

Got Skills

Family and consumer sciences students give their insights on the classes



Angelina Caletz, 7

"I think [sewing] will help if I rip something because I could just fix it myself."



Cameron Shugart, 7

"I took Culinary because I think it's a great elective that teaches me skills for later on in life."



Isabella Griffith, 7

"I think the most valuable skill was learning how to cook and do laundry."

Scissors in hand, eighth graders Alexa Robinson and Marilyn Vasquez cut out fabric pieces for their projects. Before cutting out any pieces of fabric, a teacher must have approved them prior to it. "The hardest part of the project was using the sewing machine because it wouldn't stay in a straight line," Robinson said. Photo by Gracie Cuba



1. Making sure his dishes are clean, seventh grader Christopher Leight cleans up a bowl used to make cookies. Photo by Katie Scroggs 2. Carefully pushing the fabric through the sewing machine, seventh grader Laynee Loera sews her project in fashion design. Photo by Aspen Kissinger 3. Putting his tray in the oven, seventh grader Cole Karpinski prepares his cookies. Photo by Gracie Cuba 4. Holding a measuring cup, eighth grader Eli Santos measures out his ingredients for chocolate chip cookies. Photo by Gracie Cuba





Sleep On It

Students in Skills for Living make out-of-the-box pillows

Students say that one of the most helpful skills attained from Skills for Living is sewing. Even though students can agree that cooking is a great part too, most say that the pillow project is their favorite part about the class.

Many students like that they get to start the pillow from nothing but fabric. Eighth grader Bailey Potter enjoyed the variety of choices the project had to offer.

"The pillow project was fun because we got to choose the design that we wanted and make it from scratch," Potter said.

Students were allowed to pick and order their desired pillows.

Eighth grader Aidan Ellisor explains the first steps he went through when his pillow arrived.

"After the pillows arrived, we had to cut out the basic shape of our design and lay out our

fabric," Ellisor said.

Throughout the process, students got to use two different types of sewing: sewing by hand and with a machine. Students learned the proper procedure and safety measures required when using a sewing machine.

Seventh grader Robert Warhola preferred machine sewing to hand sewing while making his pillow.

"I liked using the machine better because it could go faster and sew more efficiently," Warhola said.

The final steps were stuffing the pillows and stitching them up. The students' pillows were then graded before being able to be taken home.

This project helped students learn the basic fundamentals of sewing and how to read instructions. Students were able to complete a full project from start to finish.

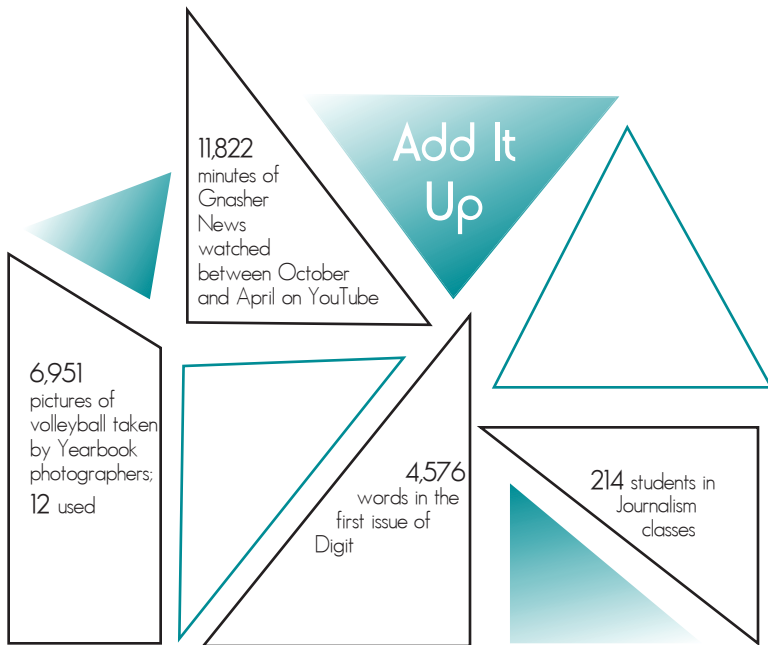


Focusing on her project, seventh grader Jade Fattouh learns how to iron. In Fashion Design classes, students ironed felt to make their own headbands. "In the headband project, we had to first pick out a design, then iron, cut, and shape the felt into a headband," Fattouh said. *Photo by Aspen Kissinger*

Working on his pillow, eighth grader Santiago Ramirez stitches up his product. The pillow projects offered students a variety of pattern options. "I really like learning to stitch pillows because my family can all sew, and I want to be able to make things like them," Ramirez said. *Photo by Gracie Cuba*



Preparing the dough, eighth grader Jessica Dziekan gets ready to bake her cookies. In Culinary Arts, all of the students learn how to make food from scratch. "I like making recipes from scratch because they have a homemade taste and you can change up the ingredients," Dziekan said. *Photo by Gracie Cuba*



Cameras in hand, eighth grade yearbook editors Bella Lufschanowski and Natalie Aman take pictures at the football game. In Yearbook, students learn how to interview, take pictures, and design spreads and modules. "In Yearbook, I have learned how to design spreads using things like eyelines and white space. I have also learned some basic camera skills and certain techniques to keep in mind when photographing different subjects," Lufschanowski said. *Photo by Will Baker*



Can you Dig It?

