



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cedar Bayou Junior High



Elementary Schools: Alamo | Bonnie P. Hopper Primary | David Crockett | George Washington Carver | Harlem | Highlands
James Bowie | Lorenzo De Zavala | Mirabeau B. Lamar | San Jacinto | Stephen F. Austin | Ashbel Smith | Victoria Walker | William B. Travis

Junior Schools: Baytown | Cedar Bayou | Gentry | Highlands | Horace Mann

High Schools & Others: Goose Creek Memorial | Impact Early College High School at Lee College | John M. Stuart Career Center
Peter E. Hyland Center | Robert E. Lee | Ross S. Sterling | School Community Guidance Center

2610 E. Elvinta Street

The first public school in the Cedar Bayou area was established in 1845, the year Texas became the 28th state in the United States. The first classes were taught in the Cedar Bayou Methodist Church, a one room , log structure and later in a Baptist Church located nearby.

During the middle 1800s, Fairview School was established. It was located near Careyis Bayou, southwest of the Sjolander Settlement. It was a one room building of rough lumber sawed at Poundis sawmill.

Around 1860, a school was built along Cedar Bayou near the present Pinehurst subdivision by Dr. Asa Morgan, an ancestor of one of our trustees, Jepp Busch.

In 1876, a two story Masonic Lodge was built adjacent to Cedar Bayou Methodist Church. As a community service, school was held on the ground floor for the next 34 years. The Lodge building is still located on Ferry Road.

Until 1919, the Cedar Bayou District extended west to Goose Creek Stream. In 1875, the widow of Anson Jones gave a one and a half acre tract for a school in the area where Highway 146 now intersects South Main, the location of the present day Horace Mann Junior School. A one room school, known as Briar Patch School, was built on this site. The books, mostly religious, were furnished by Cedar Bayou Methodist Church. After 1895, these students attended school at the Masonic Lodge.

In 1893, Dr. Nicholas Schilling established a school across the bayou from the present Cedar Bayou Methodist Church. The Schilling Common School District was formed, extending from the Morgan District along Cedar Bayou for about three miles and, in 1908, was extended southward to Cedar Point on Trinity Bay. The Morgan District School, built in the early 1860s, was located in what is now Pinehurst subdivision west of Highway 146.

The Cedar Bayou Common School District also included the Ellis League School located near the present intersection of I10 and North Main. In 1910, a new one room brick school was built on this site and classes continued there until 1924. It then became the Shiloh Baptist Church.

In 1910, an \$8000.00 bond issue was voted for the construction of two brick buildings, one at Ellis League, a one-room school house, and one at Cedar Bayou on the spot where the Old Library now stands. The school moved from the Masonic Lodge to the new two story, four room brick building on the Cedar Bayou site. The new Cedar Bayou School was built of brick from the Casey Brickyard located just south of the school. The second story swayed in a strong breeze because of poor construction and was not used for students after 1928 when a new building was constructed. The old building was used for storage for several years before it was demolished.

In 1917, The Cedar Bayou Independent School District was created to extend from Goose Creek Stream on the west into Chambers County on the east. It included the Cedar Bayou Common School, The Morgan Common School and the Schilling Common School



In 1925, the school had 11 teachers with salaries of \$90 to \$100 a month. A \$50,000 bond issue, passed in 1927, built the old iHi Building which served as the community school for grades 1 through 11.

In 1930, Cedar Bayou School had 524 students. The Great Depression of the 1930s made school finances tight because citizens could not pay their property taxes. A citizen loaned the school \$2,000.00 to finish the school year. All teachers, except two, agreed to a 10% pay cut. A governor was put on the school bus so it could not exceed 35 miles per hour. It was voted to close the cafeteria which was reopened in 1933.

In 1933 a telephone was installed in the office. Students over 21 years of age were charged \$7.50 a year in tuition. The 1934 senior class had 18 members.

In the late 1930s, an auditorium, gym, and approximately ten classrooms were added to the campus, which then included grades one through twelve. The 1936 budget added a Home Economics Department.

In 1939, the new high school was completed . For the first time the school had indoor plumbing, and the outdoor privies were finally demolished. This was two years after lights were added to the football field. When budgets are tight, you have to get your priorities in order!

In 1940, the 12th grade system was installed. In 1944, the junior high wing was added. Most of the students skipped a grade so that they graduated in 11 years. A new elementary building called the iLi wing, and a gym were added as enrollment reached over 1,000 students. In 1946, four more rooms were added, but the District did not have the finances to brick the exterior until several years later.

With the financial problems of the depression and wartime shortages behind, the decade of the 50s looked bright. The struggle of the first 100 years for a quality educational system was now rewarded. The dream of the pioneers was realized. The wide open spaces of rural Cedar Bayou beckoned to the young families of nearby Baytown.

The beginning of the end: But an ominous sign appeared in 1950. A headline in the Baytown sun read, iBaytown Real Estate Board urges consolidation. The larger entity wanted to expand into the vacant prairies between the communities but they wanted to control the schools. A campaign began to convince the Cedar Bayou residents that the bountiful tax flow from the Humble Refinery should be enjoyed by Cedar Bayou students. A 1952 consolidation election failed 733 to 565 but the campaign continued. On March 6, 1954, Cedar Bayou approved consolidation 1072 to 654 and Goose Creek approved 3 to 1. The 45 member

In 1912, Miss Alice Bullard (later known as Ma Fayle) started a private school in a tent in the Goose Creek oil field, with a tuition of \$1.50 per month. In 1913, public school resumed near the Gaillard Cemetery in the Goose Creek Oil Field and continued into 1915 when a gusher sprayed oil over the building. As the Goose Creek oil field developed, a 6 room building called iThe Barni was established from a barracks in the new town of Goose Creek. Around 1919, Goose Creek ISD was created from this western part of Cedar Bayou ISD.

The first record of extra-curricular activity is a basketball game between Goose Creek and Cedar Bayou in 1919 which Goose Creek won 26 to 1. A football team was organized in 1925 and games were played in the Pruitt pasture on Kilgore Road.

In 1925, a bond election for \$4,500 paid for the installation of a water well and added several wooden buildings to Cedar Bayou School. . il went to second grade in one of the wood building and drank the water from the well for the eleven years I attended Cedar Bayou School i(Tommy Clayton, graduating class of 1947)

class of 1954 wrote the final chapter to the story of an independent school district at Cedar Bayou.

With the consolidation of the two school districts, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District was formed. High school students from Cedar Bayou then went to Robert E. Lee, but the junior school remained on the Cedar Bayou campus and proudly kept Bears as their mascot.

Other structures, including a new office building and classrooms, a new girls gym, and a library were added. A new building, named the Garza Wing, was added in the 1990s. The Garza wing, which is still part of the new school, was named after Hilda and Junior Garza, long time Cedar Bayou custodians

Cedar Bayou Junior School was rebuilt in 2002 on the site of the original campus and continues to proudly serve the students of the community.

Contributing information:

Tommy Clayton: Class of 1947

History of the Schools at Cedar Bayou 1845 to 1954

Carolyn Smith: Former CBJ history teacher

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Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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