

Welcome to Jacob's Well Elementary



Rise to my best

I will be safe & learn

Shine my light

Empower everyone

Student & Parent Handbook 2023-24

Welcome to Jacob's Well Elementary! Our current and former students have a wonderful history of success. We believe this is a result of us all working together for the benefit of all students and ensuring that each child is making progress. We are honored to work with your children and to work within the community of Wimberley. This handbook contains helpful information for the families of our Jacob's Well Rangers. Please take some time to read over the following information, as it will assist you throughout the school year. If you have any questions, please contact the JWE office.

Jacob's Well Elementary (JWE)
(512) 847-5558 FAX (512) 847-6176
3470 FM 2325
Wimberley, TX 78676

SueAnna Thomas, Principal - sueanna.thomas@wimberleyisd.net
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**All JWE policies are designed for the sole purpose of keeping students safe and learning. While some procedures and policies may seem frustrating or time-consuming, please keep in mind the overall purpose of keeping our building secure and providing all students with the best opportunity to learn.*

Morning drop-off: 7:00-7:40 am

Back Loop Closes: 7:35

First Bell: 7:40

Tardy Bell: 7:45

Instructional Day: 7:40 am-3:00 pm

Attendance taken: 10:30

Pick-up Time: 3:00-3:25 pm

Visiting JWE During School Hours

We are grateful for all the support families show JWE. As you plan a visit to JWE please keep in mind all visitors must present a valid ID to sign in and receive a visitor's sticker in the front office. For security reasons, all exterior doors of the building remain locked throughout the school day. To enter, you must ring the bell located to the right of the front door, show your identification, and speak with the secretary or receptionist. During classroom instructional times, visitors are not allowed in classrooms unless scheduled with the teacher. If you need an item delivered to your child (lunch, books, etc.), please drop the item(s) off at the front office, so that class time is not interrupted for deliveries.

**** Visitors must leave through the front office and return their visitor sticker. This allows us to know who is in our building in case of an emergency.**

Contacting Teachers During School Hours

Your child's teacher will be working to establish close relationships with students and families throughout the school year. Good communication is essential in this process. Meet-the-Teacher, parent Information presentations, and parent conferences are important events so that parents have the information they need about day to day procedures and student performance. If you need to contact your child's teacher during the school day, please plan to leave a message with the office, a voicemail message, or send an email.

If you need to communicate a change in the way your child is going home, or you have an urgent message that needs immediate attention, please communicate this to the staff member who answers your phone call prior to 2pm. We must have a parent note or phone call in order to change a student's transportation for the day. E-mail, text messages, and voicemail messages are sometimes not checked by staff members until the end of the school day, and can be overlooked if the teacher is absent on that day.

Specials Staff Email:

Students attend different specials classes each day.

Michelle Wilkes- Coach and PE Teacher, michelle.wilkes@wimberleyisd.net

Leigh Anne Slack-Music Instructor, leighanne.slack@wimberleyisd.net

Mary Grace Barbee- Art Teacher, marygrace.barbee@wimberleyisd.net

Kim Martinez- Computer Instructor, kimberly.martinez@wimberleyisd.net

Paige Lombardo- Library Instructor, elizabeth.lombardo@wimberleyisd.net

Daily Routine at Home Regarding School Information

Please check your child's backpack **daily** for notes from the school and/or teacher. Your child may also have homework assignments and/or daily reading assignments that need your signature each evening. Each student will have a folder that travels back and forth between home and school. Your child is learning responsibility through this folder and homework routine. You can use this folder to send notes to your child's teacher whenever necessary. Keeping up with daily backpack checks will help your family stay up-to-date on what's happening at school.

