



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Goose Creek CISD names two new elementary schools

Goose Creek CISD will honor two former educators, who made significant contributions to the District and to the community, by naming new elementary schools after them. The new elementary schools will be named for former superintendent Dr. Johnny Tee Clark, Jr. and former teacher Antonio Banuelos.

The announcement was made at the regular meeting of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees December 16. Construction is in progress at the elementary sites at 7770 Eastpoint Blvd. and 6033 N. Hwy 146, but the Board has not determined which school will bear the name of Dr. Clark or Dr. Banuelos. The third elementary currently under construction, located at 6100 N. Main, will be the new Alamo Elementary. All three schools are scheduled to open in August 2014. Naming the schools was a process that involved input from the community through nominations sent to the Superintendent's Office and through presentations at a Public Form in October. Sixteen individuals were nominated for consideration by the Board, which made the final decision.

According to Board policy, schools shall be named for deceased persons who have attained prominence locally and/or nationally in the fields of education, science, art, statesmanship, political science or military achievement, early pioneers of the area encompassed by Goose Creek CISD or the state of Texas or outstanding presidents of the United States. Policy also calls for students and other citizens to nominate persons representing all cultures. Guidelines state that the nominee must have made a significant contribution to society or the school district, and the name should lend prestige and status to an institution of learning.

Dr. Johnny T. Clark, Jr. began his career in education as a mathematics teacher in Langtry. From Langtry, he moved to Ozona, and at the age of 24, he became superintendent of Ackerly, Texas, and he was the youngest superintendent in the state of Texas. Prior to coming to Goose Creek, Dr. Clark served as superintendent in Wilson, Olton and Hereford school districts. He served as superintendent of Goose Creek CISD from 1969 to 1985.

Dr. Clark's interest in strengthening the quality of public education, combined with his skill as a leader, proved to be a beneficial contribution to many special legislative committees. House Speaker Gus Mutscher appointed him to serve on an interim study committee to examine the administration of public school education in Texas. He was also a member of the State committee for the study of curriculum in the 1980s and was appointed by Governor Preston Smith to serve on the Governor's Committee for Lifetime Sports. He held positions in the Texas State Teachers Association, the National Education Association, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers and was one of 30 administrators selected to study educational programs in the Soviet Union. Dr. Clark was selected as the Texas Classroom Teacher Association Administrator of the Year in 1984.

Dr. Clark's significant contributions to Goose Creek CISD included implementing in-school suspension, SAC, or Special Assignment Clinic; opening an early childhood class for underachieving preschoolers housed in the Kilgore Center; building a special education center, creating Stuart Career Center, adding elementary counselors, nurses, and teacher aides, and overseeing an extensive building program. He also expanded the agriculture program.

Involved in the community, Dr. Clark was a member of Eastside Church of Christ and served as district governor of the Lions Club. A past director of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors of the American Diabetes Association, he served on the Executive Board of the Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America.

"Johnny Tee Clark touched the hearts and lives of many people from all walks of life," said Judi Craig, former secretary for the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Clark received his bachelor's degree from Harding College at Searcy, Arkansas, his master's degree from Sul Ross State University, and his doctorate from Western Colorado University in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was married to Tommye Glynn Clark for 56 years, and they had three children, Johnny Tee Clark, III, who died at the age of 35; Jimmy Clark and Joy Brunson. They also had three grandchildren. Their family also included a very special young man who was raised by the Clarks. Johnny Tee Clark, Jr. passed away on December 9, 2004.

Dr. Antonio Banuelos was born in Spain, but his family fled to Mexico due to political danger. He learned to play instruments at a conservatory in Germany, and he traveled through the United States performing. The orchestra he started in the 1920s, which included 180 children from a slum area in Juarez, played for President Obregon of Mexico in 1924 and earned fame and trophies wherever they performed.

After coming to Houston, Dr. Banuelos became a member of the Houston Symphony Orchestra. In 1935, Humble Oil and Refining Company hired Dr. Banuelos to teach music to the children of Humble employees, and the company and the parents paid his salary. He directed La Tipica or Tipica Orchestra Mexicana, an all-girls orchestra, and the Baytown Mexican School Band, an all-boys band. Together these programs became the music program at De Zavala Elementary School in the middle of the Depression. The school district took over his salary, so children of non-refinery workers were able to enroll in the music program.

The Tipica Orchestra Mexicana included 30 female members who played throughout Texas. Parents scraped together money to buy their children's instruments, but Dr. Banuelos often supplied instruments he paid for himself. Toward the end of World War II, they played for servicemen in veterans hospitals.

These young ladies played for refinery employees as they changed shifts, and the workers would stop to buy war bonds. Since the orchestra members often missed school to play out of town, Dr. Banuelos required them to maintain an A average.

The Tipica Orchestra Mexicana played all over Texas and in New Mexico, Arizona and California.

The Baytown Mexican School Band specialized in Latin music, but also played popular music. Some of the band members enlisted in the armed forces for World War II and played in military bands. When Dr. Banuelos' former students came home, they created a band named Blue Jackets, which performed throughout the Houston area. Although he moved from Baytown in 1947, he left his students with skills and talents, along with the assurance that they were people of worth.

"Dr. Banuelos' dedication to his students and to his excellence in teaching resulted in excellence in learning and filled the students, the family and the community with pride through their success," said Luciano (Lucky) Salinas, a long-time educator who supported the nomination of Dr. Banuelos.



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