



## Upgrading Technology is a Continuous Process at Blanco ISD

*59 New Computers Being Brought On-line at Blanco High School*



*High School principal Dustin Barton and BISD Technology Director Tom Cozzi with some of the new computers destined for distribution at the high school.*

Blanco ISD strives to keep itself on the cutting edge of technology.

“Maintaining the computers of the District is a continual process,” said Tom Cozzi, Director of Technology for Blanco ISD. “This year, we’re installing 59 computers at the high school. These computers will be used for rebuilding a computer lab, and the others will go to the teachers.”

“Five of these computers will be used in a newly-created ‘credit recovery’ lab, in which students who are short credits for graduation may take a course on-line.”

“The old computers are being re-distributed. Some will remain with the teacher, some will go to other campuses in the District as needed.”

“Last year, we did the same thing for the elementary school teachers. Next year, we’re going to be looking to do the same thing for the middle school teachers and the middle school lab. The rotation just continues on.”

The District has implemented some significant technology

initiatives within the last two years. The District has: installed 65 ceiling mounted data projectors in classrooms throughout the District; implemented 20 Interwrite Boards Districtwide; upgraded the District website; added bandwidth to the District’s Internet connection; and integrated technology to improve instruction and assessment through student response cards, the AEIS-IT software disseminating TAKS and benchmark data, etc.

“I’m very pleased,” said Cozzi. “When I think of the things we’ve gotten done, we’ve accomplished a lot.

We’re constantly maintaining our technology on a daily basis.”

“I have a saying that I believe in: ‘instruction drives technology.’ I believe that shapes our philosophy.”

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## Six Blanco Middle School Students Attend NCAA Women's Final Four as "Junior Journalists"



*"Junior Journalists" at NCAA Women's Final Four in San Antonio. (Blanco Middle School students, identified by arrows, L to R) Meaghen Seales, Danielle Oliver, Payton Savarino, Reagan Rogers, Kristin Watt, Jamie McClinton.*

Several aspiring journalists from Blanco Middle School had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—participate in the NCAA women's basketball Final Four showdown in San Antonio as Junior Journalists.

"This all started to come together last January," said middle school counselor Lisa Rogers. "We're on the NCAA's mailing list, and we got information that they were going to sponsor a Junior Journalist program for middle school students. I followed through with them, and they accepted six of our students into the program."

Students in the program received a press pass, which allowed them access to all press conferences, the floor, the press room, and even the locker rooms. Students also attended workshops on press procedures, methods, etc. They even talked with ESPN's Sportscenter team.

"Sue Donohoe, NCAA Vice-President for Div. I Women's Basketball, came in and spoke to the girls. She told them that even if they don't pursue a career in journalism, that the things they will experience in this program will open their eyes to all kinds of opportunities," said Rogers.

Students were divided into four groups, and each group was given a topic to write about. The articles produced by the groups were subsequently posted on the NCAA's website.

"I enjoyed this experience a lot," said 8th grader Kristin Watt. "It has opened my eyes to a lot of things that I had never looked at before. I had a great time and hope to someday pursue a job as a media professional."

"This experience has changed my life," said 7th grader Jamie McClinton. "It changed the way I look at basketball and the opportunities that are available in that type of work. It was fun!"

## The ABC's (Attitude, Behavior, Competition) of the NCAA Fan Experience

by

*Reagan Rogers and Meaghen Seales of Blanco Middle School, Alexis Martinez and Brittany Pitcel of Krueger Middle School, Dyanalexis Martinez of Young Women's Leadership Academy.*

**San Antonio**—Would you stand in line for seven hours to get the autograph of your favorite Women's Division I basketball player? University of Connecticut basketball fans queue up at 9 AM for the 3:45 PM session. Dedicated fans, even those not from Connecticut, want to support excellence in sports, women's basketball and being a part of the excitement that surrounds the Final Four.

But they are not alone. Hundreds of fans attending the open practices had a variety of reasons for coming to the Alamodome during the 2010 Women's Final Four in San Antonio. At Stanford's practice, supporters of all universities, locals, and basketball fans came to watch.

Corliss Cooper has been to every NCAA Women's Final Four in her lifetime. The Tennessee resident would like to see the Cardinal in the championship game and break UConn's dominance.

Proud dad, Joe Appel, has been to every game this season and is in San Antonio to see his daughter, Jayne's, final game(s). Appel would like to see Stanford play UConn in the championship.

"Stanford has a chance if they play their game well," Appel said.

Thirteen-year Cardinal season ticket holders, Kellee Noonan and Douglas Lee, came to support their team. Gloria Latimer from Colorado Springs, also at Saturday's practice, has been to every Women's Final Four since 2003. When asked who she is cheering for, she cited her ABC's..."Anybody But Connecticut."

