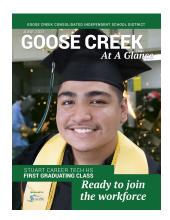




Ready to join the workforce



ON THE COVER: Daniel Torres is the valedictorian of the first graduating class of Stuart Career Tech High School.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman



GOOSE CREEK CISD

4544 Interstate 10 East Baytown, Texas 77521 281.420.4800 www.gccisd.net

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Randal O'Brien

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Goose Creek CISD At a Glance is a community newsletter published by the Community Engagement and Marketing Departments to inform citizens about the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District schools.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT DR. RANDAL O'BRIEN

Goose Creek CISD Community,

It's hard to believe that we are ending another school year. The 2020-2021 school year has been memorable as we worked to make

decisions about COVID-19 safety protocols to ensure the safety of our students and staff. I'd like to thank the COVID Task Force, including representatives from each campus; Matt Bolinger, executive director of strategic planning and innovation; Christi Leath, director of advanced academics and special projects; Patricia Peña, health services



DR. RANDAL O'BRIEN Superintendent of Schools

coordinator; and Stephanie Myers, benefits coordinator, for their work in determining the protocols as well as addressing situations as they arose. Just recently, Gov. Greg Abbott lifted the mask mandate, although we certainly welcome students, staff and guests to our campuses and facilities to continue wearing masks.

It has been wonderful to see sporting events, fine arts performances, proms, banquets and celebrations taking place again. Graduation ceremonies are in the works, much to the delight of seniors and their families. We are proud of our 1,500-plus graduates, including the 52 members of the first graduating class of Stuart Career Tech High School.

If you haven't been down Wallisville Road lately, go take a look at Edward Franklin "E.F." Green Junior School! This beautiful facility, located close to Goose Creek Memorial High School, is scheduled to open in August.

In January 2022, construction will be completed on Elementary #17, which will be named Jessie Lee Pumphrey for the longtime teacher and school administrator who served as principal at Lorenzo De Zavala (known as the Mexican School) from 1928 to 1965. The original Jessie Lee Pumphrey Elementary School opened on Fairway Drive in 1970, marking the first time that an elementary in Goose Creek CISD had been named for a local individual. Pumphrey also was the district's first woman principal. This school, located near the West Town Complex, was 39 years old when the board of trustees voted to close it in 2009 as a result of community concerns regarding proximity to one of our plants and adjacent pipelines.

The former Green Center on Baker Road now houses the Tax Office, the GCCISD Police Department and the Truancy Department. Since the board voted to name the new junior school for E. F. Green, the board members decided the new name for the Green Center will be the Hugh Echols, Jr. Public Service Center. Echols' 46 years in banking included 38 years at Citizens National Bank and Trust as president and chairman of the board. He made connections with the principals and was a loyal supporter of Robert E. Lee High School. He took great pride in helping startup businesses get their feet on the ground, attributing to much of the economic success of the region.



On the horizon, we eagerly anticipate the construction of the Goose Creek Early Learning Academy, which will educate 350-400 pre-kindergarten students. The exciting part of this facility is the transformative concept of blending a museum-quality play-learn environment with a brain science based curriculum in order to maximize opportunity to close achievement gaps for our youngest students, which will enable them to excel in their academic career from the onset!

Thanks to the support of our board of trustees, the Goose Creek Virtual Academy is scheduled to open in the fall. As with each of our academies, we may begin with specific grade levels and allow the program to grow.

Speaking of our board of trustees, I want to thank Agustin Loredo III and Ben Pape for their service to the district as board members. We welcome Helen Berrott-Tims and Mercedes Renteria III to the board and are looking forward to working with them.

Finally, I cannot truly express my gratitude to our staff, students and community for the patience, persistence and perseverance demonstrated during the global pandemic. Your strength provided me the hope I needed to continue to lead the district to adopt a mindset of prevailing, rather than surviving.

Have a wonderful summer!

Dr. Randal O'Brien

Superintendent of Schools







GIANTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the Goose Creek CISD Giant students, staff members, and alumni for the 2020-2021 school year. This award is given monthly to individuals who are an inspiration and those who have had a giant impact. Our community nominates candidates, and recipients are determined by a committee comprised of teachers, administrators and business representatives.



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH



GIANT STUDENT OF THE MONTH



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH October 2020



GIANT STUDENT OF THE MONTH October 2020



GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH October 2020



GIANT STUDENT



GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH
November 2020



PATRICIA PEÑA GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

November 2020



JIMENA VILLALON GIANT STUDENT



BRANDON ALLPORT ALTILLO GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH



ANNIE ROBINSON CIANT STAFF MEMBER



ADAM KINDER GIANT STUDENT



RICK KING GIANT ALUMNUS



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

January 2021



GIANT ALUMNUS



GIANT ALUMNUS



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF



GIANT STUDENT



GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH
February 2021



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH March 2021



GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH March 2021



GIANT STUDENT OF THE MONTH March 2021



GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH April 2021



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH April 2021



TORRES GIANT STUDENT OF THE MONTH



GIANT STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH



GIANT STUDENT OF THE MONTH May 2021



GIANT ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH May 2021

Thank you, Houston Methodist Baytown, for sponsoring this award.





To learn more about our Giants or nominate a Giant student, staff member, or alumnus, visit www.herewegrowgiants.com.

Smith named Chief of Police for Goose Creek CISD

By: Susan Passmore

Interim Chief of Police Davis Smith, Jr. has been named Chief of Police for Goose Creek CISD, replacing Chief Antonio Alfaro, who resigned in February to take help care for a family member out of state. He was sworn in by Brandon Benoit, attorney with Reid, Strickland & Gillette, at a recent meeting of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees.

