

Some may ask, "Why is Dr. Szymanski always shouting 'Excellence Since 1900' when referring to Ganado ISD?" Well, simply stated, I believe in honoring our past. Once hired, I was curious so I executed a good-old-fashioned Google search. Immediately, I found an article online from the Texas State Historical Association that declared, "The Ganado Independent School District was formed in 1900, and by 1914 the 750 residents had added a rice mill, a rice warehouse, another bank, and a weekly newspaper named the Jackson County Independent." Wanting more information, I emailed the author of said article and never received a response. Then, in early January, Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Diaz, knowing my interest, found a book in our archives titled - The Calvacade of Jackson County - written by Ira Thomas Taylor in 1938. Page 127 clearly noted that "Ganado Independent School District was created on June 8, 1900, by a vote of fifty-seven to four." There you have it! In August, Ganado ISD will be starting its 125th year...yes, 125th year! That is something that we must celebrate! Thank you Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Diaz!

Me being me, I decided to see where our age stood in the big scheme of things. The following is what I found in terms of the establishment year for various local independent school districts...the year noted does not recognize the many one room schoolhouses that filled the countryside prior. Now, as a researcher, please let me know if any information below is inaccurate...email me at drszymanski@ganadoisd.net with corrections or "fun" details.

El Campo – 1895
Wharton – 1896
Ganado – 1900 (Arrows Up!)
Edna – 1904
Louise – 1908
East Bernard – 1915
Calhoun County 1948
Industrial – 1948
Tidehaven – 1948
Brazos – 1974

It's safe to say that Ganado is the oldest independent school district in Jackson County and one of the oldest small-town independent school districts in the region. Therefore, excellence is an expectation and a habit in Ganado ISD. Who needs a fancy worded motto when you can humbly say, "Excellence Since 1900." It's what we've done and what we'll continue to do in the classroom and in future extracurricular events. From our first district football championship in 1939 to this year's exemplary academic success at the elementary and junior high UIL meets.

Speaking of "Excellence Since 1900," here are my Superintendent Shout-outs for a ton of "excellence since just the last few weeks" (see what I did there J): to Mrs. Ardner's students with artwork on display at the Hayloft Gallery at the Houston Rodeo - Wendy Mendoza, Crystal Brito-Lopez, Mattalie Lindsey, Yatziri Guerrero-Brito, Anna Reid, Danni Zikuhr, and Lane Andel; to Mrs. Ardner's student, Elizabeth Sablatura, that will have her art exhibited during the month of March at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin; to Mrs. Ardner's students that competed at the regional VASE art competition, earning 33 medals with five students being selected to advance to state - Colby Cook, Abrielle Enriques, Alexis Lugo, Liliana Serna, and Wendy Mendoza; to Coach Ervin's athlete, Dylan Holt, for signing a college football scholarship with Howard Payne University; to Mr. Diaz's three students that earned blue ribbons at the San Antonio Stock Show - Vincent Barajas, Maria Riojas, and Ethan Gonzalez; to Mrs. Keen's many band members that performed exceptionally well at the recent solo and ensemble contests; to Coach Cann's Indian baseball team for going undefeated at last weekend's baseball tournament in Van Vleck and outscoring its opponents by a combined total of 62-5; to Coach Craft's Maiden softball team for beating Schulenburg 18-0 in Tuesday's district opener; and to Coach Chambless' state powerlifting qualifiers - Zoey Ybarra, Jordyn Bundick, Lilana Serna, Brenda Govea, Makinzie Tovar, and Juana Zamudio.

That's a whole lot of EXCELLENCE.....since 1900!

Arrows Up!

Dr. Szymanski