



Policies and Expectations 2026-27

**Gorzycki Middle School
7412 W Slaughter Lane
Austin, Texas 78749
Phone: 512-841-8600
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**School Colors: Burnt Orange and Black
School Mascot: Tiger
Mascot Name: *GNASHER***

**Sarah Tanner
Principal**

**John Neeley
6th Grade Assistant Principal**

**Dr. Stephanie Asselin
7th Grade Assistant Principal**

**Kevin Route
8th Grade Assistant Principal**

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

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.

The staff at Gorzycki Middle School is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students, with a focus on educating the whole child. This approach includes delivering a rigorous academic program while also prioritizing the mental, social, emotional, and physical well-being of every student.

This handbook is intended to communicate the procedures, practices, and policies that are in place to support students, maintain a positive school environment, and promote growth throughout their middle school experience.

GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

School Hours: 8:20 am -3:50 pm

Doors Open: 7:50 am

[Bell Schedule](#)

Arrival Procedures

At 7:50 am, doors open and the following options are available to students:

- Attend Tutorials according to the schedule below*
- Eat breakfast
- Go to the Library
- Visit with friends, read, or work on school work in a designated area:
 - 6th grade- Cafeteria
 - 7th/8th grade- Commons
- Turn in absence or doctor's notes to the front office
- Turn in a written parent request for permission slip to leave class for an appointment during the school day (*while we understand the need for students to attend appointments during business hours, we ask that families attempt to make appointments outside of school hours or on non-school days. The next best option is to make appointments outside the 9:45 am attendance time for funding purposes.*)

*Morning Tutorials are available according to the schedule below

Monday	Math
Tuesday	ELA
Wednesday	Science
Thursday	Social Studies
Friday	HS Credit Electives

Tutorial and Library Expectations

Students who choose to attend tutorials or go to the library must report directly to the designated teacher's classroom or the library upon arrival and remain there until 8:15 am, when they will transition to first period.

Cafeteria and Commons Expectations

Students eating breakfast should be sitting at the cafeteria tables and are expected to clean up their area once they are finished with their breakfast. During breakfast, students are expected to remain seated, have electronics put away, and may visit with other students eating breakfast. Students are expected to follow all adult instructions while at breakfast.

For 6th graders in the cafeteria and 7th and 8th graders in the commons - students may visit quietly with friends, read, or complete homework. To help maintain a safe and orderly environment, students are expected to remain seated during this time. Electronics, food, and drinks must be put away. Outside beverages and food must be finished before entering the building.

Dismissal Procedures

At 3:50 pm, the bell rings for class to be dismissed.

Students will proceed to one of the following:

- Bus riders: back of school
- Car riders: front of school
- Bike riders and walkers: exit towards Slaughter Lane in front of the school or Allerton Ave behind the school, using sidewalks while on campus and follow all traffic rules. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that bike riders wear a helmet. Students who are riding their bike in a manner that is unsafe on campus will be asked to dismount and walk their bike off campus.
- After school activity with adult supervision

The car line will begin moving at 3:57 pm to give students time to find their car and load up. Buses also begin their departures at 3:57 pm.

Students who remain on campus for a supervised activity must stay in the designated area with the Gorzycki staff member responsible for that activity. Parents and guardians are expected to pick up their child within 10 minutes of the activity's scheduled end time. Repeated failure to do so may result in a student being restricted from participating in future after-school activities as staff members must stay with students until they are picked up.

Transportation Guidelines

Cars

Car pick-up and drop-off is in the **front** of the school by entering the circular drive and exiting on the west side. Parents should not go to the back parking lot to drop off students. **Parking in the front lots during arrival and dismissal should only be done if the parent has a scheduled meeting with a staff member or is needing assistance in the office.**

Gorzycki wants to maintain good relationships with our neighbors, and we discourage parents from parking and having their children meet them at their cars for dismissal. While the car line does extend onto Slaughter Lane, it is usually clear by 4:05 pm. Please be patient as we move 1300 students from school to home in less than 15 minutes.

Cars may not pick up or drop off in the bus lane at the back of the school with the exception of students who need access to the ramp. For the safety of our students, cars may not pick up students on Slaughter Ln.