Smith attended Texas Southern University and holds certifications as a Master Peace Officer, advanced law enforcement rapid response training (Alerrt) instructor, internal affairs investigator, property and evidence room manager, FBI-LEEDA and background investigator as well as Crisis Intervention Management.

He began his career as a police officer with the Houston Police Department in 1997, serving as a School Resource Officer for Alief ISD from 2001-2006 and from 2010-2017. Smith worked as a Toll Road Enforcement Officer for the Harris County Constable Pct. 7 from 2017-2018. He joined Goose Creek CISD in 2018 as a sergeant and accepted the position of Interim Chief of Police in February.



Goose Creek CISD Police Chief Davis Smith (left) is sworn in by Brandon Benoit (right) with Reid, Strickland & Gillette. Also pictured are Jessica Woods, board president, and Dr. Randal O'Brien, superintendent.

Smith is engaged to be married in July. He has five children-Brittany, Jasmine, Amber, Davis, and Kayla.

"I'm truly excited about the opportunity to serve Goose Creek CISD as the Chief of Police," Smith said.

"I'm committed to moving our department

forward to face the challenges of tomorrow, while providing for the protection of life, property and preserving the peace. Our department embraces the responsibility of providing our diverse community with the optimal service, integrity and excellence while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and ethical standards."



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GOOSE CREEK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Valedictorian



PRANAV GUPTA



BRANDON RUPP Third



ANSH NAIKELE Fourth



KEVYN SALAZAR Fifth



SAMANTHA KATHERINE RIVAS CASH Sixth





Eighth



Ninth



JASON RICHARDS Tenth

IMPACT EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



MELISSA MAR Valedictorian



AMY CASTILLO Salutatorian



Tbird



AVINASH JAYDE RAMBARRAN CRUTCHFIELD Fourth



VICTORIA RAZO Fifth



EMMANUEL GONZALEZ Sixth



MAIRELY PADILLA Seventh



WILLIAM JONES Eighth



MANUEL MAITIN Ninth



YESENIA BERNAL Tenth

ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL



EVAN KERR Valedictorian



JAVIER MORFIN Salutatorian



VICTORIA ROCHA



LILIANA EMILY VILLARREAL NAVARRO Fourth





YAHIR MENDOZA



RILEY ADCOX Seventh



NICOLE PRICE Eighth



DEBANHI ROCHA Ninth



ISAAC TREJO Tenth

STERLING HIGH SCHOOL



MARC DE GUZMAN Valedictorian



BROOKE BENOIT Salutatorian



STEVEN MAURO Third



YADIRA HERMOSILLO Fourth



SOPHIE STULTS Fourth



CHARLOTTE NEWPORT Sixth



ANTHONY VARGAS



RAFAEL GUTIERREZ JR. Eighth



AHMAD HAMID Ninth



DAISY ALVAREZ Tenth

STUART CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL



DANIEL TORRES Valedictorian



Salutatorian

ARMONDO GARCIA



RICK REYES Tbird



SWINDOLL III

Fourth

MADALYN LOPEZ

Fifth



GONZALEZ HINOJOSA

Sixth



JAZMINE LICHOTA Seventh



JOSE BARAJAS Eighth



Ninth



Tenth

District School Health Advisory Council Gaining Support

Texas law requires the establishment of a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) for every school-district. The SHAC is a district level group that assists the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in health education instruction. The Goose Creek Consolidated ISD SHAC plays an important role in strengthening the connection between health and learning. During the 2020-2021 school year, GCCISD SHAC members committed to increase awareness of and support for a coordinated school health program.

Sain-R Edwards, Jr., GCCISD SHAC Physical Activity and Fitness Committee chair, describes the council as "a dedicated group of parents, staff, and administrators that take pride in the opportunity to influence our students' learning, overall health (physical, mental, physiological, etc.), and safety through meaningful meetings and interactions with one another and the school board."

Effective coordinated school health programs can contribute to helping young people avoid health risks by increasing their skills to make responsible choices about behaviors that can affect their

"Goose Creek CISD has re-established the SHAC with Amanda Kennington at the helm and participation from not only Goose Creek stakeholders, but parents and community members as well," said Natalie Edwards, GCCISD nutrition director. The SHAC had been on the back burner, but now we really are focusing on the whole child. We have regular meetings. During these meetings, we have discussed such topics as the child's overall physical, mental and emotional health and how physical activity and healthy eating figure into healthy living. We have addressed the need for students and staff to feel safe on campus. We have also addressed how health, physical and nutrition education can bolster our goal of Growing Healthy Giants."



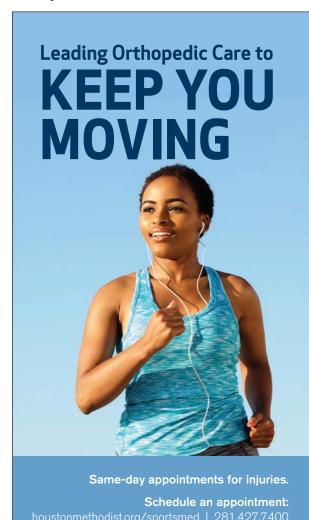
Students and parents enjoy the walking trails at several GCCISD schools.

Feedback that emerges through the SHAC's work will be used to develop recommendations to the executive staff and board of

Felinda Frederick, GCCISD SHAC co-chair, shared, "I've seen the SHAC grow tremendously to over 20-plus members. The program is supported by several organizations throughout Baytown that allow the community to come together in helping one another with various needs."

Goose Creek CISD is pleased with the work of the SHAC and expects great things from this group.

"The GCCISD SHAC will continue to be a powerful voice in promoting the health of students and school personnel, and we appreciate the members' contributions to create a healthier environment and lifestyle for all GCCISD students and staff," said Amanda Kennington, GCCISD healthy community school coordinator and SHAC facilitator.

