

# position IMPORTANCE



GRANT KEHOE, 8A

## small forward

"My position is important because it is a very versatile position and you have to be able to score, rebound, and be able to play defense," Kehoe said.



DYLAN DANG, 7A

## power forward

"The importance of the power forward is to get rebounds, help out with screens for the guards, and put back missed shots," Dang said.



JAKE SMITH, 8B

## shooting guard

"My position is important because we rack up the most points and we have to have a good perception of the basket," Smith said.



MATEO CANTU, 7B

## point guard

"Point guards are important because we bring the ball down the court and pass it to people who are open to run the offense of the team," Cantu said.

**Preparing to pass,** eighth grade B team player Aidan Garza gets ready to pass to a shooting guard that is open. Garza is coached by Coach Jason Gaines. "As a point guard, you have to be able to lead the team and call all the plays for the team," Garza said. Photo by Victoria Hernandez



**Helping eighth grade A team player James Hayek,** eighth grade A team player Trey Campsmith pulls him up from off the ground. Hayek and Campsmith both played basketball in seventh grade as well. "Working as a team rather than an individual is very important. You can't win off of one person," Campsmith said. "It's a team effort." Photo by Jade Fattouh



**1. With no defender** on him, eighth grade A team player Nolan Willard goes up for a shot. Photo by Halle Krogstad **2. Jumping for the rebound,** seventh grade A team players Josh McCormick and Luke Lovelady grab the ball from their opponent. Photo by Megan Williams **3. Looking around,** seventh grade B team player Nicholas Neddeau looks for someone open to pass to. Photo by Megan Williams





# FINISHING STRONG

## eighth graders end middle school basketball years

The 8A boys' basketball team worked together to earn 3rd place in the Southwest zone.

Eighth grade A team player Trace Young tried out for basketball because it's his favorite sport to play, and both his parents played basketball as well. "My favorite thing about basketball is winning games," Young said. "It makes you feel good because you know that you were the better team."

According to eighth grade B team player Hunter Rogers, taking part in basketball has taught him many things.

"I've learned to have integrity and never be afraid to mess up when trying new things,"

Rogers said.

Most eighth grade basketball players also played in seventh grade.

Coach Jeremy Mauk has seen many of them grow and develop their talents throughout their middle school years.

"As a coach, it's neat to see your players come together more as a team," Mauk said. "I think they've become more confident in themselves, and they've found a true identity."

Throughout Gorzycki basketball, the players have learned the importance of teamwork.

Eighth grade A team player James Hayek believes

that the key to success is working together.

"One thing I've learned from this basketball season is that you can't be successful unless everyone is in sync, and you are willing to make sacrifices for your team," Hayek said.

Like most eighth grade basketball players, eighth grade B team player Bailey Pratt plans on pursuing basketball in high school.

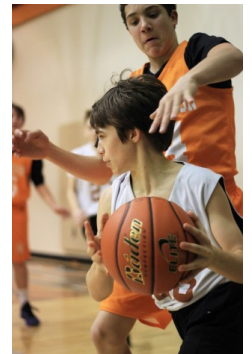
"The coaches at Gorzycki have taught me that having a good work ethic is better than being super talented," Pratt said.

The 8A team finished with a record of 6-3, and the 8B team finished with a record of 5-2.



**Jumping in the air,** seventh grade B team player Ryder Wolfe passes the ball back to his teammate. Wolfe has been playing basketball since he was five years old. "My advice for newcomers is to never stop hustling and always go for the rebound," Wolfe said. *Photo by Megan Williams*

**Heading towards the hoop,** eighth grade A team player Jaden Yakerson protects the ball from the defender. Yakerson is a point guard. "Basketball has been one of my passions from a very young age and it is something I want to get better at," Yakerson said. *Photo by Halle Krogstad*



**With a defender on his back,** eighth grade B team player Andre Hoover searches for the perfect pass. Hoover is a shooting guard. "While I am playing, I take a few deep breaths and focus on what my job is and what I am supposed to do," Hoover said. *Photo by Halle Krogstad*