Walkers and Bike Riders

Students that walk to and from school should cross at the guarded crosswalks. Please remember to be courteous of the neighbors and walk on the sidewalks wherever possible.

Bus Riders

Students who ride the bus will be dropped off and picked up in the back of the school. Staff will direct students to the correct bus. Parents are encouraged to review before and after school bus numbers and street names of bus stops with their child prior to the first day of school as many students have different bus numbers and bus stops in the morning and afternoon.

For your child's security, requests for bus passes should be made in writing and turned in to the main office at the beginning of the school day.

Bus passes to ride a different bus are only issued in emergency situations and only if space is available. Even in emergencies, a pass may be denied if the bus is at capacity.

To request an emergency bus pass, the following information must be provided to the front office:

- Student's full name
- Reason for the emergency
- Name of the student they will be riding with
- Bus number

- Parent/guardian contact number

The office will verify all emergency requests by phone. Non-emergency requests will not be approved.

For issues concerning bus routes or the conduct of a bus driver please contact transportation directly at (512) 414-0238. [AISD Transportation Website](#).

Advisory

Advisory at Gorzycki is called **R.O.A.R. (Read, Organize, Achieve, Recharge) Time**.

Each grade level has a 20-minute advisory after their lunch period to support students' social-emotional development and grow in their autonomy and responsibility as a middle school student.

The ROAR Time schedule is below:

Monday- SEL lesson

Tuesday- Tiger Time Tuesday (make up work time)

Wednesday- Recess

Thursday- Silent reading and Gnasher News

Friday- Recess

Parent and Caregiver Deliveries and Communication

Deliveries

In order to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, there will be **no deliveries** made to students during the school day such as homework, clothing, etc. Lunch may be dropped off in the front office and will be delivered to the student in the cafeteria. Food delivery from online delivery platforms such as DoorDash, Uber Eats, etc. is not permitted.

Birthday and Holiday Procedures

At Gorzycki Middle School, we enjoy celebrating students' birthdays and special occasions! To help maintain a focused academic environment and minimize disruptions, deliveries of birthday or holiday items to students during the school day are not permitted. This includes flowers, balloons, candy, stuffed animals, and similar items.

We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us keep the school day productive for all students.

Parent Messages to Students

In accordance with state law and school policy, students are not permitted to use cell phones, smart watches, or other personal communication devices during the school day to ensure a focused learning environment. ***To be updated after the AISD August Board meeting to follow new state legislation.***

If parents or guardians need to relay important information to their child, such as changes to transportation plans, they may call the front office to have a message delivered. We kindly ask that messages be limited to urgent or pertinent information only and all effort be made to communicate transportation prior to arriving at school.

Whenever possible, please wait to communicate non-urgent messages until after the school day ends to minimize interruptions to classroom instruction.

Visitors

During the school day, visitors are only allowed through the front doors in order to check in at the front office before entering areas with students. Parents wishing to visit a classroom need to schedule a time in advance with the teacher. The visitor badge given to you by the office staff when you check in must be worn on your shirt and must be visible the entirety of your visit. Badges will identify specific destinations for visitors. Visitors must remain in the area specified. Visitors without badges, or who are in the wrong designated area, will be escorted to the office. Please remember to sign out in the office before leaving Gorzycki. When on campus, do not open any outside doors for another person. Visitors need to park in the parking lots and not in the fire lanes or designated staff parking areas.

Emergency Drills

Students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and visitors will participate in frequent drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students **must** follow the directions of the teacher or staff member quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Students have 8 classes, lunch and advisory during the school day.

All students will be assigned four core classes: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The other four classes will be elective courses.

6th graders additional requirements are as follows:

- Semester course: PE, Dance or Pre-Athletics
- Semester course: Functional Fitness
- Year-long course: Tigers of Tomorrow*
- Year-long course: Fine Arts course

**Tigers of Tomorrow Description*

The majority of sixth-grade students at Gorzycki Middle School will be enrolled in Tigers of Tomorrow, a course designed to support their transition to middle school. The course emphasizes team-building, organizational and executive functioning skills, academic support, and community service.

