

Hello Ganado Family!

I cannot believe that Thanksgiving is only two days away. The last two months of my life have been a supersonic whirlwind, but I would not change a thing because I am thankful to lead Ganado ISD! Merriam-Webster defines thankful as “conscious of benefits received.” It is hard to be thankful without being positive. Thus, the theme of this week’s blog centers on the power of thankfulness and positivity.

Part of my first days as the new superintendent was to meet with both the elementary and secondary faculty members. Having been an administrator across several urban and rural schools in Texas and Louisiana, I have seen many things, both good and bad. Just as I told our faculty members, I am going to say it here...be thankful to be part of Ganado ISD! In a fluid and complex world, Ganado ISD gives us stability and assurance due to a truly remarkable and strong community. For almost 20 years I have researched and visited schools – unfortunately – where academics and extracurricular activities take a back seat – daily - to managing behaviors. Thankfully, our goal at Ganado ISD is strengthening already strong academics, extracurricular activities, and behaviors. Wow!

Strengthening something already strong requires positivity. One of my favorite expressions when something goes bad is that “it could always be worse.” Think about that for a minute; it proves true every time. I start our biweekly District Leadership Team meeting by having each leader state something that happened positively to them since we last met...and...be thankful for it. Make it a habit to examine any situation with a positive lens while keeping negativity far, far away. If one positive person is influential, imagine a team of 25, 50, or 100...the sky becomes the limit. I always end my meetings with a quote. Last week I shared this quote from an unknown author and the directors and principals loved it: "Negative people need drama like oxygen. Stay positive, it will take their breath away." I could not ask for a better District Leadership Team – they are awesome!

This Thanksgiving, I am very thankful to lead a district filled with positive students, parents, community members, teachers, support staff members, principals, directors, and board members. Get ready Ganado ISD, we are about to go “from really good to great.” I am positive about it!

Arrows Up,  
Dr. Szymanski

This week’s “Superintendent Shout-outs” to our football team for winning the Area Championship, to everyone that made the Veterans Day Program a huge success, to everyone that made the elementary Thanksgiving Lunch possible, to One Act Play for having 24 members (the maximum allowed) sign-up to perform Dark Road, to Maiden Basketball for finishing second place at the Bloomington tournament, and to the Pride of the Tribe for marching in this week’s 74<sup>th</sup> Annual HEB Thanksgiving Day Parade. We are PROUD of you!