



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCCISD sees major gains in advanced academics

It was a good year for the Goose Creek CISD Advanced Academics Department that saw major gains in multiple areas of focus.

The charge of the Advanced Academics department is to assist campuses by providing the most current advanced academic methods and training, facilitating increased student participation in all advanced academic programs, and increasing community, staff, and student awareness of the opportunities available for advanced studies.

Director Christi Leath leads the Advanced Academics Department.

"We are extremely proud of the tremendous gains achieved throughout our advanced academic programs this year. These gains are because of the hard work of students, teachers, administrators, counselors, support personnel, parents, and the many volunteers that served on advanced academics steering committees this year. It's been a true team effort." Mrs. Leath said.

Research shows that students strongly benefit from taking advanced classes.

Among the advantages:

- They are better prepared for college course work and tend to earn better grades.
- They are more likely to graduate from college.
- Competitive colleges are more likely to admit students who have taken advanced courses and to offer academic scholarships to them.

To that end, the Advanced Academics Department has under its umbrella many programs that have shown remarkable gains in the past school year.

Here are some highlights:

- The numbers of students enrolled in AP courses has risen 21 percent in 2011-2012 to a district high of 1,201. A district record
- The number of students registering to take AP exams jumped 40 percent in 2011-2012 to 1,033 students, an all-time high. The percentage of AP students registering to take AP exams has increased to 86 percent in 2011-2012.
- 77 students were named 2011 AP Scholars. That's a 45 percent increase over last year.
- 260 AP students attended the first GCCISD district-wide AP exam prep conference.
- More than 1,500 students — grades 2-12 — competed in UIL events this year. And the number of students — grades 9-12 — who were UIL event winners advancing to regional competition doubled from 10 to 21. Teams advancing to regionals also increased from two last year to five this year. The district also had one team advance to the state tournament.
- 493 seventh grade students — an 87 percent increase — qualified to participate in Duke Talent Identification Program, a national program that focuses on identifying academically talented students and providing opportunities to support the development of their academic potential.
- All three junior robotics teams placed in area qualifying tournament advanced to regional tournament — for first time in history of program.
- Number of students — grades 5-8 — applying to participate in robotics increased from 97 to 169, a 74 percent jump.
- For the high school robotics team, 2012 was the first time in at least five year the robot could perform every given challenge at competition.
- Goose Creek CISD 10th- and 11th-graders scored higher on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test than state and national averages in math, reading, and writing.
- Goose Creek CISD expanded the elementary gifted and talented (GATE) program to all campuses in 2011. The district also increased the number of students identified for the gifted/talented program, in particular, on each new elementary GATE campus. — from 117 in 2011 to 171 in 2012, a 45 percent increase.

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