

GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RETIREE AND
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Mask-erade
PARTY

GOOSE CREEK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

PROGRAM

Welcome

Recognition of Retirees

Retiree Video

Recognition of James Becker Thomson Award Winner

Recognition of Bilingual/ESL Teachers of the Year

Recognition of Campus Teachers of the Year

Recognition of District Principals of the Year

Recognition of District Teachers of the Year

RECEPTION



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT

Jessica Woods

VICE PRESIDENT

Ben Pape

SECRETARY

Howard Sampson

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Richard Clem

BOARD MEMBER

Shae Cottar

BOARD MEMBER

Tiffany Guy

BOARD MEMBER

Agustin Loredó III



Elementary
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



“ I can't begin to express how important it is to show diligence and perseverance in the midst of our challenging year. We must continue to stand strong while teaching our students to never give up. ... We want to have a welcoming environment where our students feel safe with us and in our classrooms.”

HEATHER ARIAS
Alamo Elementary



“ My goal is for educators to see the whole child—not to ignore the difficulties in order to handle things—but to see the unlovely and even when it hurts us, to spend the extra hour making a lesson that plays into the students' interests, or to skip our well-deserved lunch to call a grandparent to brag about a completed assignment. By doing this, we can create an atmosphere where students feel respected, appreciated, challenged and valued.”

BRIANNA LEE
Stephen F. Austin Elementary

“ This year has taught us to be resilient and that we can adjust to any situation. No day has been the same. As a teacher, you have to be a superior multitasker. I joke with friends that as a teacher, I know how to teach a lesson while tying a shoe, nodding my head to give the signal for a child to go to the restroom and giving a firm glance at another student to stay on task.”

CELESTE GARCIA
Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary



“ When parents and educators work together, they form a unique trust, a mutual respect and a common goal for student success.”

ASHLEY BALLARD
James Bowie Elementary





“ I understand that when students feel understood, respected, supported and safe, they will be more likely to achieve their personal and academic goals we set for them and their learning.”

ADRIANA MARTINDALE
George Washington Carver Elementary



“ Educators are vital to our nation’s children. We are responsible for their education, growth, safety. ... at home and at school. It is an enormous responsibility and honor. Students need us to recognize their strengths and guide them as they learn both academically and socially. Our world needs good stewards who are independent thinkers capable of solving problems unknown to us currently while showing humanity to all. This is not a small task; however, education provides hope. That hope will propel us to encourage, guide and teach students to achieve great things. ”

SHELIA CIRCELLO
Dr. Johnny T. Clark, Jr. Elementary

“ The public needs to see all of the amazing things happening on campuses across the state of Texas. ... Educators deserve to be valued, understood and heard. They play a priceless role in the education of children on a daily basis. Teachers are essential to the future of our children.”

DIANA TRUESDALE
David Crockett Elementary



“ I believe success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. As teachers, we may have more students fail than succeed. In those moments of failure, we can either lose or pique a student’s enthusiasm for learning, and I want to pique it. ”

EDTENIA BRANTLEY
Lorenzo De Zavala Elementary





“Oprah Winfrey once said, ‘There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your calling. It’s why you were born and how you become most truly alive! Never forget your why!’”

ALEXA ARNDT
Harlem Elementary



“The public, teachers and our students should think of our profession like a candle—a candle which provides so many basic needs to all that surround it. ... A candle, like a teacher, gives off an energy that cannot be denied. It lights the way for all that stand in its path. As an educator, I see my job as one and the same. Our job is to light the way for those we have taught, are teaching and will teach.”

MICHELLE STANGLE
Highlands Elementary

“ I believe that all children learn differently, so it’s up to the educator to formulate a plan for success. ”

DEBORAH RORIE
Bonnie P. Hopper Primary



“ My message for Texas teachers and students is the same. Push forward a little each day. We ask our students to learn new content daily and can easily become lax of our own development. ”

CHANEL BLACKLEDGE
Mirabeau B. Lamar Elementary





“ Don't give up. It's important to work towards your goals even when things get hard, especially when things get hard. Everyone has different goals and aspirations, but the true test is how far you are willing to push yourself to meet those goals. Nothing worthwhile is free or easy, but you have to be willing to put in the work to achieve something great.”

