



Will Davis Elementary

• 2026 - 2027 •

**New Family
Information Packet**

Welcome!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Will Davis Elementary School community! We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to our school. At Davis, we are committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment where every child can thrive.

Our dedicated teachers and staff work tirelessly to foster a love of learning and to equip students with the skills they need to succeed. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for student success, and we encourage you to actively participate in your child's education.

In this packet, you'll find helpful information to get better acquainted with our school community, events, programs, and resources. Whether you're a first-time Davis Dolphin family or returning for another great year, we hope this guide supports a smooth and welcoming transition for your family.

We look forward to working with you to make your child's experience at Davis Elementary School a positive and rewarding one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Jenny Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jenny Daniels

Principal, Will Davis Elementary School



About Davis

Overview of our school and campus community.

The Davis Way

Our shared values and expectations for students and staff.

The Davis PTA Welcomes You to Davis

Learn how our PTA supports the school and how you can get involved

Welcome to Davis Club Events (Pre-K & Kindergarten)

Special events just for incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten families.

Annual Events at Davis Elementary

A month-by-month guide to our school traditions and major happenings.

Davis After-School Enrichment Opportunities

Information about optional extracurriculars offered on campus.

After-School Child Care

Details on child care options available after school hours.

Stay Informed About Class and School News & Events

How we communicate—Class Dojo, Dolphin Digest, social media, and more.

Attendance: A Key to Your Child's Success

Why attendance matters and how to build strong habits from day one.



About Davis

Will Davis Elementary opened in August 1992, as an elementary school serving kindergarten through fifth grade students in Northwest Austin. Davis serves families from Balcones Woods, Northwood, Angus Valley, Mesa Park, and areas of Great Hills. The school is named for Will Davis, who was a community leader, attorney, and State Board of Education member. Davis Elementary has distinguished itself in the Austin community as a school committed to student achievement through highly engaging, innovative instructional programs that focus on developing the whole child. Davis has attained the highest state and national recognition as well.

As a Davis Dolphin family, we invite you to join us in **Exploring New Frontiers**. With parents, teachers, and school administrators working in partnership, we know that every student's experience will include exposure to rigorous instruction and a deep sense of ownership and belonging in our 'One World' school. As part of our home-school partnership, we ask that you support our efforts in three key areas.

Encouragement

Encourage your child to demonstrate The Davis Way at home. This will allow for building positive relationships with peers and adults, enhancing each child's self-esteem, and learning at the highest levels.

Support

Support your child's teacher in whatever way you are able to. This may include attending parent-teacher conferences, making a commitment to work with your child at home in areas recommended by the teacher, and helping to prepare materials or assisting in the classroom.

Communication

Communicate to your child that effort creates ability. In putting forth the greatest amount of effort, students will see the results in the progress they make.

With all of us working together, we know that **Exploring New Frontiers** will take on a whole new meaning, as all students learn, grow, and blaze new trails at Davis.

The [Family Handbook](#) is another great resource if you're looking for more information about our school. It includes details on attendance, transportation, meals, arrival and dismissal, health services, school policies, and other important campus procedures.

MOTTO

Exploring New Frontiers

COLORS

Blue and Gold

MASCOT

Dolphin

SCHOOL SONG

Davis Dolphins, we are number one
Diving to new frontiers, makes learning
so much fun
Working together, we grow wise and bold
We are the blue, we are the gold
Soaring higher just to reach our quest
D-A-V-I-S, Davis Dolphins, we're the best!

HABITS OF CHARACTER

Kindness
Responsibility
Empathy
Perseverance
Curiosity

Will Davis Elementary School & PTA

🌟 Exploring New Frontiers 🌟

Our Vision

Together we cultivate curious, creative, and resilient learners and leaders in an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and inspires excellence.



Our Mission

We prepare every student with the knowledge and skills to thrive in college, career, and life.



SHARED VALUES

Joyful Learning: We believe that learning should be a joyful and engaging experience for all, fostering a love for education that lasts a lifetime.