Exceptions to this placement include students who are required to take a specific course as part of their special education plan, students receiving English language services, or those enrolled in the geometry math pathway.

7th and 8th graders additional minimum requirements are as follows:

- Semester course: Physical Education (PE, Athletics, Dance, Strength and Conditioning)

Grading

Gorzycki adheres to the Austin Independent School District policies and guidelines for the district “Report of Progress to Parents.” Please refer to [these documents](#) regarding district policies.

Gorzycki Expectations for Implementation of District Policies:

Grading Expectations

- Grade level departments must have aligned percentages in the grade book and will be communicated at the beginning of the school year
- No single assignment should account for more than 20% of a student’s grade
- Assignments must be aligned to the TEKS and classroom curriculum

Caregiver Access to Grades

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to check their child’s grades at least once per week and engage in regular conversations about their academic progress. If there are questions about a grade or assignment, parents are encouraged to support their child in drafting an email to the teacher. This process helps students develop important self-advocacy skills.

If the student is unable to resolve the concern after communicating with the teacher, parents should follow up directly with the teacher. When needed, campus administrators

are available to support communication between families and staff regarding academic or grading concerns.

Grades can be accessed by following these steps:

1. Log in to the portal at **portal.austinisd.org**
2. Select the “**Parent Self-Serve**” tile
3. Click “**Sign In**” and use the same login credentials as the portal
4. Select the “**Report Card**” tab
5. Click on individual grades to view the assignments and scores for each course

Failures and Missing Assignments:

Students will have the opportunity to improve or make up any assignment with a grade below 70, as long as the work is completed within the same 9-week grading period. When an assignment is redone, students must be allowed to earn at least a 70.

Grade-level content teams will follow consistent guidelines for how credit is awarded for redone work, and these expectations will be clearly communicated to families.

Teachers may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis, using their professional judgment to support individual student needs.

Teachers will accept and award at least partial credit up to a 70 for late or missing work until the end of the 9-weeks. Teachers have the option of giving students an alternative assignment in lieu of the original assignment.

Make Up Work:

Students who are absent are expected to take responsibility for making up missed work. Upon returning to school, students should connect with each of their teachers to discuss what was missed and create a plan to complete assignments in a timely manner.

Teachers will provide reasonable opportunities for students to make up work, and timelines may vary depending on the length and nature of the absence. It is important that students communicate proactively and follow through on agreed-upon deadlines to stay on track with their learning.

Families are encouraged to support students in checking class materials (e.g., Blend, notes, or handouts) and reaching out to teachers as needed.

Progress Reports and Report Cards

Progress reports are emailed/mailed to parents after the third week and the sixth week of the 9-week grading period. Teachers are required to send progress reports for students who are not passing or are borderline failing. If a parent has questions or needs clarification, they should contact the individual teacher by email or phone.

Parents will receive an email stating report cards are available in the parent portal each nine week grading period to the email address provided at the time of registration. Teachers will notify parents prior to finalizing report cards if a student will be receiving a failing grade on a report card.

Honor Roll

Honor rolls will be determined by students' grades for the respective nine weeks. Gorzycki recognizes students who earn all A's and all A's and one B each 9 weeks.

School Records

Gorzycki Middle School maintains accurate and confidential records for each student, including academic history, attendance, and other essential information. These records are protected and handled in accordance with district, state, and federal guidelines.

Parents or guardians who wish to request student records can do so through the Austin ISD Student Services website: <https://www.austinisd.org/student-services/records-requests>.

Schedule Changes

Requests for course or schedule changes must be submitted through the student's grade-level counselor. While every effort is made to accommodate student needs, staffing limitations or scheduling conflicts may prevent certain changes from being granted.

Schedule change requests will be considered during the first ten school days of each semester. Please note that requests based on a change of mind or preference will not be honored.

In the case of an emergency or unique circumstance, families should contact the appropriate grade-level counselor directly to discuss possible options.

