



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Perrin, Richard named district Principals of the Year

Highlands Elementary School's Ruth Perrin and Goose Creek Memorial High School's Al Richard have been chosen Goose Creek CISD's principals of the year for the 2011-2012 school year.

Principals of the year are chosen annually by a vote of the district's 26 principals. The title acknowledges the role of the principal by celebrating individuals who embody the characteristics necessary to serve as an exemplary campus administrator. These individuals serve as role models and consistently make a positive difference in the lives of children.

Both administrators were special honorees at the recent Region IV Education Service Center Principal Recognition Ceremony.

Region 4 began the Principal of the Year program in 2001, allowing each district in the area to select an elementary and secondary principal of the year.

"We are very proud of our principals of the year and the leadership they provide for their respective schools and this district," said Dr. Toby York, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. "We congratulate them on jobs well done."

Mrs. Perrin was named the principal at Highlands Elementary in 2010. Prior to that, she served as the principal at Alamo Elementary School for four years. Perrin also served as assistant principal at Alamo for three years before taking the helm. She also taught for five years with Dayton ISD.

She is married to her college sweetheart, Dirk Perrin, and they have two children – Annsley, 3, and Decker, 7 months old.

Mrs. Perrin said she looks forward to going to work every morning. "My favorite day of the year is the first day of school – I love seeing the smiles on the faces of the students as they walk through the doors and meet their teacher for the first time," Mrs. Perrin said.

"At the elementary level, students are excited about coming to school, and my desire is to instill in them a love for learning that will carry them through their careers as students."

"I work hard to ensure that we create a positive, student-centered environment at Highlands Elementary - a place where we laugh and have fun every day while remaining focused on our goal that is success for each student," Mrs. Perrin said.

"It is a privilege to work at Highlands Elementary School - such a talented, dedicated group of teachers; lots of parental and community support and the best students — I couldn't ask for anything more."

Mr. Richard, a longtime Goose Creek CISD educator and administrator, is retiring this year with 29 years of service to Goose Creek CISD and a total of 34 years in education.

He was named principal of Goose Creek Memorial in June 2007. His final graduating class — the Class of 2012 — is the first to attend all four years at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

Included among his most memorable moments was having the opportunity to start GCM from the ground up. "Knowing that every decision made during the planning process needed to be made with the understanding that the decisions would become a part of GCCISD history and be with our community for many years," Mr. Richard said.

He also mentioned that having Goose Creek Memorial earn recognized status during its second year as one of his favorites. "It was a goal from the day we opened our doors in August, 2008."

Goose Creek Memorial High School Principal Al Richard and Highlands Elementary Principal Ruth Perrin were special honorees at the recent Region IV Education Service Center Principal Recognition Ceremony. Between them is Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York.

And as a tribute to Mr. Richard's leadership, a new scholarship was recently named in his honor.

The Thomas Albert "Al" Richard Heart of a Patriot Award will be given to one graduating Goose Creek Memorial senior who "exemplifies the attitude, spirit, and dedication of the Goose Creek Memorial High School Fighting Patriot."

The scholarship announcement was just one of the surprises for the retiring principal during his final graduation ceremony.

Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos was also on hand, proclaiming June 9, 2012 as "Al Richard Day."

Mr. Richard began his teaching career at Opelousas Senior High School in St. Landry Parish in Louisiana. After five years there, he joined the Goose Creek CISD team, teaching mathematics at Robert E. Lee High School from 1983 to 1988 and serving as assistant principal at James Bowie Elementary School from 1988 to 1991. He taught math at Ross S. Sterling High School during the 1991-92 school year and spent the next three years as assistant principal there. In 1995, Al was named principal of Horace Mann Junior School, where he served until 2000.

He was the district's athletic director from June 2000 to June 2006. He then served as director of student services for a year before being named Goose Creek Memorial's first principal.

Mr. Richard is married to Deidre Richard, who will be the librarian at Crockett Elementary next school year.

What will Mr. Richard miss the most after retiring?

"Working with the great staff we have assembled at Goose Creek Memorial, and the daily interactions with students; they have always given me affirmation in why I became an educator," he said.

After retirement, Mr. Richard plans to remain in Baytown, play more golf and continue his involvement in various volunteer activities as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Baytown and attend more LSU athletic events.

"I also plan to continue to support the students and staff of Goose Creek Memorial as a community volunteer," he said.

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