Teaching the Whole Child: We are committed to nurturing the physical, emotional, and social well-being of every student, recognizing that education extends beyond academics.

Flexible, Accessible, and Adaptive Learning: We provide flexible and adaptive learning spaces and curricula, encouraging collaboration and creativity, accommodating the diverse needs of our students.

Fostering Relationships: We value and prioritize the development of strong relationships among students, staff, and families, fostering a sense of community and support.

Setting Authentic and Meaningful Goals: We empower students to take ownership in their learning and set measurable goals that are relevant to their growth and aspirations, ensuring they are motivated to achieve their objectives.

Real-World Connections: We provide students with the opportunity to engage in real-world experiences, connecting classroom lessons to practical applications and cultivating leadership skills.

Evidence-Based Practices: We use data to inform and drive our goals, ensuring that our decisions are based on evidence and aimed at improving student learning and outcomes.

Student Leadership for All: We believe in developing leadership skills in all students, regardless of age, empowering them to make a positive impact in their school and community.



The Davis Way

The Davis Way is the foundation of our school culture. It includes our Habits of Character and Graduate Profile Habits of Scholarship.

- **Habits of Character:** Kindness, Responsibility, Empathy, Perseverance, Curiosity
- **Habits of Scholarship:** Knowledgeable, Critical Thinker & Problem Solver, Reflective & Compassionate, Creator & Innovator, Culturally Competent Citizen

The Davis Way provides a framework for ensuring a safe, inclusive, and rigorous learning environment. All Davis staff model The Davis Way and work to empower students to develop and demonstrate The Davis Way every day. Students are recognized during class meetings and grade level assemblies for demonstrating behaviors and showing leadership that exemplify The Davis Way. Our **Dynamic Dolphin** and **Golden Dolphin** recognition programs publicly recognize and celebrate students who show the Davis Way.

GRADUATE PROFILE Habits of Scholarship

Knowledgeable

Demonstrates mastery of academic knowledge and skills necessary to succeed as a learner

Applies digital citizenship and technology skills

Critical Thinker & Problem Solver

Thinks independently to design and implement solutions to complex problems

Collects, analyzes, and evaluates information to explore questions and curiosities

Creator & Innovator

Imagines new possibilities and thinks in different ways to improve processes and products

Uses flexible thinking to explore multiple perspectives and solve open-ended challenges

Reflective & Compassionate

Communicates effectively and demonstrates respect and empathy toward others

Uses interpersonal skills to develop positive relationships

Regularly reflects to understand personal strengths, passions, and opportunities for growth

Culturally Competent Citizen

Respects and embraces own culture and the culture of others

Seeks multiple perspectives and cultural understanding

Contributes to inclusive and welcoming environment

The Davis PTA Welcomes You to Davis!



We're so glad your family is joining our school! The Davis PTA plays a big part in what makes this community special – and we can't wait to connect with you.

The mission of the **Davis Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** is to ensure that every student at Davis can reach their full potential through public education. The PTA supports students by building strong, collaborative relationships among parents, teachers, and the school administration.

We fulfill this mission in four key ways:



Community

Creating connections among families, staff, and students



Enrichment

Supporting programs that enhance student learning and experiences



Support for Students & Teachers

Providing resources, volunteers, and encouragement



Advocacy

Championing public education and the needs of our school community

We are a ground-up organization – it's our members who decide how to best support our Davis Dolphins. While it's important work, it's also a lot of fun! The PTA is a great way to meet people, make friends, and get involved in our vibrant Davis community.

[LEARN MORE](#) about how the PTA supports Davis Elementary.

