

GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Last year's eighth grade students at Highlands Junior School publicize their endorsement choices, as indicated by the five different colors of their shirts, on Endorsement Declaration Day.

Eighth Grade Students To Select From Options

As eighth grade students begin to transition to high school, they will have the opportunity to explore several options for their graduation plans, and Goose Creek CISD is working to provide the information students and parents need to make those decisions.

All eighth graders attended Student High School Informational Sessions December 1, 2015, at the high schools they will attend next year. Parents will have the opportunity to attend an informative session January 12, 2016, at their student's future high school. The sessions are basically High School Planning 101, and include a campus tour along with educational planning information. Parents and students will learn about educational opportunities, including core academics, athletics/electives, Career and Technical Education Programs of Study, Career Academies and AVID.

As a result of House Bill 5, eighth grade students are required to choose an endorsement including 26 credits. Endorsements offered are Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, Multi-Disciplinary Studies, Public Services and Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Students have used Naviance activities, such as Strengths Explorer and Match Maker, to identify areas of interest and to help them choose their high school program of study and endorsement.

Students also have the option to choose from three academies. In these academies, academic and career instruction is integrated. Acceptance into the

Ross S. Sterling High School provides the Health Science Academy for students who wish to pursue career pathways in pre-medicine, nursing, sports medicine, pharmacy technician and other health-related fields. Students benefit from the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science Curriculum, guest speakers from health-related careers and observing surgery at M.D. Anderson. College visits are scheduled as students decide on their health-related career pathway.

As part of another option for eighth grade students is IMPACT Early College High School. IMPACT ECHS, a partnership between Goose Creek CISD and Lee College, opened in fall 2010, and the school has seen two classes receive high school diplomas as well as many of these students earn associate degrees. The goal of IMPACT is to prepare students to graduate from high school, earning an associate degree or at least a number of college hours from Lee College at the same time. Coursework is rigorous, so students who apply for IMPACT must be committed to working not only as honors level students, but also as college students for four years. A Parent Information Session will be held Tuesday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the new campus at 1415 Market Street in Baytown to discuss the opportunities IMPACT provides for students and their parents.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is yet another option for students entering high school. AVID targets students who have academic potential.

academies is by application, and Goose Creek CISD will provide transportation for students selected. Dual credit courses are also offered. Academy enrollment is expanding for the 2016-2017 school year, providing more opportunities for incoming ninth grade students to become an academy student.

Goose Creek Memorial High School houses the Global Business Academy, which will expose students to career pathways in accounting, global business management, finance and logistics. This academy allows students to earn an endorsement in Business and Industry. A credit union and a student-run coffee bar have opened on the campus to allow students hands-on experience.

Robert E. Lee High School offers the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy. Students who are accepted into the STEM Academy will pursue career pathways in engineering, process technology, instrumentation, robotics and other STEM-related fields and will earn a STEM endorsement. Academy students begin with rigorous Project Lead the Way engineering courses. Lee has been selected as an Apple Distinguished School for 2015-2017 for making technology a major part of classroom learning as a program that meets criteria for innovation, leadership and educational excellence as well as demonstrates a clear vision of exemplary learning environments. The school was also recognized as T-STEM campus, serving as a demonstration school and learning lab which develops innovative methods to improve science and math instruction.

"In other words, academic potential means that with support from family and teachers, students would be able to earn mostly A's and B's," said Travita Godfrey, college and career coordinator. "With that same support system, AVID students should be able to get to and succeed in college."

AVID students must also be willing to enroll in at least one pre-Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement or dual credit class each semester. Each AVID class has a set of college students who are their academic coaches to facilitate tutorials and serve as mentors and leaders. College test preparation, college essay writing and financial aid application completion are embedded in the curriculum. Students also have the opportunity to participate in college field trips and to listen to speakers on various topics. Students are admitted to AVID through an application and interview process.

With all the options available to students entering high school for the 2016-2017 school, planning can be quite overwhelming to students and their parents. Fortunately, Goose Creek CISD guidance counselors, Career and Technical Education counselors, administrators and staff members are available to answer questions about the programs of interest to students and their parents. By taking advantage of the parent sessions offered at the three traditional high schools and at IMPACT Early College High, parents may find that the transition to high school is easier than it seemed at first glance.

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