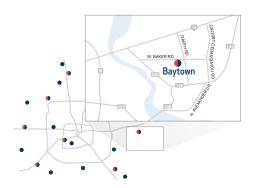


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PURE SALT NAMED 2021 PARTNER OF THE YEAR

By: Susan Passmore

For the 34th year, the Partners In Education program through the Baytown Chamber of Commerce held a Recognition and Scholarship Luncheon. This year it was held at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The Partner of the Year for 2020-2021, presented to an outstanding partnership since 1994, went to IMPACT Early College High School and Pure Salt, partners for the past three years.

"This partnership is far beyond a partner, but a family because of their commitment to each other," said Tracey Wheeler, president and CEO of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce. "This year's partnership meets monthly to brainstorm ideas, develops new and innovative ways to reward students to stay in school through incentives on attendance, appreciates the staff and teachers, provides local scholarships, serves on advisory boards, provides judges for everything, provides guest speakers and the list could go on and on."

PIE members participated in Cards for the Troops, having students make Christmas cards for those in the military. The program started years ago under then-Congressman Ted Poe. Cards are delivered to HOME – Helping Our Military Endure – in Webster, which sends the cards with care packages to troops in various locations. The Most Collected Cards went to Alamo Elementary (Kiwanis Club), Cedar Bayou Junior School (Rhonda Majors with ExxonMobil) and Ross S. Sterling High School. Bonnie P. Hopper Primary received the award for Most Creative.

Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 were awarded to Angela Luis from Robert E. Lee High School (REL), Diego Arredondo Garcia from REL, Stephanie Williams from Ross S. Sterling High School (RSS), Daisy Alvarez from RSS, Ana Aguilar from Goose Creek Memorial High School (GCM), Marissa Villarreal from GCM and Terry Swindoll from Stuart Career Tech High School's first graduating class. These students will attend Lee College.

Bob Hoskins, education chairman, recognized the partnerships, which included Aramark and Stuart Career Tech High School Culinary Arts; Aria @ Rollingbrook and Stephen F. Austin Elementary; Awards & Engraving and St. Joseph's Catholic School; Bates Collision Center and Stuart Career Tech High School (Bayer); Heritage FCU and Clark Elementary; Baytown Sun and GCCISD



Partners of the Year for the Partner In Education program through the Baytown Chamber of Commerce are Pure Salt and IMPACT Early College High School. Pictured are (from left) Bob Hoskins, education chairman; Daniel Casillas from Pure Salt; Laura Reyes, principal of IMPACT Early College High School, Kristi Pizana, college and career specialist at IMPACT; and Holly Jackson, Baytown Chamber of Commerce Board chair.

Public Relations; BDI Resources/Staffing Connections and St. Joseph's Catholic School; Beacon Federal Credit Union and Ashbel Smith Elementary; Beacon FCU and Goose Creek Memorial Business Students; CenterPoint Energy and Gentry Junior School; Chevron Phillips Chemical and Crockett Elementary; Chevron Phillips Chemical and Goose Creek Memorial High School; Community Resource Credit Union and Lamar Elementary; Community Toyota*Honda*KIA and Highlands Junior School; Community Toyota*Honda*KIA and Stuart Career Tech High School; Covestro and Bowie Elementary; Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home and Peter E. Hyland Center; Eco Services and Carver Elementary; Enterprise Products and B. P. Hopper Primary; ExxonMobil and Robert E. Lee High School; ExxonMobil and Victoria Walker Elementary; ExxonMobil and Travis Elementary; ExxonMobil and San Jacinto Elementary; ExxonMobil and Baytown Junior School; and ExxonMobil and Cedar Bayou Junior School.

Also recognized were HEB and Stuart Career Tech High School; Highlands Chamber of Commerce and B. P. Hopper Primary; Highlands Rotary and Highlands Elementary; Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and Chinquapin School; Kiwanis Club and Alamo Elementary; LCY Elastomers and Harlem Elementary; Legacy Community Health and POINT Alternative Center; Pure Salt and

IMPACT Early College High School; Rotary Club of Baytown and De Zavala Elementary; S & B Engineers and Construction and Stuart Career Tech High School; Service League of Baytown and GCCISD Health Services; SNC Lavalin and Horace Mann Junior School; Texas First Bank and Stephen F. Austin Elementary; Worley and Stuart Career Tech High School; and Zachry and Stuart Career Tech High School.

Two 30-year anniversary partners, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and Ross S. Sterling High School along with ExxonMobil and San Jacinto Elementary, were recognized.

Sponsors for the event were Head of the Class Level - Beacon Federal Credit Union; Valedictorian Level - ExxonMobil, Goose Creek CISD; Salutatorian Level - LCY Chemical, Lee College, Enterprise Products, Pure Salt, Covestro, PBK Engineers; Honor Roll Level - HPP Materials, Inc., CCommunity Toyota*Honda*KIA, Shell Federal Credit Union, BDI Resources, Inc., Community Resource Credit Union, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, Frost Bank, Eco Services; Perfect Attendance Level - Awards & Engraving, Combs Commercial Investment, Summer Comeaux (Realtor), Family First ER, Coldwell Banker Realty - Karla Opryshek and Terri George, Aramark, Rotary Club of Baytown and Navarre Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

GCCISD HONORS RETIREES AND TEACHERS OF THE YEAR AT MASK-ERADE PARTY

By: Susan Passmore

Mask-erade Party was the theme at the Retiree/Teacher of the Year Gala at Goose Creek Memorial High School May 27. Retirees were honored with a clock, a plaque and a video of photos from their years in education.

