



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dedication of Clark Elementary School

Goose Creek CISD will host the dedication ceremony for the new Dr. Johnny T. Clark, Jr. Elementary School on Thursday, October 23, at 6:00 p.m. in the school gymnasium/cafetorium. Clark Elementary, which opened its doors to students on the first day of school, August 25, 2014, is located at 6033 N. Hwy. 146 in Baytown. It is the first Goose Creek CISD school located in Chambers County. Susan Griffin, former principal at Crockett Elementary, is the first principal of Dr. Johnny T. Clark, Jr., Elementary School.

The campus was named in honor of Dr. Johnny T. Clark, Jr., former Goose Creek CISD superintendent from 1969 – 1985. Dr. Clark began his career in education as a math teacher in Langtry, Texas. From Langtry, he moved to Ozona. At the age of 24, he became superintendent of Ackerly school district — the youngest superintendent in the state at that time. He served as superintendent of Wilson, Olton and Hereford school districts before coming to Goose Creek CISD.

During his years in Goose Creek, Dr. Clark started the first in-school suspension class in Texas, known as Special Assignment Clinic (SAC). He also pioneered one of the first early childhood classes for underachieving preschoolers in the Kilgore Center, a special education center built during his tenure. Stuart Career Center, designed to house and improve the district's vocational programs, also began under Dr. Clark and is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Dr. Clark also provided for the addition of elementary counselors as well as nurses and teacher aides, and he helped guide an extensive building program. The agriculture program was also expanded during his term.

Dr. Clark was selected by House Speaker Gus Mutscher to serve on an interim study committee to examine the administration of public school education in Texas in 1972. He was also a member of the State committee for curriculum study in the 1980s and was appointed by Governor Preston Smith to serve on the Governor's Committee for Lifetime Sports. A life member of the Texas State Teachers Association, the National Education Association the Texas Association of School Administrators and the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers, he was also chosen as one of 30 administrators to study educational programs in the Soviet Union. In 1984, Dr. Clark was named Texas Classroom Teacher Administrator of the Year.

"At an opening session for school one year, Dr. Clark showed a film clip about an unwanted child," said Judi Craig, former secretary to the Board of Trustees under Dr. Clark's supervision. "He said, 'Teach the unteachables, love the unlovable, and make a difference in a child's life.' That, in essence, was Dr. Clark's educational career. He loved children as well as his teachers and staff."



Tommye Glynn Clark, wife of former Goose Creek CISD superintendent Dr. Johnny T. Clark, Jr., for whom the new elementary school on Hwy. 146 is named, works with Clark elementary kindergarten students to place items in the time capsule to be installed behind the building's cornerstone. Pictured are (l to r) Kenady Medina, Damian Brown, Leila Rodriguez and Emily Hilzendager.

View invitation [here](#).

Dr. Clark was actively involved in the community. He was a member of the Eastside Church of Christ. He also served as district governor of the Lions Club and was a past director of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Masonic Lodge, on the Executive Board of the Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, and a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Diabetes Association. He was also known as a lay minister, rancher, bronco rider, racehorse owner, biker, pilot and political insider.

Dr. Clark was married to Tommye Glynn Clark, who is still a member of the community, for 56 years before his death in December 2004. They had three children, Johnny Tee Clark, III, who died at the age of 35; Jimmy Clark and Joy (Clark) Brunson, and three grandchildren. The Clarks also considered a special young man, who lived with them for a time, a member of their family.

"As many have said before, Johnny Clark might have been called a horse of a different color. He certainly heard a different drumbeat in his ideas about traditional education – ideas that everyone bought in to in order to make students and staff successful," said Joy Woodall, former secretary to Clark. "His life was permeated with a love of family, friends, kids and teachers. He would certainly be overjoyed and humbled at the naming of this school in his honor, and he would most certainly be happy about the school mascot – Cowboys! I was privileged to serve as his secretary for 16 years. I enjoyed watching him gamble on kids and set standards for excellence in his own unique way. I miss him even today . . . and so does Goose Creek."

The public is invited to the dedication ceremony, followed by the Laying of the Cornerstone by the Baytown Masonic Lodge No. 1357. Tours of the building will be offered, and a reception will be held in the school's rotunda.

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