



## GORZYCKI MIDDLE SCHOOL'S SPECIAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION

7412 West Slaughter Lane    Main Office: 512-841-8600    <https://gorzycki.austinschools.org/>

# WELCOME BACK GMS TIGERS!

Dear Gorzycki Families,

I hope everyone had a fun-filled summer and is looking forward to another school year. Gorzycki students and staff had some amazing opportunities this summer. Almost 90% of our incoming 6th graders participated in the 6th-grade transition camp with 30 of our current Tigers volunteering as Camp Counselors. The GMS Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall directed by our own Mrs. Shelby Dickey. Another 97 of us toured Italy. These are amazing experiences, and I am so proud that this is something that we offer our students.

A WELCOME LETTER FROM  
PRINCIPAL MITCHELL



There are some exciting changes for the upcoming school year. GMS is returning to an 8-period day. Before COVID and the required safety changes, GMS had an 8-period a day schedule. Students will also have four electives as well as time for EXCEL. These are positive changes and will benefit the students greatly.

As you have noticed from the information sent out, GMS has/had many openings. In the next few days, we will send information about these new staff members. Please help me welcome them to the Gorzycki Family.

There have been some Legislative updates over the summer that will impact schools. GMS will host grade-level parent meetings on Friday, August 11th, to not only discuss some of these changes but to discuss reminders about the upcoming year. I encourage you to attend these sessions. (agenda)

6th grade parent meeting: 9am (see page 7 for Zoom Invite)

7th grade parent meeting :10am(see page 7 for Zoom Invite)

8th grade parent meeting :11am(see page 7 for Zoom Invite)



Dr. Cathryn Mitchell  
Gorzycki Middle School  
Principal

# Meet our Tiger Support Team Administrators



**Ms. Sabrina Sage**  
**6th Grade Assistant Principal**  
**[sabrina.sage@austinisd.org](mailto:sabrina.sage@austinisd.org)**

Welcome 6th Grade to a new world of possibilities. My name is Sabrina Sage and I will be your assistant principal for the 2023/2024 year. I know some of you might be a little nervous about starting the new school year at a new school, but never fear, you have so much support at your fingertips. At Gorzycki, you have your very own assistant principal, me, and your very own counselor, Ms. Oh. We are here to help, support, and answer any questions you might have. On top of that, there are many students and organizations that will be here with open arms to get you adjusted to a new school. But you are probably wondering, “who is this lady, and why did I not see her at camp?”

Well, here is a little secret, I was absent because I just became a first time mommy. I have a 6 month old now and his name is Hendricks. So, just like you, I have recently taken a new pathway in my life that has its challenges, but is super rewarding. I have plenty of pictures in my office if you want to come and see all of his cuteness.

As an assistant principal at GMS, an area that I am very passionate about is social emotional learning. This is learning about your emotions and having empathy for others. Last year, with the help of our students, we created a SEL committee that is run by the students. If you too are passionate about social emotional learning, let me know, as we will be looking for 6th graders to join our team.

August 14th is right around the corner. Just remember to breathe and know that there are plenty of people that are eager to help you. I am super-duper excited to start this journey with you. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact me, [Sabrina.Sage@austinisd.org](mailto:Sabrina.Sage@austinisd.org) or 512-841-8600 ext. 70728



**Mrs. Jamie Thill**  
**7th Grade Assistant Principal**  
**[jamie.thill@austinisd.org](mailto:jamie.thill@austinisd.org)**

Hey, 7th grade! Welcome back to another exciting school year. Man, that first year went by fast! I hope this letter finds you well and refreshed. I am thrilled to continue serving as your Assistant Principal and am excited to embark on a new school year together.

As you return from your well-deserved summer break, I want to remind you of the immense potential that lies within each of you. Your unique talents, passions, and perspectives are what make our school community vibrant and dynamic. 7th grade is the perfect year to try something new! We have so many sports teams, clubs, and elective classes to choose from. This year, I encourage you to embrace your individuality, challenge yourself, and seize every opportunity that comes your way.

I can't wait to see you back on campus soon and my door is always open if you need anything. Together, we will celebrate achievements, support one another through setbacks, and create cherished memories that will last a lifetime. Let's have a fantastic year!



**Mr. Benjamin Summers**  
**8th Grade Assistant Principal**  
**[benjamin.summers@austinisd.org](mailto:benjamin.summers@austinisd.org)**

Hello 8th Grade! You've made it!!! You are **FINALLY** the top dogs on campus. How does that feel?!? I cannot believe that we are going on 3 years together. Wow, how time flies. This year is particularly special for me because, as a 4th year Assistant Principal, you all are my first class that I have been with from start to finish, 6th through 8th grades. It's been amazing to witness how much you all have grown and accomplished in our time together and I can't wait to see what comes next. For those of you that are new to **GMS**, I have been a Tiger since 2014 when I began my career here as a math teacher. I moved into administration in 2020 (during Covid, no less!) and I have a passion and enthusiasm for learning, an affinity for positive behavior and accountability, and a strong focus on communication and efficiency.