CAROL CLOTEAUX
San Jacinto Elementary



“ As educators, we must provide students with the skills, knowledge and confidence to accept and overcome a challenge. We must set students up for success by using our wisdom and foresight. We must relay the message that failure doesn't mean you failed.”

JOANNE RINCON
Ashbel Smith Elementary

“ Now that we at least have students in our classrooms, we must give them positive experiences and continue to be the fun teacher. Be the teacher that shows up with a smile on the difficult days. Be the teacher whose classroom is loud with discussion and laughter. Be the teacher whose class is a mess because you taught an amazing hands-on lesson. Listen to your students. Read the book they want and not just the one in the curriculum. Do the silly new dance they saw on TikTok as your new celebration dance for correct answers. Dress up on the costume days. Your kids need you and your joy more than you know. ”

MARTHA PASILLAS
William B. Travis Elementary



“ Just remember, you are making more of an impact on their life than any other individual during that year that you have them. Be their light on a dark morning. Be their biggest advocate. Let them know how much you truly care. We are molding the minds of our future leaders.”

BRAUN PINA
Victoria Walker Elementary





Secondary
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

“ Love all of them regardless of their background and hold them to high expectations because they are our future. Every day when I drop my son off at school, we say these two things to each other, ‘I love you’ and ‘Have a good day.’ Each day when my kids walk out of the class, I tell them ‘I love you’ and ‘Have a good day.’ It is something that I have done as a parent with my son for the past 14 years, as well as my students whom I consider my kids.”

TANGEE AGNEW
Baytown Junior School



“ My message to Texas teachers, students, parents and the public would be to always strive for progress, not perfection. Courageously step out of your comfort zone and begin having those hard discussions. Help others to see that even though we have differences (races, cultures, identities, beliefs), we all have so much more in common. Conversations will be progress, not perfection. Taking risks will be progress, not perfection. Humanity is progress, not perfection.”

STEPHENIE STULTS
Cedar Bayou Junior School





“ One of the most rewarding things about teaching is that when we succeed, kids learn our math or science or band, and they also learn resilience and self-worth. As a third bonus lesson, they see us helping others to grow, and that example shows them what good people do. We teach who we get, where they are, with what we have.”

ZEB MOORE
Gentry Junior School



“ I feel we should never believe that we have mastered teaching because there will always be a new philosophy, a new initiative, or a new technology around the corner. Keeping our humility allows us to be able to say, ‘This is different, but let’s try it.’ Being humble allows us to listen to the ideas of our peers, even if they are less experienced, because they have fresh ideas and modern skills. We must create a team with our students as well. When they support each other, they can achieve more.”

K. NICOLE BRIGHT
Highlands Junior School

“ Teachers are the most dedicated individuals to their craft. Teachers are constantly learning how to perfect their skills to provide the best instruction for their students. They think about their students in the class, at home and on the weekends. Teachers never stop working. ... Teachers are tasked with teaching and the impossible, it seems sometimes, but with collaboration and support from our coworkers, we rise to the challenge daily. When we work together, we all succeed for our students each day.”

MELANIE EASTMAN
Horace Mann Junior School



“ There are many outside influences that students are facing in this moment that prevent them from reaching their full potential in the classroom. ... There are factors that we cannot fix, but there are small things that can make a huge impact. ... Making the student feel important can go a long way. Establishing a relationship with your students and being there for them at all times while showing them respect, love and consideration of their well-being will help alleviate moments of stress and can help students further their knowledge.”

KRISTEN CANNATELLA
Goose Creek Memorial High School





“ I ensure that education transcends the classroom by offering IMPACT students the ability to become a member of clubs that connect students to the community. The IMPACT Anchor Club allows students to gain leadership skills, encourage brain safety and health and support those who care for others. In addition, I am also the advisor to the YMCA Youth and Government and Model United Nations Club. I am proud to be an advisor for all three programs where I can connect the members to the community as well as provide leadership skills and opportunity for advancement and scholarships.”