Participating retirees were Sally Black, math content specialist at Goose Creek Memorial, 45 years in education, all in GCCISD; Robin Edwards, at risk interventionist/dyslexia specialist at Highlands Elementary, 22 years in education, all in GCCISD; Manuel Garza, band director at Horace Mann Junior School, 35 years in education with 33 years in GCCISD; Margie Grimes, chief financial officer, 17 years in education with nine years in GCCISD; Agustina Hernandez, Food Services at Ashbel Smith Elementary, 21 years in education, all in GCCISD; Davrice Matheny, transportation routing specialist, 28 years in education with 10 in GCCISD; Susan Passmore, director of communications, 36 years in education with 18 in GCCISD; Evah Leigh Primeaux, second-grade teacher at Stephen F. Austin Elementary, 36 years in education, all in GCCISD; Becky Robins, director of curriculum and instruction, 31 years in education, all in GCCISD; Colette Tompkins, physical education teacher at Cedar Bayou Junior School, 32 years in education with 28 in GCCISD; Janet Tucker, ISS education instructional aide at Highlands Elementary, 21 years in education in GCCISD

and Judy Wells, auditory enrichment teacher with the Tri-County East Regional Day School Program for the Deaf in the Special Education Department, 44 years in education with 28 years in GCCISD.

Goose Creek CISD also honored its Teachers of the Year at the event. Brianna Lee from Stephen F. Austin Elementary was selected as District Elementary Teacher of the Year and Katie Dean from Robert E. Lee High School was selected as District Secondary Teacher of the Year. They will advance to the Region 4 Teacher of the Year Contest.

Elementary Teachers of the Year are Heather Arias from Alamo, Brianna Lee from Austin, Celeste Garcia from Bañuelos, Ashley Ballard from Bowie, Adriana Martindale from Carver, Shelia Circello from Clark, Diana Truesdale from Crockett, Edtenia Brantley from De Zavala, Alexa Arndt from Harlem, Michelle Stangle from Highlands, Deborah Rorie from Hopper Primary, Chanel Blackledge from Lamar, Carol Cloteaux from San Jacinto, Joanne Rincon from Ashbel Smith, Martha Pasillas from Travis and Braun Pina from Victoria Walker.

Also honored were Secondary Teachers of the Year Tangee Agnew from Baytown Junior, Stephenie Stults from Cedar Bayou, Zeb Moore from Gentry Junior, K. Nicole Bright from Highlands Junior, Melanie Eastman from Horace Mann Junior, Kristen Cannatella from Goose Creek Memorial HS, Elizabeth Al-Omairi from IMPACT ECHS, Katie Dean from Lee HS, Jennifer Kovalcik from Peter E. Hyland Center, Mark Thibodeaux from POINT Alternative Center, Brenda Fess from Sterling HS and Misty Mungroo from Stuart Career Tech High School.

Houston Area Association of Bilingual Educators (HAABE) teachers also recognized at the event were Maria Borrego from Stephen F. Austin Elementary, HAABE District Bilingual Elementary Teacher of the Year; Anissa Culp, Ashbel Smith Elementary, HAABE District ESL Elementary Teacher of the Year; and Kimberly Kelley, Horace Mann Junior School, HAABE District ESL Secondary Teacher of the Year. The James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year, Chelsea Clynes from Baytown Junior, was honored, as were the District Principals of the Year, Monica Juarez from Victoria Walker Elementary and Kathy Holland from Gentry Junior School.

The District Teachers of the Year and the District Principals of the Year were presented with iPads from Community Resource Credit Union, longtime partners with Goose Creek CISD. Following the ceremony, a reception was held for the honorees.

Clynes Named James B. Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year

By: Susan Passmore

Chelsea Clynes, inclusion teacher at Baytown Junior School, is the James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year for the 2020-2021 school year. As the 46th recipient of this award established by Dr. Richard Thomson, a retired ophthalmologist, in honor of his late brother James, who benefited from special education services, she joins many other excellent Goose Creek CISD teachers selected through the years for the honor.

Clynes has spent her two-year career at Baytown Junior as an inclusion teacher. She is focused on ensuring that her students understand concepts currently being taught in her classes. She creates fun rhymes, games and ideas to hep students learn new concepts.



CHELSEA CLYNES
BAYTOWN JUNIOR

"She is happy, kind and thoughtful of all students and all adults in the building," said Andrea Gourney, Clynes' former co-teacher. "She is the cheerleader for our entire staff."

In addition to her teacher responsibilities, Clynes started "Shout Outs" for other adults on the Baytown Junior staff to be recognized for their accomplishments and contribution. She leads this campus endeavor by emailing out the "Shout Outs," and each person who receives one also receives a Sonic drink and chocolate.

"She is an inspiration for the students that she teaches and other educators she works with," Ritter said.

In her free time, Clynes spends time with husband Steven and plays video games with sons Alexander and Nicholas, both 11. She also enjoys reading and crafting.