2026–2027 Davis PTA Executive Board

President – Meghan Bevill

VP Engagement – Alex Holdway

VP Fundraising – Hayley Drey

VP Enrichment – Trisha Choe

VP Communications – Lauren Kerr

Treasurer – Catherine Maberry

Assistant Treasurer – Rachel Derr

Secretary – Liz McComas

Parliamentarian – Kayla Radford

Membership Chair – Andrea Troncoso

Volunteer Coordinator – Francisca Ricardo

Advocacy Chair – Megan Cermak

Teacher Representative – Kathryn Rosa

ACPTA Representative – Matt Abel

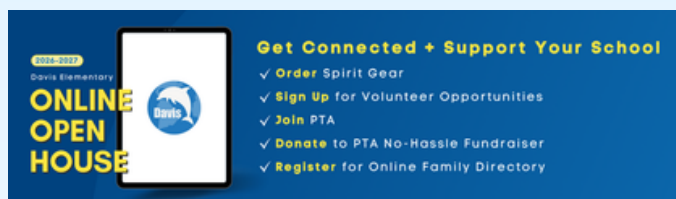
CAC Representative – Crystal Martinez

A great school like Davis needs a lot of awesome volunteers to run its many programs.

Visit [PTA Executive Board & Committee Directory](#) to become familiar with our list of PTA Board & Committees, including OPEN leadership positions we need to fill.

2026–2027 Online Open House

Everything you need to prepare for the new school year.



Scan Me!





Welcome to Davis Club

Incoming Pre-K & Kindergarten Students

To help ease the transition for incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten students and their families, we invite you to join the [Welcome to Davis Club](#)! This program offers fun, engaging events where students can meet future classmates—and parents can connect with Davis families.

Be sure to sign up for the [Welcome to Davis Club email list](#) to stay updated on all the exciting things to come. We're so happy to welcome you into the Davis community!

2026 Welcome to Davis Club Events

(for families joining the 2026–2027 school year)

New Parent Information Session & Tour

Tuesday, March 25 | 5:30–6:30 PM | Davis Cafeteria

An informational session and campus tour for new parents.

Davis Discovery Day

Tuesday, April 2 | 9:45 AM–12:00 PM | Davis Elementary

A fun-filled morning for incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten families featuring registration help, story time in the library, visits to Art, Music, and PE, a student-led campus tour, brunch in the cafeteria, a signing table, photo ops, and Davis swag!

Incoming Pre-K & Kindergarten Playdates

Students can meet future classmates—and parents can connect with Davis families.

Sunday, March 29 | 2:00–4:00 PM | Davis Playground

Sunday, April 19 | 2:00–4:00 PM | Davis Playground

Sunday, May 17 | 2:00–4:00 PM | [Balcones District Park](#)

Tuesday, August 4 | 12:30–2:00 PM | [Aviator Pizza](#)

Davis Kindercamp

Tuesday, August 4 | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM | Davis Elementary

Incoming kindergarteners are invited to a morning session with Davis teachers to explore classrooms, learn routines, and enjoy time on the playground.

Splash Into Davis: Welcome to Kinder Pool Party

Saturday, August 15 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM | Balcones Woods Neighborhood Pool

A back-to-school pool party for incoming kindergarteners to meet new friends! This event is for kindergarten families only.

Boo-Hoo / Ya-Hoo New Parent Reception

Tuesday, August 18 (First Day of School) | 7:45–8:15 AM | Davis Meadow

Join fellow new parents after drop-off for our annual Boo-Hoo/Ya-Hoo Reception. Look for the table with balloons and tissues. Light refreshments will be served.

Annual Events at Davis Elementary



Below is an approximate timeline of annual events at Davis Elementary School. Since dates may vary from year to year, please watch for updates on exact dates via ClassDojo, the Davis PTA website, the Dolphin Digest Newsletter, and PTA social media.

Regularly Scheduled Events

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings (every other month): The PTA supports Davis by fostering volunteerism and strengthening connections between parents, teachers, and school administration. PTA Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, beginning in September (Sept, Nov, Jan, March & May).

Campus Advisory Council (CAC) Meetings (monthly): The CAC is a collaborative council of the principal, teachers, campus staff, district staff, parents, and community members that helps set campus goals and strategies. Meetings are typically held the first Thursday of each month.