Each year, I like to pick areas of focus. Because I think it is so important, I am carrying one over from last year: **The Assumption of Positive Intent**. Whenever we face an obstacle, I think it is crucial to recognize that we are on the same team and working towards the same goal--- successful, independent students that will be our future leaders. In fact, to take it a step further, I would like to emphasize the importance of healthy, collaborative tension this year. When we approach a situation from two very different perspectives, if we do so in a respectful and collaborative way, we can typically reach a solution that is more effective and more imaginative than if we had done so individually.

My second focus this year is on laughter and having fun. The 8th grade year can be such a busy and intense one---lots of planning for high school, being the star of "fill-in-the-blank" extracurricular activity, a strong focus on independent learning. But, at the end of the day, if we can't take some time to laugh at ourselves and appreciate the wonderful friends, family members, and community that we get to be a part of, then what's it all for? The point is, despite the fact that you are the top dogs, you are still in middle school and you have some room for error. You will still make mistakes and that's okay. Learning is a process (even for us grown-ups!), so cut yourselves some slack and enjoy your final year at **GMS**.

With that in mind, I am extremely excited to begin Act III of the Gorzycki journey with you. Please know that my door (actual or digital) is always open. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at [benjamin.summers@austinisd.org](mailto:benjamin.summers@austinisd.org) or via phone at my new number: (512) 841-8600 ext.70539.

# Counselors



**Corinne Oh, 6th Grade Counselor**  
**corinne.oh@austinisd.org**



**Patti Hodges, 7th Grade Counselor**  
**patti.hodges@austinisd.org**



**Carrie Ryan, 8th Grade Counselor**  
**carrie.ryan@austinisd.org**



**Sarah Parnell, Wellness Counselor**  
**sarah.parnell@austinisd.org**

# Office Support Staff



**Naomi C. Sanchez**

**Administrative Assistant to the Principal**

naomi.sanchez@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **70530**



**Griselda Bowen**

**Bookkeeper**

griselda.bowen@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **70542**



**Iris Gamino**

**Attendance Clerk & Registrar**

iris.gamino2@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **70593**



**Jessica Barragato**

**Front Desk Clerk**

jessica.barragato@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **72290**



**Michelle Roddewig**

**Guidance Counselor Secretary**

michelle.roddewig@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **70727**



**Michele Mitchell**

**ARD & 504 Scheduler**

michele.mitchell@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **70564**



**Jennifer Holkan**

**Library Clerk & Student Device Manager**

jennifer.holkan@austinisd.org

Office Phone: 512-841-8600 Ext: **72291**

# Attention: Gorzycki MS Parents

*You're  
Invited!*

**to attend a  
VIRTUAL Meeting**

**with Gorzycki MS Administrators & Counselors**

**This Zoom meeting will allow parents to ask any questions they may have about the upcoming school year.**

**6th grade: Friday, August 11, 2023@9:00am-10:00am**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 867 3044 9340**

**PSWD:6TH23**

**7th grade: Friday, August 11, 2023@10:00am-11:00am**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 841 0962 2400**

**PSWD:7TH23**

**8th grade: Friday, August 11, 2023@11:00am-12:00pm**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 830 9441 2082**

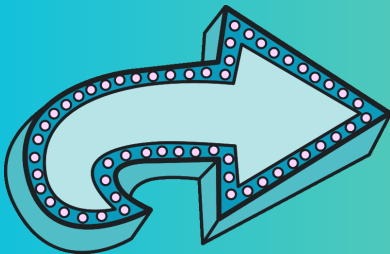
**PSWD: 8TH23**

**Meetings will be recorded for those that cannot attend the meeting.**

# Summer Reading



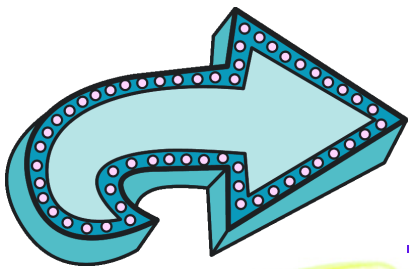
All Gorzycki students are expected to read the book assigned to their grade level and complete the associated assignment BEFORE the first day of school. Students will be instructed by their new ELA teachers about how to submit their assignments during the first week of school.



