November 2026 Board FYI's

Van Alstyne High SchooL

We are extremely proud of our Special Education athletes who participated in the Region 10 Bocce Ball Games on October 22. VAHS was honored to host this event. Coach Miller, his staff, and many of our student-athletes volunteered throughout the day to help ensure a successful competition.

Van Alstyne FFA has been busy this fall, with several members and junior members competing at the State Fair of Texas. Thirteen exhibitors entered ten projects in the Agricultural Mechanics Project Show, earning the following honors:

- Hadley Epting placed third in the Shop Equipment class.
- Levi Lamar placed third in the Other Wildlife class.
- Charlie Perkins placed second in the Squeeze Chute class.
- Kadence Kolar and Jack Stiendorf placed second in the Panel Rack class, while Easton Marquez and Jacob Fincher placed first in the same class.
- Dylan Foley received a blue ribbon in the Outdoor Convenience class.
- Blake Foley and Lennox Lamar each received blue ribbons in their respective indoor item classes.
- Gracie Brown received a blue ribbon in the Outdoor class.

In the heifer show, Beth Wells placed first with her Shorthorn heifer, and John earned a commendable fifth-place finish with his. Charlee Gidney demonstrated her skills in the barrow show and represented Van Alstyne well.

Our welding teams have also been traveling to build-offs, gaining valuable experience and proudly representing our school:

- Easton Marquez, Landon Sawyer, Parker Rodriquez, and Jacob Fincher built a cooker at the San Antonio Build-Off.
- Hadley Epting, Kadence Kolar, Reagan Harris, and Camila Martinez built a fire pit at the Help-A-Child Build-Off.
- Parker Rodriquez, Jacob Fincher, Hadley Epting, and Kadence Kolar built a 12-foot flatbed trailer at the Houston Build-Off.

Two students represented our floral team at the Help-A-Child Floral Cup, where Graciela Cienfuegos placed ninth in the advanced division.

On November 3, our Leadership Development Event (LDE) teams will demonstrate their skills for parents and guests at our LDE Showcase. District competition will follow the next week.

Students have also been taking important steps toward their postsecondary goals. Thirty-two students took the SAT on October 1, seventy-two participated in on-campus ACT testing on October 15, and seventy-four took the PSAT on campus on October 27. It is exciting to see so many students pursuing opportunities to further their education beyond high school.

Our band will compete in the Region 25 UIL Area Marching Band Competition on October 31. We are very proud of our students' effort, growth, and performances this season and look forward to celebrating their results.

We invite you to join us for two upcoming events:

- **National Technical Honor Society Induction:** Sunday, November 8, at 4:30 p.m. in Panther Arena. Sixty-four students will be inducted in recognition of their hard work and excellence in career and technical education. This marks our fifth year with an NTHS chapter at VAHS, and participation continues to grow each year.

- **Bonfire Pep Rally:** Wednesday, November 11, at 6:00 p.m. behind Panther Stadium. Join us as we kick off the football playoffs!

As we enter this season of gratitude, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the continued support of our community, district administration, and School Board. It is a privilege to serve in a district that values excellence!

Thank you,
Krista Beal

Van Alstyne Junior High School

After an exciting October filled with House Games, pep rallies, athletics, fine arts performances, and opportunities to celebrate our students, we are looking forward to another wonderful month at VAJH! November will bring opportunities to give back, celebrate student accomplishments, strengthen attendance, and continue our focus on academic growth.

Our annual VAJH Canned Food Drive will run November 2–20! This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to demonstrate kindness, generosity, and compassion while supporting families in need. We look forward to seeing our Panthers come together to make a positive difference in our community. This tradition is a meaningful reflection of our campus motto, Work Hard, Be Kind!

On November 6, our students will participate in classroom spelling bees! This is an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their vocabulary and spelling skills while building

confidence and challenging themselves academically. We look forward to celebrating their preparation, determination, and willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Activities like these remind our students that academic achievement is something worth celebrating! December 11, we will have our school-wide Bee.

We are excited to continue our House Attendance Challenge, where our four Houses compete to earn the highest attendance rate every nine weeks. This friendly competition encourages students to recognize the importance of being at school every day while building House pride and teamwork.

