. 14 from 5:30-7 p.m.

### Monaco Elementary

Kindergarten Orientation  
Thursday, Aug. 10 from 6-7 p.m.  
Meet the Teacher Night  
Monday, Aug. 14 from 5:30-7 p.m.

### Early Bird Learning Center

(Tuition-Based Daycare)  
Meet the Teacher Night  
Monday, Aug. 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Aubrey Middle School

7th and 8th Grade Schedule Pick-Up  
Monday, Aug. 14 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
AMS Tours / Meet the Teacher Night  
Monday, Aug. 14 from 4-7 p.m.

### Aubrey High School

Schedule Pick-Up  
Wednesday, Aug. 9  
12th Grade 9-10:30 a.m.  
11th Grade 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
10th Grade 2-3:30 p.m.  
Freshman Chappening Event  
Thursday, Aug. 10 from 9-11 a.m.  
Freshman Parent Meeting  
Thursday, Aug. 10 from 5:30-6:15 p.m.  
Meet the Teacher  
Thursday, Aug. 10 from 6-7:30 p.m.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16, 2023**

## Athletics:

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

# 2023-2024

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:

6:50 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (M, Tu, Th)  
Closes 5:15 p.m. (W) 4:15 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](http://www.aubreyisd.net)

**Social Media** - For up-to-date information and announcements, like our Facebook page: Aubrey Independent School District.

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

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

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

## SCHOOL MEAL PRICES FOR 2023-2024

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

\$1.50 BREAKFAST (STUDENT)  
\$3.00 LUNCH (STUDENT)  
\$2.50 BREAKFAST (ADULT)  
\$4.15 LUNCH (ADULT)

### AUBREY MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL:

\$1.75 BREAKFAST (STUDENT)  
\$3.25 LUNCH (STUDENT)  
\$2.50 BREAKFAST (ADULT)  
\$4.15 LUNCH (ADULT)





## AUBREY ISD AT A GLANCE

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

## 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

### Administration

- 415 Tisdell Lane, Aubrey, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0060
- Fax: 940-365-2627
- Superintendent: Dr. David Belding
- Deputy Superintendent: Terrie McNabb
- Assistant Superintendent for HR and Student Services: Dr. Shannon Saylor
- 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](mailto:bhipps@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Sharon Clemmer, [sclemmer@aubreyisd.net](mailto:sclemmer@aubreyisd.net)

### Middle School

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

### Brockett Elementary

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

### Fuller Elementary

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

### Monaco Elementary

- 9350 Cape Cod Blvd., Providence Village, TX 76227
- Phone: 940-668-0000
- Principal: Barbara Pitt, [bpitt@aubreyisd.net](mailto:bpitt@aubreyisd.net)
- Campus Secretary: Jill Bruce, [jbruce@aubreyisd.net](mailto:jbruce@aubreyisd.net)

### Early Bird Learning Center

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

### School Board

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

### School Board Meetings

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

- Aug. 4: In Lieu/Staff Development
- Aug. 7: In Lieu/Staff Development
- Aug. 8-15: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Aug. 16: First Day of School/First Grading Period Begins
- Sept. 4: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Oct. 6-9: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Oct. 10-13: Parent Conference (window of opportunity)
- Oct. 13: First Grading Period Ends
- Oct. 16: Second Grading Period Begins
- Oct. 27: In Lieu/Staff Development
- Nov. 20-24: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Dec. 20: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
- Dec. 21: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
- Dec. 21: Second Grading Period Ends
- Dec. 22-Jan. 4: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Jan. 5: In Lieu/Staff Development
- Jan. 8: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Jan. 9: Third Grading Period Begins
- Jan. 15: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Feb. 16: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Feb. 19: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- Mar. 8: Third Grading Period Ends
- Mar. 11-15: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed
- Mar. 18: Fourth Grading Period Begins
- Mar. 29: Bad Weather Day
- Apr. 1: Bad Weather Day
- May 22: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
- May 23: Early Release ALL SCHOOLS
- May 23: Fourth Grading Period Ends
- May 24: Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development
- May 27: Student/Teacher Holiday, All Offices Closed