ELIZABETH AL-OMAIRI

IMPACT Early College High School



“ For a lot of students, school might be the last thing on their minds. They are focused on security, safety and sanity. My challenge for teachers is to let the little things go. To be the joy in someone’s life, even if it’s just evoking a smile on that one kid who never smiles. To celebrate the small victories. To be patient. To connect with students in an academic and a non-academic way. To make learning fun.”

KATIE DEAN

Robert E. Lee High School

“The world seems to be in chaos at the moment and it is our responsibility as teachers to be a source of stability in our students’ lives. Our classrooms need to be a place that the students feel safe and know what to expect each day. Flexibility is the key to serving all these different students coming from different situations. If you can be flexible and roll with the obstacles that life and your students throw at you, you can be a source of stability and make a difference for these young people.”

JENNIFER KOVALCIK
Peter E. Hyland Center



“Don’t ever give up on the pursuit of your goals.”

MARK THIBODEAUX
POINT Alternative Center





“ My message for Texas teachers is that building relationships with students is vitally important to their success! Our students come to us from so many different backgrounds that include a variety of experiences. Each one has a unique story and so much to offer. If we can learn about them and make them feel important, they will be more likely to succeed. If students know that we care about their success, they will be more encouraged to thrive!”

BRENDA FESS

Ross S. Sterling High School



“ My message to my profession and to the public is to give yourself some grace. Teaching is not an easy job, but it is a rewarding job. Even though I have felt that this year was like my first year of teaching, I have reminded myself that teachers and students need a bit of grace to get through this. Ultimately, flexibility is key. Teachers and the public need to be flexible when faced with new ways of teaching and learning. If our students see that as adults we can adjust as needed, they will be able to do the same.”

MISTY MUNGROO

Stuart Career Tech High School

2020-2021 HAABE DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

ELEMENTARY



MARIA BORREGO
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
ELEMENTARY

ESL



ANISSA CULP
ASHBEL SMITH
ELEMENTARY

SECONDARY



KIMBERLY KELLEY
HORACE MANN
JUNIOR SCHOOL



Clynes Named James Becker Thomson Special Education Teacher of the Year

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 help students learn new concepts.

"She is happy, kind and thoughtful of all students and all adults in the building," said Andrea Gorney, 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.



CHELSEA CLYNES
BAYTOWN JUNIOR
SCHOOL

JUST CAN'T MASK OUR
ENTHUSIASM FOR. . .



Retirement

SALLY BLACK

After 45 years in education, all in Goose Creek CISD, Sally Black, math content specialist at Goose Creek Memorial High School, is announcing her retirement.

Black earned a Bachelor of Arts in math and history from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has taken various hours at University of Houston and St. Thomas University.

Starting her career in education in 1971 at Robert E. Lee High School working for principal Henry Armstrong, she taught Algebra I and served as assistant director of the Lee Brigadiers. After the fire at Lee in 1987, Black moved to Ross S. Sterling High School, teaching there until she helped open Goose Creek Memorial in 2008. She has taught most math courses and sponsored many organizations. She will end her career teaching calculus and pre-calculus as well as sponsoring Key Club and the National Honor Society.

Black was honored as Teacher of the Year at Sterling in 1991 and 2003. She was selected as GCM's Teacher of the Year in 2016. Black received the Texas Excellence Award



for Outstanding High School Teacher in 1993, the Kiwanis Youth Leadership Awards in 2002, the Unsung Hero Award from the *Baytown Sun* in 2003 and the Past Lt. Governor Texas-Oklahoma District Youth Leadership Award. She was recognized as Giant Staff Member of the Month for September 2020 and with a Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Students Choice Award in 2021.

"I truly believe that success in teaching directly correlates to relationships. It is important to be involved, sponsor clubs, create opportunities for students and let

them see how much you care. I have worked 45-plus years in GCCISD and while things have changed, schools have changed, staff has changed, kids are still kids and want to know that you care about them."

After retiring, Black plans to spend time with her husband David and children, Bryan Black, Kelley Start and Neal Black. She especially looks forward to time with her grandchildren, Gavin Black, Jake Start, Lexi Start, Evie Black and Sully Black.



