

*Superintendent Monica Simmons'*

# September Newsletter

September 1, 2023

Dear Jacket Community,

I am pleased to share that we have completed our first three weeks of school, and they have been spectacular. Our staff and students are working hard each day! Seeing the smiles and conversations as students arrive as well as their engagement while they are in class confirms that we have GREAT students and GREAT staff in EFISD! We are the BEST little school district in Texas!

I would like to thank everyone for a successful start to the 2023-2024 school year. The level of enthusiasm and energy that is permeating through the classrooms and campuses is truly inspirational. We are thankful for the support we have received from families and the community. We have WONDERFUL things taking place throughout the district! We're excited to kick off our Read to Ride Program for our Third Grade scholars and are eagerly preparing for upcoming campus events.

As we continue to settle into a new school year, I would like to use this time to refocus everyone on Elysian Fields ISD's Vision and Mission.

## **Our Vision**

Preparing Students Today for Success Tomorrow

## **Our Mission**

The mission of Elysian Fields ISD is to educate, engage, and empower all students in a safe and positive learning environment to discover and reach their greatest potential.

We must remember to stay committed to the goals we have set for each and every student that walks through our doors. They will be the ones to continue the Jacket Legacy. Please know that our team of educators is composed of some of the greatest hearts and minds you will find anywhere!

In addition, it takes all stakeholders working together as a team to meet the needs of our students and to ensure everyone's safety. I ask each of you, *if you see or hear something; say something!*

Parents please remember that daily student attendance is critical to your child's success at school, so please send your child to school. Attendance matters.

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## Fall Athletics

In Elysian Fields ISD, we firmly believe it takes collaboration, ambition, and strategy to achieve excellence – on the field and in the classroom.

The fall semester means it's volleyball, football, and cross country season! Let's remember to show our support for our hardworking student-athletes. If you can't make a game or a meet, make sure to tell them good luck! All schedules can be found [here](https://www.efisd.net/students/athletics) (https://www.efisd.net/students/athletics).

## Elysian Fields ISD Long Range Facility Planning Underway

The EFISD Long Range Facility Planning Committee has met a total of 4 times. This group will meet again on Tuesday, September 5. The Board of Trustees has charged this group with the following:

1. Reviewing the Educational Facility Assessment, Financial Assessment, Educational Program, and Demographic Data.
2. Prioritizing projects (and their options or alternatives) into a Long Range Facility Plan to be recommended for adoption by the Board.
3. Making a recommendation of financial options for the District to pursue to fund the plan.

The committee includes various stakeholders, including teachers, campus staff, parents, community members, and administrators. They work in subgroups and to evaluate campuses and discuss possible priorities. The committee will make a presentation to the Elysian Fields ISD Board of Trustees with a recommendation following the completion of their work.

Visit the Long Range Facility Planning Website at:

[https://www.efisd.net/district/long\\_range\\_facility\\_planning](https://www.efisd.net/district/long_range_facility_planning)

## EFISD Board of Trustees Appoints Two New Board Members

Elysian Fields High School alumni Josh Tiller and Ronnie Vickers have been appointed to the Elysian Fields ISD Board of Trustees to serve out the remaining terms of former trustees Sean Swank and Bradley Lewis, who stepped down from their seats over the summer. Mr. Tiller and Mr. Vickers were sworn in during the board's special called meeting on August 28. They will complete the term for both seats, which are up for re-election in November 2024.



**Ronnie Vickers**



**Josh Tiller**

(pictured with family)

The other EFISD Trustees are Mrs. Julie Simmons, Mrs. Kim Baugh, Mr. Lynn Calhoun, Mrs. Ashley Caudle, and Mr. Brad Ellis. Simmons serves as the Board President.

## August Students of the Month



**Elementary-** Derrick Wilburn and Jaycie Garcia  
**Middle School-** Korbin Lipford and MacKenzie Carter  
**High School-** David Hutson and Emma Carrington

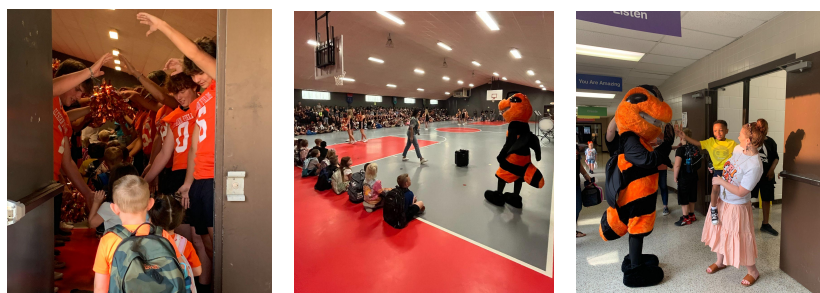
## Caught Being Good - Positive Office Recipients

The elementary campus has implemented **positive office referrals**. Once a week on Fridays, Dr. Cordray and Mrs. Roos **celebrate** all students who received a Positive Office Referral with pom poms, a certificate, and a positive phone call to the student's parents. Each student at the elementary school can earn a positive office referral by exceeding behavior expectations and setting good examples for their peers.



## More First Month of School Fun....

The Elementary School ended the first week of school with a **Back to School Pep Rally**. The football players, cheerleaders, and band were present, and it was an excellent way to kick off the start of the year.



Mrs. Woodley planted flowers with some sweet elementary students!