We also communicate with parents regularly through email. Emails are sent from your child's teacher and from our office staff to remind you of any upcoming events or concerns. **Please make sure we have accurate email information on file with your teacher and in Skyward Family Access.** You can also access the district website to find out about dates and events for WISD and JWE at www.wimberleyisd.net. **At the bottom of the district's homepage, there is a link to download the WISD APP.** It is an easy way to get to JWE's website quickly. We will also be posting information on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/Jacobs-Well-Elementary-107518081966495> and on our Twitter @JWERangers. PTO also has a private PTO group you can join for information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jwepto>.

Student Progress Monitoring

JWE staff members are dedicated to helping all students grow and succeed academically. In order to design instruction to effectively meet each child's needs, teachers must have a thorough awareness of students' most current reading levels and academic progress. The TEKS, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, which are the state expectations for each grade level, are used to design each grade level's curriculum and assessments. Students are assessed using feedback during small group instruction, feedback during whole group instruction, daily assignments, classroom assessments, STAR and MAP **on-line assessments**, math and reading **on-line programs**, and assessment data from interim tests and STAAR. Formal and informal assessments are used daily in the classrooms to monitor student academic growth. For students who demonstrate a need for additional support or instruction, we provide small group instruction in the classrooms and through intervention support which happens out of the classroom with intervention teachers. Our focus is to ensure that all students are making progress and mastering TEKS at their grade level. Students are placed in intervention classes based on need.

The state requires that students in grades 3-5 are assessed using the STAAR test. Students in grades 3 - 5 take an assessment in reading language arts and math. Students in 5th grade also take an assessment in science.

All STAAR tests in each grade will have at least 25% of the questions in a non-multiple choice format. The different types of questions can be found at this link:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/new-question-types-by-grade-and-content.pdf>

While our students and teachers work very hard to prepare for these assessments and our students historically have done very well, our teachers strive to provide a curriculum that covers the TEKS and is interesting and diverse.

Intervention targets specific skills to help the student improve in those areas. We offer both reading and math intervention during RISE time (Rise to my best) each day for students in their classroom, and through our intervention teachers. The students most in need according to the data listed in the above paragraphs will be pulled for intervention with the intervention teachers. Teachers meet with students for about 40-50 minutes two to five times a week for intense instruction in the area of need. This instruction is in addition to small-group and whole group instruction provided by the classroom teacher. Historically, our intervention program has been highly successful when teamed up with our classroom teachers to help students continue to gain a strong foundation that prepares them for success throughout their academic career in WISD.

Jacob's Well Administrators lead a committee called **MTSS** (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) in which teachers communicate about students' progress and test data. MTSS meetings are used to problem-solve and ensure that we are meeting the needs of each learner.

Your child's academic progress will be communicated to you through parent-teacher conferences, graded papers sent home, progress reports at 4 ½ weeks, report cards at 9 weeks, and STAAR test results. Please look through assignments that are sent home for grades/comments from the teacher. You can also check your student's grades through Skyward Family Access. If you have questions or concerns about your child's academic progress, please contact your child's teacher. The number one thing you can do to help your child succeed in school is provide a consistent routine at home where you reinforce skills through homework and READ daily with your child. When you work with your child, you promote good study habits, communicate the importance of school, and help your child develop academic skills.

Parent conferences- If you have questions about how your child is doing, parents are encouraged to schedule a conference with their child's teacher. You can do this at any time but we will also have a designated day, October 20, for conferences. Staying in contact with your child's teacher is important as we work together for your child. Parent conferences can be scheduled by Zoom or in person.

Grading Policy

JWE Late Work Policy

- * Work not turned in by the due date will receive points off the final grade of the late assignment.
- * In 3rd Grade - Five (5) points will be taken off the final grade of the late assignment.
- * In 4th & 5th Grade - Ten (10) points will be taken off the final grade of the late assignment.

JWE Retest Policy

*Teachers will reteach concepts and skills during RISE time to students who do not show 70% mastery. Students will be allowed to correct assignments, not including interims, for a maximum grade of 70.