ROBIN EDWARDS

Robin Edwards, at risk interventionist/dyslexia specialist at Highlands Elementary School, is retiring after 22 years in education, all in Goose Creek CISD.

Edwards holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and Art from Houston Baptist University. She began her career as a fourth- and fifth-grade ELA teacher from 1999-2000, moving to fourth grade from 2000-2002, fifth grade from 2002-2005 and second grade from 2005-2008. She became a dyslexia specialist from 2005-2008. Edwards was honored to have been selected as Teacher of the Year for Highlands Elementary in 2018-2019.

"Teaching is my heart and passion. Teaching children to read is what has driven me all these years and I love it. I have been fortunate to teach within the Goose Creek school district at Highlands Elementary for the past 22 years. I love the Highlands students and families. They are my community. My Highlands Elementary faculty and administrators are my extended family and have always supported and encouraged me to grow as a teacher."



Edwards' retirement will be involved in spending more quality and quantity time with her family—husband Tim G. Edwards, children Erin Edwards and Brianna Lee, son-in-law Jared Lee and grandson Johnny. She has always been involved in serving in her church and community, and now she will gratefully be more available to do more writing and painting. She has a children's book, "Little Star," that she would like to have published and possibly generate more books that explore her character-building adventures.

She is currently exploring an opportunity to work with Kids Beach Club in creating a character-building curriculum that can be shared with school districts that have Kids Beach Clubs as an after school program in their schools. She plans to go through any doors that God opens for her, whatever those may be. She will still be involved in growing children and teaching in whatever creative way He provides. These will be God's "other duties as assigned."

MANUEL GARZA

Manuel Garza, band director at Horace Mann Junior School, is retiring after 35 years in education, 33 of which were in Goose Creek CISD.

Garza has a Bachelor of Music degree from Texas State University. He began his career as an assistant band director at Baytown Junior School in 1984, taking on the role of head band director in 1992, growing the band from 160 students to more than 300. He also served as director of the choir in 1994 and taught elementary music and art at San Jacinto Elementary. In 1989 and 1990, he served as assistant director for Lee Brigadiers.

He served as assistant band and choir director at Cedar Bayou Junior School from 1995-2000, moving to head band director and leading the band to earn several Sweepstakes awards for concert performances. From 2000-2004, Garza served as assistant band director at Robert E. Lee High School, where the Symphonic Band and Concert Band earned several Sweepstakes awards. Several students participated in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Region and Area Band, and two students were selected as TMEA All-State Band members.

Garza served as director of bands in Sheldon ISD from 2004-2006, returning to GCCISD as head band director and



department chair at Highlands Junior School in 2006. Growing from 150 to 300 students, the band earned several Superior Ratings at UIL Contest and two Sweepstakes awards, and several students were members of the TMEA Region Bands and Orchestras.

From 2018-2021, Garza was assistant band director at Horace Mann Junior School. The band earned a Sweepstakes award and was awarded first place in Honor Band Taping for TMEA Class CC at the Region Level, advancing to the Area Level, where the band placed third. Several students earned positions in the GCCISD All City Band, TMEA Region Band and the TMEA Region Orchestra, thus earning the most in the district.

“Aside from having several groups earn numerous awards for their performances, my proudest moments have been seeing two trumpet players earn 1st chair in the TMEA Region Band and two Robert E. Lee trumpet students chosen to perform as soloists with the Baytown Symphony.”

After retiring, Garza plans to travel around the United States and Mexico, work on fixing a rental property and selling it, and spend time with his wife Maria and children Geoffrey and Sarah.



MARGIE GRIMES

Margie Grimes, chief financial officer (CFO) for Goose Creek CISD, is announcing her retirement after nine years in Goose Creek CISD and 17 years in education.

Grimes earned an Associate in Arts degree from Lee College, a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from UH-Clear Lake and CPA, RTA, TSBA and CPFIM licenses and certifications.