**Click HERE For**  
**Assignments**



# 2023-2024 School Supplies



[Click HERE For  
School Supply List](#)



# Bell Schedule

## Gorzycki Middle School

### 2023-2024 Daily Bell Schedule

GMS  
Front Doors  
open at 7:50am



First Bell 8:15

1<sup>st</sup> period: 8:20-9:05

2<sup>nd</sup> period: 9:09-9:54

3<sup>rd</sup> period 9:58-10:43

<b>Amur Lunch Schedule</b>	<b>Bengal Lunch Schedule</b>	<b>Caspian Lunch Schedule</b>
<b>Lunch 10:43-11:13</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> period 10:47-11:32	4 <sup>th</sup> period 10:47-11:32
4 <sup>th</sup> period 11:17-12:02	<b>Lunch 11:32-12:02</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> period 11:36-12:21
5 <sup>th</sup> period 12:06-12:51	5 <sup>th</sup> period 12:06-12:51	<b>Lunch 12:21-12:51</b>

6<sup>th</sup> period 12:55-2:12 (includes Excel starting at 1:40)

7<sup>th</sup> period 2:16-3:01

8<sup>th</sup> period 3:05-3:50

# Friendly Reminders



## **DROPPING OFF ITEMS AT SCHOOL**

**In order to assist students with self-responsibility and to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, GMS does not make deliveries nor do we contact the student while they are in class to let them know that their item was dropped off. You may tell your student before school that you will be dropping off an item or you can email their teacher. The student will then have to pick it up from the front office. (delivery exceptions are contact lenses or glasses).**

## **PERMIT TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY**

**When students leave school early, written permission from a parent or guardian is required. Please follow these steps: The student must bring the note to the commons in the morning to receive a pink slip. After 8:20am, students will bring the note to the front office.**

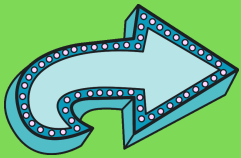
**The student will show the pink slip to the teacher when it is time to leave; the teacher will allow the student to go to the front office for parent pick-up. **\*\*Without a pink slip, students are not allowed to leave class\*\*****

**Parent/guardian(s) must sign the student out in the front office before leaving campus. Please bring your photo ID.**

**Thank you**

# Parent Pick-up Traffic Procedures

Please watch video below if you plan to pick your child up from Gorzycki after dismissal. This process is designed so we as a community can make parent pick-up safe and efficient for all involved. Your patience is appreciated, thank you for your help!



[Click HERE to View Parent Pick-Up Traffic Procedures](#)

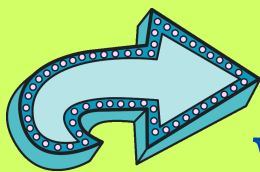
## Bus Information

**To find your student's bus stop, [please click here](#) to use bus stop finder utility. Enter your student's home address and find the closest AISD bus stop.**

Families interested in specific AISD bus route information may call AISD's Transportation Department between 7:45 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday at 512-414-0238. Families also may call dispatchers at AISD's bus terminals for information about the routes for their respective schools after 4:30 a.m., Monday through Friday:

- Nelson Bus Terminal in Northeast Austin: 512-414-6520
- Saegert Bus Terminal in Southwest Austin: 512-414-6500
- Southeast Bus Terminal: 512-414-8510

# Where's the Bus App.



[Click HERE TO View](#)  
[Where's the Bus Information](#)

Austin ISD Transportation offers the WheresTheBus app to provide families with timely information about the location of each child's bus, including when it will arrive at their stop.

The app is free to AISD families whose children ride the bus. The app is available on any device with Internet access (smartphone, tablet, personal computer, iPod)—and takes less than five minutes to install.

For any questions about bus transportation, please call 512-414-0238.

## To Sign Up

1. Go to <https://portal.austinisd.org>. Log into your AISD Portal account. If you don't have an account, select 'Click here to create your parent account'. You will not be able to access Where's the Bus without a AISD Portal account.
2. Note: For assistance setting up your account, please contact the Parent Technology Support Help Line at 512-414-9187.
3. Use the search bar at the top of the page, or just start typing to search for the WheresTheBus application. To launch, click on the bus icon.
4. A new tab will open showing the ETA, bus location, school location and home location.
5. You can access WheresTheBus through the AISD Portal or through the app.

## To Install the Where's the Bus App

1. Download the app from the App Store (iOS/Apple) or Google Play (Android). When you open the app, you will be asked if your child rides an Austin ISD bus. Select "Yes."
2. After logging in using your AISD Portal credentials, you will be able to access bus arrival information. You will not be able to access Where's the Bus without an AISD Portal account.
3. Once your credentials are validated, you will receive real-time bus arrival information as soon as you open the app (no login required / one touch access). For technical issues, please call 512-414-8324 (HELP).

# LUNCH TIME

New for the 2023-24 school year, students determined currently eligible for reduced-price meals will receive breakfast at no cost through funding allocated through the Texas legislature.