JWE Missing Work Policy

Students who are missing work 2 days after the due date will work on the assignment during the first half of recess. Students will be allowed to play for the second half of recess. Parents will be notified of missing work by email. If a student is consistently missing work they will be referred to the GIST committee. If assignments are not completed by the end of the nine weeks, parents will be contacted again and a grade of 50 will be recorded in the grade book.

Traffic and Parking on Campus

Our campus does not have enough parking for all 550 students. Because of this, we have a drop-off and pick-up procedures using loops in the front and back of the campus where parents remain in cars and traffic continues to flow. Waiting in line is never fun and we thank you in advance for your patience and courteous behavior. All procedures become much faster after the first two weeks of school.

Parents will be allowed to walk their child to the grade level waiting area on the first day of school only. Beginning on Thursday, Aug. 17, the students will need to be dropped off utilizing the procedures below.

Morning Car Drop-off and Afternoon Pick-up Procedures

Please note: It usually takes about 14 days for parents/students to become familiar with these procedures. Experience has shown that once these procedures are followed and implemented, drop-off and pick-up becomes smoother, much more time-efficient, and very safe for the children.

Drop off and Pick up Procedures to ensure safety:

- No Cell Phone usage in the car line (it's the law)
- Place your car in **PARK** when loading or unloading your child.
- Students need to stay buckled until the car is in **PARK** to unload.
- When the car is in park they should quickly unbuckle, and if not getting out on the sidewalk side of the car, **walk in front of their own car, not behind it.**
- Pull all the way forward before putting your car in park and loading or unloading your student. **Everyone next to the sidewalk needs to unload their student and not wait to get closer to the door.** Think of it as a little extra exercise!

- **NEVER PASS** a car or bus in the drop off and pick up lane. It is dangerous and we must keep students safe as sometimes students get out of the vehicle on the opposite side from the sidewalk.

Morning car drop-off procedures at JWE:

Car drop-off times are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. Students are considered tardy at 7:45 a.m. each day. *Tip for avoiding tardiness and traffic- get here between 7:00-7:30. During this time, cars move easily through campus.

When dropping your child off, there are two choices:

1. Early drop-off using back loop (7:00-7:15)- You must pull into campus and drive through the back loop. Follow the loop behind the school until you reach the covered porch near the cafeteria. Any student may be dropped off here between 7:00-7:15.
2. Regular drop off using both loops- 3rd grade parents have priority in the front. **If there is space available**, other grades may use the front loop also. If there is traffic, grades 4-5 will drive through the loop that goes behind the school and drop-off students near the cafeteria. Without using the back loop, traffic would be much slower and would back up on RR 2325 which is a dangerous situation. All help with this is appreciated. **When buses are present in the front loop, YOU MUST WAIT FOR BUSES TO EXIT OUR CAMPUS TO UTILIZE THE FRONT LOOP.** The front loop is closed to all cars when buses are present and all cars will be directed to the back loop while buses are unloading. The back loop gate closes at 7:35.

Tardy Policy- We do not count students tardy if a parent arrives in the back loop by 7:35. Therefore if you are in the back loop and stuck in traffic for a few minutes, you do not need to worry that your child is tardy. We do not want anyone punished for doing what we ask them to do to help us deal with our traffic. However, all other students will be marked tardy if they enter the building after 7:45. Please remember that 3 tardies or early outs count as an unexcused absence.

Afternoon car pick-up procedures at JWE (3:00 - 3:25):

All parents must display their car tag so that we can move things along efficiently. When picking your child up at the end of the school day, parents of 3rd grade students enter the front loop. Parents of students in grades 4 and 5 enter the back loop. If a 3rd grade student has an older sibling on campus, older siblings go to the front loop to join 3rd grade students so that parents pick up all children using the front loop.

Bus Procedures

Buses drop off JWE students each morning around 7:10. We load buses in the afternoon around 3:00. A transportation form must be completed and turned in to the transportation office for a child to ride the bus to or from school. The WISD transportation office phone number is (512) 847-2781. Please call this number for bus information or to handle a bus request. Bus drivers do not allow students on buses who are not regular route riders. If your child is going home with another child, you

must call transportation and make that request. These requests are considered based on availability on the bus. Many of our buses are too crowded to add children.

