

Eddie Ruth Lagway Elementary School
Principal: Kameron Wilder
11505 Pine Valley Drive, Willis, TX, 77318
Phone 936.228.7715

Dear Parents,

Welcome to E.R. Lagway Elementary. We are looking forward to a great school year educating your child(ren). We believe a partnership between home and school is necessary for the success of our students. Studies consistently show when school staff and families work together, students learn and perform better in school. We should work **together** to ensure your child becomes an independent, lifelong learner. Below are a few frequently asked questions we receive at the beginning of each school year I'd like to address:

Q: What time does school start and end?

A: Doors open at 8:00 AM. Our instructional day begins at 8:25 AM and ends at 3:55 PM. Tardies will be counted after 8:25 AM. Please make every effort to have your child here on time and in attendance all day long. Valuable instruction is missed when your child is not present. **For safety reasons, if you are picking your child up early, please do so before 3:30 PM. If you arrive after 3:30 PM, you'll be asked to wait in the car rider line until dismissal.** If you need assistance with care before or after school, we have an Early Bird program beginning at 6:30 AM and YMCA for after school care. For additional information, click [here](#).

Q: What if my child is absent?

A: Send a note and/or medical documentation explaining the absence within 72 hours. Your child will have the same number of days to make up their work as days absent. We are making every effort to encourage daily attendance. Incentives are in place, but we will also monitor attendance for participation in extracurricular activities. Students with more than **3 unexcused absences** will be monitored for progress and conduct. Please keep in mind it is a violation of the state compulsory attendance law if a student:

- Is absent from school on ten or more parts of the day within a six month period in the same school year
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of the day within a four week period

A complaint can be filed in the court of law against a parent that does not comply with the state compulsory attendance law. If you have questions regarding excused/unexcused absences and/or truancy, **please refer to the [WISD Student Handbook](#)**.

Q: Where do I find information about school lunch, menus, etc?

A: Please visit the Willis ISD website under the [Child Nutrition Department](#).

Q: What if I want to eat lunch with my child?

A: Our school enrollment is growing daily; therefore, our cafeteria tables are all full of students. To have lunch with your child, you will need to schedule a lunch date [here](#). We have limited seating in an area designated for parents and their child to eat lunch. Please make sure you check in with the receptionist using your driver's license and

receive a visitor sticker. If you are bringing lunch from outside the cafeteria, please provide lunch for **your child only**. Food allergies are becoming more prevalent, and we never want to take a chance with another classmate becoming ill.

Q: What if my child forgets his/her lunch?

A: A meal will be provided in the cafeteria, but you are welcome to drop off your child's lunch box as well. However, fast food lunch deliveries will not be accepted this year.

Q: What if I need to change my child's transportation?

A: Please put your change of transportation in writing by emailing lagwaytransportation@willisid.org **before 2:30 PM**. Be sure to include your child's full name and teacher's name. This will enable our office to make sure your child gets to the appropriate location for dismissal.

Q: What if my child needs to take medication at school?

A: Please speak with our school nurse in regards to medication. Appropriate documentation from your child's doctor is necessary for all prescriptions. Over-the counter medication must be discussed and dispersed by our school nurse. Students are NOT allowed to transport medication in their backpack. The clinic phone number is (936) 228-7726 or feel free to email hstranimier@willisid.org.

Q: What if I want to celebrate my child's birthday with the class?

A: The Willis community has great places to celebrate birthdays; however, our school is full of instructional minutes that do not allow for a lot of free time. If you'd like to invite the class to a birthday party, please send invitations for **all** classmates. We will make a special birthday announcement for your child and pass out a birthday pencil. **We ask that you do not send birthday cupcakes with icing, birthday cakes, balloons, etc. If you want to send something to share, individually packaged snacks are encouraged. As stated previously, food allergies are becoming more prevalent, and we never want to take a chance with another classmate becoming ill.**

Q: What do I need to do if I want to volunteer?

A: Parents are an integral part of our learning community. We are always seeking volunteers to help in various ways. Please go to the Willis ISD website under the **PARENTS** tab to fill out a [volunteer application](#). Once submitted, please check online frequently to make sure the background check is completed. We look forward to your participation in helping our school succeed.

I am looking forward to a great school year. I encourage you to visit our school and participate in the various activities we have throughout the school year. Please feel free to stop by or call (936) 228-7715 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Kameron Wilder
Principal