

A Welcome Back Message from the Superintendent

Welch Parents and Families,

The countdown is on! A new school year is almost here, and I could not be more excited to welcome our students, staff, and families back to Welch Public Schools.

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year. It represents a fresh start filled with new opportunities, new friendships, new goals, and memories waiting to be made.

Throughout the summer, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to prepare our campuses, classrooms, buses, athletic facilities, and learning environments so that every student walks into a school they can be proud of. We believe every child deserves exceptional opportunities in outstanding schools, and I cannot wait for you to see everything that has been accomplished across our district, beginning with our **Wildcat Welcome on Tuesday, August 11, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

As we continue moving Welch Public Schools forward, I would like to share a few important updates to help your family prepare for a successful school year while highlighting the tremendous progress made this summer.

Wildcat Website & School App

Our district website and school app should be your first stop as we prepare to welcome students back. They contain everything families need to begin the school year with confidence, including:

- School supply lists
- Registration information
- Athletic schedules
- Child Nutrition information and monthly menus
- District calendar
- Parent communications
- Live district news feed
- Important documents and forms

New This Year: Rooms

One of our most exciting additions this school year is **Rooms**, our new districtwide parent and student communication platform.

Rooms will provide one convenient location for communication between parents and teachers, coaches, sponsors, administrators, and school staff. Instead of downloading multiple apps, student and families will simply use the Welch Public Schools app to stay connected with every aspect of their student's education—from elementary classrooms to high school activities and athletics.

More information about Rooms will be shared in the coming days.

To download our school app, search "**Welch Public Schools, Okla**" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Join Us for Wildcat Welcome

I encourage every family to attend our annual **Wildcat Welcome** on **Tuesday, August 11, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers and administrators, tour your child's school, drop off school supplies, pick up class schedules, receive transportation information, visit Child Nutrition, Johnson O'Malley (JOM), and other district departments and complete enrollment if you have not already done so.

We are also excited to celebrate the **Grand Opening of our brand-new Welch Activity Center (The W.A.C.)!**

Summer Improvements Across the District

Our facilities have experienced a remarkable transformation designed to create learning environments that reflect excellence, pride, and opportunity.

Improvements include fresh paint throughout district buildings, updated district branding, newly stripped and waxed floors throughout every campus.

The highlight of our summer projects is the completion of the **Welch Activity Center (The W.A.C.)**.

This outstanding new facility features beautiful maple hardwood flooring, six automated adjustable basketball goals for all ages, expanded storage and office space, a FEMA-rated storm shelter to protect students and staff during severe weather and serves as an indoor batting cage. The W.A.C. represents another significant investment in our students and community for generations to come.

Our brand-new digital sign that will be located on the West side of the school along Hwy 2 is being installed now and should be operational very soon. This project was funded by the Welch Education Foundation and Charles & Barbara Stoner. We are so excited to have this addition to our school. Thank you to the Education Foundations members, community stakeholders that donated and to Charles & Barbara Stoner for their generous donation to complete this project.

Districtwide Technology Update

You may recall that in April, our Board of Education approved the district's transition away from the one-to-one Chromebook initiative.

Beginning this school year, Chromebooks will no longer be checked out to students for individual use. Instead, classroom devices will be available to support instruction, student projects, and teacher-directed learning activities.

This decision reflects our commitment to maintaining effective instructional practices while being responsible stewards of district resources. By transitioning to classroom-based technology, we will encourage more focused, teacher-guided instruction, increase collaborative learning experiences, reduce distractions associated with individual device use and promote critical thinking, communication, and hands-on learning

Safety Remains Our Highest Priority

The safety of our students and staff continues to be our highest priority. This summer, the district completed extensive LED lighting upgrades around our campuses, athletic facilities, and transportation areas to strengthen campus security and improve nighttime visibility. We will continue making intentional investments that create safe, welcoming schools where students can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching.

Stay Connected

I encourage every family to download our school app and follow Welch Public Schools on **Facebook, Instagram, and X** throughout the school year.

These platforms are the best way to stay informed about district news, student achievements, athletic events, celebrations, and everything happening across Wildcat Nation.

New Oklahoma Laws Affecting Schools

As we prepare for another exciting year, we also want to keep families informed about several new Oklahoma laws that will impact schools statewide. The **Bell to Bell No Cell** policy is now permanent. Students are expected to keep personal electronic devices stored in their assigned lockers or vehicles during the instructional day unless an approved exception applies. This change is designed to reduce classroom distractions, increase student engagement, support a more focused learning environment

Elementary Recess

Elementary students will continue receiving 40 minutes of daily recess as schools across Oklahoma adjust schedules to meet new instructional time requirements. Welch Public Schools has already made these adjustments to ensure students receive both meaningful instructional time and opportunities to be active.

Fentanyl Education

Middle and high school students will participate in annual education regarding the dangers of fentanyl and drug poisoning as part of a statewide effort to increase awareness and promote student safety.

The future of Welch Public Schools has never been brighter. Together, we are building schools that inspire learning, support outstanding educators, strengthen our community, and prepare students for success long after graduation.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and partnership. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back on **Thursday, August 13**, for the first day of school as we begin another incredible year together.

Here's to an outstanding **2026–2027 school year!**

Go Wildcats!

Jeremy Ramsey, Superintendent
Welch Public Schools