We encourage families who currently have reduced-price status to complete an AISD meal benefits application at [www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD](http://www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD) to ensure their eligibility through the entire school year.

## Meal Prices for SY 23-24:

### Breakfast:

Full Price (All Levels): \$1.75

Reduced-Price (All Levels): FREE

### Lunch:

Full Price - Elementary Schools: \$3.25

Full Price - Middle & High Schools: \$3.50

Reduced-Price (All Levels): \$0.40

Families may view daily menus, allergens, nutritional information, apply for free or reduced-price meals, and add funds to their student's meal account at [www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD](http://www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD).

# News from the Nurse

Welcome Back!

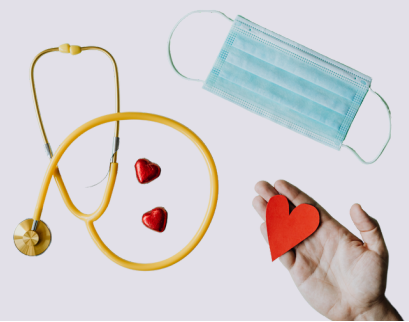
The GMS health room will be available to receive student medications prior to the first day of school on Wednesday August 9th from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Daily medications and/or emergency medications such as inhalers, EpiPens, seizure or diabetic medications can be dropped off at this time to allow for a smooth first day of school for students and health room staff. The medications cannot be accepted without the necessary paperwork completed. You may visit the AISD Website under Health Services and Nursing to print and complete these forms. Please call the health room with any questions or to make other arrangements to drop off medication. Health Room # 512-841-8620, or email to [jessica.bram@austinisd.org](mailto:jessica.bram@austinisd.org).

**ALL MEDICATIONS ON CAMPUS REQUIRE DOCTOR'S ORDERS in addition to a parent authorization form. This means that all prescription AND over-the-counter medications require a doctor's order and will not be allowed on campus at all without it.** As always, students are not allowed to self-carry ANY medication without doctor's orders and parent authorization.

**\*\*\*7th GRADE PARENTS\*\*\*** Please remember to submit your student's updated shot record as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. Students entering 7th grade are required to have received their Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis booster (Tdap) and their Meningitis vaccine (MCV). These records can be submitted by email as well.

Thank You,

Jessica Bram, BSN, RN, NCSN  
Gorzycki Middle School Nurse/AISD Student Health Services  
512-841-8620/ [jessica.bram@austinisd.org](mailto:jessica.bram@austinisd.org)



# DON'T GET LEFT OUT!

Gorzycki Middle School  
7412 West Slaughter Ln.  
Austin, TX 78749  
Front Office: 512-841-8600

**See all the different ways GMS sends out important information below.**

- **Check out the Gorzycki Website at: [gorzycki.austinschool.org](http://gorzycki.austinschool.org)**
- **Sign up to receive notifications for the Gorzycki Middle Campus Community Course at: <https://aisdblend.instructure.com/courses/111130>**

- **To sign up for e-mail updates from Gorzycki Middle School:**

1. Send an email to [swmsnewsgroup+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:swmsnewsgroup+subscribe@googlegroups.com) from the email address that you want to receive email updates.

2. Within a couple minutes, you will get a follow up email asking you to confirm your subscription. When you click the "Confirm" link, YOU MUST SELECT HOW OFTEN YOU WANT TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES as "No Email" is the default. We recommend the "All Mail" option.

You may unsubscribe at any time by simply emailing a blank email (from the email address that receives the updates) to [swmsnewsgroup+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:swmsnewsgroup+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com)

- **Follow us on the OFFICIAL GMS FB Page : Gorzycki Middle School**

- **SCHOOL MESSENGER**

We strongly encourage parents to revisit their notification settings in the Parent Cloud under "School Messenger" so that you may receive important CAMPUS or district messages. School Messenger is the district's communication tool. Parents can set their preferred modes of district & campus communication in the parent cloud.

Gorzycki is capable of sending mass emails to all or certain grade levels only and has used this method on several occasions. All school information will be shared via traditional email as well as social media and our website.

Please click link below to check your settings.

**\*\*You must have a Parent Portal acct.\*\***

**<https://www.austinisd.org/technology/parent-portal/schoolmessenger>**



# *Diane E. Gorzycki Middle School*

## *Belief Statements:*

At Gorzycki, we believe that effective instruction is what the students learn, not simply what they have been taught. We believe that we set expectations and our students will rise to them, and that a positive and safe school climate is essential to learning. We believe that a partnership between families and our school is crucial for students to become productive, socially responsible, and contributing members of a diverse society.

## *Mission Statement:*

To create a secure and collaborative climate where the Gorzycki community is empowered to challenge, design, build and lead tomorrow's world citizens through awareness and engagement.

## *Vision Statement:*

Excel today, lead tomorrow