Congratulations to House Busura, our first nine-week attendance champion, with 95.65%! As a reward, Busura students will enjoy a special movie afternoon during seventh and eighth periods on an upcoming school day.

Our goal is to make attendance something students take pride in while reinforcing the connection between consistent attendance, academic achievement, and student success.

Our Star Card rewards continue to recognize students for demonstrating positive behavior and making responsible choices. In November, we are adding freshly made popcorn to our rotation of special treat-day rewards! Along with hat days and other celebrations, these incentives provide fun ways to recognize students who consistently demonstrate our campus expectations.

November brings the excitement of junior high basketball! We look forward to watching our student-athletes demonstrate teamwork, determination, and Panther pride both on and off the court.

Our fine arts programs continue to provide wonderful opportunities for students to showcase their creativity and talents!

Our Art classes have begun displaying student artwork throughout the campus, transforming our hallways and common spaces into showcases of student creativity. It has been exciting to see our students' talents on display and to give them the opportunity to share their hard work with the entire campus. These displays not only brighten our school but also give students a sense of pride and ownership in their learning environment.

Our band students also have exciting opportunities ahead, including All-Region Band mock auditions on November 19 and a Band Movie & Game Night on November 20. These activities allow students to develop their talents, build confidence, and strengthen relationships with their peers.

We also look forward to continuing our partnership with the PALS program, with another campus visit scheduled for November 12.

As we begin the second nine weeks, our teachers will participate in focused data meetings to analyze first-quarter assessment results and identify instructional priorities. These conversations will help us celebrate areas of student growth, identify learning gaps, and determine which students need additional academic support.

Our emphasis will be on using data to make meaningful instructional decisions, strengthen classroom instruction, and develop targeted interventions. Through collaborative planning, classroom walkthroughs, and ongoing progress monitoring, we are working to ensure that every student receives the support needed to be successful.

Our Campus Improvement Team met to collaboratively develop goals for the 2026–2027 school year, with a strong emphasis on student academic growth and building a positive, supportive campus culture. Our conversations focused on identifying student needs, strengthening instructional practices, increasing student engagement and attendance, and ensuring that every student feels connected to our campus.

We are excited about the direction of our Campus Improvement Plan and the shared commitment of our staff, families, and community members to making VAJH the best it can be. These goals will help guide our decisions and keep us focused on continuous improvement throughout the school year.

We continue to recognize and celebrate the incredible staff who make VAJH special. November includes staff appreciation activities, such as a teacher luncheon and a special sundae day. These opportunities allow us to show appreciation for the dedication, creativity, and care our teachers bring to students every day.

As we approach Thanksgiving Break, November 23–27, we are especially grateful for the students, families, teachers, and community members who make VAJH such a wonderful place.

We are looking forward to a November filled with learning, leadership, generosity, and Panther pride!

Van Alstyne Middle School

Van Alstyne Middle School celebrated our amazing citizens during our Quarter 1 Premier Panther Assembly, recognizing students who exemplify positive character and our Panther PRIDE values. It was so nice to celebrate students and share the love with families and teachers.

Our team has completely revamped the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) to establish targeted, measurable goals that drive meaningful results in both academic achievement and campus improvement. Through ongoing collaboration and dedicated team meetings, we have worked to refine our strategies, strengthen our action steps, and ensure our goals align with the needs of our students. We are currently putting the final touches on the plan, with a strong focus on

accountability, measurable progress, and continuous improvement to ensure our efforts translate into positive outcomes for students, teachers, and families.

Academically, we are focused on analyzing Quarter 1 data with our teachers to identify individual TEKS, student needs, and targeted opportunities for growth. These collaborative conversations will help us refine instruction, address learning gaps, and build on our momentum as we continue working to ensure every student grows and achieves success.

We look forward to honoring the brave men and women who have served our country during our Veterans Day Program on November 11. Families and Board Members are invited to submit photos of veterans in their families, along with their names and relationships to students, for our school slideshow. We are grateful for the opportunity to recognize and celebrate their service and sacrifice and invite you to join us.

We are looking forward to several exciting opportunities to build school culture and strengthen student connections. Our first school social of the year is scheduled for November 13, and we anticipate a fun evening of building relationships, dancing, crafts, a short movie, making memories, and embracing those sometimes awkward middle school moments!