JWE students are expected to maintain the same kind of behavior on the bus that is expected at school. When you register for a bus, you will be given a conduct policy. Students who do not follow the policy guidelines may be suspended from the bus. On-going misconduct can lead to removal of bus privileges. Bus drivers are expected to complete a student bus referral form (Bus Conduct Report) for any misbehaving student for the Assistant Principal to use in deciding corrective actions. Parents will be notified for each bus referral and are expected to assist in correcting the behavior for the safety of all students.

Bus Badges - Smart TAG System!

Every student will receive a bus badge. The students will badge on and off the bus ensuring they are on the correct bus and getting off at the correct stop. Every bus rider will be given their bus tag bracelet. It is very important that they keep up with their badge in order to badge on and off the bus everyday. Please see more information at the following link: <https://www.wimberleyisd.net/Page/2683>

Changes in How Your Child Goes Home

If you need your child sent home in a different way than usual, please send a signed, dated note to your child's teacher. **If the change is last-minute, please call the school office by 2:00** so that our office staff can notify the teacher before the end of the day. If your child's teacher does not receive a note from a parent, or message from the office, indicating a change, they must send your child home in the usual way. Just telling your child is not sufficient as we experience too much confusion when parents rely on simply telling their child.

Breakfast & Lunch Procedures

JWE students can bring lunch from home or purchase a school lunch. The cost of a cafeteria-provided student lunch is \$2.85. WISD uses <https://lincconnect.com/> so that you can set up an electronic account for your child if they want to purchase meals and extra items. For more information, look on our district website under child nutrition (www.wimberleyisd.net), or you can send money with your child to school. Our cafeteria staff members will include it in your child's account. Checks are accepted by the district for payment on meal accounts, however the following MUST be included on the check:

FULL NAME

STREET ADDRESS (NO PO BOX)

HOME PHONE # (WITH AREA CODE)

SECONDARY PHONE # (WITH AREA CODE)

DRIVERS LICENSE# (WITH STATE)

An application may be completed and submitted to qualify for the Free and Reduced Price Meal program. Applications can be found on the website at <https://www.wimberleyisd.net/Page/776>

A cafeteria lunch and breakfast menu will be sent home each month and is posted on our website.

Breakfast is served from 7:15-7:40 each morning. The cost of a cafeteria-provided student breakfast is \$2.00. **If your child will be eating breakfast at school, please make sure he/she arrives by 7:40, so he/she will have enough time to eat breakfast and get to class by 7:45 and avoid being tardy.**

Parents/family members are welcome to have lunch with their child during the designated school lunch period. If you are visiting for lunch, please sign in and receive a visitor's sticker in the front office. Please wait in the office or in the cafeteria for your child's class to enter the cafeteria. You and your child will be sitting with your child's class. We ask parents to remain in the cafeteria and not go to the playground or classroom with your child. When leaving, please exit through the front office and return your visitor sticker. This allows us to know who is in the building in case of an emergency.

Attendance Procedures

Once a child enrolls in public school, we are required to enforce attendance policies based on state law. These policies are outlined in our district handbook and are for students throughout the district. The following is a summary of the policy in an effort to make JWE parents aware of state law and Wimberley ISD policy and procedures.

Regular attendance at school is essential for each child's learning, and absences from school disrupt the learning process. Each child's attendance is closely monitored to ensure that he or she is present for at least 90% of the school year's instructional days, and that he or she is arriving to class on time each day, and remaining at school for the entire school day in order to receive credit for the school year (*this includes both excused and unexcused absences*). **This means that if a child misses more than 10% of the school year (18 days) for any reason - excused or unexcused, we are required to consider mandatory retention.** This is our reason for sending letters during the year reminding you of the state policy. **There will not be the option of being present through remote learning this year. Students must be physically at school to be counted present.*

Naturally, if your child is sick, they should remain at home. We fully support you in making sure that your child is healthy enough to return to school. When a student is sick, it is important that a parent sends a note so that the absence can be excused.