Spirit Events: Held at local venues throughout the year, these events invite families to gather for food or fun while supporting the school. A portion of proceeds is donated to the Davis PTA.

Campus Clean-Up Days: Organized by the Campus Beautification Committee, these Saturday morning events invite parents to help with outdoor projects.

Principal Coffees: These informal meetings provide parents an opportunity to discuss campus initiatives with the principal while enjoying coffee. Each session has a set topic, with time for open discussion.

AUGUST

Kindercamp: Free 3-hour transition camp for incoming kindergarteners, led by Davis kindergarten teachers. Includes classroom activities, a school tour, and outdoor recess.

Welcome to Davis Club – Splash into Davis Kinder Pool Party: Incoming kindergarteners can meet new friends at the Balcones Woods Neighborhood Pool before school starts.

Meet the Teacher & Ice Cream Social: Meet your child's teacher and classmates, drop off supplies, pick up or purchase spirit gear, and enjoy a sweet treat to kick off the year!

First Day of School: 7:40am-3:10pm

Welcome to Davis Club – Boo-Hoo/Yahoo New Parent Reception: New parents are invited to gather after drop-off on the first day—whether you're shedding a tear or celebrating!

New Family Orientation: Welcome event and Q&A session for new Davis families, including a campus tour.

SEPTEMBER

Back to School Night: Visit your child's classroom, meet the teacher, and learn about routines and expectations. Parents are encouraged to make childcare arrangements.

Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Party: Launch event for the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) volunteer program.

Labor Day: Student & Staff Holiday

OCTOBER

Parent-Teacher Conference Day: Student Holiday

School Pictures: Individual yearbook portraits; Retakes will be about six weeks later.

Dolphin BOO! Fest: Our annual fall carnival with games and activities for the whole family.

Fun Fall Assembly: A school-wide dance event for students and staff.

NOVEMBER

International Week: Kicks off with a Family Culture Fair, where families share their heritage through interactive displays. Classrooms explore global cultures with grade-level activities.

Turkey Trot: Students participate in a Fun Run by grade level.

Night of Reflections: A PTA-sponsored event celebrating student artists.

Fall Break: Week-long student & staff holiday the week of Thanksgiving.

Annual Events at Davis Elementary

DECEMBER

Book Fair: A week-long book sale with a special Family Night.

Grandparents' Lunch: Grandparents are invited to join students for lunch in a decorated gym, typically during Book Fair week.

Winter Break: Two-week student & staff holiday

JANUARY

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Student & Staff Holiday

Family Fitness/SEL Night: A carnival-style family event promoting fitness and wellness, featuring teacher-led activities and social-emotional learning experiences.

Science Fair Awards & Exhibition Night: An evening event showcasing student science fair projects.

FEBRUARY

Parent-Teacher Conference Day: Student Holiday

School Pictures: Class group photos and optional outdoor individual portraits.

MARCH

The Big To-Do: An adult-only, off-site fundraising event featuring music, and live/silent auctions.

Spring Break: Week-long student & staff holiday

Welcome to Davis Club – Playground Playdate: Incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten students meet future classmates while parents connect.

Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta Day: Student & Staff Holiday

APRIL

Davis Players 5th Grade Drama Club Performance: 5th graders perform a play they've worked on all year.

Davis Discovery Day: Fun-filled morning for incoming PK and kindergarten students including art/music/PE activities, library story time, brunch in the cafeteria, tour of the campus, kindergarten signing table & photo op, and enrollment assistance.

Volunteer Appreciation Week & Luncheon: Celebrating the contributions of Davis volunteers.

Welcome to Davis Club – Playground Playdate: Incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten students meet future classmates while parents connect.

MAY

M.A.R.E. (Marine Activities, Resources and Education): Davis is transformed into an ocean-themed learning environment. Each grade explores a different marine topic.

Ocean Olympics Field Day: A school-wide field day with ocean-themed athletic events.

Welcome to Davis Club – Playground Playdate: Incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten students meet future classmates while parents connect.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: A week of gratitude, cards, and treats for our teachers.

