

Evolution of Gorzycki

by Imogen Southerland,
copy editor

From the first year that the school was open to now, Gorzycki has added and taken away parts of the original design, so that we now have a different school from the first year.

Seventh grade science teacher Lydia Renfro has been teaching for 21 years and has taught at both Small and Dobie middle schools.

"The largest thing that has changed, for me, is that the Portables were added," Renfro said. "The portables were created for a couple of reasons: we have more students, transfer students, and we have a whole lot more houses in this neighborhood causing more students."

Sixth grade math teacher Carol Bedrich has

been teaching math for 27 years. The first year, sixth grade had only two and a half teams and now they have close to three and a half.

"I would like us to keep up with the technology increase and update the technology we have," Bedrich said. "I taught math along with science the first year."

Librarian Debbie Mauldin has been working for 20 years and has seen the Library change from the first year to now.

"I would love to see an auditorium in the school so that we can have a place for performances," Mauldin said. "[I would like the library to have] a more mobile workspace; as in tables and chairs that can be moved and stacked so that people can move the computers to work in groups together."

The first year Gorzycki was open, there were 850 students and now there is close to 1,340. Eighth grade E.L.A. teacher Nancy Cunningham has taught for 30 years total.

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"The largest thing that has changed, for me, is that the Portables were added," Renfro said. "The portables were created for a couple of reasons:

we have more students, transfer students, and we have a whole lot more houses in this neighborhood causing more students. I would like to see every classroom have 30 iPads to work on."

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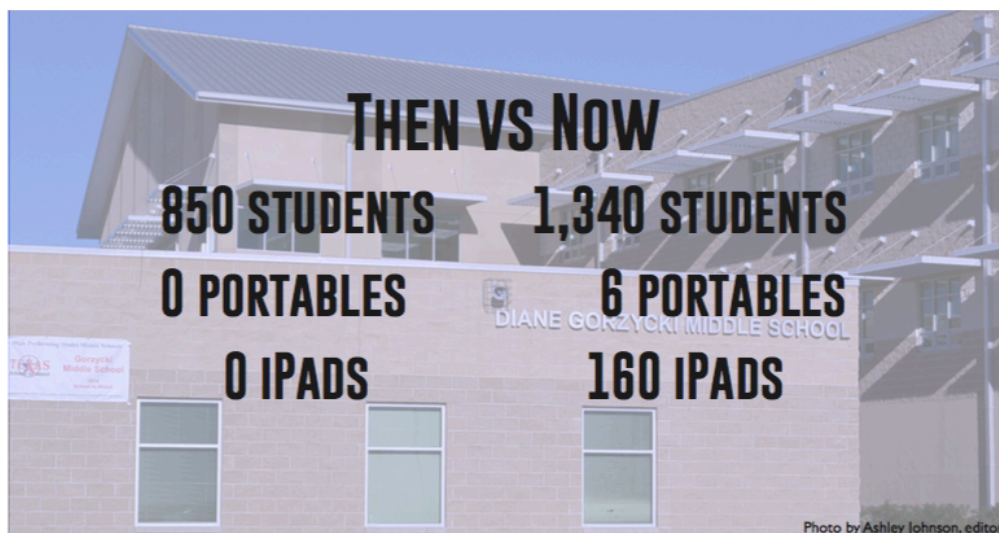
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"I would like to see more computers, more lunch periods, and to have no portables," Cunningham said. "The Portables are negative because when the class is large the students have a harder time. [Despite its changes], I love Gorzycki; I've loved it every year."



Holidays Encourage Volunteering

By Sydney Heim & Lilly Yeager

Some students volunteer at different locations in Austin around the holidays. They do this to help others by wrapping presents at Blue Santa, giving coats to Coats for Kids, and giving food at food drives. Seventh grader Halle Severson started volunteering a few years ago at Blue Santa.

"We pick out presents for kids for a certain age, and we wrap them up and send them out to kids with no presents," Severson said.

Volunteering is a job that requires focus and time, but sometimes a way is found to make the work more fun. Severson shares her fun experience while volunteering at

Blue Santa downtown.

"We had a friendly wrapping competition," Severson said. "We won, and it was a fun to do something with my friends."

While volunteering can be fun, the cause is very important. Without it, many things that are volunteer based wouldn't get done. The good feeling you get after doing

something worth-while is a very compelling thought to student volunteers.

"If nobody volunteers, then nobody will be there to help and give [people in need] support," De La Cerda said. "My favorite part about volunteering is the joy that comes from [the kids'] hearts because we're doing something special."

Students volunteer

at many organizations throughout the year, especially during the holidays. Seventh grader Katie Shreeve shares how she heard about the organizations she volunteers at.

"I've know about Coats for Kids since elementary school, and I was introduced to Blue Santa this year," Shreeve said. "I just volunteer for my church at Blue Santa and Coats

for Kids."

When volunteering, students make many memories. These memories include the happy and the sad.

"When we were doing a food drive, we dropped off food to a veteran," De La Cerda said. "This made me feel happy, but sad because a veteran shouldn't be living on the street."

Some people believe that the work you have to do when volunteering is worth the reward. De La Cerda shares why she recommends Blue Santa, and why she believe it is important to volunteer. "It's fun and it's a good thing to do to help people who need you," De La Cerda said. "If nobody volunteers, then nobody will be there to help and give them the support they need."



Black Friday Tempts with Deals

By Laura Starkey

For some, the rush of Black Friday shopping keeps them out of stores, but for others that rush makes the experience all the better.

Some students go shopping in the afternoon because they don't want to get up super early. But, seventh grader Rachel Gitre goes shopping really early in the morning.

"I went with my cousins at night when stores were just opening and it was really crowded," Gitre said. "We didn't even end up getting

into the mall because everyone kept pushing us and my cousin ended up breaking her arm. Those people are vicious, man."

Lots of people have different ways they go Black Friday shopping. Some people run through stores or cut in line when they're ready to check out. Sixth grader Jessie Bowie usually shops for jewelry or clothes.

"[When I go Black Friday shopping] I push people out of the way to get whatever I'm [gonna] buy," Bowie said.

Seventh grader Maddie Vires usually shops at Bath and Body Works, JC

Penny or Target.

"[People are usually really crazy and] I think [they] should be more chill," Vires said.

Some students take it as a bonding experience with their family or just running around a mall for fun.

"[My friends and I] always have compete with each other and try to find the best deals," said Bowie.

Did you go Black Friday shopping?

150 students polled. Poll by Laura Starkey

