



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sessions Prepare Staff for Success

Summer not only brought teachers and administrators some well-deserved time off, but also time to take advantage of the numerous professional development opportunities offered by Goose Creek CISD. The Abydos, formerly the New Jersey Writing Project, Training of Trainers Session for K-12 writing helped prepare teachers for the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) with strategies on expository, personal narrative and literacy, and persuasive writing along with preparation of short answer responses.

Counseling Department Core Team Members received training in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP), developed by Dr. Dan Olweus, in January 2014. OBPP is a research-based bullying prevention program which will be implemented at all campuses at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. It is a school-wide effort that involves all adults and students in the school community. Principals received an overview of the comprehensive program in the spring, and students then responded to a Student Bullying Questionnaire in May 2014. The program focuses on the school as a system as well as on individual behavior. OBPP works with changing the climate and social norms so that bullying is not perceived as "cool." Additional counselors attended training this summer, and they will train faculty and staff members at all Goose Creek CISD schools.

In June, approximately 100 pre-AP science and math teachers received training, provided by the National Math and Science Initiative and sponsored by Bayer. The Laying the Foundation Training provided instructional strategies to engage students at high levels in math and science.

The New Administrator Academy was developed by a committee of Goose Creek CISD administrators to provide the necessary information and tools for all new administrators to prepare them for their leadership roles. New principals, assistant principals and counselors participated in this overview of District expectations, policies and procedures on July 22-25.

The Aspiring Administrator Academy will provide a professional development opportunity for new principals, assistant principals and counselors along with selected potential principals and assistant principals one Saturday each month. This academy will include book studies and presentations about Professional Learning Communities, Documentation Writing Training, Data, Dealing with Difficult People, Testing and Accountability, Human Resources and Comprehensive Needs Assessment/Campus Improvement Plan.



(l to r) New principals Marty Humphries at Victoria Walker Elementary School and Alex Gonzalez at San Jacinto Elementary collaborate during the recent New Administrator Academy. View more photos [here](#).

With all core content classrooms throughout the District utilizing Promethean interactive whiteboards during the upcoming school year, more than 1,000 teachers are attending training designed for working with the laptops and the whiteboards. Three to four teachers from each campus are attending training, and they will train the other teachers on their campuses.

During July and August, principals and assistant principals are attending a Principals Academy, which includes Flippin Leadership Training, TASA Curriculum Audit Training, and Steve Barkley Curriculum and Instructional Strategies Training of Trainers Sessions.

As always, when teachers report to duty in August, professional development sessions will be provided with their departments. Goose Creek CISD's Back to School Convocation will feature Dr. Charles Beaman, who offers over 20 years of experience as a language arts teacher, assistant principal and principal. Beaman has presented at numerous state and national conferences on such topics as effective classroom management, stress and time management, and motivating difficult-to-reach students.

"These are a few of the professional development opportunities Goose Creek CISD is offering to teachers and administrators to give them the tools they need to help ensure student success," said Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. "The District worked with campus leaders to strategically identify areas of focus and have a systematic plan to ensure all staff members have a common goal to meet student needs."

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