Media Production changes newspaper to 'Digit'

Media Production classes introduced the newspaper this year with a new name and layout. Formerly known as The Paw Prints, the staff chose the name Digit, or Diane Gorzycki Times. With the name change came new graphics, interactive features, and more pages to keep the students updated.

Eighth grader Will Baker likes Digit better because they made a lot of necessary improvements.

"Since last year, we have improved work ethic because we're getting a lot more done," Baker said.

Seventh grader Jade Fattouh likes having more pages and pictures.

"Sometimes it's hard to keep up with the class because everyone's in their own group and doing their own thing," Fattouh said.

Eighth grader Joy

Smythe-Macaulay likes how the pictures on the cover changes every time there's a new issue of Digit.

"I personally think it's nicer because they added different aspects to change it up every [issue], so it's a nice twist," Smythe-Macaulay said.

Seventh grader Michael Sugrue likes Digit better than Paw Prints because it is expanding to new ideas.

"In Media Production, we try to get into people's minds and see what they like and hopefully produce that," Sugrue said.

The newspaper comes out six times per year. Along with the newspaper, Media Production students also write stories to be published online at gorzyckidigit.com and create the Gnasher News broadcast.

Steadying his camera with a tripod, eighth grader Will Baker takes pictures at Tiger Day. *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*





Asking questions, eighth grader Jessica Leonard interviews City of Austin Mayor Steve Adler while eighth grader Alex James runs the camera. The interview was for an episode of Gnasher News. "I was in shock because it was just a week ago when I had emailed him the letter, and then there I was in his office," Leonard said. *Photo by L. Shirack*

Working in an assembly line, yearbook staff members Alexis Harris, Josh Cannata and Kate Stubbs cut and staple stickers. The staff was encouraging students to buy their yearbook early in order to receive a free sheet of stickers. "I think the stickers are a good way to make the yearbook your own," Harris said. *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*



Concentrating on her selected articles, sixth grader Sierra Greenberg looks over the Gallery Walk. For the project, students chose a news category and found articles relating to that category. "Something I learned in Intro to Journalism is how to go deeper in photo making, and how to make words look good with pictures in a story," Greenberg said. *Photo by L. Shirack*

Making a pretend phone call, seventh graders Kat Ingram and Rylee Oldham rehearse their skit in theatre class. Ingram has been a theatre student for two years. "My favorite part about theatre is the skits because you get to use your imagination to come up with different things," Ingram said. *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*



Sleigh bells in hand, sixth grader Coby Torres plays a reindeer, pulling Santa, Nicholas Neddeau, along behind him. Torres and Neddeau performed *The Night Before Christmas*. "I enjoyed the skit because I played multiple parts," Torres said. "I played a mouse, a sugar plum, and a reindeer." *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*



Scaring Lily Holloway as Goldilocks, sixth graders Laura Starkey, Dalton Slack, and Evan Janecek play the three bears. The group began with writing drawings and captions. "Everyone already knew the story so we didn't really stick to the skit," Starkey said. "We made it up as we went and everyone was on the same page." *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*



Shake [speare] It Off

Theatre students put on a "Clue" dinner theatre in the style of Shakespeare

On November 7 and 8, the theatre production students put on an interactive show for parents, grandparents, and students alike. The show, "Who Killed Shakespeare," was a murder-mystery involving a large Clue board, an emcee, and multiple Shakespearean scenes played by the theatre students.

This was the first year Theatre did a performance as interactive as the dinner theatre. The performance involved complicated instructions and a complex setup.

"We began to see which table would go first by rolling the dice," eighth grader Luke Evans said. After the dice was rolled, the table would go to a room (different sections of the cafeteria) like the balcony, court yard, Witch's Harth, etc. In that room, a scene would be performed. Each table would gather more and more clues

and then make their guesses on their guess card. We continued doing that until a table guessed the correct trio."

Eighth grader Madison West played the part of Helena in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

"The rehearsals were really influential and put the play together," West said. "Without them, it would have been a disaster."

Seventh grader Kamryn Morales enjoyed the interactive aspect of the dinner theatre.