2020-2021 GCCISD ELEMENTARY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



HEATHER ARIAS ALAMO ELEMENTARY



BRIANNA LEE STEPHEN F. AUSTIN ELEMENTARY



CELESTE GARCIA BAÑUELOS



ASHLEY BALLARD JAMES BOWIE ELEMENTARY



ADRIANA MARTINDALE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER ELEMENTARY



SHELIA C **IRCELLO** DR. JOHNNY T. CLARK, JR. ELEMENTARY



DIANA **TRUESDALE** DAVID CROCKETT ELEMENTARY



EDTENIA BRANTLEY LORENZO DE ZAVALA ELEMENTARY



ALEXA ARNDT HARLEM ELEMENTARY



MICHELLE STANGLE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY



DEBORAH RORIE BONNIE P. HOPPER PRIMARY



CHANEL **BLACKLEDGE** MIRABEAU B. LAMAR **ELEMENTARY**



CAROL **CLOTEAUX** SAN JACINTO **ELEMENTARY**



JOANNE RINCON ASHBEL SMITH **ELEMENTARY**



MARTHA **PASILLAS**WILLIAM B. TRAVIS **ELEMENTARY**



BRAUN PINA VICTORIA WALKER **ELEMENTARY**

2020-2021 GCCISD SECONDARY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



TANGEE **AGNEW** BAYTOWN JS



STEPHENIE STULTS CEDAR BAYOU JS



ZEB MOORE **GENTRY JS**



K. NICOLE **BRIGHT** HIGHLANDS JS



MELANIE EASTMAN HORACE MANN JS



KRISTEN CANNATELLA **GOOSE CREEK** MEMORIAL HS



ELIZABETH AL-OMAIRI COLLEGE HS



KATIE DEAN ROBERT E. LEE HS



JENNIFER KOVALCIK PETER E. HYLAND CENTER



MARK THIBODEAUX POINT ALTERNATIVE



BRENDA FESSROSS S. STERLING HS



MISTY **MUNGROO** STUART CAREER TECH HS

2020-2021 PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

ELEMENTARY



MONICA JUAREZ ELEMENTARY

SECONDARY



KATHY HOLLAND GENTRY JUNIOR SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY



MARIA BORREGO STEPHEN F. AUSTIN ELEMENTARY

2020-2021 HAABE DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE **FSI**



ANISSA CULP ASHBEL SMITH ELEMENTARY

SECONDARY



KIMBERLY KELLEY HORACE MANN JS



Quinn Manuel, daughter of LIsa and Trent Manuel (Lee HS), works on a nature assignment outside.



Ryan Smith, son of Sherry (Lee HS) and Richard Smith (IMPACT) looks at pictures of insects through a magnifying glass.

Peter E. Hyland Child Care Center Provides Learning Experiences

By: Susan Passmore

Making life a little easier for students and staff in need of daycare, Goose Creek CISD's Peter E. Hyland Child Care Center has been open since 1994. Care is available for children from six weeks to four years, and employees receive a discounted price. Students enrolled in Goose Creek CISD schools receive free childcare for their children as long as they are attending classes, and they must pick their children up no later than 30 minutes after they are dismissed from their last class

"We are the only nationally accredited center in Baytown through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and we are a four-star vendor for the Texas Workforce Commission," said Tammy Davis, director of the PEH Child Care Center and an employee at the center since 2006.

Fifteen employees work at the center, which has six classrooms, and they have earned their Child Development Certificate or higher. Photos of activities are taken daily and placed on the center's Facebook page for parents.

"This is a Reggio-inspired center as it is nature-based and child-centered," Davis said. "They learn through nature. We have a nature-based playground through the Outdoor Learn Environment (OLE), a branch of Texas Health and Human Services."

Recently, the center celebrated the Week of the Young Child using a Star Wars Theme. Students participated in sensory activities, and they worked with paint and water balloons on Messy Day. There is a Fall Parade for which each classroom makes a float out of an evacuation crib, and the children throw candy at the high school students who attend PEH. In early spring each year, the center hosts an old-timey picnic for parents to come sit on quilts and have lunch with their children. Santa visits in December, bearing gifts.

Sherry and Richard Smith, administrators at Robert E. Lee High School and IMPACT Early College High School, respectively, have taken their 19-month-old son Ryan to the PEH Child Care Center since he was three months old.

"We couldn't ask for better care for him," said Sherry Smith. "The sensory and discovery activities they do – you wouldn't find that anywhere else. They are always exploring! Last week they learned about bugs and looked at them on a light table and used a magnifying glass to look at pictures of them."

Thirty-five children are taking advantage of the PEH Child Care Center, which Davis says is a bit lower than their normal 50 students, but COVID-19 may have affected the enrollment.

Staff and students interested in enrolling their children should email tammy.davis@gccisd.net



LACKEY LEADS CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS

By: Susan Passmore

Keeping data safe is imperative, and that is one reason Goose Creek CISD brought Gary Lackey, cybersecurity specialist, onboard in December 2020.

"As the growing trends in industry are targeting more districts, this position has become a need," said Matt Flood, director of technology for Goose Creek CISD. "With more legislation or news about cybersecurity, we see the trend and are trying to stay ahead of the curve rather than behind it. In fact, we provided cybersecurity training for our staff before it was state-mandated. Other larger districts have hired dedicated staff to focus on cybersecurity/cyber safety. I feel that having a cybersecurity specialist will take the district to the next level in data security for students and staff."

Ransomware is a major concern for the district, since it locks the system and demands that the district pay to get it unlocked.

"It takes time and effort to address Ransomware, and if we don't pay, we can lose our data," Lackey said. "Secure and reliable backups of critical systems and data become key to recovering from many incidents, including Ransomware. Even then, however, rebuilding systems can be difficult and time-consuming, causing slow-downs or even halting business processes."

Another concern is hurting the reputation of the district when Ransomware hits.

"In a district where we're helping students and using technology, we need to keep data safe," Lackey said.

Attackers find a way, usually through a weakness in the security system, to take data from an organization or its users, i.e. students and employees. They can sell it on the black market to make money.

"Technology changes constantly and more and more data is being integrated and shared with other organizations," Lackey said. "People use websites, applications, and online storage owned by Goose Creek CISD or other organizations, and it needs to be secured. Data is not only used in the classroom, but also in daily work, such as sending emails and tracking work orders."

