

GMS Newsletter Sponsored by PTA

Week of April 7, 2024



GORZYCKI MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District

This week at GMS

[Click here to see the complete GMS website calendar for more events and details](#)

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Eclipse Viewing @ GMS

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Principals' Coffee Talk via Zoom
2:15PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

No School - Student Holiday - Staff Development Day

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

6-8th Reading STAAR Testing

Tennis Match @ Lamar MS
6:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

6th Grade Glow Dance @ GMS
4:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

GMS Orchestra Solo & Ensemble @ GMS

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Monarch Hero Butterfly Saturday Planting @ GMS Butterfly Garden

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

MONDAY, APRIL 15

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

8th Grade Science STAAR Testing

Gorzycki Links

[School Site](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Daily Announcements](#)

[Bell Schedule 23-24](#)

[GMS PTA Link](#)

AISD Links

[Parent Portal](#)

[AISD Calendar 23-24](#)

[Bus Stop Finder](#)

[School Cafe](#)

UPCOMING AT GMS

2024 Solar Eclipse Viewing

The Austin ISD is gearing up for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024! The district is aiming for 100% of our campuses to offer students a front-row seat to witness this rare phenomenon firsthand and Gorzycki will absolutely be part of this experience. GMS students and staff will have eclipse-viewing glasses and will review safety procedures for viewing the eclipse on Friday, April 5th

during our SEL lesson. For more information please visit the [AISD Eclipse website](#).

If you wish for your student to opt out of viewing the eclipse please complete this opt-out [form](#) and

2024 Solar Eclipse



alternative arrangements will be made for your student to learn about the eclipse.

STAAR TESTING

Dear Parents,

STAAR exams are approaching quickly. Please see the information below to know when

your student will be testing and the information for testing days. Students will have all day to

test if needed. Students who do not need extra time will return to their classes after 3 hours.

Attendance on STAAR dates is important and we ask families to try and not schedule

doctors' appointments, etc. on the following dates:

Thursday April 11: 6-8th grade Reading STAAR

Tuesday April 16: 8th grade Science STAAR

Wednesday April 17: 8th grade Social Studies STAAR

Wednesday April 24: Algebra I EOC and Math 6-8 STAAR

Testing Students Please Adhere To The Following Guidelines:

*Please arrive at school at your usual time.

*Name and testing room numbers will be posted in the Commons and in grade level

hallways. You will be testing in the same classroom as your interim STAAR test.

*Students will be dismissed at 8:10am to go to their testing rooms.

*Please bring a FULLY CHARGED District issued AISD Chromebook and charger

*8th grade is allowed to bring their own graphing calculator

*Bring a water bottle

*All students who use the text-to-speech accommodation need to bring wired headphones

*Cell phones, smart watches, and backpacks will need to be placed in lockers before

testing begins. Students will only need to bring their Chromebook, a book (non electric),

and water bottle to the testing room.

The campus will be closed to all visitors on STAAR exam days and I highly recommend

students bring lunch instead of buying it from the cafeteria if

possible. Makeup exam

opportunities will take place on the Friday of each week of testing for that content area. For

example, the Reading makeup opportunity will be on Friday April 12th.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Jamie.Thill@austinisd.org

Thank you,

Jamie Thill

7th Grade Assistant Principal

6th Grade Glow Dance

Attention 6th Graders.... save the date..... April 12th 4:00-5:30 the 6th Grade Glow Dance wristbands can be purchased on school cash online. Tickets will also be for sale (cash only) on Thursday and Friday during lunch the week of the dance.

Any assistance for volunteers and donations would be greatly appreciated, use this sign-up genius [link](#) . We want this to be an amazing experience for the 6th graders' end of year dance.

**CALLING ALL
GMS PARENTS!**



**WANT TO
GET INVOLVED?**

**The Middle School years go by FAST!
By volunteering, you can make the most of your
time at GMS and get plugged in.**

**Fill out the Form below to let us know if you are
interested in being part of the 2024-25 PTA!**

Calling All Tiger Families!

The Gorzycki PTA is looking for new parents to get plugged in. If you are interested in learning more, please let us know here: <https://forms.gle/o9Dzs1kCYmjgir95A>

Principals' Coffee Talk

Principal coffee talk will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday April 9 at 2:15pm**. Zoom invites will also be emailed to all parents before the scheduled dates below.



TAKE WHAT IS YOURS

Buy your yearbook at [Jostens.com](https://www.Jostens.com)

\$50



Mateo R. (8) / photo by Sophia G.



