



What's Up, Wildcats?



Chat from 'Chini

Greetings Wildcat Families and happy Friday!

What a great start to school year 2026-27! We are so proud of how our students have returned supporting our WIN values: Work Ethic, Innovative Thinking and Noble Character. In keeping with our Winning Culture values, students demonstrated excellent behavior across campus. Hallways were calm and focused, classrooms were engaged, and lunch periods ran smoothly (and students used the sidewalks!).

Next week we are already jumping in with events. Wednesday is Club Rush. We encourage students to check out the opportunities available and get involved during their time here at WCHS. We will also be hosting Open House on Tuesday, August 11 beginning at 5:30. There will be an IB meeting for IB families at 5pm.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to both Surprise Toyota and Safeway who are both strong supporters of WCHS. Come check out our band and spiritline on Wednesday at 9am at the grand re-opening of Safeway on Bell Road.

I do want to remind our families of our district dress code. Please review it and share it with your students. We are providing students with reminders to transition them back to school. We will be asking them to change and continued violations can result in disciplinary action. Thank you for partnering with us on this. We appreciate your continued support at home in reinforcing the high standards and expectations that help our Wildcats succeed.

Together, we're off to a great start—WIN today!

Lisa Parachini -
principal



Upcoming Events

Open House
Aug 11 5:30pm

Club Rush
Aug 12

Picture Day
Aug 13

WCHS Spirit Week
Aug 10-14





introducing...

Please extend a warm welcome to our new assistant principals Mr. Russ Dunham and Mrs. Shaynan Dehorthy!



Hello Wildcat Community,

My name is Russ Dunham and I am incredibly excited and grateful to join the Willow Canyon family. I was born and raised in the greatest city in the world, Tucson, Arizona. I attended and played soccer at Pima Community College and went on to become a proud graduate of the University of Arizona. From there, I came to the Phoenix area to coach soccer and start my career as an educator. I have been in public education for 28 years. I started as a detention monitor and went on to be a varsity soccer coach, history teacher, student advisor, assistant principal and principal. In all my different roles, the goal was always to do whatever I could to help students be as successful as possible. I look forward to being part of the Willow Canyon community and contributing to our Winning Culture.



Hi I am incredibly excited to introduce myself as I join—and return to—the Willow Canyon family! Returning to this campus is truly a full-circle moment for me, as I actually started my high school career right here at Willow Canyon. It feels wonderful to be back where it all began.

I have been proud to serve in our district since 2014, and over the last 12 years, I've had the opportunity to wear many different hats. My journey in education has included roles as a resource teacher, co-teacher, self-contained ED teacher, ESS specialist, Dean of Students, and Assistant Principal at both the elementary and high school levels. Through all of these roles, my core philosophy has remained exactly the same: I am kid-first, all the time. Building strong, authentic relationships with my peers, students, and their families is the most rewarding part of this job. Whenever I'm having a tough day, you'll find me out of my office, visiting classrooms, and spending time outside with the students—they truly make me happy and remind me why we do this work.

I am so looking forward to collaborating with all of you, learning from you, and supporting our students together. Here's to a fantastic school year!





handbook & reminders



Bus Procedures

Students who ride the bus will be provided a bus pass that will be needed to ride the bus. These passes help determine student bus routes, etc. More information will be forthcoming.

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up

Please follow the information that was sent out regarding traffic flow when dropping off and picking up your Wildcat. There are only two areas for this - the front loop and the east parking lot. Please do not use the bus loop or staff parking to drop off students. It is also requested that U-turns and dropping off students in traffic not occur as it is dangerous. There are directional signs posted to help determine prohibited areas.



Tardies, Sweep and Attendance

Students are expected to be in class when the bell rings. Students who are late will be required to go to sweep and receive a pass to class. After three tardies, students will receive a detention. Consequences escalate from there. Students who have excessive absences will be placed on an attendance contract and have the potential to lose credit.

Dress Code reminders

Students who are out of dress code will be sent to the health office for a change of clothes. Prohibited items include: visible undergarments such as underwear and bra straps; low cut shirts; spaghetti straps, halter tops, and tube tops; shirts that expose the midriff; pajamas. Bottoms need to cover buttocks.

Please see the handbook for full guidelines.



Prop 421

The Dysart Unified School District Governing Board has placed Proposition 421 on the November 3, 2026 ballot to maintain safe, functional learning environments and support continued growth. Learn the facts and make sure you are registered and ready to vote! To learn more about Proposition 421 visit

Dysart.org/Prop421





Did you know...

Every year Willow Canyon reviews student and teacher performance, survey feedback and other forms of data to help guide our course for the following year. We use this information to set goals that align with our mission, vision and values. Collectively, these drive all that we do to ensure a Winning Culture.

Mission - Vision - Values - Goals

MISSION: To provide a safe learning environment where students *WIN* everyday—mastering rigorous academics through strong *work ethic*, *innovative thinking*, and *noble character*.

VISION: Willow Canyon sets the standard as a premier high school relentlessly pursuing excellence and a winning culture.

VALUES: Winning Culture

Goal #1

Willow Canyon will achieve a 1.0 growth score from Aspire to ACT or 1.0 composite growth score.

Willow Canyon will increase AzSci proficiency rates by 1% and/or be above state average.

Goal #2

All collaborative teams at Willow Canyon will implement PLC processes with fidelity focusing on student learning, collaborative culture/collective responsibility and being results oriented.

Goal #3

Willow Canyon will implement Winning Culture values to increase the quality of relationships among staff, students, families and community as indicated on DUSD annual survey.



WILLOW CANYON™

HIGH SCHOOL

17901 W. Lundberg St., Surprise, AZ 85388

623.523.8000