Library Services

Students are encouraged to use the library. Students may use the library before or after school, and during lunch but they must get a pass from a teacher or the Librarian to use the library during these times. Books may be checked out for two weeks. A replacement fee will be charged for lost, stolen, or damaged books

Physical Education

In accordance with state law, all students in Texas are required to participate in physical education (PE). At Gorzycki Middle School, students must wear a standard PE uniform consisting of black shorts and either a plain gray T-shirt or an official Gorzycki PE shirt. Information about purchasing Gorzycki PE shirts will be provided by the PE department. Students are also expected to wear appropriate athletic shoes and socks each day.

If a student needs to be excused from PE due to illness or injury, a written note from a parent or guardian is required. A doctor's note is required for absences from physical activity lasting longer than three days. Students who are unable to participate will be given an alternative written assignment to complete during class.

For more information about PE expectations or policies, families are encouraged to contact the PE department directly.

Academic Integrity

At Gorzycki Middle School, students are expected to take an active role in their learning and to approach their education with honesty and integrity. The skills and knowledge gained during middle school lay the foundation for future academic success.

Students are encouraged to do their own work, study for assessments, and seek help when needed. When using someone else's ideas or words in a project or assignment, students should give proper credit. Demonstrating responsibility and ethical behavior in academic work not only builds trust, but also prepares students for the expectations they will encounter in high school and beyond.

Staff will review the following terms with students in the first 3 weeks of school and reiterate how to adhere to the expectations throughout the year.

- **Cheating - Cheating is misleading a teacher in some way as to receive, or attempt to receive, credit for work not created by the student or work performed with assistance.**
 - *Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:*
 - Copying another person's work.
 - Allowing another student to copy their work.
 - Using unauthorized notes, technology, or written material in any form during an assessment. This includes the use of AI.
 - Revealing/receiving examination content, questions, answers, or tips from another student, or removing such information from the classroom after an examination through the use of notes, scratch paper, technology, verbal communication, etc.
- **Plagiarism - Plagiarism is the use of passages, materials, words, or ideas that come from someone or something else, without properly naming the source.**
 - *Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:*
 - Copying words, ideas, or other materials from the internet, book, article, or other source without citing them.

- Using any translation tool on a world language assessment without teacher permission
- Using a digital solving tool, app, website, etc. on a math assignment.
- Purchasing or receiving, in any manner, an assignment that is the work of another person or AI-generated and submitting that assignment as your own.

Consequences for Plagiarism/Cheating

1st Offense:

- The teacher will inform both the parent and grade level Assistant Principal and assign a detention.
- The Assistant Principal will Enroll the student in the “Academic Integrity” BLEND module to be completed in detention.
- Once the course is completed, the Assistant Principal will communicate the course is complete with the parent and teacher.
- The student will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment or complete an alternate assignment/test. An initial grade will be entered as a zero and can later be replaced with alternate assignment/test grade.

2nd Offense:

- The teacher will inform both the parent and grade level Assistant Principal and write a disciplinary referral.
- The Assistant Principal will enroll the student in the “Academic Integrity” BLEND module to be completed in detention or in school suspension depending on the severity of the cheating.
- Once the course is completed, the Assistant Principal will communicate the course is complete with the parent and teacher.
- The student will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment or complete an alternate assignment/test. An initial grade will be entered as a zero and can later be replaced with alternate assignment/test grade up to a 70.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance in all classes is an important expectation for all Gorzycki Middle School students. State law and district policy require students to attend at least 90% of instructional days in each class to receive credit.

If a student exceeds the allowable number of absences, whether excused or unexcused, they may not earn credit for that class unless the missed time and/or work is appropriately made up. Students

will collaborate with their grade-level administrator to complete the necessary steps to meet attendance requirements and maintain academic progress.

Absences exempt from the 90% rule:

- *School field trips*
- *UIL activities and events*
- *Other school-related events*
- *Documented medical appointments*

When a student returns to school after an absence for any reason, a parent or guardian must submit a note to the attendance clerk either through the AISD website or by emailing **gorzycki@austinisd.org**. The note must be signed by the parent or a doctor and include the reason for the absence.

All absence notes must be submitted within 48 hours of the student's return to school for the absence to be considered excused. Failure to submit a note within this timeframe will result in the absence being recorded as unexcused (UNX) in the student's attendance record.

