



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Goose Call

The purpose of "The Goose Call" is to better connect parents, faculty, staff and the community at large with Goose Creek ISD by sharing a variety of stories from and about stakeholders of the district.

"The Goose Call" aims to inform, inspire and entertain people who want to know more about the inner workings of our district and how our collective efforts, as a district and a community, are helping to shape the lives of future generations.

While our guest bloggers do not necessarily represent the opinions of the district, all bloggers will have a positive story or message to share via "The Goose Call."

GUIDELINES

TIPS



BY ELOY CHAPA, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Hiring season for teachers is officially underway! It's that time of the year when soon-to-be college grads will seek their first job as an educator, and those with experience will look to make a career change. Wherever you are in your career, if you're in the market for a new teaching job, you need to be prepared. We asked Eloy Chapa, Goose Creek CISD's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, how prospective teachers should prepare for their job interview.

Interviewing can be a stressful situation, but it doesn't have to be. The key to a successful interview is to be calm, professional and prepared. The following are a few tips to help you sail through your interview with confidence and land the teaching job of your dreams.


Know Who You're Interviewing With

You should expect to be asked what you know about the district and/or about a particular campus. Research facts about the student body population, the overall district performance, district improvement plans and other key facts that will demonstrate your interest in employment with the district.

Show Your Stuff

If you've previously taught in another district, create a portfolio that showcases your work. This might include results of test scores, a sample lesson plan, pictures of students participating in classroom activities, letters of recommendations, thank you letters from parents and anything else that will show your interviewer how committed you are to classroom success.

If you're new to education, include activities you participated in during college that could help you professionally, such as membership in a professional organization or conference



**GOOSE CREEK CISD
JOB FAIR
MARCH 28, 2015**

- Goose Creek CISD is the second highest paying district in the state for teachers.
- Registration begins at 8:00 AM
Job Fair begins at 9:00 AM
- LOCATION:**
Goose Creek Memorial HS
6001 E. Wallisville Road
Baytown, TX 77521

attendance. A letter or two of recommendation from professors certainly can't hurt.

Anticipate The Difficult Questions

Two of the most common questions that stump interviewees are, "Tell me about yourself," and "What is your biggest weakness?" Neither question is comfortable for anyone to answer, so practice answering these several times before your interview. When asked to talk about yourself, keep it short – under one minute – and focus on your professional background and what attributes you can bring to the role. It's difficult to talk about your biggest weakness, so be as honest as possible. Are you interviewing in a district with a large non-English-speaking population? Then you could say, "I'm not bilingual." But whatever you say, find a way to turn it into a positive. For example: "I'm not bilingual, but I wish I were. I've been thinking about taking a class."

Also, remember that you're going to be asked about your classroom management style, so prepare for questions like:

- How would you motivate an unmotivated student?
- How would you deal with an angry parent?
- How will you maintain discipline in your classroom?

Ask Questions

You want to know if the school is a good fit for you, too, not just the other way around. Ask questions about the school culture, average class size and additional opportunities for you to get involved on campus. Asking questions shows you're interested and knowledgeable about what matters to you. It also gives you more chances to sell yourself. Your interview should be a two-way conversation.

Dress Appropriately

This should go without saying, but you would be surprised at some of the "outfits" I've seen people wear to a job interview. You're going to be working with kids in a professional environment. While many campuses have occasional casual days, don't show up for the interview in jeans and a spirit shirt.

Most importantly, be yourself. Your interviewer, likely a campus administrator, is looking for passionate, eager, hard-working teachers who will fit in well with their school climate. They want to know what you can bring to the campus that will help the school meet its commitment to exceptional education for every student. Only you can convince them that you're the right fit, so let them see your personality in addition to your skills and knowledge.

***P.S.** It's a really, really good idea to clean up your social media accounts before you interview. Your personal life is your personal life, but your reputation matters not only to your interviewer, but also to the many parents and students who will look up to you.*

Post a comment here.

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