San Antonio residents, best friends, and basketball fans Jane Elledridge, who is rooting for Baylor, and Betsy Nanny, rooting for UConn only agree that they would like to see Oklahoma on Tuesday night. Betsy also wants to see women's basketball get the same attention as men's.

The most-spirited fans seem to belong to the University of Connecticut. Wigs, costumes, pajamas and painted faces...at practice! These fans travel and bring their enthusiasm. The consensus is the team is fun to watch and they represent the best in student-athletes.

Craig Happ who recently moved to San Antonio from Missoula, Montana was watching and notes that Final Fours are fun because, "anything can happen." Tip-off is tomorrow night. May the best team win!

Published online at <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/news/Latest+News/womens+final+four+journalism+workshop+story+three>







## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

### Blanco Tennis Takes Top Honors at District

*Updates Also on Area One Act Play, District Golf*



*Tennis Regional Qualifiers (L to R) Kevin Vizcaino and Brooks Lane, Boys Doubles; Brian Roche and Austin Carrola, Boys Singles; Kelsey Schwind, Girls Singles. (Photo by Diana Schwind)*

The District 27-AA Tennis Tournament was held on April 7 and 8 in Boerne, and Blanco came up big winning the Boys team championship, both Boys and Girls Singles titles, and advancing five players to Regional.

Brian Roche and Kelsey Schwind won Boys Singles and Girls Singles, Austin Carrola was runner-up in Boys Singles, and the Boys Doubles team of Brooks Lane and Kevin Vizcaino finished second.

Head Coach Stuart Schultz said, "Brian and Austin played each other for the District title. They had a good match; it went three sets. They're both good players. Austin was fourth at Regional last year."

Blanco's Boys Doubles team of Brooks Lane and Kevin Vizcaino defeated Blanco's other team of Kellam Nabers and Ryan Wagner 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 to advance to Regional.

"I expected we would do well at District," said Schultz. "I'm hoping we can get some to State. We have the potential right here. It would be awesome."

#### Area One Act Play

The Area One Act Play contest was held on April 6 at Austin High School in Austin. Blanco's play, *Rivers and Ravines*, did not advance; however, several students received individual honors.

Eleanor Kirkscey was named to the All Star Technical Crew; Sydni Kipp was named to the All Star Cast; and Jaeger Shoemaker and Kristen Mancha were named to the Honorable Mention All Star Cast.

"I am so proud of the accomplishments of the OAP Cast and Crew this year," said One Act Play director Emily Houghton. "Although it would have been nice to continue advancing to-

ward State, the Blanco One Act Play was one of the most beautiful shows at the Area Contest and we are proud no matter what."

"I look forward to the continued growth of the Theatre Department, and am excited about all of the future success I know we're going to have. Thanks to all faculty and family for the untiring support and encouragement this season."

#### District 27-AA Golf Tournament

The District 27-AA Golf Tournament was held on April 5 at Woodlake golf course in San Antonio.

The girls team finished third in the meet. Emmalee Arlitt qualified to go to Regional by shooting 111, and then winning a playoff against tied teammate Elaine Tamez for the ticket to go there.

"We had a good year," said Head Coach Scott Balmos. "Emmalee will be Blanco's first Regional qualifier in golf. We look forward to next year."



*(L to R) Coach Balmos, Emmalee Arlitt, Presley Savarino, Elaine Tamez, Rachel York, Alex Leblanc; Coach Balmos, Emmalee Arlitt.*



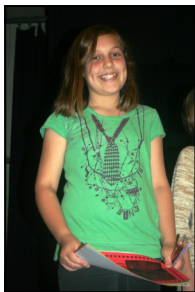
"Hear Ye, Hear Ye!"

## FOCUS ON BISD



### Elementary School "Collin's Cam" by Collin Gaskamp

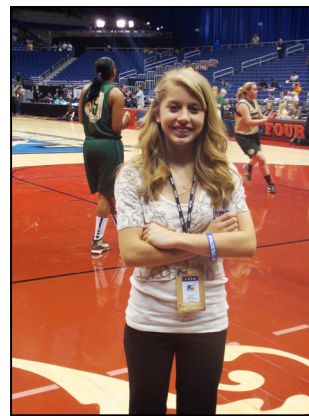
*Elementary Awards Presentation 4/1/10  
5th Graders Celebrate End of TAKS 4/8/10*



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### Middle School "Lisa's Lens" by Lisa Rogers

*Junior Journalists Attend NCAA Women's Final Four Basketball Tournament 4/3/10*



Week of April 9—April 18

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Sat. April 10   | Kathy Anderson    |
| Mon. April 12   | Julio Alegria     |
| Wed. April 14   | Amy Hackebeit     |
| Thurs. April 15 | Jennifer Collette |
| Sat. April 17   | Amanda Fulton     |