"It was fun to walk around and say hi to people you don't know," Morales said.

Theatre teacher Michelle Huerta felt the cast was very prepared.

"The cast did excellent. The Production students played well with their sonnets, even with distractions," Huerta said.

The Theatre Production students held another Shakespeare Murder Mystery dinner theatre in May.



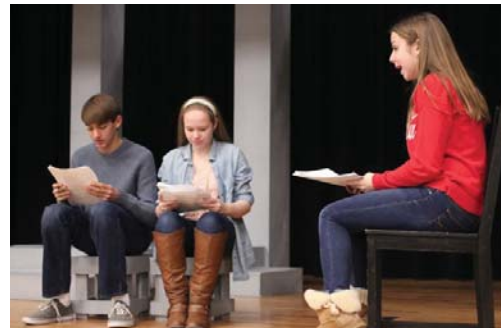
Speaking to her Romeo played by Elliott Nelson, Taylor Brown delivers a heart-felt scene. Brown played the role of Juliet in the "Who Killed Shakespeare Murder Mystery" production. "I felt prepared for my part because we practiced non-stop," Brown said. *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*



Speaking to Greek heroes, Risako Nishiyama plays a Siren in the Olympia Ganza skit. Risako played ensemble, meaning she played multiple roles including a lonely woman, a Fury, and a Greek soldier. "It's hard to play multiple parts because you have to wear a bunch of costumes and you have to remember a bunch of lines," Nishiyama said. *Photo by Natalie Aman*

Reading through their scripts, eighth graders Cade Blagdan, Kelley Israel, and Georgia Boutot block a scene in Theatre Production. The scene involved Greek mythology and ancient Gods. "With blocking scenes, we just start reading our lines, and Ms. Huerta will make suggestions on where to go," Boutot said. *Photo by Natalie Aman*

Pushing past seventh grader Emma Elias, seventh grader Connor Reilly rudely leaves her customer's house. Reilly's role had been invited to exterminate a loose duck. "I like theatre because I have a lot of friends in it," Reilly said. "It's a fun way to express yourself, even if you mess up." *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*



1. **Ring**ing their sleigh bells, sixth graders Zoe Chakales and Hunter Pierpoint play reindeers carrying Santa Claus, Elizabeth Hayek, on her sleigh. *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski* 2. **Complaining** about her husband, eighth grade Theatre Production student Maya Levee talks on the phone held by Kat Rogers in the Olympia Ganza play. *Photo by Natalie Aman* 3. **Moaning** as a zombie, eighth grader Jacob Hively attacks a ship of Greek heroes to stop them from going to the kingdom in the Olympia Ganza play. *Photo by Natalie Aman*

Eyes glued to her stand, eighth grader Abby Ong performs with her class at the Guitar Winter Concert. Guitar students play new songs each concert. "I guess they were the hardest ones we've done so far, but they weren't extremely hard," Ong said. Photo by Sophie Bega



Double basses in playing position, chamber orchestra bass players Emily Ambler, Haley Peck, and Foster Ray play the "Star Wars" theme. The double basses are the largest instruments in the orchestra and produce the lowest notes. "My favorite part of playing the double bass is that it has the lowest pitch, and it's kind of the backbone of the orchestra," Ray said. "The rest of the orchestra depends on the basses to keep going and stay on rhythm." Photo by Bella Lufschanowski

1. **Parts** of a whole, guitar students Frank Otsuki and Gabriela Bole practice their music in class. Photo by Jordan Haschke

2. **Swaying** with the music, chamber orchestra first chair violin Jacob Ordaz and second violin Marya Kim perform at the Fine Arts Showcase. Photo by Kaiya Emmert

3. **Plucking** her violin's string, seventh grader Alexandra Unda uses the technique of pizzicato at the Orchestra Winter Concert. Photo by Sophie Bega



All About That Double Bass

Double bass numbers increase in orchestra

A double bass is the largest and lowest pitched instrument of the violin family, providing the bass line in the orchestra's string section.

Orchestra teacher Julie Allevato thinks the double bass' help contribute to the entire Orchestra.

"The double bass helps us keep tempo and they are our tuning," Allevato said.

There are eight double basses total in the orchestra program. Two basses play in Beginning Orchestra, two play in Concert Orchestra, and four play in Chamber Orchestra.

Eighth grader Chase Salter has been with the orchestra program for two and a half years.

"An interesting fact about the double bass is that it is the deepest string in Orchestra," Salter said.

Eighth grader Emily Ambler, has been in Orchestra for three years. She enjoys having the responsibility of being a

leader.

"I enjoy playing the double bass because we get really cool rhythms and you feel like you're in charge," Ambler said.

