



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

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

Hello Tiger Families!

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome extended to me by the Gorzycki community. Throughout this summer, I have had the privilege of engaging with teachers, staff, and community members. With each meeting, I grow more and more grateful that I have been given the opportunity to be your principal. The insights gained from these interactions have been invaluable, and I am eager to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to build upon the already strong foundations laid at Gorzycki.

Our goals as a leadership team this year are to build relationships with the staff and community, learn the systems and supports that make Gorzycki a high performing school, and collaborate with all stakeholders about our goals and vision for the next chapter.

Many exciting things were happening on- and off-campus this summer. Mr. MacKenzie led a trip to the Galapagos with 52 students, staff, and family members. The GMS theater, led by Ms. Gonzalez visited New York City to see theater in real-world applications and understand theatrical culture. Camps for e-sports, soccer, basketball, & volleyball were happening on-campus with our amazing teachers, Mr. Martin, Mr. Balter, Mr. Murray, Mr. Sindt, Coach Peña, & Coach Neary. Additionally, our dancers, led by Ms. Hanson, have been participating in Tiger Drill, Dancer, Tigerette Choreography camp this week.

Over the summer, construction began at the entrance of the building to comply with new Legislative requirements to promote student safety. Visitors will only be allowed access to the office upon arrival. To leave the office area, all visitors will need to be escorted by a GMS staff member.

For this upcoming school year, there are a few procedural changes. One is that our EXCEL class will no longer be with the student's 6th period teacher. It will now be a separate class after 6th period. This allows for more teachers to be available for EXCEL and smaller class sizes during this time. Additionally, we will no longer require students to wear student IDs which will cut down on lunch detentions and free up our front office staff to support visitors with our new entry way.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

A WELCOME  
LETTER FROM  
PRINCIPAL TANNER



**GORZYCKI  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

I am also happy to announce that our campus is fully staffed in all areas. We have a stellar group of new teachers joining our staff this year, and we cannot wait for you to meet them. We also have two new assistant principals, Ms. Claudia Shudic, 6th grade, and Dr. Stephanie Asselin, 8th grade.

Ms. Shudic is joining us from Sunset Valley Elementary in AISD where she has been the Assistant Principal the past 4 years. Prior to becoming an assistant principal, she served as a dual language elementary school teacher for over 14 years.

Dr. Asselin is coming to us from a private school in Waco where she most recently served as the Assistant Dean. Prior to working as Assistant Dean she spent eight years teaching Fine Arts and Social Studies in K-12 public, charter, and fine arts academy education settings. We are excited to welcome her to Gorzycki and Austin! She will be supporting our 8th graders this school year.

Assistant Principal Kim Riley will be moving up with our incoming 7th graders and continue as their assistant principal for the 2024-25 school year. All of our counselors are returning and will also be moving up with their grade levels. Carrie Ryan will be with 6th grade, Corinne Oh with 7th, and Patti Hodges 8th. Sarah Parnell will continue to be in the role of Wellness Counselor.

We will be hosting grade-level parent zoom meetings on August 16. During these meetings, we will be reviewing arrival and dismissal procedures, student code of conduct updates and reminders, and what to expect on the first day of school. Times and zoom links are below.

**6th grade: Friday, August 16, 2024@8:30am-9am**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 822 5716 3453**

**PSWD: 6TH24**

**7th grade: Friday, August 16, 2024@9:00am-9:30am**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 825 7590 0689**

**PSWD: 7TH24**

**8th grade: Friday, August 16, 2024@9:30am-10am**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 840 9380 4846**

**PSWD: 8TH24**

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

We look forward to greeting all of your children on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 20th. Doors open at 7:50am, and we encourage you to have your child ride the bus. The bus is the most efficient way for us to quickly move over 1300 students in a timely manner and helps us maintain a good relationship with our neighbors.

# Upcoming Events:

**August 20- First Day of School!**

**August 22-**

**4-5pm- 6th Grade Locker Night**

**6-8pm- Band Parent Meeting**

**August 23- Picture Day**

**August 27- Orchestra Blazer Tag Social 5-7pm**

**August 28- Back to School Night**

**5:30-6:45 for 7th and 8th Grade Parents**

**7:15-8:30 for 6th Grade Parents**

**August 29- 7th Grade Volleyball (Home) 6:00; 8th Grade Volleyball (Away- Kealing)**

**September 5- 7th Grade Volleyball (Away- O. Henry) 6:00; 8th Grade Volleyball (Home)**

**September 9-First CAC Meeting 4-5pm on Google Meets (See the GMS website for details)**

**September 10- Principal Coffee (reoccurring 2nd Tuesday of the month): 2:15 on Google Meets**

**Football (7A and 8A) 6pm at Burger Activity Center vs. Kealing**

**September 11- Football- 7B at 6pm at Bailey MS and 8B 6pm at Gorzycki**

**September 12- 7th Grade Volleyball (Home) 6:00; 8th Grade Volleyball (Away- Bailey)**

# Counselors



**Carrie Ryan, 6th Grade Counselor**  
**[carrie.ryan@austinisd.org](mailto:carrie.ryan@austinisd.org)**



**Corinne Oh, 7th Grade Counselor**  
**[corinne.oh@austinisd.org](mailto:corinne.oh@austinisd.org)**



**Patti Hodges, 8th Grade Counselor**  
**[patti.hodges@austinisd.org](mailto:patti.hodges@austinisd.org)**



**Sarah Parnell, Wellness Counselor**  
**[sarah.parnell@austinisd.org](mailto: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**

