

Bush Institute Selects Baytown Junior School for Second Annual Middle School Matters Institute

Program expands to 16 schools, spanning 4 states. Schools receive high-quality research-based school improvement strategies from the Bush Institute's national experts.

DALLAS, Texas (May 29, 2014) -- The George W. Bush Institute at the George W. Bush Presidential Center today announced the selection of Baytown Junior School to participate in the second year of Middle School Matters (MSM) Institute. This second round of schools expands the program to 16 schools, spanning four states, including California, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas. MSM schools receive high-quality research-based school improvement strategies from the Bush Institute's national experts, yearlong professional support, and an invitation to the three-day Middle School Matters Summer Conference.

"We at Baytown Junior School are excited and honored to have been selected for the Middle School Matters Institute," said Susan Jackson, Baytown Junior principal. "Our students and teachers will benefit greatly from the support and resources that the George W. Bush Institute will provide, and we are looking forward to entering into this partnership."

Over the past several years, the <u>Bush Institute</u>, in partnership with <u>The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk at The</u> <u>University of Texas at Austin (MCPER)</u>, has convened numerous top <u>national education researchers</u>, who have translated research into practice in schools, and provided effective support to schools chosen to be a part of this select group.

"Through Middle School Matters, the Bush Institute builds a bridge between our top expert researchers in the field, and those in the classrooms charged with preparing our students for success in high school and post-secondary endeavors," said Beth Ann Bryan, Interim Director of Education Reform at the George W. Bush Institute. "We are making proven strategies for success in the middle grades available to our teachers and school leaders across the nation."



Diana Silvas, area executive director for Goose Creek CISD (fourth from left), and Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD superintendent (at right) congratulate the leadership team at Baytown Junior School on the school's selection for participation in the Second Annual Middle School Matters Institute, announced by the George W. Bush Institute at the George W. Bush Presidential Center. Also pictured are (I to r) Earnest Brooks, assistant principal; Katie Culver, assistant principal; Judy Mackyeon, math campus instruction specialist; Susan Jackson, principal; Leslie Garcia, family involvement coordinator; Janie West, librarian and Dr. Donna Woods-Stellman, ELA campus instruction specialist.

The newly selected schools were chosen from a pool of nationwide applicants. Sharon Vaughn, Executive Director of MCPER at the University of Texas commented, "We are thrilled at having the opportunity to work with such progressive middle schools that are committed to using proven strategies for success in the middle grades with our teachers and school leaders across the nation." For more information on how Middle School Matters supports middle grade educators, and to learn more about other Education Reform Initiatives at the George W. Bush Institute, please visit www.bushcenter.org.

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