

Hello Ganado Family!

If you have not met me yet, my name is Jonathon Szymanski and I am your new superintendent. I cannot express how excited I am to lead such a fine system. In my interview, one of the first questions asked was, "Why Ganado?" My response was that I grew up in a small town, Wallis, and that we played Ganado most of my school years. As a matter of fact, in 1991, I got called up as a sophomore to play varsity football against Ganado and while playing linebacker, made my very first tackle as a Brazos Cougar at Indian Stadium! Over the years, we passed through Ganado several times traveling to South Texas or Port O'Connor searching for that big buck or trophy redfish. Furthermore, former Ganado superintendent, Frank Hafernick, was a family friend for many years. I will never forget Mr. Hafernick; he was a family man and a true gentleman.

Speaking of family, I have a wonderful wife, Lisa. We have been married for almost 20 years. She is an elementary school teacher and we have two awesome kids, Ty and Bella. Ty transferred to Ganado three weeks ago and played running back and corner in the last three Braves football games. Just prior to moving, as a 7th grader at East Bernard, Ty was the junior high district cross country champion. Bella is in 5th grade and loves horses and hunting. Both Lisa and Bella will get to Ganado as soon as we sell our home. Our intention is to live in Ganado; our intention is to stay in Ganado!

A little bit about me...after graduating Brazos in 1994, I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University in 1999. Four years later, I completed my Master of Education degree in Educational Administration from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. Striving for the highest degree that a university offers, in 2010 I finished my Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University. Along the way at LSU, I completed my second master's degree in 2007, this time in Educational Research Methodology.

As I stated in my interview, this is my 17th year as an educator. I took a seven year hiatus from 2015-2022 and started my own business, Farmers Insurance – Szymanski Agency. Self-employment taught me about the real world and is going to make me an even better superintendent. My passion is education, it is my destiny. Specifically, I have served as (a) principal of a PreK-12 school, (b) principal of a high school, (c) principal of a middle school, (d) assistant principal of a high school, (e) assistant principal of a middle school, (f) assistant principal of an elementary school, (g) dean of students of an elementary school, (h) principal of summer school, and (i) assistant principal of summer school.

Historically, my leadership has consistently increased academic performance, especially at low socioeconomic campuses; significantly decreased discipline referrals; created teacher leaders; instilled school pride; and forged strong community relationships. I'm "old school" and believe in the power of high expectations, teamwork, hard work, and discipline.

This blog, The Chief's Blog, is the first of many! As superintendent, I understand the importance of communication and I plan to write one per week. I will use this platform to "talk while writing" and let you know about school activities, accomplishments, and future events.

Before I go, please know that I am humbled and grateful for the warm welcome that I have received...thank you! My early observations confirmed what I already knew: Ganado has outstanding students, teachers, administrators, and staff members. My tag line will be, "Excellence in ALL that we do!" That means, we will strive to be the best in everything that we attempt...everything!

Soon, we will announce a Meet the Superintendent Night. Those details will follow and I hope to see you there. Until then, you can always stop by central office or email me at [drszymanski@ganadoisd.net](mailto:drszymanski@ganadoisd.net).

Last, but not least..."Superintendent Shout-outs" to our band for finishing 9th in State, to our football team for making the playoffs, to our regional cross country runners, to our state cross country runner, to our cheerleaders' fun pep rallies, to the incredible bonfire, and to our Ag Mechanics team that placed 3rd in the Victoria College Build Off!

Arrows Up,

Dr. Szymanski