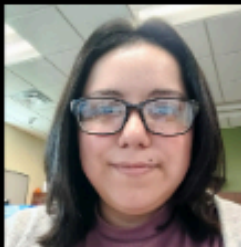


**Griselda Bowen**

**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**

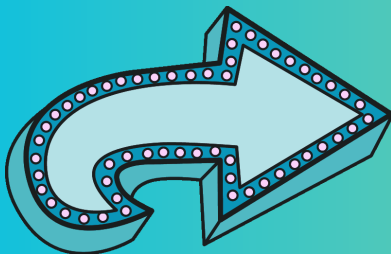
**Library Clerk & Student Device Manager**

jennifer.holkan@austinisd.org

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



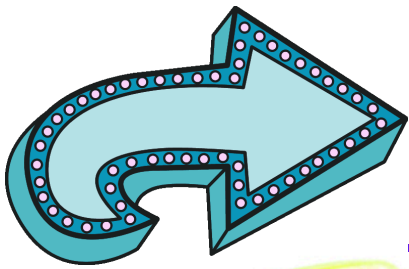
All Gorzycki students are expected to read the book assigned to their grade level and complete the associated assignment BEFORE the first day of school. Students will be instructed by their new ELA teachers about how to submit their assignments during the first week of school.



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



# 2024-2025 School Supplies

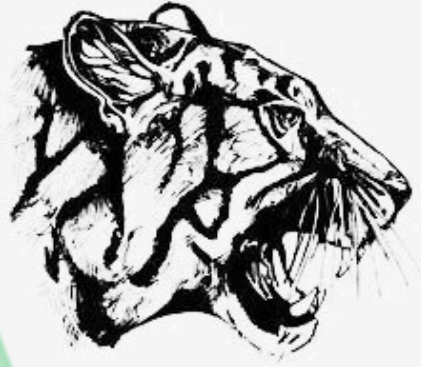


[Click HERE For  
School Supply List](#)



# 2024-2025 Daily Bell Schedule

**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

Amur Lunch Schedule	Bengal Lunch Schedule	Caspian Lunch Schedule
<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 12:55-1:40

**Excel 1:44-2:12**

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

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



# Important 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!

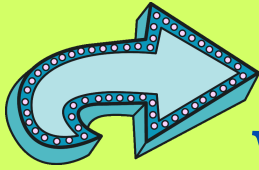
# Bus Information

**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).





We encourage families who currently have reduced-price status to complete an AISD meal benefits application.

[www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD](http://www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD)

### **Paying for School Meals**

Students dining with a reduced-price or paid status may purchase meals using cash or funds on their SchoolCafé account. No funds are needed for students with a free meal status, unless they would like to purchase à la carte items.

- Families may add money online by creating an account at [www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD](http://www.SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD).
  - Please note that SchoolCafé charges a convenience fee to process online payments.

### **Meal Prices for SY 24-25:**

Breakfast:

Full Price (All Levels): \$2.00

Reduced-Price (All Levels): FREE

Lunch:

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!

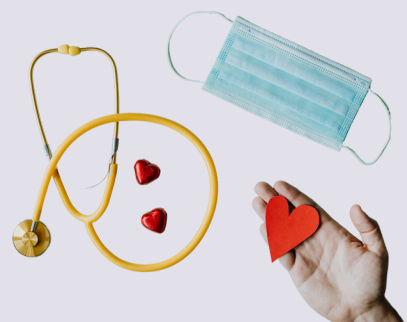
The GMS health room will be available to receive student medications prior to the first day of school on **Friday, August 16th and Monday, August 19th from 10:00AM - 2:00PM**. Daily medications and/or emergency medications such as inhalers, EpiPens, seizure or diabetic medications can be dropped off 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 Health Services and Nursing  
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)**

**The GMS Website has all important events and dates listed as well as important information and daily announcements.**

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

- **ThrillShare**

We strongly encourage parents to download AISD's newest form of communication, Thrillshare. Thrillshare has the ability to send out important campus/district information to all families.

Google play: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apptegy.thrillshare&hl=en\\_US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apptegy.thrillshare&hl=en_US)

OS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/thrillshare/id1024147876>



# *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