## BACK TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Aug. 7
  - EBLC Meet the Teacher, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 8
  - Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation, 6-7 p.m. (Brockett)
- Aug. 9
  - AHS Schedule Pickup
- Aug. 10
  - Freshman Chappening Event, 9-11 a.m.
  - Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation, 6-7 p.m. (Fuller)
  - Kindergarten Orientation, 6-7 p.m. (Monaco)
  - AHS Freshman Parent Meeting, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
  - AHS Meet the Teacher, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 14
  - AMS Schedule Pick-Up (7th & 8th Grade), 10 a.m.-noon
  - AMS Tours/Meet the Teacher Night (6th Grade & New Students), 4-7 p.m.
  - Elementary Meet the Teacher (All Elementaries), 5:30-7 p.m.
- Aug. 15
  - AHS Meet the Teacher, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17
  - First day of school.





# AUBREY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

415 Tisdell Lane  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
(940) 668-0060 Fax (940) 365-2627

Hello Chaparrals!

We are extremely excited about the 2023-24 school year. I am very proud of what our students and staff accomplished during the 2022-2023 school year.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful school community that is made up of talented students, families, teachers, staff, and community members. Aubrey ISD is committed to providing the very best educational experience and achievement every school year. Our vision is to be a "World Class" school district and to ensure every student is successful.

The Aubrey ISD Mission Statement says, "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." We are certainly living in ever-changing times. We are on a mission to help our students prepare to succeed now and in the future. We want our students to be fully prepared to take advantage of choices: the choice of going to college, attend a technical school, pursue their chosen career, join the military, or whatever they may dream of doing as they grow. Students need to be prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our district is committed to preparing our students for their future.

To achieve our Vision and Mission, the school district works diligently to ensure our teachers and staff have what they need to deliver high-quality instruction in the classroom. Our teachers engage in on-going professional development to stay current on research-based instructional delivery. We work diligently to meet the varying needs of our students and families and are focused on working with families to help our children succeed in a safe and nurturing environment.

Aubrey ISD is committed to providing successful and engaging co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Our staff works hard to ensure each and every program is given every advantage to succeed and help our students develop their individual gifts and talents. Our programs such as art, athletics, band, agriculture, cheer, Academic Decathlon, UIL Academics, theatre, etc. are vital to the overall experience of our students. As a school community, we believe these programs teach students many life lessons and provide great value to their growth and development.

None of this is possible without strong relationships and partnerships with parents and the communities we serve. We are honored that you, our parents, have given our district the opportunity to work with and to educate your children. Thank you for your trust and support as we work to inspire, nurture, and empower our children to succeed now and in the future. Being an Aubrey Chaparral is special! We are fully committed to making the 2023-2024 school year a success for our students! Together we will make this a special time in the lives of students, staff, families, and our community.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. David Belding Superintendent



Challenging Ourselves to be World Class



# Aubrey ISD welcomes new teachers, staff

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- Debbie Anderson: RS English.
- Julie Barrentine: Counselor.
- Michael Biasini: STEP.
- Danny Bueno: Math.
- Alyssa De Leon: Art.
- Susan Francis: Science.
- Braden Fruth: Math.
- Lisa Gaston: FCS.
- Jessica Hurley: Health science.
- Raymond Jaksa: Technology teacher.
- Renae Leyba: Resource math.
- Toni Mitchell: ELAR.
- Adam Myers: Assistant band director.
- Paul Norris: Choir director.
- Jimilee Rempe: Debate, speech, UIL coordinator.
- Ryan Tyler: Assistant principal.
- Dafina Veliu: Math.
- Kelly Wintrich: Social studies/girls coach.



Aubrey's new teachers and administrators gather together for a group photo at the end of the New Teacher Academy. The members of the group come from a variety of backgrounds.

Photo Courtesy of Aubrey ISD

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Mary Andes: SPED teacher.
- Michelle Birkhead: Counselor.
- Kendyl Brown: Science.
- Kelley Burgess: Science.

- Zachary Bynum: Assistant band director.
- Charles Entsminger: Math.

- Dustin Gibbs: Science.
- Emily Gibson: Theater.
- Erin Howard: Counselor.
- Mary Lemarr: Social studies/girls coach.
- Sheena LeMay-Nelssen: Art/AV.
- Tracy Norum: Art.
- Amos Perkins: Sixth grade social studies.
- Stacian Roberts: BIM/technology.
- Chloe Tietjens: RLA.
- Brittany Wood: Choir.
- Victoria Woodruff: RLA.
- Carrie Yates: Assistant principal.

**BROCKETT ELEMENTARY**

- Kelsey Allen: Pre-K.
- Kaley Barfield: Second grade teacher.
- Kerry Blose: BES/MS coach.
- Monica Evans: Pre-K.
- Yesenia Gutierrez: First grade teacher.
- Brooke Plummer: Second grade teacher.

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# AISSD adds new teachers

•Rachel Stansbury: Fourth grade teacher.

•Christine Tredway: First grade teacher.

## FULLER ELEMENTARY

•Destiny Ceaser: Kindergarten teacher.

•Loretta Christian: First grade teacher.

•Ursula Connell: Bilingual pre-K teacher.

•Jarrett Deaton: SPED teacher.

•Tammy Gibbs: Third grade teacher.

•Ashleigh Gilbert: Fifth grade RLA.

•Deanne Huerta: SPED teacher.

•Anverly Laster: Assistant principal.

•Courtney Lawler: Fifth grade RLA.

•Lauren Poff: Pre-K teacher.

•Leslie Polito: Second grade teacher.

•Lisa Rodriguez: Fourth grade teacher.

•Rebecca Ruggles: Fourth grade teacher.

•Emma Stuart: Kindergarten

teacher.

•Joey Talladino: Third grade teacher.

•Lisa Yusaf: Kindergarten teacher.

•Maira Zulifqar: First grade teacher.

## MONACO ELEMENTARY

•Jasmine Barton: Fifth grade teacher.

•Madison Beach: Kindergarten teacher.

•Krystine Cronyn: Fifth grade teacher.

•Meagan Gilbert: Kindergarten teacher.

•Ashlea Gilliam: Fifth grade teacher.

•Peggy Huey: Third grade teacher.

•Lauren Kraus: Fourth grade teacher.

•Jenni Myers: Art.

•Taylor Rebel: Second grade teacher.

## ELEMENTARY NO. 4

•Jennie Petrasic: Principal.

## DAEP

•Jon Boettcher: DAEP principal.

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# CTE focus helps students, district

By Basil Gist  
Staff Writer

From high school assistant principal to career and technical education director in a year, Jonathan Lee moved up the Aubrey ISD ladder at a clip.

Originally bearing the role of CTE coordinator in addition to his job as assistant principal, his second year with the district will see Lee shed one job to find a more expansive role in the other.

“With where we stand and the growth we’re about to see, I was given this opportunity,” Lee said. “Our enrollment is enlarging, and we want to increase the career and technical opportunities available to our students.”

The business major from Texas A&M came to Aubrey from Frisco ISD where he was a CTE department head.

“I’ve been in CTE for almost 17 years now and come from an information technology background in the corporate world,” Lee said. “It’s all be a nice stepping stone to get to where I am now.”

Lee has also continued his education through his career and is at the final stages of completing his doctorate.

“I’m two or three weeks away from defending my dissertation,” Lee said before speaking on why he chose AISD as his next step. “I had a desire to move into a leadership role at the administrative level; I thought about places I could really make an impact.”

He said that between the small-town feel the area currently has and the growth the district expects to see, that place was AISD.

“I’m someone who is really results driven, so I like to see things happen,” Lee said. “It hasn’t been disappointing. I feel right at home and love my Aubrey family.”

The educator still lives in Prosper, the result of his daughter being well engrained in her life there, he said. Lee,



Aubrey ISD’s Jonathan Lee looks at the crowd at the start of the CTE Signing Day held at Aubrey High School in April.

File Photo/  
The Post-Signal

when not down the road at work, said he spends his time with his family and his faith.

“I’m very much a family man,” he said. “We’re really into movies, and when we can get away, I love sitting on a beach. A lot of my time out of work is either with my family or at church and church events.”

As director of CTE, Lee said he has big plans for expanding and tightening the program.

“We are in a great place to grow and have a great foundation,” Lee said. “I saw some opportunities to clean things up and make sure we have complete programs of study for our students to go through. We don’t want to have any dead ends.”

In the past year, the district added audio video communications and productions courses in addition to a practicum of nursing courses and veterinary medical applications and animal science courses.

“Those are just some expansions we’ve done so we can complete some programs of study,” Lee said. “We’ve also offered new programs that we didn’t offer in the past.”

Lee cited the courses at the middle school, which have expanded from one option to five.

“We’ve also added business courses,” Lee said. “Our students can have a whole business program of study. ... We also started an education program for our kids that are interested in becoming teachers and coaches.”

All told, CTE at Aubrey includes seven industry clusters with multiple avenues to take within them.

“That’s only about half of all the ones the state allows,” Lee said. “We’re not limited to that because we still share our services agreement with Denton ISD, but we’re working to provide as many opportunities here in district as possible.”

Lee said doing so is no mean feat.

“With our enrollment size the

way it is right now as we grow, it is a little challenging to figure out how to make those work, but that’s why they brought me in,” Lee said.

Part of expanding those offerings is reaching out to and partnering with local businesses.

“They have tremendous amounts of expertise that can help enrich our students’ learning,” Lee said. “We’d like to give our students the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience with work-based learning.”

This ever-expanding array of opportunity, Lee said, is meant not only for students headed to college or the work force but every student in the district.

“We want our kids to be prepared whether it’s for college and higher education or to get a certification and go right into the industry,” Lee said. “Not every kid wants or needs to go to college, and we just want to prepare them however we can.”

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# TISD makes most of rearrangement

## Teachers, administration use change to move forward

By Abigail Allen  
Editor

When Jennifer Nevins moved into her new room at Tioga High School, she was determined to make it feel inviting.

The decision was not only for the benefit of her students but also for herself.

“It’s kind of two-fold for me,” she said. “I learn and teach best when I’m in an environment that makes me feel safe and comfortable. ... I get the best success from my students when they feel like they are a part of something that’s better than just the normal, day to day.”

Nevins’ room is styled as a coffee shop, complete with comfortable seating at the back of the room and a faux exposed brick wall lining a fourth of her classroom. The English teacher who will have sophomores and juniors this year wanted to provide them a space to be creative.

“This is my dream, to be able to teach high schoolers,” Nevins said. “They’re young enough still to be able to appreciate the effort and the aesthetic.”

She hopes her students, half of whom she had as seventh graders, will feel the effort she has put into the room as an investment in them.

“With last year’s decline in our morale, I had to do this for me as well as the students,” Nevins said. “We’re starting new. Starting fresh.”

While Nevins moved to a different grade level this year, having taught seventh grade last year, several of her teammates from the Tioga School campus have moved up to the high school along with her. That’s because necessary repairs at the other campus have rendered parts of the building unusable for class.



English teacher Jennifer Nevins sits in her new classroom, which is set up as a cozy coffee shop to encourage creativity and learning.

Abigail Allen/  
The Post-Signal

Superintendent Josh Ballinger said the rate of the repairs will be determined by the insurance available to cover the expenses.

Tioga ISD has opted to make the most of that challenge, using it as an opportunity to have seventh and eighth graders participate in things that include outdoor education, junior FFA and other extracurriculars without having to be bused from the other campus.

“Teen leadership is one that we’ve always wanted to put in place here and just never have,” Ballinger said.

Teachers from pre-K through sixth grade worked to prepare their rooms before students came back into the classroom Tuesday.

Although the district made a change to charge a tuition fee for the college program moving forward, many families are still opting to use the discounted college program.

In addition, the district is continuing to provide career and technical education courses in the hopes of providing students real-world experience and benefits before they leave Tioga ISD.

“Because we’re going to a pay-based college program instead of free, I really feel like CTE is going to be the choice of many, many kids,” Ballinger said.

He pointed to how popular Christi Crowe’s classes are as a testament to the value of CTE.

“And we’re expanding that into eighth grade, as well,” Ballinger said.

Crowe, who gives her students opportunities for real-world application of their skills, had her students prepare the meal for the new teachers and staff at Tioga ISD on July 31.

“They can kind of figure out what path they want to take, what path they don’t want to take—that’s equally as

important,” she said. “... Exposing them to real-world stuff, real life applications, just like today.”

Jole Wolf, technology, and Matt Parker, ag sciences, will also provide CTE instruction for the students.

“Our CTE program, it’s growing,” Crowe said. “The kids are interested in it, and I feel like most of them see the value in looking for all this real-world stuff that they can see that they’re going to use in their lives.”

With a focus on tight budgeting and keeping close watch on the finances, Ballinger and the board of trustees feel they have the district heading in the right direction and are excited to move into the new school year.

“Our goals are always the same: Student first. Don’t lose sight of them,” Ballinger said. “... Usually everything else takes care of itself if you focus on what’s best for kids.”



# New FFA teacher aims for growth

By Abigail Allen  
Editor

Matt Parker is excited to take on the challenge of being a one-man FFA program as Tioga ISD's new FFA director.

This is his first time being a lone teacher in a program.

"Which has a lot of benefit, really and truly," he said. "You get to know every student."

Parker has four years of experience at Tom Bean and Bells for two years apiece, as well as a lifetime of experience in the agricultural world.

He and his wife own a calf operation, and Parker has remained affiliated with the show world even while prioritizing being home with the couple's young child born in 2020 to now.

Parker is excited to work with students in multiple different animal projects across the board. He said he sees the value and having all animal projects, not just specializing in one particular area.

"The most ideal program is multi-species," Parker said. "Don't focus just on what you're talented at."

That's because he wants to both challenge himself and allow his students to focus on what they want to show, not just constrain them to what he knows.

Parker's domain during the school day will be the barn behind high school, where he'll be able to work not only with the Ag Mechanics students, but also with the Animal Science students and the Principles of Ag participants.

Welding certifications will be Parker's CTE focus for the year, which he said is



New Tioga FFA teacher Matt Parker loves seeing that the Tioga High School campus is neighbored by a turf farm, which he can use as an example of an agricultural industry to his students.

Photos by Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal



The Guy and Fae Wooten Memorial Student Project Farm barn has new life thanks to the investment of the Tioga FFA/FCCLA Booster Club and a local business that handled the project.

"good for every resume." being used to house animal FFA/FCCLA Booster Club  
The barn was previously projects before the Tioga paid for the repair of the

Guy and Fae Wooten Memorial Student Project Farm barn south of Tioga High School on U.S. 377.

"They totally redid all of this," Parker said, pointing to the reconstructed awning that had been falling down previously.

Not only is Parker excited about the quality of the barn and the work done to help restore it to make it a viable option for the program, but also he is grateful for the culture of parental support for the FFA program.

"I'm a firm believer it's a family deal," Parker said.