Lackey says that attackers look to trends and current events to take advantage of victims. They play on the already taxed emotions of victims during disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, COVID, political issues and more to utilize in phishing emails. When COVID-19



Gary Lackey joins Goose Creek CISD as the cybersecurity specialist.

hit and everyone took to Zoom and other virtual platforms, attackers turned more efforts there to find ways to exploit users. In addition to attacking systems that have not been updated, attackers look for a "zero-day," which refers to a newly discovered software vulnerability. Since the developer has just learned of the flaw, an official patch or update to fix the issue has not been released. Thus, the developers have "zero days" to fix the problem, which could have already been exploited by hackers.

Besides providing training, the Technology Department uses technology tools, such as Microsoft Security Alerts and Phish Alerts. When employees receive suspicious emails, such as one that contains a link to click on or one from someone they do not know outside the district, they can click on Phish Alert to report it. If they click on the link or take some other type of action, they will receive a warning and be assigned an online training session. Phish Alerts from users are an indispensable resource to see the real attacks that are reaching users, allowing the Technology Department to then find ways to remediate any users that were affected and prevent further damage. Training users to identify phishing emails is crucial to protecting the district since over 90 percent of Malware and almost 25 percent of Ransomware involves phishing emails. Scammers are extremely good at tricking individuals, and users need to become better at spotting phishing emails so they can defend themselves and the district.

The district gets on feeds from other

sources, such as Information Sharing Resources, and also purchases technology that helps see areas that are not visible, such as a website known to be malicious. Participating in self-assessments to see how the district stands on cybersecurity helps the Technology Department close gaps and make improvements. Students and employees can often be a source of security breaches, intentionally or unintentionally, but it is not always malicious. Users are critical to protecting the district – security (physical and cyber) is everyone's responsibility.

Goose Creek CISD is working on the Trusted Learning Environment Seal Program, a mark of distinction for school systems, signaling that they have taken strong and measurable steps to help ensure the privacy of student data (www.trustedlearning. org). This is important because student data is key to personalizing learning and outcomes, but school systems have the responsibility of protecting the privacy of student data. Districts that earn the seal have implemented strong, measurable and publicly available practices to help ensure the privacy of student data. The TLE Seal Program requires adherence to 25 specific requirements categorized into the areas of Leadership Practice, Business Practice, Data Security Practice, Professional Development Practice and Classroom Practice.

Lackey has his work cut out for him. When he is not working with technology, Lackey enjoys spending time with wife Becky and sons Colton, 5, and Levi, 2. They are expecting another son in June.



Members of the RSS Tennis Team (from left) Steven Mauro, Abigail Vincent, Brian Ward, Caroline Wells, Crystal Smith and Cameron Pequeño have enjoyed a successful year.

RSS TENNIS: GOES DOWN IN HISTORY BOOKS

By: Kendall David

Sterling Tennis is no stranger to big wins and recognition. In team tennis this fall, the Rangers reached the Regional Semifinals and were just two wins away from

a state tournament appearance. They earned 23 all-district honors, with Brian Ward taking home the District 22-5A Boys Co-MVP player of the year. In the spring, Ward earned the Boys Singles District Champion; Brook Benoit was the Girls Singles District Runner-Up, and the Boy's Doubles District Runners-up was David Foxworth and Bryce Stoke. The success did not stop with the players; Coach John Tremmel earned Region 3-5A Coach of the Year. Coach Tremmel said, "The 2020-2021 tennis season will go down in the history books at Sterling and in Goose Creek. From a regional semi-finalist appearance in team tennis to a state alternate in boys doubles this spring, I will always remember this year as one of my favorite years in



Cody Love (left), assistant tennis coach, and John Tremmel, head tennis coach, supervise a practice.

the profession. But I must give all the credit to my players that continuously work hard and strive to put Baytown Sterling on the map."



Brian Ward, Jr. is the No. 1 boys player and team captain.



2020-2021 Goose Creek Memorial HS Basketball Team

GCM BASKETBALL: NEW TERRITORY

By: Kendall David

New Territory was the motto for the Goose Creek Memorial boys'

Jamaal Haymon, Goose Creek Memorial HS Basketball Head Coach

basketball team for the 2020-2021 season. On day one as head coach of the Patriots, Jamaal Haymon hung a picture of the Alamodome with the words "New Territory" written across it. "Everything we do is about respect," he said. "New Territory means going places you have never been before. This includes workouts, transforming your body, being better students, whatever that looks like for

our kids individually. We want notoriety and to achieve something big for our team and the community of Baytown." The Alamodome hosts the final round of playoffs, which now more than ever seems attainable.

Although this has been an unconventional year, battling the constraints of COVID protocols, the team overcame and pressed hard to show up for the season. Before this year, the Patriots had two first-round playoff appearances in 2014-2015 and 2017-2018. This year, the team finished second in District 22-5A, going 21-3 overall, which is the highest win percentage in school history. They finished the season with fourteen district wins and in the Top 25 in the final TABC Hoops pool coming in at number 24. The Patriots defeated Nederland in the first round of playoffs, giving GCM their first-ever playoff win. Playoffs continued with neighboring school district and

rival, the Crosby Cougars. The team went into overtime for the first time all season, winning 79-76 after a massive 3 point shot from Malik Mustafaa. GCM eventually fell to Katy Paetow in the Regional Semi-Finals.

Haymon attributes the team's success to the players' work ethic in the off-season. Admittingly, he pushed every athlete to their limits, and they just kept showing up. "Our team was a collection of different types of kids," he said. "We had seven seniors and seven juniors. Most of our main core was made up of juniors with a great collection of senior leadership. Our team style is up-tempo and fast paced-a style GCM will take with them next year along with many returning starters."

"From the jump, we preached to our kids about being a unit," he continued. "This year we did a great job at becoming that unit, a collection, versus a one-man or two-man show."