We are also preparing for our first Panther Harvest Day on the day before Thanksgiving break. During this campus-wide Thanksgiving celebration born out of this summer's TEA Civics training, each content area will plan engaging, curriculum-connected activities that celebrate Thanksgiving while incorporating historical context and relevance. Our goal is to create a meaningful experience that blends learning, tradition, and our school community while giving students an opportunity to celebrate the important season together.

Sanford Elementary School

As we move into November, our school remains deeply focused on academic growth, targeted student support, and keeping staff morale high. We recently finalized our Campus Improvement Plan, fully revamping our goals and strategies to ensure they are clear, actionable, and easily measurable throughout the school year. Following this, grade-level teachers completed dedicated data review meetings to create intentionally focused instructional plans that directly target our key growth areas. Additionally, we are collaborating closely with our Emergent Bilingual (EB) and Special Education (SPED) departments to build specialized support plans for teaching teams working with higher numbers of "bubble" students, ensuring every learner receives the targeted encouragement they need.

Beyond the classroom, this is a busy and spirited month on campus. Excitement is high as we prepare for our very first PTO Color Run fundraiser, and we are looking forward to seeing how much fun our students have during this fantastic community event. We are also prioritizing staff

appreciation with our 2nd Annual "Glory Days" week, where we revisit our team's high school memories and achievements through fun dress-up days and staff activities. To cap off the month's celebrations, we will host our annual staff Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday, November 18th, a cherished Sanford tradition that we are thrilled to continue.

Partin Elementary School

In October, we had a very active month. We launched "Power Hour," giving teachers an extra hour at the end of the day for planning, data analysis, and collaboration. We are concluding our data meetings with teachers, during which they developed personalized plans to enhance student growth. Based on the new data, we adjusted flex groups, and 3rd and 4th grades have started morning tutoring sessions for students. To improve the performance and learning of our SPED and EB students, our SPED and ESL teachers have joined the weekly planning and data meetings, allowing them to collaborate with homeroom teachers and integrate learning across all classrooms.Additionally, teachers had the chance to meet with parents to discuss their child's progress and grades, fostering important relationships.

Mr. V, our music teacher, and Mrs. Ceykovsky, our art teacher, teamed up to create an engaging neon under-the-sea music program for our 3rd graders. Mrs. Ceykovsky guided students in making neon sea creatures in art class to decorate the stage, while Mr. V worked with them on creative songs.

Events for Nov.

6th-Panther Pride Assembly 8:00 am

12th-4th grade Music Program 7:00 pm

13th-STEM Night hosted by Partin PTO 6:30-8:30

Williams Elementary School

October was a busy month at Williams as we launched our WIN and Power Hour structures, held first-quarter data meetings, distributed report cards, and connected with families during parent-teacher conferences. We wrapped up the month with plenty of fun, including Red Ribbon Week dress-up days, the PTO Book Fair, a staff pumpkin contest and “Halloweenie” hot dog lunch, and our October Panther PRIDE assembly.

We are proud to celebrate our October **Williams Way Teacher and Support Award recipients**:

Lauren Cook – Williams Way Teacher: Lauren brings a wealth of special education experience and a heartfelt commitment to advocating for students. She readily supports any student in need, shares helpful strategies with colleagues, and approaches challenges

with a calm, reassuring demeanor. Her willingness to serve extends beyond the classroom—she makes an amazing crossing guard, too! Thank you, Lauren, for the care, expertise, and positivity you bring to Williams each day!

Kim Wilcox – Williams Way Support: Kim works diligently behind the scenes to support Williams students. Her exceptional organization and commitment to best practices strengthen our ARD documentation and meeting processes. She collaborates closely with our special education team and serves as a dyslexia therapist while fulfilling her many diagnostician responsibilities. Thank you, Kim, for the expertise, dedication, and care you bring to our students and staff each day!

In November, we look forward to celebrating gratitude and honoring the veterans in our Williams community.

NOVEMBER
6 - Panther Readers
11 - Veteran's Day - Wear Red, White & Blue
11 - WES Veteran's Day Breakfast, 7:20-8:00 a.m. @ WES Cafeteria

Curriculum Director

November 2026

October was a month of turning first-quarter data into action. With first-quarter assessments completed October 8–14, the Curriculum & Instruction team spent the month reviewing student performance at the MAP, TIA, and subpopulation levels, including working sessions with principals on campus-specific data. Those conversations translated results into concrete next steps for each campus.

Supporting the people who carry that work forward was a second focus. Our instructional coaches met weekly throughout the month and completed dedicated coach and coordinator training on October 21, followed by the two-day Instructional Coaching Conference on October 27–28. New teachers remained a priority as well, with New Teacher Academy Day 3 held on October 29, continuing the district's structured support for early career teachers in their first year with VAISD.

Planning and accountability rounded out the month. The department continued tracking state accountability guidance and CCMR expectations through state sessions and webinars, aligning district practices with the direction coming from TEA.

The district hosted an EB and GT Parent Awareness Night this month as well.

Athletic Director:

Congratulations to Briley Parham and Rayanna Dech for qualifying for the Regional Cross Country Meet! Briley came very close to earning a return trip to state. We are very proud of both of these young ladies and their outstanding seasons.

Our volleyball team finished tied for second overall in district and will enter the playoffs as the No. 1 seed among our district's small-school qualifiers. We look forward to cheering them on in the postseason!

Our football team is currently in first place in district with two games remaining. The Panthers have already secured a spot in the state playoffs and are working to finish district play undefeated.

Our Unstoppable Athletes Bocce Ball event was a huge success! This was our largest bocce event yet, with more than 400 athletes and 100 student volunteers. Panther Stadium was filled with bocce courts to give all of our athletes an opportunity to compete. A huge thank-you to our Athletic Booster Club for once again feeding our guests and volunteers. These events are a blessing for our students, and hearing parents from other schools compliment our kids makes hosting them even more rewarding.

Our Fellowship of Christian Athletes hosted "Fields of Faith" this past Sunday at Panther Stadium. Students from several surrounding schools joined us for a fantastic evening with a large crowd of junior high and high school athletes. We appreciate Coach Hutchinson and Coach Land for their hard work organizing this event.

Our girls basketball teams began practicing last week, and our boys will begin October 28. We are also excited to see both of our new sports (soccer and wrestling) get started soon!

Thank you for all that you do for our kids and coaches.

Chief Financial Officer

We would like to welcome to the Business Office, Leah Taylor! She will be our new Accounts Payable Manager. Leah has been with us for a little over a year and has done an excellent job at Sanford Elementary as their Bookkeeper/Secretary. We are excited to have her in our office!

Our final audit and closeout for the 2025-2026 school year will be November 4th, 5th and 6th. Our outside auditor will attend our January Board Meeting to go over and finalize the 2025-2026 school year financials.

Things to Know:

Each year, Texas school districts are given a payment class type from TEA, using the Comptroller's property values estimates and ADA (Average Daily Attendance), to compare the district's wealth per student to the statewide average. This process places each district in Class 1, 2, or 3. Our district is currently in Payment Class 2 which means we receive State Funding payments in the following months from the state:

September through November, and then April through August we are receiving state funding payments.

During the months of December through March, we are collecting local tax funds.

Below is our current payment schedule:

Payment Class 2

TEA Payment Class Schedule

Current FSF Allotment	$16,922,973
Adjustments to Date	$0
Remaining Balance	$10,531,460

Month	% of Annual Entitlement	% Remaining	% of Unpaid Balance	Payment Amount	
September	22.0%	100.0%	22.0%	**$3,513,751**	Actual
October	18.0%	78.0%	23.1%	**$2,877,762**	
November	9.5%	60.0%	15.8%	*$1,663,971*	ESTIMATED
December	0.0%	50.5%	0.0%	*$0*	
January	0.0%	50.5%	0.0%	*$0*	
February	0.0%	50.5%	0.0%	*$0*	
March	0.0%	50.5%	0.0%	*$0*	
April	7.5%	50.5%	14.9%	*$1,321,256*	
May	5.0%	43.0%	11.6%	*$875,363*	
June	10.0%	38.0%	26.3%	*$1,754,439*	
July	13.0%	28.0%	46.4%	*$2,281,224*	
August	15.0%	15.0%	100.0%	*$2,635,207*	
September	SETTLE-UP				