Parker said he planned to have the Wooten barn itself prepared and ready for the students to move in at the start of school.

However, he wanted to wait to finish out the classroom barn until the Ag Mechanics students were present, to give them an opportunity to build to have a say in the facilities design.

"It kind of brings back real world stuff," he said. "In the real world, you're in this kind of facility."

Parker got his introduction to the high school FFA students during the summer when he had the opportunity to take his kids to the state convention.

"This is probably the best set of kids I've had," he said.

He wants to build on the foundation provided by former teachers Jessica Sanders and Brad Bland.

Parker is also excited to have the chance to work with some of the seventh and eighth grade students who will be on the high school campus this year in a junior FFA program to add to the 161 high school participants.



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# 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



## TIOGA ISD AT A GLANCE

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

### Administration

- P.O. Box 159, Tioga, TX 76271
- Superintendent: Josh Ballinger, [josh.ballinger@tiogaisd.net](mailto:josh.ballinger@tiogaisd.net)
- Athletic Director: Zach Birdwell, [zach.birdwell@tiogaisd.net](mailto:zach.birdwell@tiogaisd.net)

### Tioga Elementary/Middle School

- 405 N. Florence St., Tioga, TX 76271
- Phone: 940-437-2366
- Fax: 940-437-9986
- Principal: Jana Hansen, [jana.smith@tiogaisd.net](mailto:jana.smith@tiogaisd.net)
- Administrative Assistant: Beth Hale, [beth.hale@tiogaisd.net](mailto:beth.hale@tiogaisd.net)

### Tioga High School

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

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

- Rhonda Box: Pre-K teacher/elementary SPED.
- Duncan Douglas: P.E. teacher/coach.
- Ashley Douglas: P.E. teacher/coach.
- Alazea Douglas: Assistant coach/SPED/electives.
- Matthew Parker: Ag science 7-12 grade.
- Blake McCulloch: MS/HS outdoor ed./P.E./coach.
- Kenedee Squier: History/coach.
- Beau Burruss: Leadership/defensive coordinator/coach.
- Slayton Holland: Baseball/assistant coach/social studies.
- Rene Houghtlen: Cafeteria full time.
- James Hayes: Cafeteria full time.
- Thomas Harp: Maintenance.
- Christa Barnett: Teacher's aide.

Aug. 1-7: Staff Workday  
 Aug. 8: First Day of School  
 Aug. 8: Begin First Nine Weeks  
 Aug. 14: School Holiday  
 Aug. 21: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Aug. 28: School Holiday  
 Sept. 4: School Holiday  
 Sept. 11: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Sept. 18: School Holiday  
 Sept. 25: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Oct. 2: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Oct. 9: School Holiday  
 Oct. 13: End First Nine Weeks  
 Oct. 16: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Oct. 17: Begin Second Grading Period  
 Oct. 23: School Holiday  
 Oct. 30: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Nov. 6: School Holiday  
 Nov. 22-24: School Holiday  
 Nov. 27: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Dec. 4: School Holiday  
 Dec. 11: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Dec. 21: End Second Nine Weeks  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 5: School Holiday

Jan. 8: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Jan. 9: Begin Third Nine Weeks  
 Jan. 15: School Holiday  
 Jan. 22: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Jan. 29: School Holiday  
 Feb. 5: School Holiday  
 Feb. 12: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 Feb. 19: School Holiday  
 Feb. 26: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 March 11-15: Spring Break Holiday  
 March 18: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 March 22: End Third Nine Weeks  
 March 25: Begin Fourth Nine Weeks  
 March 29: School Holiday  
 April 1: Bad Weather Day  
 April 8: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 April 15: School Holiday  
 April 22: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 April 29: School Holiday  
 May 6: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday  
 May 13: Bad Weather Day  
 May 27: School Holiday  
 May 31: End Fourth Nine Weeks  
 May 31: Last Day of School

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