Hired in 2012 as director of finance, Grimes was promoted to CFO in 2013. She managed the successful conversion of the district financial software to Prologix (Teams), assisted with the passage of a Tax Ratification Election and voter approval of two bond programs in 2013 and 2019, maintained credit ratings of Triple A with the Permanent School Fund Guarantee, established



a Long-Range Capital Improvement Fund for asset acquisitions funded with local resourced and supervised annual budget planning and development resulting in exceeding the targeted General Fund Balance. She also received awards for GFOA and ASBO Certificates of Excellence in Financial Reporting, and the Purchasing Department received the Purchasing Award of Merit for the first time.

Plans for retirement include keeping her new granddaughter a few days per week and enjoying time with her family—husband Tommy, son Wesley and his wife Lindsey, and grandchildren Connor, Cooper and Layla. She plans to enjoy traveling, golfing, fishing, photography and other outdoor activities.

AGUSTINA HERNANDEZ



Retiring after 21 years in Goose Creek CISD is Agustina Hernandez, Food Services at Ashbel Smith Elementary.

Hernandez has enjoyed working for Goose Creek CISD and is looking forward to having time for herself.

After retiring, Hernandez plans to work for God, helping her son, who is a pastor, with his church, Emanuel Church. She also plans to cook and spend time with her family—husband Heron, children Marlen Perez, Heron Hernandez Jr., Dvi Hernandez, Patricia Hernandez and Mario Hernandez—and grandchildren Marsa, Joseas, Zeth, Emory, Natalia, Eli and Sofia.



DAVRICE MATHENY

Davrice Matheny, transportation routing specialist, is retiring after 28 years in education, 10 of which have been in Goose Creek CISD. She started working for the district as a dispatcher for Transportation in August 2010, moving to Routing in 2012.

Matheny has taken many courses through TAPT and Train the Trainers along with other training provided through the Transportation Departments where she has worked. She plans to stay home for the first year of retirement and enjoying being with her grandchildren. After that, she might do some volunteer work to keep her from “pulling her hair out due to boredom.” She might even go back to work.

Matheny’s family includes husband Roger, children Jessica Matheny, Jennifer Beall, Johathon Matheny, Jerimy Matheny, Joshua Matheny, Alayna Cain and grandchildren Maritza Muro; Miguel Muro, Jr.; Jorja Beall; Shane Sharp; Joshua Matheny, Jr. and Jacob Matheny.



SUSAN PASSMORE

Susan Passmore, director of communications, is announcing her retirement after 36 years in education, 18 in Goose Creek CISD. She has a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Lamar University and a master's degree in English as well as mid-management certification from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Passmore worked as a title company escrow officer before starting her career in education in 1981 as a communications and theater teacher and cheerleader sponsor at Baker Junior High in La Porte for one year, moving to La Porte Junior High for the next five years. She taught English, communications and PALs for 12 years at Deer Park High School, where she was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 2000 and Regular Educator of the Year for the Special Education Department in 2001. She joined Goose Creek CISD in 2003 as assistant principal at Cedar Bayou Junior School, where she had student taught in 1979. Passmore also served as academic dean at Robert E. Lee High School and assistant principal at Horace Mann Junior School before accepting the role as publications coordinator for the Communications Department in 2013. She became assistant director of communications in 2014 and director of communications for the Community Engagement Team in 2019.



Passmore has been recognized twice for Best of Category submissions in the Feature Writing category of the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) STAR Awards, and together the department has earned numerous Gold Star, Silver Star and Bronze Star awards at the annual conferences. She is past president of the Pilot Club of Baytown, where one of her projects was chartering the IMPACT Early College High School Anchor Club, and on the Crime Stoppers Board.

"I appreciate the opportunities I have had in Goose Creek CISD and the relationships I've built with students, staff, and community members. I love our Community Engagement Team and appreciate the different skills that each one of us brought to the table as we worked together to accomplish our goals."

After retiring, Passmore plans to avoid boredom, striving to exercise regularly, work with real estate and help with her grandchildren—Charles Gallagher and Adelyn and Ace Shibley. She and husband Richard also will enjoy hanging out with their children—Shala Gallagher and Ashley and Adam Shibley—and spending time at Lake Livingston.