- A note stating the reason for the absence, signed by a parent/guardian or doctor, must be provided **within three days of the child returning to school**. Failure to provide a signed statement within the following three days of the absence will result in the absence being recorded as unexcused. A parent note can excuse up to 3 consecutive days of absence.
- A physician's note is required to excuse 4 consecutive days of absence or more.
- Notes may be emailed to ana.garcia@wimberleyisd.net.

According to state law, it is the parent's duty to monitor their child's absences and follow these attendance procedures. When there are excessive unexcused absences, parents are subject to prosecution under the Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.093 "Contributing to Non-Attendance." This

filing with the court can take place after the fourth unexcused absence within a 4-week time period or if a student is absent from school on 10 or more days *or parts of days* within a 6 month period of time during the same school year.

Please be aware that three tardies/leave earlies = 1 unexcused absence. Parents must be very careful about both tardies (tardy bell rings at 7:45) and withdrawing students early during the day (i.e. signing a student out before 3:00). The rules require that students attend all parts of the day. When a student is ill, missed work will be provided for pick up or when the student returns. The student has the time they are out, plus 3 extra days, to complete the work. The reason for the extra days is that an ill child may not feel up to doing school work and need some extra time when they are no longer ill.

A student who is electing to quarantine due to exposure, or go on a trip, but who is not ill, will also be provided a packet of missed work to be picked up to complete during the time out. The work is expected to be completed and returned upon returning to school since the student has not been ill.

Work that any student does not understand, can be put aside for the teacher to explain and be completed after the explanation. Teachers will work to teach concepts missed in small groups once the students return in order to keep everyone on track.

Textbook Information

(This information applies to school textbooks, library books, class technology equipment, and guided reading books)

Non-consumable textbooks can be sent home with students, at teachers' discretion. **Damaged and/or lost textbooks, library books, and class technology equipment become the financial responsibility of the student's family.**

Textbooks that are sent home should be treated with care by the student, to keep damage to each book at a minimum. If a textbook issued to your child is lost or damaged, the teacher will send home a textbook replacement form, indicating the cost of the textbook and the reason for replacement. The replacement cost usually ranges between \$10 and \$30. Until the lost or damaged textbook or technology equipment is paid for, the student will be provided textbooks for use at school during the school day. The final report card will not be released to the parents until all textbook fines have been paid.

Damaged textbook replacement fines most often occur due to the following:

- Water/liquid damage (any amount requires replacement due to possible mold growth)
- Being careless with technology equipment and causing damage
- Broken binding
- Ripped/severely creased pages or pages missing from the book
- Writing/coloring on pages that renders the book unusable

Here are some ways to keep textbook damage to a minimum:

- Be careful with food and drinks around books.

- Make sure your child does not carry a water bottle inside the same bag that carries the textbook.
- Monitor siblings and pets around textbooks.
- Encourage your child to treat textbooks as he/she treats library books.
- Have a special place at home where textbooks can be stored and used.

If you notice any damage, or if a textbook becomes lost, please contact your child's teacher. For more information about the district textbook policy, please see the WISD Student/Parent Handbook.

Medicines at School

If your child needs to take medication at school, the medication must be stored in the nurse's office, whether it is prescription or over-the-counter. All medication must be in the **original container**. Only the school nursing staff can administer medication to students. Parents are asked to bring the medication to the front office and complete the medication form provided by the school. When it is time to take the medication home, parents are asked to come to the front office to pick it up. Children will not be allowed to transport the medication to or from home. Children are also not allowed to keep any medication in the classroom including cough drops.