JOIN PTA!

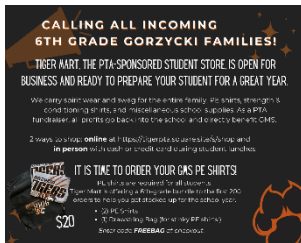
Join the GMS Parent Teacher Association! Quick and easy, click the link below to join today!

- <https://www.tigerpta.org/join-pta>

Annual Dues: \$10/individual, \$5/staff

Then, like and follow our page! Members will receive a PDF of their membership card via email.

<https://www.tigerpta.org/join-pta?fbclid=IwAR12yu0g6p97GWOWfsAv1PemVEISrOuYiH2BSIsz1cX3bqhOwH00A7LnDBs>



TIGER MART IS OPEN

Tiger Mart, Gorzycki's PTA-sponsored student store, is OPEN and ready to prepare your student for a great year.

What's Tiger Mart? Tiger Mart is the PTA-sponsored student store open daily during student lunches. We carry spirit swag for the entire family, strength and conditioning shirts, and miscellaneous school supplies. We are also where you can purchase your student's gray PE shirts. At least 1 PE shirt is required for all students, but we parent volunteers recommend having a couple on hand.

How can we shop? You can [shop online](#) at any time or students can shop in-person with cash or credit card during their lunch hours. Online purchases are available for student pickup 3 school days after the order is placed. Tiger Mart will also be open for in-person parent shopping on Locker Night (Wed 8/16, 4-5 pm) and Back-To-School Night.

Where do Tiger Mart profits go? Right back into GMS! Our student store is a rolling fundraiser and all proceeds benefit Gorzycki students.

STAY CONNECTED

COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

- **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>

- **Subscribed to the newsgroup:** <https://gorzycki.austinschools.org/our-school/email-updates>
- Sign up to receive notifications for the **Gorzycki Middle Campus Community Course** at: <https://aisdblend.instructure.com/courses/111130>
- Follow the **OFFICIAL GMS Facebook Page:** Gorzycki Middle School

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE TALKS

Principal coffee talks will be held via Zoom every month on **Tuesdays at 2:15pm**. Zoom invites will also be emailed to all parents before the scheduled dates below.

- <https://austinisd-org.zoom.us/j/87293612153?pwd=aThJeElmYTl2TW5lemVOY1BE...>
- Meeting ID: 872 9361 2153
- Passcode: TALK23

April 9, 2024

May 7, 2024

GORZYCKI CAMPUS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEETING

The Campus Advisory Council (CAC) is an advisory body that offers guidance and counsel to the Principal. The Council consists of Gorzycki Faculty, the Principal, Parents, Community Representatives, and Business Representatives. All meetings may be attended by the public and are open to comment.

Next Meeting April 11th at 4PM via Zoom

All pertinent information and zoom info can be found at this link: <https://gorzycki.austinschools.org/parents/resources/cac>

VOLUNTEER

TIGER MART VOLUNTEERS

The GMS Tiger Mart is the PTA sponsored student store on campus. It is open daily during student lunches and staffed by a group of amazing volunteers. We are looking for additional volunteers for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

You are committing to a recurring shift every other week (A week or B week). Shifts run from 10:35-1:00. "A week" will start the first week of school (Aug 14), "B week" will be the following week.

It's a great way to volunteer inside the school during the day and interact with students. If you are interested in joining the volunteer team, please fill out your info below and the Tiger Mart coordinators will be in touch. We do have volunteer subs available if you are unable to make your regular shift from time to time.

Please fill out this Google form: [Tiger Mart Volunteers](#)



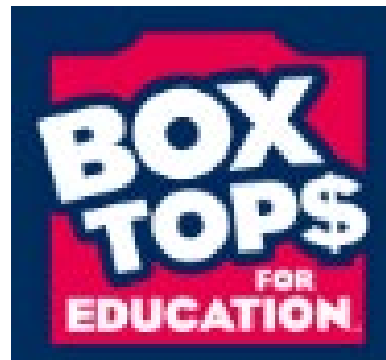
DONATE

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Download the Box Tops for Education app and start scanning your receipts! Every little bit counts and adds up quickly for GMS. How do box tops raise money for your school, click [here](#) to read more. GMS contact: fundraising@tigerpta.org

POPCORN FRIDAY DONATIONS NEEDED

GMS Popcorn Fridays needs your help. All donations go towards appreciating the GMS teachers with popcorn, drinks and snacks. Please contact Claire Foster at popcorn@tigerpta.org if you would like to donate.