EVAH LEIGH PRIMEAUX

Retiring after 36 years in education at Goose Creek CISD is Evah Leigh Primeaux, second-grade teacher at Stephen F. Austin Elementary.

Primeaux is a product of Goose Creek CISD, having graduated from Ross S. Sterling High School. She received an Associate of Arts degree from Lee College and a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching from Sam Houston State University. She received her master's degree in education from the University of Texas at Austin, and she has certifications in Bilingual/ESL, Elementary Spanish and Elementary Self-Contained along with a Language or Learning Disabilities endorsement with an emphasis in bilingual special education.

Starting her career as a special education teacher at San Jacinto Elementary in 1985, Primeaux moved to De Zavala Elementary in 1992 as a second-grade teacher. She transferred to Austin Elementary as a second-grade teacher in 1996. She served as a curriculum writer for several summers to improve the curriculum for science and mathematics.

Primeaux was selected Teacher of the Year at Austin



Elementary in 2001-2002 and again in 2010-2011. She also was honored as District Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2010-2011.

"One accomplishment of special note is achieving a goal set when I was a second-grade student at the old Stephen F. Austin Elementary. I went home from school one day and told my mother that when I grew up, I wanted to teach second grade at Stephen F. Austin just like Mrs. Wyatt (aka Mary Jane Ethridge). I have been blessed with the opportunity to fulfill that goal."

Following retirement, Primeaux looks forward to taking frequent trips to the New Orleans area to spend quality time with her beautiful granddaughter and to visit her son and his wife. She also plans to enjoy scrapbooking the many pictures she has taken on various adventures and occasions. She plans also to take better care of herself by planning and cooking delicious healthy meals, walking and riding her three-wheel bike, spending time with her family and friends and vacationing during the off-season. Additionally, she hopes to be able to tutor at Austin Elementary as she cannot imagine her future without her childhood and adulthood alma mater. "Once an Austin Alligator, always an Austin Alligator!"

BECKY ROBINS



Becky Robins, director of curriculum and instruction, is retiring after 31 years in education, all in Goose Creek CISD.

Robins earned her Associate of Arts degree from Lee College, her Bachelor of Science in Education from University of Houston University Park, and her master's degree in Educational Leadership from University of Houston Clear Lake. She spent 14 years as a physical education and special education teacher at Ashbel Smith Elementary and served as a behavior specialist for one year. For the next 16 years, she served as an administrator in the roles of assistant principal and principal at Crockett Elementary, principal at San Jacinto Elementary and director of curriculum and instruction at the Administration Building.

"I am at a loss for words to say how much working and growing as an educational leader in Goose Creek has meant to me! However, I am proud to say I am Goose Creek through and through. I attended Alamo Elementary, Cedar Bayou Jr. and RSS as a student and now after 31 years in my professional roles, I am finally ready to graduate from Goose Creek one last time! I will miss all who have and continue to cross my path daily. Thank you so much for the opportunity to grow as a leader!

After retiring, Robins plans to enjoy gardening and working in the yard, nature photography and most outdoor activities, and she is looking forward to having time to do all those things. Since she is not good at sitting idle, slowing down may present a challenge; however, she plans to not be driven by a schedule. Robins also looks forward to spending time with family and friends.



COLETTE TOMPKINS

Colette Tompkins, physical education teacher and coach at Cedar Bayou Junior School, announced her retirement after 32 years in education, 28 in Goose Creek CISD. A product of Goose Creek CISD, Tompkins graduated from Robert E. Lee High school and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Lamar University.

Tompkins started her career in education in 1986 at Baker Junior High in La Porte. She joined Goose Creek CISD in 1992 and spent 28 years teaching and coaching at Cedar Bayou Junior School. Tompkins was nominated by a student and honored with the Channel 2 Sunshine Award. Students and staff enjoyed watching the helicopter land on the campus to surprise her.



Although she said it took her 18 years to have a team that won a volleyball district championship, her teams accumulated numerous district basketball championships and her track and cross country distance runners always fared well.

"I run into former students everywhere. I don't always remember their names, but they recognize me—even when I'm wearing a mask. I just love social media so I can see former students and their families and see how they have grown up."

