



Italy Independent School District

Department Board Report

Meeting Date: March 23, 2026

MISSION: The mission of Italy ISD is to maintain a safe and caring environment by partnering with families and the community to inspire lifelong learning for intellectual and personal success for all students.

VISION: Italy ISD will be a district that sees every child and creates a diverse learning environment to prepare them for an ever-changing world.

Department: Italy High School

Name of Director or Presenter: Sharon Graves

Date: March 23, 2026

Celebrations:

- Currently have 298 students enrolled
- We will hit the ground sprinting as we return from Spring Break. The reality of everything that has to be completed in a very short time has definitely set in. The reality that we have state testing, multiple UIL competitions, prom, end of the year banquets, and GRADUATION coming very soon can be quite overwhelming if we stop long enough to think about it all. It is quite exciting to see Seniors see the reality set in that we really only have 9 weeks left before graduation. They will be receiving cap and gowns very soon and are also enjoying some time off campus enjoying each other on some field trips and lunch off campus once a week for those who have earned it.
- We have more exciting Gladiator accomplishments in power lifting, with 3 young ladies qualifying for the state Power Lifting Meet. Three seniors that set their goals last spring to make this a repeat trip! We couldn't be prouder!
- We are excited to say that we will have a large group participating in UIL academics this year. Academic UIL competition is March 27.
- Teachers are making final preparations for STAAR that include blitz opportunities and small group instruction opportunities as we push into the testing season.
- We continue to have success with Friday school opportunities that allow for STAAR/EOC prep and attendance recovery. Students seem to enjoy the small group preparation for STAAR that they receive each Friday.
- As we move toward the end of the school year, monitoring student social emotional health continues to be a priority. Anxiety builds with Seniors who may be uncertain of next steps, and anxiety builds with students who may be uncertain what summer may hold for them.
- I continue to have meetings with Tour de Italia in planning the bike race for June 20. This organization pours a lot of money into our students and community. They are quite appreciative of the work our staff, students and community pour into this event.
- It continues to be an exciting time to be a Gladiator as students continue to compete in so many UIL events. The Gladiator Band continues to shine as they brought home all 1's in competition and had several qualify for state honors in solo and ensemble. This marks 14

consecutive years of Sweepstake for our Gladiator Band! Our FFA students will be winding down a season of shows as they show in the Ellis County stock show March 23-April 4. We have students that will be showing cattle, lambs, goats, and pigs. Ag mech and floral design will also be competing. Students have already received many honors at previous shows, and we are excited to see where their show season ends. Baseball and softball are into district play. Track for both high school and junior high is well underway. As you can see, our students are busy, but good things are happening with the Gladiators!

- ❑ We continue to provide opportunities for students to participate in ACT, TSI, and dual credit meetings with Navarro College.
- ❑ The challenge for us as the end of the year comes is to stay focused and breathe. We can easily get overwhelmed, or we can continue to take one step at a time and do what Gladiators do!

Notable upcoming Gladiator Events

We have a master event calendar that is shared within the campus to know what is happening in the building and on the campus each day. This calendar includes games, practices, band competitions, CAP activities, FFA activities, and other campus events.

- District Track Meet in Italy - April 1 & 2
- Jr. High District Track Meet in Kerens - March 23
- English I EOC/8th ELA STAAR - April 7
- English II EOC/7th ELA STAAR - April 8
- Biology EOC/8th Science STAAR - April 14
- US History EOC/8th Social Studies STAAR - April 15
- Algebra 1 EOC/7th Math STAAR - April 21
- 8th Math STAAR - April 22
- Prom - April 11 at Rancho San Augustin in Italy
- Baseball & Softball games weekly
- TELPAS testing is completed
- NHS/NJHS Induction - April 19
- Ellis County Livestock Activities - March 30-April
 - Ag Mech - March 23 @ 8:00 AM
 - Breeding Rabbits - March 30 @ 10:00 AM
 - Breeding Breeding Heifer - April 2 @ 11:00 AM
 - Broilers/Market - March 31 @ 9:00
 - Ag Mech build off - March 30 @ 8:00 AM
 - Goats/Lambs - March 31 @ 12:00/3:00
 - Swine - April 1 @ 12:00
 - Steers - April 2 @ 3:00
 - Day in the Ring - April 3 @ 9:00
 - Sale - April 4 @ 12:00