There are hardships when playing any instrument, and sixth grader Christopher Aguilar agrees.

"I definitely think it is hard to shift your hand up and down the fingerboard, but it makes up for it because the [double bass] is really loud," Aguilar said.

Seventh grader Brady McKnight believes there are pros and cons to playing the double bass.

"I think a pro in playing the double bass is that you get to keep tempo and control the speed, but you also kind of get to be a leader," McKnight said.

Incoming sixth graders can try out the double bass and other orchestra and band instruments at the Fine Arts night held every year to introduce new students to Gorzycki fine arts.

Fingers resting on the strings, sixth grader Grace Sprague plays out the music on her stand. The guitar is one of the most played instruments along with the piano. "I always have wanted to play an instrument," Sprague said. Photo by Jordan Haschke



Santa hat on his head, seventh grader Ethan Campbell plucks his cello in the orchestra's annual Winter Concert. Orchestra performed a variety of songs for friends and family. "Moon Dance" was my favorite [song to play] because it's calm and cool at the same time," Campbell said. Photo by Sophie Bega

Guitar up on his knee, seventh grader Travis Willi plays a song with his class. Most students go into the guitar class with little to no knowledge of the instrument or how to play it. "I just really like playing because it was fun," Willi said. Photo by Brielle Stricklin

Practice Makes Perfect



"I think it can really prepare you because you can practice parts you mess up on so you won't mess up at the concert." Victoria Ellensohn, 8



"I played guitar in elementary school, and I didn't practice so I didn't get better." Ben Schroeder, 7



"I think that practicing helps because it gives you an idea for what you need to be careful for at the concert." Julia Aguilar, 8

Preparing to punt, eighth grade A team goalie Avery Fontana focuses on the ball. Fontana has been playing goalie for six years. "My favorite part of being goalie is the risk and adrenaline," Fontana said. *Photo by*

Cold Feet

Soccer teams battle the bitter weather to come out on top

Boys' soccer season is always cold, but this year every game was about 45 degrees. Players had mixed feelings about playing in the chilly conditions.

Eighth grade A team player Cade Blagdan enjoys playing in the cold rather than the heat.

"I like to play in the cold better because when you run and get sweaty, you can cool off," Blagdan said.

Sal Johnson, eighth grade A team player, doesn't like playing in the cold weather because of the injuries it causes.

"One time I got hit by the ball, and I couldn't feel my face for the rest of the game," Johnson said.

Seventh grade B team player Zane Halabi explains the difference between playing in the winter and the spring.

"When we play in the cold,

everything freezes and your body feels numb," Halabi said.

In addition to the unpleasant weather, the boys had to conquer some obstacles in order to finish their season strong.

Ashton Bennett, seventh grade B team player had to overcome a head injury during the season.

"In the middle of the season I got a concussion by getting my legs knocked out from under me," Bennett said. "I landed on my head."

Seventh grade B team member John Salas had to defeat an obstacle of his own.

"I played goalie, and I had to learn to trust the other players on my team," Salas said.

The A team finished with four wins, three losses and zero ties, and B team finished with three wins, two losses and zero ties.



1. **Throwing** the ball into play, seventh grade B team member Sean Cairns sends the ball to a teammate. *Photo by Natalie Aman* 2. **Running** aggressively, eighth grader Noah Tuttle drives the ball down field. *Photo by Natalie Aman* 3. **Turning** sharply, eighth grade A team goalie Mason Goldwasser attempts to take control of the ball at tryouts. *Photo by Kaiya Emmert*





Jumping for joy, Eli Davidson and Zach Sommers celebrate a goal against the O'Henry Mustangs. Together, Davidson and Sommers scored 8 goals this season. "I got an assist to Zach, and we got excited because that was his first goal of the season," Davidson said. *Photo by Natalie Aman*

Remember When?

Soccer players tell us their favorite moment of the season



"My favorite moment of the season was when I slide tackled a Small forward, I was proud of myself."

Joon Kang, 8A



"My favorite moment was when the other team punted the ball, and I got under the ball and headed it to Eli."

Hunter Rogers, 7A



Driving the ball upfield, Enrique Lopez dodges a Murchison defender. Lopez played as an A team striker. "I like being striker because I get to stay upfield and be fast to strike the ball," Lopez said. *Photo by Bella Lufschanowski*

Dribbling the ball, seventh grader Aidan Ruth prepares to pass to a teammate. Ruth played as a midfielder for B team. "I like passing the ball, and how I feel when I score," Ruth said. *Photo by Natalie Aman*



"I felt proud when a Small forward tried to run past me, but I took the ball from him."

Ryan Kriech, 8B



"I liked when I scored a goal. It felt really good, and I felt like a hero."

Emilio Cardenas, 7B