



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TAME Trailblazer

More than 1,600 Goose Creek CISD 6th-grade students spent science class inside a mobile interactive exhibit this month learning about space, energy, weather and aerodynamics as part of a workforce development initiative sponsored by Chevron Phillips Chemical Company.

The mobile education unit, called the Trailblazer trailer by the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), allowed students to take a field trip in the parking lots of their schools.

The Trailblazer spent two days at every junior school in the Baytown area from Nov. 3-14. The Trailblazer was recently exhibited at Sterling Municipal Library, but this is the first time the Trailblazer has visited any Baytown schools.

"Part of Chevron Phillips' commitment to train and educate the local workforce is reaching down into the high schools and middle schools. Since Texas House Bill 5 has changed school curriculums into workforce-ready pathways, it is important to us to promote science, math, and engineering careers before the students reach eighth grade," said Heather Kfoury, community relations manager at Chevron Phillips' Cedar Bayou plant.

High school students in the Ready, Set, Teach! program from Goose Creek Memorial, Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling high schools served as facilitators, and Chevron Phillips volunteers also helped to present the concepts to the students, who were delighted with the hands-on activities. Jabe Otwell, maintenance millwright at Chevron Phillips' Cedar Bayou plant, was pleased to be working with Gentry Junior School students for the day.

"I'm all about giving back. If I can get through to one kid, and he or she does something spectacular, I'll know I've made a difference," said Otwell. "My grandfather always told me that when you leave the world, your footprints stay."

Nancy Lingo with TAME trained the students and Chevron Phillips volunteers during the two days at Gentry, demonstrating the equipment at each station and pointing out facts in their notebooks.

By the time the 6th graders converged upon the trailer, the volunteers sounded like seasoned teachers. Lingo was pleased with the assistance the volunteers provided with the junior school students.



Mark Anthony Contreras, 6th grade student in Suman Sharma's science class at Gentry Junior School, creates energy at a station in the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Education (TAME) Trailblazer exhibit, sponsored by Chevron Phillips for 6th grade students at the five Goose Creek CISD junior schools. Ready, Set, Teach! students (l to r) Vanessa Martinez and Itzel Carrasco from Ross S. Sterling High School help facilitate the science lessons.

"We've had these Ready, Set, Teach! kids all week. We're very grateful to have them and, of course, our Chevron Phillips volunteers," said Lingo.

Vanessa Martinez was among the Sterling Ready, Set, Teach! students helping with the science demonstrations.

"This was another opportunity for us to interact with kids," said Martinez, who also works in the schools with students through her program, designed for future teachers.

Through partnerships with companies such as Chevron Phillips Goose Creek CISD is enhancing curriculum and preparing students at all grade levels for college and careers.

"We appreciate Chevron Phillips for providing this innovative educational opportunity for our 6th grade students throughout the district and for working with Goose Creek CISD to increase student interest and success in the STEM-related fields," said Randal O'Brien, acting superintendent.

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