Sam Bradford led the team averaging 18.5 points and 11.4 rebounds per game. He was named the District 22-5A Defensive Player of the Year.

Avant Coleman and Dariyus Woodson averaged 14.5 and 12.6 points per game, respectively, and were named First Team All District. Devin Figueroa averaged 9.9 points and Malik Mustafaa 7.7 points, and each earned Second Team All District.

Coach Haymon is excited about what is in store for next year. "The community of Baytown has really come together to support the kids. We have had our stands at 750 people cheering on the team. It is about Baytown, not just GCM."

Big things are in store for the team as they have high hopes for the upcoming season.



Robert E. Lee High School's newly renovated auditorium is a state-of-the-art venue

CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS UNDERWAY

By: Matt Bolinger

The 2019 Bond Program that was approved by the Goose Creek CISD community has resulted in many exciting construction and renovation projects for students this year. E.F. Green Junior School, scheduled to open in the fall of 2021, is in the process of being completed. The exterior structure is intact and interior finishes are underway in the academic building. The football field, track and field stations, and tennis courts are in the process of being installed at this site. Community members can drive down Wallisville Road to see the progress in action! Elementary #17, which has recently received the name of Jessie Lee Pumphrey Elementary, is being constructed in the new Ashbel Cove subdivision on Garth Road, north of Interstate 10. The underground site utilities and structural steel are currently being installed. This campus is scheduled for completion in January 2022. Rezoning will take place in the spring 2022, and students will begin attending Pumphrey Elementary in the fall 2022. San Jacinto Elementary is following a similar timeline. Since this campus will not require rezoning, San Jacinto students and staff are scheduled to move into their new campus in January 2022.

Along with these new facilities, the district has several renovation projects which will strengthen the learning experience for students. The Henry Armstrong Auditorium at Lee High School has undergone a



E.F. Greene Junior School is scheduled for completion this summer.

complete renovation, and it looks truly amazing. The auditorium includes new theater seating, state-of-the-art lighting, and theater stage rigging for our high school productions. Lee High School also received a new Instrumentations Lab earlier this school year, which will provide meaningful projects and hands-on activities for our Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Academy students. Sterling High School has renovated Health Science labs in the Annex building, along with renovated classrooms for the Career Academy for Future Educators Academy. The Transportation Building and cafeteria projects for Stuart Career Tech High School were completed at the beginning of

this school year. In addition, the Vet Med Lab, Floral Design Lab, and Welding and Pipefitting classrooms were renovation projects that were completed earlier in the school year. Stuart Career Tech High School-Phase Four, is currently under construction. Once complete, this facility will house the Digital Communications and Information Technology academies.

Another bond project is the installation of running tracks at all junior schools in Goose Creek CISD. These facilities and projects will serve students for many years to come. Goose Creek CISD is grateful to have a community that goes above and beyond to invest in the lives of students.



Alicia and Earnest Brooks plan for the opening of their new schools in the fall of 2021.

COUPLE SET TO OPEN SCHOOLS

By: Susan Passmore

After several years away from Goose Creek CISD, Earnest and Alicia Brooks are returning to the district and, surprisingly enough, both are in charge of opening new schools in fall 2021. Approved by the board on the same night, Earnest Brooks will serve as principal at Edward Franklin "E.F." Green Junior School and Alicia Brooks will serve as principal at the Goose Creek Virtual Academy.

Earnest Brooks is a product of Goose Creek CISD, having attended Bowie Elementary School and Cedar Bayou Junior School, and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from Iowa Wesleyan University, where he played football on a scholarship and met his wife, who was from St. Louis and played basketball at Iowa Wesleyan on a scholarship. He received a degree in criminal justice and psychology from Iowa Wesleyan, a special education certification from University of Houston Clear Lake and a master's degree in educational leadership from Lamar University.

After a year of teaching in the St. Louis area in 1999-2000, Earnest Brooks was ready to return to Baytown, where he coached and taught special education at Cedar Bayou

Junior School for 13 years. He served as an assistant principal at Baytown Junior for two years and at Horace Mann Junior for three years, accepting the position of principal at La Porte Junior High, where he worked for 2½ years. He came back to Goose Creek CISD this spring in preparation for the role of principal at Green Junior School.

"This was an opportunity to come back home and give back to the school community," Earnest Brooks said. "This is something Alicia and I talked about and prayed over. Two of us opening a school at the same time is almost unheard of, and we're very excited."

Alicia Brooks had to have a little encouragement from her husband, who sang the praises of the Baytown area and his alma mater, to leave the St. Louis area to make Texas her home. After 21 years, she is convinced she made the right decision. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Iowa Wesleyan and her master's degree in educational technology leadership from Lamar University.

Alicia Brooks coached basketball at Robert E. Lee High School for seven years and taught a smorgasbord of courses, including geometry, Algebra, computer

science, webmastering, digital graphics and animation, and she helped launch the Blarglefish Robotics Team.

She took the opportunity to become an educational technology specialist for Goose Creek CISD for three years before becoming a district instructional technology specialist in Barbers Hill ISD for eight years. She served as an assistant principal at Barbers Hill High School for 2½ years and is now working on the opening of the Goose Creek Virtual Academy.

"I'm so excited to have the opportunity to help our students who found success in virtual school during the pandemic continue that success," she said. "I think this is a way to help all students in our community find a home where they can be successful in their educational journey."

The Brooks family has lived in the Baytown area since 2000. Daughter Yasmine, 21, is a graduate of Ross S. Sterling High School and is now at Texas Southern University. Son Derrick, 12, will be at Green Junior School next year.