The school will accept up to five parent notes for illness (ILP) during the school year. After five parent notes, a doctor's note will be required for any further illness-related absences to be excused, regardless of the length of the absence.

Illness

A student with a fever of 100.0 must be sent home and cannot return to school until the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Medical Appointment

When a student returns to school following a medical appointment, a signed note from the doctor is required. This documentation helps ensure that the school receives state funding for the student's attendance on that day.

To qualify for this funding, the student must attend school for part of the day on the date of the appointment. Families are kindly asked to avoid scheduling appointments **around 9:45 a.m.**, which is the official attendance reporting time used for funding purposes.

Funerals and Weddings

Students will be excused for up to two consecutive school days for family weddings and funerals. We realize that sometimes travel for these special events will keep a student out longer, and extra

days for absences will occur. The administration will determine whether any extra days required for attending a family funeral or wedding will be excused.

Family Vacations and Out of Town Trips

School days missed due to family vacations, out of town trips, taking extra days to extend the weekend, and time taken off for non-AISD extracurricular activities will **not** be excused.

Notification of absences

An automated phone message or email will be sent to the primary contact of any student who is given an absence on the day the absence is recorded. **Ten or more** unexcused absences may result in the campus pursuing legal action.

Twilight

Students who fall below 90% attendance will be required to make-up attendance through the Twilight program. Grade level administrators will help enroll students into the program. Twilight takes place after school in the library.

For more information on attendance requirements, visit the district website at <https://www.austinisd.org/attendance>

Permit to Leave School Early or For Doctor or Dental Appointments during School Day

When it is necessary to leave school, the student must have **written permission** from a parent or guardian.

1. The student must bring a written note to the Commons, where a staff member writes permits, prior to 8:20 a.m.; after 8:20, come to the front office.
2. The note must include the student's first name, last name and student ID. Write the specific time (not class period) the student is needed in the front office and the reason for the student leaving early.
3. The student will take the pink permit to the appropriate teacher when it is time to leave. That teacher will allow the student to go to the front office for parent pick up.
4. A parent must sign the student out at the office before leaving campus. No phone requests are allowed for early dismissal.

When returning to campus the same day, the student should have a signed doctor's note or a note from the parent that must be taken to the front office before returning to class. The front office will sign the pink permit for the student to return to class. A parent does not have to accompany the student into the building when returning from an appointment.

When returning to campus the following day, drop off the signed doctor or parent note in the front office.

Students needing an elevator pass for medical reasons need to submit a request from the parent in writing along with documentation from the doctor.

We ask that families do their best to avoid appointments or missing school for any reason at 9:45am, which is the campus attendance time for funding purposes.

Tardies

Tardy to School: After 8:20 a.m., a student is late to school and a tardy permit must be obtained from an office staff member prior to going to class. A note signed by a parent or guardian stating the date, time of arrival and the reason for the tardy should be presented.

Tardy to Class: A student is tardy if not in the proper room when the bell rings. The following consequences will be applied for tardies:

1st tardy - Teacher private conversation with student

2nd tardy - Parent notification

3rd tardy – In-school detention and parent notification

4th tardy - Conference with student, AP, and parent

Student Expectations for Attendance

Once students are on school grounds they are the responsibility of the school and must remain on campus, attend their classes, and arrive to their classes on time.

No student is to leave campus alone before dismissal unless prior written permission from the parent has been provided to the office. Any student leaving campus without permission will be counted as absent and assigned the appropriate consequences.

After School Participation

Students who are absent from more than 50% of the school day are not permitted to participate in after-school activities or events that occur on the same day of the absence including but not limited to practices, rehearsals, dances, try-outs, and after-school clubs.

MEALS AND SNACK POLICIES

Our school is committed to promoting a healthy, clean, and respectful environment during all mealtimes. Please review the following guidelines regarding meals, snacks, and food-related expectations.

Meal Times and Options

The cafeteria serves meals at the following times:

- Breakfast – 7:50 to 8:15 AM
- 6th Grade Lunch – 11:35 to 12:05 PM
- 7th Grade Lunch – 12:25 to 12:55 PM
- 8th Grade Lunch – 1:15 to 1:45 PM

Students may choose to purchase meals from the cafeteria or bring lunch from home.

Prepayments to student lunch accounts can be made online at www.schoolcafe.com. *Please note: personal checks are not accepted by the cafeteria.*

Lunch Expectations

- Students must remain in the cafeteria or commons unless they have permission from a teacher.
- Students may visit the library during lunch only with a pass obtained from the librarian before school.
- Third-party food deliveries (such as pizza delivery, UberEats, GrubHub, etc.) are not permitted at any time.

Food and Drink Policy

To support a focused and sanitary learning environment, food and drinks (other than water) must be consumed only in the cafeteria or during designated snack times. Students are expected to finish any open food or beverages before entering the school building, food for snack and/or lunch should be put away and stored in their locker until the designated snack and lunch times.

Grade-Level Snack Times

Students may bring a snack from home to enjoy during their designated snack period:

- **8th Grade – 3rd Period**

- **6th & 7th Grade – 7th Period**

During these periods, teachers will provide at least 10 minutes for students to eat their snack. Snacks should be simple, nutritious, and appropriate for the classroom setting.

Please note the following snack-time expectations:

- Only water may be consumed during snack time.
- Candy, soda, and other caffeinated beverages are not allowed.
- Food that requires a microwave or other heating device is not permitted for snack, there are microwaves available in the cafeteria for students during lunches.

Food Sharing and Celebrations

To protect the health and safety of all students, especially those with allergies or dietary restrictions, students may not bring food or drinks to share with others at any time — including for birthdays, holidays, or classroom celebrations.

Nutrition Information and Resources

- Menus and Nutritional Information: [AISD Menus](#)
- General AISD Food Services Info: [AISD Nutrition Services](#)
- AISD Board Policies on Nutrition: [AISD Nutrition Guidelines \(Policy FFA\)](#)

FIELD TRIPS AND CAMPUS EVENTS

At Gorzycki Middle School, we believe that field trips and school-sponsored events are meaningful extensions of the learning experience. These activities support academic learning, foster community, and provide students with opportunities to grow socially and emotionally.

Our school's administration and faculty are committed to ensuring that all students are included in these enriching experiences. To help maintain a safe, respectful, and positive environment for everyone involved, general school-wide guidelines are followed for all field trips and events. Additional expectations may be communicated by individual sponsors or teachers based on the nature of the activity.

These shared expectations help ensure that each event runs smoothly and reflects the values of our school community.

Expenses

Some field trips and activities may involve a cost to cover expenses such as transportation, admission, or materials. Families will be informed in advance of any associated costs. Financial assistance or scholarships may be available to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate. No student should feel excluded from any school-sponsored activity due to financial circumstances.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES

Gorzycki follows all AISD policies and procedures outlined in the student code of conduct which can be found on the [district website](#) which includes policies on bullying. Bullying resources may also be found on the [AISD Respect for All webpage](#).

[AISD Responsible Use Policy for Technology](#)

Appropriate Dress Guidelines

Gorzycki Middle School students will adhere to the [AISD Dress Code Policy](#). The goal of these guidelines is to ensure a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment.

Gorzycki Middle School Dress Guidelines for students:

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.

- Clothes must be worn in a way such that the abdomen, genitals, buttocks, breasts and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric.
- All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A shirt (with fabric that touches the waistband in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), AND
- Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), AND
- Shoes.

3. Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- Religious headwear
- Hats facing straight forward or straight back and must allow the face and ears to be visible to staff and not interfere with the line of sight

- Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood over head is allowed, but the face and ears must be visible to school staff)
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and “skinny jeans”
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps
- Halter tops
- Athletic attire

4. Students Cannot Wear:

- Violent language or images
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity). or any other substance prohibited under FNCF(LEGAL)
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (waistbands and straps excluded)
- Swimsuits (except as required in class, field trips, or athletic practice see “Extracurricular Activities”)
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance or as necessary to accommodate medical needs)

Managing Student Items and School Property

Purses and backpacks

Prior to the bell ringing at 8:20 am, students will put their backpacks, lunches, and items not needed for class in their locker. Small bags or purses for sanitary items may be carried. Small bags should not have any toiletry items (body sprays, make-up, etc.) in them. All cellular devices (phones, watches, etc) should all be turned off and placed in the locker.