Lice Policy

If you discover that your child has lice, please contact your child's teacher right away. When a teacher identifies that a student in her room has lice, the teacher is required to send the child to the nurse's office. If a confirmed case of lice is identified in a classroom, a note will be sent home to all classroom parents.

Dress Code

The district's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

- Pants with excessive holes or tears in them will not be acceptable (no holes are permitted above the fingertips when arms and fingers are fully extended at the sides of the student).
- Pants should be worn at the waist and must not ride below the hip.
- Pajama-type clothing and house slippers/shoes may **not** be worn **unless** it is a scheduled school/class spirit day.
- Shoes with wheels or rollers are **not** permitted on school property at any time.
- No undergarments or underwear shall be visible at any time.
- Shorts, skirts, dresses, or skorts must completely cover the student's front and bottom.
- Off the shoulder wear, strapless, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts and low cut attire are not permitted. Sleeveless clothing is permitted with straps at least two inches in width.
- Clothing that is thin or sheer is inappropriate at school (lace, see-through material, backless sundresses, etc.). Appropriate undergarments are required.
- Shirts and tops must cover midriff at all times with no skin exposed.

- Hats, caps, and hoodies may not be worn on the head in the building unless it is a scheduled school/class spirit day.
- Any apparel and attire with writing that is vulgar, obscene, or that uses profanity will not be worn. The advertising of, or emblems of, alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco products, profanity, or emblems of seductive or sexually insinuating nature are against dress code policy and will not be worn or displayed.
- If a student's hair cut or hair color is deemed a distraction by the administration, a student will be asked to modify their hair.

For more information about the district dress code, please see the WISD Student/Parent Handbook.

Holiday Parties and Birthday Celebrations

We are allowed to have 3 class parties per year based on the Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value Rules. Here are our parties for students:

Winter Holiday Party—in December

Valentine Party— in February

End-of-Year Party—in May

If you would like to help with these celebrations, please contact the room parent or classroom teacher.

If you would like to send treats for your child's class to celebrate your child's birthday, please touch base with the classroom teacher and plan to drop the treats off in the school office on the day of the celebration. Students' birthdays are celebrated with treats in the classrooms **after** lunch. Birthday treats cannot be served in the cafeteria during lunch times. *To protect our students with food allergies, please check with your child's teacher for suggestions.*

Field Trips and Parent Background Checks

Parent background checks are necessary for any parent/guardian who wants to attend a field trip or work with small groups of students on campus under a teacher's direction. These background checks must be done every school year. Please find more information and links for background checks at <https://www.wimberleyisd.net/domain/548>

It is advisable to complete your parent background check well in advance of a field trip or activity so there is enough time to process.

Note: Parents/family members/guardians may attend class parties, parent nights, awards assemblies, lunch visits, and school-wide events without completing background checks but must still check in through the front office with a valid ID. Parents are allowed to take their own children home with them after a field trip by signing the child out with the teacher so that the teacher is aware and knows the child is safe. Children may not ride home from a field trip with another child's parent or guardian.

Jacob's Well PTO

We are fortunate to have an active, dedicated Parent Teacher Organization on our campus. Our PTO hosts several fundraising events each school year. These fundraisers have funded many wonderful things at JWE, such as interactive panels to replace aging smartboards, pour and play surface on our playground, and refurbishing our track area. Our PTO members support our school goals and our

staff, and help create a wonderful learning environment for all students. Please consider joining and becoming active in the JWE PTO, as there is always a need for active participants. Please watch for notes/emails coming home from the JWE PTO about upcoming events and join their private Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jwepto>.

Counseling Services

Jill Jacobs is our wonderful school counselor. She works hard to support our campus in a variety of ways. She coordinates GT testing for students, is a consultant for behavior plans, and participates in problem-solving through the MTSS process. Mrs. Jacobs leads groups for newcomers and small group counseling, classroom guidance lessons, and also conducts crisis counseling for students who might need extra support during a crisis. For students in need of long-term services, Mrs. Jacobs assists families in finding outside services that will meet their needs. Mrs. Jacobs also works in classrooms to help students be proactive and use their Texan Tools. She is a wonderful educator and counselor and we appreciate the support she provides our students and staff.

