

Valley Game

State Game



Touch

As I was holding the camera and the XRL connector, I felt cold wind rushing around me. The only warm things around me were the hot cocoa and somewhat warm blanket.

Sound

I heard the whistling of the wind whizzing past my head, along with the screams of both sides for their teams' touchdowns. I also heard Tim broadcasting into the mic.

Smell

My nose was really cold, so I couldn't smell much, but I definitely smelled the hot chocolate that Mrs. (Lisa) Roskens provided for me to help keep me a little bit warmer.

See

From where I was sitting, I could see both sides of the stadium, all the fans, and every aspect of the game. I saw each side of the stadium rise and fall for every touchdown.

Taste

Since I was filming, I couldn't escape to the concession to eat during the intense game, but I was able to drink some hot chocolate, and it was probably the best thing at that moment.

Touch

I was able to go onto the field and sit in the AT&T Stadium press box. When on the field, I felt fake grass, rough and slippery. In the intense moments, I think I could've caught the butterflies flying around in my stomach. The plush, spinning chairs were awesome!

Sound

Even way up in the stadium, I could hear fans louder than I have ever heard. While Sydney and I were running back to the press box, I heard the thumping of our footsteps. Also the broadcasters voices right behind me.

Smell

On the field, I helped the cheerleaders hold the runthrough sign, and while I was there, I smelled the faint scent of popcorn, but in the press box it was a weird perfume smell. Most of the upper levels smelt like that!

See

From where our press box room was, we could see the entire AT&T Stadium. Though all the seats weren't full, it didn't matter when they all stood up. It looked full when one side scored!

Taste

Since I was running late, the only drink I could get my hands on was a flat, muddy-tasting Dr. Pepper. I didn't even have time to taste some popcorn, candy, or even a snack from the huge concession stands at all!

Broadcasting Adventures...

This year the Journalism department began to regularly broadcast Groom events, beginning with the football games. They had the opportunity to broadcast all the games, including the state six-man championship game. There were many steps leading to being able to broadcast these events, including many permission "slips," lots of equipment and infinite small problems.

Continuing after football season, the class has expanded the program to also include some basketball games and other creative projects. Cayden Lambert, shown above, was one of the few junior high helpers that received filming credentials. He broadcast many games, but the two games shown above differed greatly from the temperature down to the seating. -Sydney Ritter

Ch@NGE is Good

3 Key Events Top Junior High Academics

Laptops came toward the end of August and were put to use in almost every classroom. "I think they are great because most of my classes require them," Cutter Babcock said. "They are useful, and if you have bad handwriting like me, the computers help with that." Right, Aubrey Ritter uses her laptop to identify the dimensions of the planets while in Mrs. (Kamy) Whatley's classroom.



The largest change in junior high was the introduction of laptops for each individual student to use in the classrooms. The eighth grader students used their laptops in almost every class. If these tools were not used in a particular class, then the homework was online to take home. Also with the laptops came the easier make-up work. If someone missed a class, the work was online ready to get. So, the laptops seemed to make academic life easier and more productive for both teachers and students.

The new choice in classes was a big step for the eighth graders. The opportunity is a great step towards high school. "I really liked being able to pick my own class," eighth grader Halle Barkley said. "It was a taste of high school, and it made me feel privileged."



This year the eighth graders had more elective choices. For fifth-period, they could choose even among high school electives, including journalism and drama. While no junior high students enrolled in the drama class, six students took journalism, and five claimed spots in a study skills class. The journalism class allowed junior high to have more input than ever on the yearbook, newspaper and broadcast productions. Skills learned included how to film for broadcast to "cobbing" a photo for a yearbook spread. Study skills students focused on high-level time management essentials.

Groom seventh- and eighth-graders took home eight first place medals and other awards to earn Groom second place at the UIL academic meet. The students advanced to finals in many activities. Seventh-graders who placed included these shown to the right: Kaylie Ritter, Chandra Rice, Jessie McClenan, Katelyn Burger, Ginna Miller, Laurel Fields, Whitt Ward and Colby Britten.



Photos by Sydney Ritter

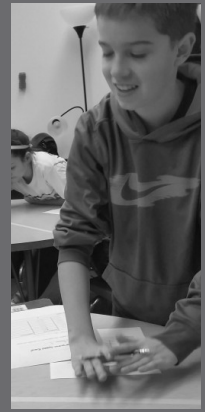
The junior high placed high at the academic UIL meet, even with the challenge of a short amount of time to prepare for the meet. Within the two months they had to prepare, there were flash cards and many print outs used to study. Students in seventh and eighth grade placed best in spelling thanks to Mrs. (Shirley) Fields' 100 words a morning in tutorials. In spelling, both classes took first place individual and first place team.

-Sydney Ritter



Photo by Kamy Whatley

The Groom seventh- and eighth-graders competed in the Egg Drop Competition in Amarillo. They ended up winning both divisions, school and individual. "I enjoyed seeing all of the other peoples' contraptions," eighth-grader Matthew Bowen said, "Especially the one with the sticks poking out everywhere." Students who competed included Adrian Hendricks, Katelyn Burger, Ginna Miller, Laurel Fields, Halle Barkley, Corbin Ruthardt, Matthew Meaker, Chandra Rice, Kaylie Ritter, Jesse McClenan, Derek Weinheimer, Halle Thompson, K'Leigh Thornton, Sydney Ritter, Madison Friemel, Whit Ward, William Kelly, Cayden Lambert, Matthew Bowen, Cade Linqvist, Rebecca Short and Dakota Tiffin.



According to sixth-graders, science teacher Kamy Whatley's class was normally interesting, and a day in January proved what they meant. On that cold day, the sixth-graders had a "worm race" to learn how to complete a time-distance graph.