Lockers

Each student will be issued a locker and is expected to bring a lock. Students will share the combination with their advisory teacher on the first day of school. Locker Decorations on the exterior of the locker will only be from school clubs or organizations, and all decorations must be pre-approved by administration. Interior decorations should NOT include stickers or glue, or other difficult to remove items.

Searches of Students, Student Possessions, and School Issued Items

District Policy for student searches is in the Student Success Guide. Students should be mindful that school lockers, technology, desks, and other things given to the student by the District may be searched at any time.

Prohibited Items

District Policy for prohibited items to distribute, possess, sell, or use is available in the Student Success Guide.

Student Money

Students should bring only the amount of money needed for lunch or other school expenses to be used on a given day. Likewise, students are discouraged from bringing items of significant value (jewelry, large bills, etc) to school. **The school accepts no responsibility for the theft or loss of personal items.**

Selling Items at School

Students are strictly prohibited from selling any item for personal profit such as candy, gum, lighters, breath spray, etc., on school grounds. This includes outside fundraising items. Any student caught selling items will be subject to disciplinary action by the school administration.

Bus Conduct

A student being transported by school bus is required to comply with the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the AISD Student Success Guide. Failure to do so may result in suspension or removal for the bus.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Gorzycki Middle School, all students are **encouraged to participate** in clubs, organizations, and school-sponsored activities that align with their interests. Developing a connection to school through involvement is a key part of the middle school experience, helping students:

- Build friendships and a sense of belonging
- Experience success outside of the classroom
- Gain confidence and pride through accomplishments
- Demonstrate school spirit

As an inclusive campus, we are committed to ensuring **all students have access** to these opportunities. If any costs related to participation—including club dues or fundraisers—pose a financial hardship, **scholarships are available** through the counseling office.

Gorzycki Standards for Elected Activities

1. Students must attend half the school day in order to participate in any after school events.
2. If a student has attendance below 90% they need permission from their teacher and administrator to participate in after school events.
3. Will refer to UIL rules regarding eligibility and grades.
4. Any student in ISS or HSS is not allowed to participate in any after school activities on the day they served.
5. Participation in an after school activity by a student who served detention will be at the discretion of the teacher/coach.
6. Any game, performance, or culminating event will always take priority over any practice or rehearsal when there are multiple events the student is participating in occur at the same time.
7. When there are conflicting culminating events, the students get to decide which event they want to participate in.
8. When there are conflicting rehearsals/practices/tryouts the student should make an attempt to discuss with their teacher/coach on how to solve the conflicting schedule.

Participation and Spectator Guidelines and Expectations

- **Attendance Requirement:** Students must be present for at least **50% of the school day** to participate in any school-sponsored event on that day. Exceptions may be made at the **principal's discretion**.
- **Conduct:** Student behavior at extracurricular events is held to the same standard as during the school day. The **AISD Student Code of Conduct** applies at all events.
- **Club/Organization Rules:** Student groups may establish their own conduct expectations, which may be stricter than general school rules. If a student violates both group and school rules, **consequences from both may apply**

UIL Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

All extracurricular activities follow **UIL (University Interscholastic League)** regulations:

- To participate in activities during the **first six weeks**, students must have been **promoted** to the next grade level.
- To remain eligible, students must maintain **passing grades in all subjects**.
- This applies to all participants including **athletes, cheerleaders, managers, band members, and club participants**.
- Full UIL eligibility guidelines can be found at: www.uiltexas.org

Expectations at School Events

When attending athletic events, performances, or other school-sponsored activities, students are expected to:

- Be seated and watch the event, showing **support and school pride**.
- Help create a **welcoming and respectful** environment for all guests.
- Avoid taunting or negative comments, especially toward students from visiting campuses.
- Stay out of **hallways, the track, or other unsupervised areas** during the event.