Davis Day of Service: Each grade level identifies a campus improvement project, then plans and completes it with the help of parent volunteers.

College & Career Week: A week to explore career paths and higher education.

Spirit Week: A week of themed dress-up days and fun activities.

5th Grade Celebration & Talent Show: Celebrating 5th-grade accomplishments, including a talent show and a Davis alumni scholarship award.

Last Day of School Celebrations!

Davis After-School Enrichment Opportunities

Davis Sponsored

- **A+ Academic UIL Competition (2nd–5th):** Competition in story-telling, spelling, number sense, or oral reading. This year's event options may be different. Teams form in November and prepare for the competition December-February. The meet takes place on a Saturday in late January or early February.
- **Davis Players Drama Club (5th grade):** Look for monthly introductory workshops Sept-Nov. Weekly rehearsals run Jan-April, with performances in mid-April.
- **Davis Yearbook Art Contest (PreK–5th):** Entries are due in late October.
- **Math Pentathlon (K–5th):** Each 2-grade division plays 5 games to develop math skills. Clubs meet weekly starting in October. Tournaments take place in March or April.
- **Reflections Art Program (PreK–5th):** Express the annual theme through dance, film, literature, music, photography, or visual art. Entries are due in October, with the campus show in November.
- **Safety Patrol (5th grade) Volunteers:** Help with arrival & dismissal. Interested students sign up at the end of 4th grade.
- **Science Fair (K–5th):** Informational and exploratory events begin in September. Entries are due in January, with project presentations, exhibits, and awards later that week. The regional Science Fair is in February.
- **Welcome to Davis Club (incoming Pre-K & Kindergarten students and their families):** Events begin in late February prior to the incoming school year. Fun and engaging events and opportunities for incoming students to meet future classmates, and for parents and guardians to meet Davis parents.

Private Providers & Outside Organizations

Program offerings change from year to year. Below is a sampling of previous classes offered.

- **Cub Scouts & Girl Scouts:** Troops form in August/September.
- **Young Rembrandts (1st–5th):** Drawing classes offered after school at Davis in the fall.
- **Sticky Fingers:** Cooking classes offered after school at Davis.
- **iKids U:** After school classes include Art, Brain Games, Weebotics, Jr. Chefs, Sewing, Chess, Spanish, and Jr. Science. One on one lessons for guitar, piano, and tutoring are also offered.





After-School Child Care



On Campus After School Care

Third Base: AISD's Third Base provides care where children can learn, thrive, relax and have fun. All indoor and outdoor activities are conducted in a way that is organized, safe, fun and challenging to children. Third Base is open to all students at Davis. Admission is on a first-come first-served basis. Fee assistance is available for qualifying families. Third Base is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. All staff are trained in CPR/First Aid and receive training in child care related fields. For more information, call 512-414-0220 or visit www.austinisd.org/third-base.

iKids U: iKids U is an on-site, customizable, after-school program. Following the school day, students have the opportunity to participate in an optional Enrichment program, One on One instruction, or they can take part in the daily Stay & Play program. In addition to the activities, students may also enjoy snack-time, recreation, and homework assistance. iKids U offers a variety of flexible after-school arrangements. Conveniently located at Davis, iKids provides several program options tailored to fit the needs and interests of all students and families. iKids offers part-time to full-time options up to five days a week, with different activity choices for every day of the school week. For more information, call 512-265-7733 or visit www.ikidsuniversity.com.

Off Campus After School Care

After school care providers may change from year to year. Below is a list of current after school care providers.