During their math class, seniors Blake Merrit and Jace Alaniz worked together on a bell ringer activity, and our freshman scholars started the year by illustrating what they think biology class will involve.



Misty Scott with Mission Marshall shared with third grade scholars how they can earn a free bicycle and helmet by growing one reading level through the Read to Ride Program.



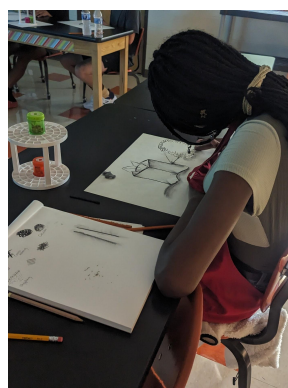
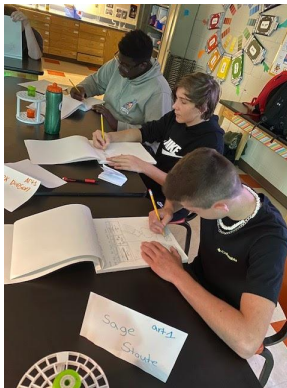
Writing about her goals was no problem for junior Tatum Wallace. Meanwhile, having prepared her office space to make students feel comfortable, Mrs. White reviewed her training to ensure that she was ready for the following week.



In order to review newly learned language skills, students reviewed Spanish with Kahoot!, an online game platform. Senior Blake Widon and junior Brody Parker were thrilled to discover they have Mrs. Quick's class together, and senior Eric Benefield was able to get a clear view of skin using a microscope in forensics class.



Art students have already started practicing in their sketch pads.



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## EFHS Homecoming Court 2023



### Senior Queen Candidates:

**Baylee Vickers** escorted by **Jax Parker**. **Emma Carrington** escorted by **David Hutson**.  
**Trista Bell** escorted by **Dravian Rather**. **Kyndal Youngblood** escorted by **Travis Stephens**.



### Football Sweetheart:

**Kerrigan Love** escorted by **Desmund Harrison**.

**Band Sweetheart:** **Mackenzie Simms** escorted by **Band Beau:** **Keller Robinson**



### Junior Duchesses:

**Carson Davis** escorted by **Brody Baugh**. **Lexi Holland** escorted by **Brody Parker**.  
**Lizzie Hutson** escorted by **Cole Parker**.



### Sophomore Duchesses:

**Ada Beasley** escorted by **Jamarion Johnson**. **Melanie McCullars** escorted by **Daniel West**.

### Freshman Duchess:

**Faith George** escorted by **Cor'Tavious Dotson**.

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I am proud to be a part of the EFISD District, and I look forward to working together to make this one of the best years yet in Elysian Fields ISD. We are truly stronger together.

**Remember to DREAM BIG!**

With Jacket Pride,

*Monica Simmons*  
EFISD Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 2 - Cross Country at LeTourneau
- September 4 - Labor Day (No School)
- September 5 - Long Range Facilities Planning Meeting at 6 pm in the High School Library
- September 5 - JV/V Volleyball vs. Troup (Home)
- September 6 - Progress Reports Issued
- September 7 - Elementary Secure Lockout Drill, JV/MS Football vs. Shelbyville (Home)
- September 7 - MS Volleyball vs. Beckville (Home)
- September 8 - Middle School Watermelon Social, Varsity Football vs. Shelbyville
- September 8 - Pre-K Grandparents Lunch
- September 8 - JV/Varsity Cross Country in Hallsville, Varsity Volleyball vs. Waskom (Home)
- September 9 - MS Cross Country in Hallsville
- September 11 - Just Say Yes Speaker Keith Davis, ETCADA Assembly, Board Meeting at 6 pm
- September 11 - MS Volleyball vs. Arp (Home) and Elementary School Store Fundraiser Begins
- September 12 - Elementary All About Grades PreK-2 and Annual Title 1 Meeting 5-6:30
- September 12 - JV/Varsity Volleyball vs. Arp
- September 14 - Elementary All About Grades 3-5 and Annual Title 1 Meeting 5-6:45
- September 14 - JV/MS Football vs. Beckville and Elementary Shelter in Place (Hazmat)
- September 15 - Varsity Cross Country in Pine Tree, Varsity Football vs. Beckville (Homecoming)
- September 18 - MS Volleyball vs. West Rusk
- September 19 - Long Range Facilities Planning Meeting at 6 pm, JV/Varsity Volleyball vs. Tatum
- September 21 - JV/MS Football vs. Queen City (Home)
- September 22 - End of 1st Six Weeks, Varsity Football vs. Queen City
- September 22 - Varsity Volleyball vs. Leveretts Chapel (Home)
- September 23 - Cross Country in Atlanta, MS Volleyball in Gary TNT
- September 25 - Begin 2nd Six Weeks and Middle School Principals' Coffee Talk at 8:30 am & 6 pm
- September 25 - MS Volleyball vs. Jefferson (Home)
- September 26 - JV/Varsity Volleyball vs. Jefferson
- September 27 - Report Cards issued and SHAC meeting at 1 pm
- September 28 - JV/MS Football vs. Waskom
- September 29 - Elementary Awards Assembly, Varsity Football vs. Waskom (Home)
- September 29 - Varsity Volleyball vs. West Rusk (Home) and Elementary Ice Cream Sundae Party for AR
- September 30 - MS Volleyball in Marshall TNT