Important Reminders:

- Students will receive **one warning** if not following behavior expectations. If the behavior continues, they will be asked to **leave the event**.
- **No food or drinks** are allowed inside the gym.
- Once a student **exits the building** during an event, they may **not re-enter**.

End-of-Event Pickup Policy

Students must be picked up **within 10 minutes** of the conclusion of any after-school activity.

- Late pick-up creates safety concerns and places an undue burden on staff.
- If a student is not picked up on time, **AISD Police and a school administrator will be contacted**.
- Repeated late pickups may result in the student **being restricted from future after-hours events**.

Athletics Participation

- Only **7th and 8th graders** may participate in official **AISD/UIIL athletics**.
- **6th graders** are encouraged to participate in **school club sports**.
- Students who turn **14 before September 1** of the current school year are **not eligible for 7th-grade teams**.
- Students who turn **15 before September 1** are **not eligible for 8th-grade teams**.
- **Before participating in practices or games**, students must return completed physicals and other forms asked by the coach.

Health Room

Immunization

All students must be immunized in order to attend public school. If students do not have the proper immunizations, they will be sent home and possibly withdrawn from school. A copy of the student's immunization records that have been verified and signed by a physician is required documentation.

If there is a conscientious objection with the requirement that the student is immunized, please contact the Texas Department of Health to obtain the appropriate documentation. If there is a medical reason a student may not be immunized, a written statement by a U.S. licensed physician is required.

Medication

If it becomes necessary for any student to take **any form of medication** at school, including over-the-counter medicines, a signed note from a parent must be presented to the nurse's office staff. Please identify the medicine, indicate why it is being taken, and when the last dose is to be given. The medication must be in the original container and must be labeled with the student's name and the name of the medication. The bottle must specify age-appropriate information (i.e. 11-year olds may not take medications listed for 12 -years old and above). ***All medication will be kept and dispensed through the nurse's office. Students may not have any medicine in their possession while at school.***

Lost and Found

Students who find lost items are asked to take them to the office or place them in the lost and found. Students who lose items should check the lost and found shelves first and then ask the front office. All lost electronics will be kept in the front office. Lost Chromebooks will be turned into the library. Students are encouraged to label all belongings so they can be identified and returned to the owner.

School Store: Tiger Mart

PTA operates a small school store for the convenience of our students and parents. It stocks PE uniforms and various items such as paper, notebooks, binders, pencils, pens, and spiritwear. Typically, the school store is open during all 3 lunch periods and closes 5 minutes before the end of each lunch provided a PTA rep is available to staff the store. Orders can be placed online at:

<https://tigerpta.square.site/>

Support Groups

The Counseling Department sponsors many student groups that will meet on a regular basis. Contact your assigned counselor for additional information.

PARENT-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parents should initially contact the teacher or grade-level team of teachers directly to discuss academic or behavioral concerns in the classroom. Staff have one school business day to respond to parent email or phone calls.

Every teacher will have a phone in the classroom and the phone number is listed on the Gorzycki website. This phone will ring in the class, but teachers will not answer it during instructional time. Voicemail will record messages and the teacher will check for messages regularly.

For additional concerns regarding academics, discipline, attendance make-up, or issues with personnel, please contact your grade level administrator. For concerns regarding your child's social or emotional well-being, support services, or class schedules, please contact your grade level counselor.

Students wishing to see a counselor may fill out a request form in the counseling office. If a student is having an emergency or needs urgent help, the student may ask his/her teacher to visit the counselor.

Students who need to report an incident, concern, or conflict with another student or staff member may fill out an incident form with their grade level assistant principal.

For concerns regarding medical issues, administration of meds, or immunizations, please contact the school nurse.

If you need to reach your child at school after 4:30, please contact the appropriate activity or club sponsor.

BOARD POLICIES

Austin School Board Policy Manuals are online at the [AISD website](#)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

AISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Austin Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, or English language skills in its programs and activities.

Main school phone number: 841-8600

Counselor's Office: 841-8612

Campus Officer (SRO): 841-8617

AISD Police: 414-1703 (*Emergency only*)