



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCCISD to Launch Academies at Three High Schools

As a response to business and industry workforce needs, three Goose Creek CISD schools will launch college and career academies in the fall of 2014, focusing on high demand occupations in the Gulf Coast area. Each campus chose a high demand workforce area to emphasize to the students on their campus. At all three campuses, Goose Creek Memorial High School, Robert E. Lee High School and Ross S. Sterling High School, approximately 50 students, who will enter the schools next year as 9th graders, were selected through an application process to participate in this pilot program.

"The idea behind the academy concept is to spotlight one of the career pathways or endorsements at each high school, providing integrated curriculum, a speaker series and other opportunities for students to learn about a career of interest to them," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. Working together, a team of teachers will provide experiences and assignments for the students in the academy based on real-world activities. Core and elective teachers will provide an integrated approach to their subjects, and students may be assigned across-the-curriculum projects.

According to Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, the District is piloting the program with a limited number of students. By starting small, each campus will have the opportunity to build a firm foundation that will be expanded on in upcoming years. One option might be to have juniors and seniors participate in upper division academy classes at Stuart Career Center. Feedback from parents and students will be an important part of the process.

"This first year, students will take a beginning class, for example, pre-engineering, to begin their journey in the academy," said Dr. Duarte. "Please note that these courses will be available on all campuses, so pre-engineering will be offered at Sterling and GCM, along with the academy campus, Lee High School. The difference may be the integrated curriculum between pre-engineering and English Language Arts."

Goose Creek Memorial High School will house the Global Business, Logistics and Tourism Academy. Renee Cosby, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) specialist at GCM, will oversee the academy. Career pathways in accounting, global business management, finance, hospitality and tourism logistics will be emphasized. McKenzie Reznicek's interest in photography and her desire to earn college credits led her to apply to the academy at GCM. The 8th grade student at Highlands Junior School has given some thought to her career choices.

"Everybody wants to love what they do," she said. "I just thought this academy would be good for my future."

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy will get underway on the Robert E. Lee High School campus in the fall. The academy students will pursue career pathways in engineering, process technology, instrumentation and other STEM-related fields. Travita Godfrey is currently the CTE specialist leading the academy at REL.

Brian Kluppel, 8th grade student at Horace Mann Junior School, was excited to receive his letter of acceptance into the STEM Academy at Robert E. Lee High School. His father, Dr. Shannon Kluppel, knew that Brian had expressed an interest in the military, and he felt that the STEM Academy would help him determine an area on which to focus.



Tryston Anderson, 8th grade student at Cedar Bayou Junior School, shows Rachel Vaughan, assistant principal, his acceptance letter into the Health Science Academy at Ross S. Sterling High School.

"Counselors went to all the classes and talked about the academies," said Brian Kluppel. "All the teachers will work together to make it tie into what we're learning in other classes. I think it will be more interesting."

Ross S. Sterling High School will offer the Health Science Academy, allowing students to pursue career pathways in pre-medicine, nursing, sports medicine, pharmacy technician and other health-related fields. Michelle Duhon, CTE specialist, will lead this academy.

The idea of taking trips to hospitals and pharmacies to learn about the healthcare profession piqued Tryston Anderson's attention when he and his parents attended a presentation about 8th grade options for high school at Cedar Bayou Junior School. An 8th grade student at CBJ, Anderson said that he's always planned to be a doctor. His father is a paramedic, his aunt is a doctor and his grandmother was a phlebotomist, so his interest in medicine runs in the family.

Anderson's desire to enter the medical profession has an even more personal side. Diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes Type 1 a few days after his 11th birthday, he feels that he could help others, especially those who are diabetic.

"I really want to find a cure for diabetes," the 14-year old said. "It's not an easy thing to go through, but you've got to make it work and do your best. It changes your whole life."

"The academy model has been successful nationwide in improving student learning and engagement," said Renea Dillon, director of Career and Technical Education. "We are partnering with the National Career Academy Coalition, and our staff will be observing other campuses that have achieved Model Academy status."

Share This!





Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

[Contact the Webmaster](#)
[Required Internet Postings](#)
[Site Map](#)
[Google Translate](#)