Asian American Cultural Center

11713 Jollyville Rd.
(on the Frog bus route)
512-336-5069

Club Z

12885 N HWY 183, Suite 200
512-219-0700

Children's Courtyard- MoPac

12336 N. MoPac Expressway
512-339-0727

Children's Courtyard

6801 Dallas Dr.
512-335-6553

Cadence Academy

12223 Cassady
512-834-9526

Country Home

13120 US Hwy. 183N
512-331-1441

Stepping Stone

7700 West Parmer Lane
512-336-5237

Kids Connection

7300 Hart Lane
512-735-8050, 512-423-1173



Stay Informed About School News & Events



Davis Elementary School Website

Official school information, staff directory, registration, district resources, and campus news.

davis.austinschools.org



Davis Elementary PTA Website (PTA-Sponsored)

PTA programs and events, the School & PTA Calendar, the Dolphin Digest, Online Open House, volunteer opportunities, spirit gear, membership, donations, and more.

davisdolphins.org



ClassDojo

Stay connected with your child's teacher and receive classroom and school updates through ClassDojo. Your child's teacher will provide instructions for joining. You'll receive updates from teachers, administrators, counselors, the librarian, and the PTA, and can message school staff directly through the app. Posts and messages can also be translated into more than 35 languages.

classdojo.com



Will Davis Elementary School & PTA
Dolphin Digest Email

Dolphin Digest Newsletter (PTA-Sponsored)

The Dolphin Digest is a weekly email newsletter featuring school and PTA news, upcoming events, and other important reminders—all in one convenient place.

davisdolphins.org/digest



Facebook (PTA-Sponsored)

Follow us on Facebook for PTA news, event reminders, photos, and community updates.

facebook.com/DavisElementaryPTA



Instagram (PTA-Sponsored)

Follow us on Instagram for PTA news, event reminders, photos, and community updates.

instagram.com/willdavispta



X

Follow us on X for quick school announcements, reminders, and campus highlights.

x.com/willdaviselem



Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day or part of the day of school misses learning. The school also loses funding when your child is absent. Did you know that Texas is one of only a few states that funds public education by daily attendance, not enrollment? Excellent attendance not only helps your child to be successful, but also helps increase our budget.

Davis lost \$371,000.00 due to absences last school year.

Research shows that children who are in school most of the time perform at a higher level on state tests and in overall achievement. Studies also show that kids who are absent more often score lower on state tests and often have difficulty mastering grade level curriculum.

Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Children can copy notes or make up assignments, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background—one that can only be gained through **regular school attendance**.

Here's how you can improve your child's school attendance:

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day
- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed
- Lead by example. If children see parents taking off work for no real reason, they may expect to be able to do the same thing
- Log in to your [Parent Portal](#) account to monitor your student's attendance and view grades and report cards.

We look forward to having a great school year at Davis Elementary! Please let us know if we can do anything to support you and your child in efforts toward arriving at school before 7:40 a.m. and attending school each day!



Kindergarten Teachers' Top 10 List

1. Please send your child to school in clothes that promote independence. Overall straps, zippers and buttons can be tricky, so please make sure your child can manage any clothing worn to school.
2. Tennis shoes are the preferred footwear. Velcro is extremely helpful at this time of year. Gym classes, the playground, and tiled hallways are just a few of the reasons we love sneakers.
3. Your child will need a kid-sized backpack (not a toddler-sized backpack). Please purchase a backpack that is big enough to hold folders and oversized library books. Make sure your child can open it.
4. Your child will need a refillable water bottle. We recommend water bottles with no-spill, closable spouts.
5. We encourage you to enjoy the convenience of pre-ordering school supply kits from the PTA.
6. Your child will need one set of headphones. Please do not send earbuds, headphones with volume control, headphones with batteries, or Bluetooth headphones. The simpler, the better.
7. Label everything. You would be surprised how many children won't claim their own sweaters, jackets, water bottles, backpacks, and lunch boxes.
8. It is very helpful if your child is independent in opening and closing their lunch containers. Check with your campus for other suggestions for lunch.
9. The kindergarten expectation is that children are independent in their toileting needs. You are welcome to send an extra set of clothes/underwear in a zip-top bag labeled with your child's name in case of an accident.
10. Prepare for feelings of separation anxiety on the parts of both child and parent. Our kindergarten teachers are prepared to lovingly handle your child's feelings.

[Learn more on Separation Anxiety.](#)