"One of the big perks is that we're all back in the same district and we can enjoy all the successes together," Alicia Brooks said.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING & STUDENT WELLNESS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND STUDENT WELLNESS DEPARTMENT IS HERE TO HELP

Goose Creek CISD's Social Emotional Learning and Student Wellness Department provides numerous services for students and staff, such as assisting in developing the whole child by supporting students, staff, and families and helping the schools promote mental wellness for all students.

This department also provides mental and behavioral health services through their network of support staff which includes counselors, student wellness interventionist, Communities In Schools (CIS), and Community Youth Specialists (CYS), based on the needs at each campus.

"We collaborate with multi-disciplinary teams by identifying and addressing wellness concerns before they escalate or become chronic and provide data-driven services for students through classroom, group, and individual sessions," said Dr. Precious Reimonenq, director of Social Emotional learning and student wellness.

A Campus Student Support Team meets regularly at each school to discuss assistance for students based on their needs. Basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and safety must be addressed and fulfilled before the student is expected to perform well in school.

Through referrals, Community Youth Services Wellness (CYS) helps students and families fulfill some of those needs by providing goods and services, such as individual or family therapy, furniture, school supplies, holiday gifts, clothing, and/or shoes.

Communities in Schools (CIS) assists students and families by providing basic needs such as access to district food and clothing closets, home visits to address attendance and truancy prevention, and engagement through student workshops.

Counselors and student wellness interventionists complete the network of support staff, providing services such as guidance lessons, student workshops, educational planning, trauma & grief support, crisis response, and evidence-based interventions either individually or in a group setting.

The We're Here to Help initiative released in Spring 2021 provides immediate access to local and national goods and services for students and their families. Students in grades 5-12 were provided with the We're Here to Help Resource Card, which provides resources for various situations. The QR Code on the card links to a referral form which is received by the Social Emotional and Student

Wellness
Department
and
processed
for immediate
contact with the
person submitting
the referral. Great success
has been noted with the introduction of this
initiative.

"Besides the internal and contracted services we coordinate, our department recently launched 'Wellness on the Go!' This initiative creates a supportive outdoor environment in which students and staff can explore their emotional needs, learn tools to manage stress, and get through tough times. We traveled to schools and discussed coping

One student at GCM commented, "I like that it was an open space to talk about things that bothered us."

skills with our students," Reimoneng said.

The Social Emotional Learning and Student Wellness Department will continuously evaluate needs in the district and offer resources to ensure that students, staff and families receive the assistance they need for their mental health and well-being.

RUPP NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

By: Susan Passmore

Brandon Rupp from Goose Creek Memorial High School was named a 2021 National Merit Scholar. He received a \$2,500 scholarship in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program for his hard work and dedication in the pursuit of academic excellence. He plans to attend Stanford University and is projected to be awarded a scholarship for approximately \$80,000 per year.

Rupp is a member of the National Honor Society and was named AP Scholar with Distinction. He serves as student body president, president of the French Honor Society and historian of the Art Honor Society. He also received a bronze medal in the National French Contest Le Grand Concours. Rupp won two Gold Key awards in the Scholastic Writing Contest, and he has advanced to Texas History Day four times with a first-place finish for Group Documentary twice. Advancing two times to



BRANDON RUPP Goose Creek Memorial HS

National History Day, he is awaiting the announcement of this year's awards in June.

Serving as founding member and UIL Debate captain, Rupp also founded the Book Club. He has a 4.0 grade point average and has had perfect attendance for the past 10 consecutive years.

Rupp's hobbies include playing guitar, bass, drums, piano and several other instruments; producing songs and albums; playing and studying chess; reading postmodern fiction, collecting vinyl; watching "Jeopardy," writing short stories; debating with his friends; studying current events; performing stand-up (when he can); and watching and reviewing films with friends.



Madeleine Broussard from IMPACT Early College High School performs for virtual Texas History Day, winning first place in the Senior Individual Performance to advance to National History Day with "Communication Amidst Chaos."

GCCISD Students Advance to National History Day

For the 31st year, Goose Creek CISD students qualified for National History Day by placing first or second at Texas History Day. Their projects will compete at NHD in June.

This year at Texas History Day, the team of Micah Johnson and Nicholas Mendoza from Gentry Junior School placed second in the Junior Group Website category with "Space Communication: Mission Control and the Apollo Program." They are under the direction of Tara Fountain.

In Junior Individual Performance, second place went to Matthew Cosep from Gentry Junior School for "The Importance of Communication in WW1 and WW2." He is under the direction of Tara Fountain.

Madeleine Broussard from IMPACT Early College High School placed first in Senior Individual Performance with "Communication Amidst Chaos." She is under the direction of Ilija Milovanovic.

Adam Kinder from IMPACT Early College High School and Brandon Rupp from Goose Creek Memorial High School won first place in the Senior Group Documentary category for "Exposing the Lie: James Baldwin's Communication of the American Truth." They are under the direction of Ilija Milovanovic and Stephanie Schrull.

"Despite all the challenges and turmoil our students faced this year, they have risen to the occasion and created outstanding projects and done a great job in the virtual competitions," said Faith Longorio, social studies administrator. "I am so proud of everything our students and teachers have accomplished."



The Goose Call, Goose Creek CISD's podcast, interviews individuals on fun, exciting, and informational topics about the district and community.

Designed for a quick listen on your way to work or school, families can stay up to date with our district's happenings.

A new episode is released every few weeks and is available on iTunes, Spotify, or Podbean.

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Rezoning and E.F. Green Junior School: Get to Know Principal Brooks!

Pre-K Matters! Big Things Happen When Children Are Small!

GC's New Virtual Learning Academy Opening Fall of 2021

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING YOU NEW EPISODES!



If you have a topic suggestion, scan:

2021-2022 GCCISD INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR Neveloping the Whole Child



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