



Wiregrass Ranch High School
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Principal – Robyn White
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Assistant Principal: Christy Rankin • Assistant Principal: Allison Taylor
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Next week, your child has the opportunity to participate in a survey to assess the overall school culture at his/her school. In order to gain a full understanding of school culture, we are asking all students at the school to complete a 15-minute survey that will help us identify the following areas of school culture: Academic Emphasis and Excellence; Communitary; Holistic Development; Administration and Governance; and Organizational Identity. Students will be asked to complete a number of items that help us to understand each of these categories, including an optional question about their religious affiliation. Surveys will be completed online and during school time and there is no cost associated with participation.

There is no direct benefit to your child for allowing their data to be used in this study, but results from this study may provide valuable information to the school about the current state of the school culture and what areas may be highlighted for improvement. This study is being conducted by educational researchers at the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Education Policy. The surveys will be administered by teachers and analyzed by the Institute for Education Policy at no cost to the participating schools. The Institute for Education Policy will use the results to better understand how school culture operates across many kinds of schools.

There are no foreseeable risks to your child for including their survey responses in our study. All responses are strictly confidential and will only be analyzed by researchers at JHU. School and district personnel will not have access to individual survey responses. Your child may refuse to participate and still receive any benefits as if he/she were still in the study. You may change your mind about participating in the survey at any point prior to the survey being administered. Once the survey has been administered, it will not be possible to identify any individual respondent.

Absolute anonymity cannot be guaranteed in the case of small schools where only a handful of students fit into identified subgroups. However, no names, birthdates, or addresses will be attached to any responses.

In addition to asking students about their opinions and experiences, the research team will also provide surveys for teachers, administrators, and parents to complete. Next week, the school will be sending you a voluntary survey requesting your valued opinions about school culture. You will receive additional details about that survey when you receive it from us via email next week.

For additional information about this survey, please contact Dr. Ashley Berner at Ashley.berner@jhu.edu. If you would like to receive a copy of the student survey, please respond to this letter accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding the rights of research participants, please contact the Homewood Institutional Review Board at Johns Hopkins University at (410) 516-6580.