We had a great turnout for Popcorn Friday this month. The theme was St. Patrick's Day.



I had two awesome helpers, Kelly Granger and Kristin Vasquez!



Shout out Waterloo Sparkling Water for making a donation!!

PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS

The Quick Guide includes processes for: arrival and dismissal, reporting absences, dropping off items, and medications on campus.

- [Quick Guide for Parents.pdf](#)

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Arrival: The building is open from 7:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The **Tardy Bell rings at 8:20**. Upon arrival, 6th grade students will report to the cafeteria. 7/8th grade students will report to the Commons. Students are to sit on the floor in the Cafeteria/Commons area. Students must be supervised in the building outside of school hours.

Dismissal: Students who stay for an activity/tutoring session should remain in their designated area with the Gorzycki staff member in charge of the after school activity. Parents should pick up their child within 10 minutes of a given activity ending time. Failure to be picked up in a timely manner may result in restrictions from after-school activities.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP PROCEDURES

Please follow the GMS procedures for [arrival and dismissal](#) from school. We ask that student pick-ups occur in the loop in front of the school. Stopping to pick up

students on Slaughter is NEVER acceptable. To help reduce some of the congestion, we ask that if you are turning left on Slaughter after picking up our child, you enter the school using the left two lanes. If you are turning right on Slaughter, please use the right lane for student pick-up. This will help reduce the changing of lanes when leaving campus.

GMS also asks that you not use Allerton Avenue for student pick-up. GMS is trying to be good neighbors and the parking issue after school is creating very unsafe situations.

ID BADGES

Students without badges will be sent to lunch detention. Extra lanyards can be purchased in Tiger Mart, which is open daily during lunches. Once pictures are taken and official badges are distributed, additional badges will cost \$5.

LOCKERS

All grade levels were issued lockers and a combination lock. Backpacks are not allowed in classrooms or in the cafeteria; students need to keep their backpacks in their lockers. Students can carry Chromebooks and notebooks to class in a Chromebook case.

MEDICATIONS ON CAMPUS

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. In the past, the prescription label on the bottle served as an MD order but AISD has changed the policy and now requires the MD order. Students are not allowed to self-carry ANY medication without doctor's orders and parent authorization.

Daily medications and/or emergency medications such as inhalers, epipens, seizure or diabetic medications can be dropped off. The medications cannot be accepted without the necessary paperwork completed. You may visit the GMS website at gorzycki.austinschools.org to print and complete all necessary paperwork. 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.

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:

1. The student must bring the note to the front office in the morning to receive a pink slip.
2. 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****
3. Parent/guardian(s) must sign the student out in the front office before leaving campus. Please bring your photo ID.

REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SIGN UP

New for the 2023-24 school year, students determined to be 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 to ensure their eligibility through the entire school year.

Breakfast:

- Full Price: \$1.75
- Reduced-price: FREE

Lunch:

- Full Price: \$3.50
- Reduced-price: \$0.40

SPORTING EVENT PICK-UP

Students are welcome to all Athletic events. Please remember that students are to be picked up from the event 10 minutes after the game is over. This is NOT a set time and can be anywhere from 8:00 - 9:00. Students who are not picked up on-time will not be allowed to attend future events.

GORZYCKI PARTNER PROGRAM

The PTA works diligently to provide resources for our students, teachers and staff, but we can be more successful with the help of our many partners in the community! The Gorzycki Partner Program enables your business to have significant exposure and visibility in our community while providing vital funds to support our students. This opportunity is available to all businesses and families. Contact Jessica Swearingen and Rebecca Alvarez at partners@tigerpta.org with questions.

The PTA would like to thank the businesses that support our school!

BENGAL PARTNERS



Proud Gorzycki Sponsor!





Modern Family
Dentistry of Oak Hill

Gentle Preventive & Cosmetic
Dentistry

512-301-9002

www.austinmoderndentist.com

Doctors Maggie & Benjamin Sharfae, DDS



MALAYAN PARTNERS



SIBERIAN PARTNERS



TIGER PARTNERS





[Click here for more
information on the GMS
Partners in Education program](#)

Gorzycki Middle School
7412 W. Slaughter Lane, Austin TX 78749 Phone 512-841-8600 Fax 512-841-8601

G

Gorzycki Tigers

Gorzycki is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters