

Today is the 18th day of school...wow! Didn't we just have graduation? Mom was right, time flies, especially with kids. Perhaps this year is moving so fast and smoothly because – with the exceptions of Hurricane Beryl and the July 4th holiday – our secondary principals, Kendra Guerrero and Bryan Martin, were busy working each day of the summer. Not only were they handling summer school, they were interviewing staff, making adjustments, and planning for the 2024-25 academic year. Furthermore, upon being hired as the Ganado Elementary School principal in late July, Amanda Beldin hit the ground running. Where am I going with this? Ganado ISD is off to a very POSITIVE start! The new faces have, thus far, brought a wonderful attitude and a “can do” spirit. While walking each campus, you can definitely feel a special aura.

This special aura brought a slogan for the 2024-25 academic year...NO FEAR! Staff members wear NO FEAR shirts each Thursday as a reminder that they can handle the new curriculum and weekly PLC meetings. Change is just that, change. It is inevitable. It is what it is. The Ganado ISD staff has endured a lot of changes over the last few years in terms of superintendents and principals. The beauty of this...Ganado ISD has a strong core of teachers and ancillary personnel that always get the job done, regardless of the circumstances. Ganado ISD is what I proudly refer to as “tough.” There is tough...then there is GANADO TOUGH! Personally, it is an honor to lead such committed professionals. My vision includes bringing stability for many years.

Speaking of GANADO TOUGH, I want to make a special “shout out” to our fantastic students. This summer, we said that we were going to enforce the dress code – the same dress code that we have had in policy for years – from hair length to clothes, piercings, etc. After reinforcing our expectations on the first day, the students have done a spectacular job! In this day and age, some people may wonder, “Why are you so hard on the dress code?” My reply is simple...it prepares you for life. I told the students on August 14th that I previously ran my own business. I asked them, “If you owned a business and were interviewing two candidates for one position to handle your personal earnings and ALL qualifications were exactly equal, would you hire the person that dressed professionally and was early or the person that purposely did not dress professionally and was a few minutes late?” While we know that life can happen on the day of an interview, the answer to the students was quite obvious. My newest and favorite example comes from Coach Kirby Smart when he was asked why he made his Georgia Bulldog football players tuck-in their shirts at football practice...Coach Smart said because when it is 4th and 1, he is confident that they will not jump.

I am going to end with a positive list. I started a new tradition at this year's staff convocation, whereas each principal read the accomplishments that occurred on their campus during the prior academic year. Below is what was written and shared for the 2023-24 academic year:

Ganado High School

- B. Martinez and M. Ramirez received the National Hispanic Recognition award for their strong performance on CollegeBoard assessments
- L. Tupa received the National Rural and Small Town award for his strong performance on CollegeBoard assessments
- Girls Varsity Cross Country team reached the Regional Meet
- Pride of the Tribe earned the 1A Area E District 11 Championship
- Ag Mechanics placed 3rd at Victoria College Ag Mechanics Build Off
- Pride of the Tribe earned 9th Place at the State Marching Contest in San Antonio

- A. Baez earned first place at the 2A Regional Cross Country Meet
- A. Baez earned 20th place at the 2A State Cross Country Meet
- E. Gonzalez and Maria Riojas earned Grand Champion at the Jackson County Fair
- First annual Letterman Jacket Ceremony was held for 33 students
- Varsity Football reached the 2A State Semi-Finals
- Varsity Football earned Ozarka 2A Team of the Year
- At the Houston Rodeo, W. Mendoza earned Best of Show and C. Brito-Lopez and M. Lindsey earned gold medals
- At the San Antonio Stock Show, V. Barajas earned a blue ribbon in outdoor recreation and M. Riojas and E. Gonzales earned a blue ribbon in every category
- Five art students advanced to State in VASE
- Pride of the Tribe sent a quartet, brass ensemble, and percussion ensemble to State in UIL Solo and Ensemble
- D. Holt signed to play football at Howard Payne University
- Boys Powerlifting sent 3 students to the Regional Powerlifting Meet
- Girls Powerlifting placed 2nd overall at the Regional Powerlifting Meet
- Girls Powerlifting sent 6 girls to the State Powerlifting Meet
- P. McDonald placed 5th at the State Powerlifting Meet
- Boys golf team earned a spot at the Regional Meet
- 14 students were sent to the Regional Track Meet
- One Act Play earned a spot at the Regional Contest
- E. Sablatura earned a youth Art of the Month medal and had her art hung in the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin
- Pride of the Tribe earned straight superior ratings and received a sweepstakes award at UIL Concert and Sight Reading
- A. Baez won the Regional Championship in the 1600 meter run and earned a spot at the State Track meet in the 1600 and 3200 meter race
- A. Baez won 2nd place in the 1600 meter run and 5th place in the 3200 meter run at the State Track Meet in Austin
- Varsity Softball made it to the Regional Quarterfinals
- Varsity Baseball made it to the Regional Finals
- A. Baez signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville to run track and cross country
- Ganado ISD witnessed the solar eclipse
- E. Gonzales and M. Riojas earned 2nd place in Ag Mechanics at their contest at Texas A&M-Kingsville
- K. Williams earned his Industry Based Certification for Construction
- K. Tupa earned 3rd place at the State UIL contest for Ready Writing
- Ganado High School hosted the first annual High School Cook-Off
- R. Olandez, V. Torres, and M. Zamudio earned their Industry Based Certification through the Certified Nurse Assistant program
- At State VASE, A. Enriquez and A. Lugo each earned an Exemplary Rating and C. Cook, W. Mendoza, and L. Serna each earned a Superior Rating
- At Victoria Symphony's 50th Anniversary Concert, seven students placed for their three movements

Ganado Junior High School

- 10 art students received a score of excellent, the highest score, at VASE
- 6 platinum medals were given out to the art students, which is equivalent to a state medal in junior high, and Ganado Junior High students received 3 out of the 6
- 1 Best of Show art student at Houston Rodeo (artwork was displayed)
- 1 gold medal art student at Houston Rodeo (artwork was displayed)
- 7th & 8th grade football had a successful season
- 7th & 8th grade volleyball had a successful season
- 7th grade boys track and field were district runner-up
- 8th grade earned straight superior ratings and the sweepstakes award at the UIL concert and sight reading contest
- 7th grade earned an excellent rating on both stage and sight reading
- 29 superior ratings were earned between 7th & 8th at the UIL solo and ensemble contest
- 8 excellent ratings were earned between 7th & 8th at the UIL solo and ensemble contest
- 3 female students auditioned and earned a place in the all-region band
- A Ganado Junior High student won and moved on to the next level at the Lions International Peace Post Contest "Dare to Dream"
- Over 20 participants placed in various events at the UIL academic meet

Ganado Elementary School

- Hosted grade level lunches with parents
- The student council led the Veteran's Day Program (students sang)
- Held a canned food drive at Thanksgiving
- Hosted a Thanksgiving feast with parents
- Participated in the NED program
- Hosted the Christmas music program, Winter Wonderland
- Held a canned food drive for the Panhandle wildfires
- Several students placed at the UIL academic meet
- Held a 100th day of school parade
- Hosted a 2nd grade Heritage Fair
- Held a STAAR Pep Rally
- Hosted Family Literacy Night
- Hosted Dinosaur Museum
- Students meeting their AR points enjoyed pizza at the park
- 2nd grade student read 1 million words
- Hosted elementary field day
- Hosted a dodge ball tournament
- Held Kindergarten graduation
- Held an end of year awards ceremony

What a list! Excellence Since 1900 is not just our motto, it's who we are, what we've done, and what we strive to accomplish each day. Confucius said, "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence."

As always, thank you for reading! If you need anything, please call the office (361-771-4200) or email me at drszymanski@ganadoisd.net.

Arrows Up,
Dr. Szymanski