Tompkins is enjoying retirement, traveling, hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with husband Les and her children Cady Tompkins and Chase Tompkins and his wife Katie.

JANET TUCKER



Janet Tucker, ISS education instructional aide at Highlands Elementary, is retiring after 21 years in education in Goose Creek CISD.

Tucker is honored to have had the opportunity to touch the lives of many children.

“My 21 years in education with Goose Creek CISD has been on my home campus, Highlands Elementary. I must say I have acquired many lifetime friendships and some I have adopted like my own children. Highlands Elementary memories will be forever in my heart.”

She offers a prayer for children: “Father, I pray school will be an exciting learning environment for our children. May it be a strong foundation for their growth and development and prepare them for their future. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”—Romans 13:1

Tucker plans to travel and spend time with her family—husband Ricky, who retired in January 2020; children Jennifer and Curtis Huckaby, Jared and Kristi Tucker; and grandchildren Brendan Huckaby, Bryce Huckaby, Brooklyn Huckaby, Judson Tucker and Ellie Tucker.



JUDY WELLS

Judy Wells retired after 28 years in Goose Creek CISD and 44 years in education. She was an auditory enrichment teacher with the Tri-County East Regional Day School Program for the Deaf in the Special Education Department.

Wells earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Wells started in January 1993 with the East Harris County Regional Day School for the Deaf (now the Tri-county East Regional Day School for the Deaf) as an itinerant teacher. She moved to be the pre-school teacher at the beginning of the 1993-94 school year and worked at various Pasadena sites as part of the Co-op. In 2006, she became the auditory enrichment teacher, serving students at the Pasadena, Liberty and Goose Creek sites until May 2020, when she officially retired from Goose Creek CISD.

During her time with Goose Creek CISD, Wells applied for and was granted three Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Grants. They were “Using Interactive Software to Improve Hearing Impaired Students’ Listening Skills” (May 2011), “Let’s Play: Creating a Language Foundation Through Play-Based Strategies” (May 2012) and “Connecting the Links Between Listening and Reading



Through Phonemic Awareness, Phonetics and Decoding Skills” (May 2013). She also presented at various workshops in the district and at the Statewide Conference for the Deaf.

Since retiring at the end of May 2020, Wells has been creating numerous quilts, table runners and wall hangings for friends, family and others. She updated her sewing room to a peaceful place to work and create. She enjoys hand-quilting the quilts together and is working on three quilts for her family. She also has been reading a variety of books. Wells has started a garden of herbs and vegetables and updated her flower gardens, which were damaged in the freeze. She enjoys sitting on her new deck and enjoying the outdoors. Granddaughter Elizabeth, 3, enjoys coming over, helping in the garden and sorting squares and strips of fabric. She enjoys conversations with granddaughter Daisy, 16, who likes to cook, so Wells is always willing to taste anything she fixes.

“I really enjoyed my time in Goose Creek CISD and have lots of wonderful memories and stories. When COVID settles down and it is safe to travel, I plan to take various trips around the country to see the sights and find interesting quilt stores, of course. Can’t have too much fabric!”



YEARS OF
Service

45 YEARS

Sarah Black

40 YEARS

Jose Bejarano
Appolina St. Croix

35 YEARS

Debora Finn
Manuel Garza
Stephanie Korenek
Anita Sanders
Virginia Vaughn

30 YEARS

Betty Benskin
Maria Garcia
Merlyn Hawkins
Leslie Johnson
Randolph Larson
Kristen Lovett
Lalaine Neal
Gloria Sanchez
Debra Webb

25 YEARS

Pamela Aaron
Maria Adame
Dana Baker
Neal Craft
Laura Dudley
Margaret Ehlig
Gina Garza
Andrea Gonzalez
Francisco Gonzalez
Martha Gonzalez
Rose-Mary Lueders
Beverly Mathis
Danita McGehee
Judy McMakin
Vanessa Jackson
Patricia Peña
Alice Ricks
Juanita Simmons
Janice Shipley
Cindy Tannery
Maria Tijerina
Tammie Tillman