Character Education

Our school promotes positive character traits and making positive choices on a daily basis. Staff members recognize students who are demonstrating positive character traits and write what they have done on Positive Office Referrals. **Students bring the Positive Office Referral to the office and get their picture taken to be displayed on a bulletin board.**

JWE's anti bullying program begins with classroom discussions, our TEXAN Roots curriculum, our Rangers RISE motto, and instruction about the Texan Tools. The Texan Tools are conflict resolution steps to help children avoid or deal with bullying. Small group counseling is also used to help students develop good social skills.

Enrichment Activities

We continue to challenge ourselves to provide more enrichment activities for students. Some of these activities take place during school and some of them are optional projects for students to work on at home. Flyers with very specific details are sent home in your student's folder about each of these activities.

GT Testing/Program

Testing for the WISD Gifted and Talented Program is offered each school year for our students. All GT nominations need to be made **by the end of November for this school year**. GT testing will begin thereafter. To nominate a student for our GT program, please contact your child's teacher for the nomination forms. Students who qualify for the GT program after testing receive 45 minutes of pull-out services each week with a GT teacher.

Facility-Use Policy

If you are interested in using the school building for club/organization meetings, please contact Lacey Lambert at lacey.lambert@wimberleyisd.net to check for building availability and acquire necessary reservation forms and pay applicable fees.

Technology Information

The district maintains all technology in our classrooms. WISD uses safety software and filters to help us ensure that students are only able to access appropriate sites and content while using devices at school. In addition, staff members are required to monitor student use and students are required to use devices as instructed.

Accelerated Reading Program

All students participate in a reading program called Accelerated Reader. It is a program used to encourage and ensure that students are practicing their reading skills. It is **not** a reading instruction program, but reinforces reading by promoting practice. Students' reading levels are assessed using STAR software at the beginning of each 9 week grading period. Student goals are set by classroom teachers based on student reading levels. Each goal is considered reasonable and promotes practice. To reach reading goals, students read books and take comprehension quizzes over books they have read. As students do well on quizzes, they earn points toward their reading goal. Students who reach reading goals are invited to attend AR reward parties. If a student chooses not to read and not reach their goal, they do not earn the reward party as it is a reward.

Please make sure you are aware of your child's reading goals and how they earn points. Ask your child to bring home their AR book so they can read it with you. This will help them reach their goal and also they will enjoy reading with you! Reading for AR often must take place at home during the assigned reading homework time. Please ensure that your child is doing this reading homework and keeping up with their points.

Student Cell Phone Use

If you choose to give your child a cell phone and/or smart watch, you need to be aware of the guidelines here at school. If a student does not follow these guidelines, their phone and/or smart watch may be confiscated by staff members.

Student Guidelines:

- Students may not use their cell phone and/or smart watch without teacher permission during the school day.
- Students must turn the phone and/or smart watch to silent mode during the school day and store it in their backpack.
- Students may use their cell phone and/or smart watch after school once they are outside the building.
- If a student uses their cell phone and/or smart watch, they may not harass other students.
- Students may not show their screen to other students as not all parents agree with their children being on cell phones.

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen phones and/or smart watches. We do our best to help students locate lost or stolen items but we can not guarantee that the phone will be found or recovered.

Vapes

The 2023 Legislative Session resulted in several new laws that require changes in how school districts operate. One of these changes comes from House Bill 114, which addresses student offenses relating to vapes, THC, and marijuana. With the new law, students possessing or using vaping devices or vaping accessories on school premises or during school-related activities and events will result in a mandatory Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) placement. This new law requires WISD to make the DAEP placement regardless of whether the vape contains THC/marijuana or not. WISD encourages our parents to have a conversation with your student(s) to ensure that these items are not brought onto campus.