



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Highlands 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

1212 E. Wallisville Rd.

Highlands Junior School was built in 1958. The school was named for the community of Highlands. It was first located at 1212 E. Wallisville Road in Highlands. The school was rebuilt in 2005, at the same location.

#### How Highlands got their Mascot: The Golden Eagle

A group of 9th graders (first class of HJS) were selected to decide the name of the mascot. When the group met, they thought the mascot should be the Highlands Goslins since Baytown Junior was the "Red Goslins" and Horace Mann was the "Green Goslins".

Someone on the committee did not like the idea of having a Goslin for their school mascot and suggested that the animal should be larger than a Goslin. A suggestion was made that the mascot should be an Eagle and that is how Highlands Junior became known as the "Golden Eagles".

#### Principals of HJS

Highlands Junior school opened in 1958 with B. P. Hopper as the first principal. Mr. Hopper served in a dual capacity as principal of Highlands Elementary and Highlands Junior school from 1958 - 1964.

Mr. Homer Morris served as the 2nd principal from 1964-1965 and former HJS Coach, Mr. Charles Closs, took the reins from 1965-1972.

In 1972 Mr. Herman Boatman came and stayed until 1984 when Mr. Jerry Roy moved from Assistant Principal to Principal until 1986.

The first woman principal was named at HJS in 1986 when Carol Fontenot moved from Highlands Elementary to Highlands Junior. She stayed until 1995.

Mr. Charles Polk served as principal from 1995-1996 and was followed by Mr. Santos Lopez in 1996-1997.

Mr. Dick Duggan came in 1997 and stayed until 2001.

Mr. Steve Herring arrived in the fall of 2001 and stayed until his retirement in 2009.

The current principal is Mr. Kevin Foxworth who came to HJS in the fall of 2009.

#### Renovations

1981 - Boys Gym was built  
1991 - Library was renovated  
2005 - New school was built



#### Notable and Famous Alumni

Ronnie Kluch - Ross Sterling Baseball Coach - Sterling's Baseball field was named after Coach Ronnie Kluch.

Weston Cotton - Former REL teacher, former school board member, lawyer

T.J. Ford - Point Guard for the Indiana Pacers

Brett Marshall - Pitcher for New York Yankees Organization

Sonceria Messiah - owner of "The Houston Defender" an African-American newspaper published weekly in Houston.

#### Highlands

The community of Highlands was so named because it sets on the east bank of the San Jacinto River and the east bank has a higher elevation than the west bank. It was earlier known as Elena Station.

Highlands became a station on the Beaumont, Sour Lake and Western Railroad in 1908. The post office opened in 1929.

The annexation of the Highlands area in 1936 marked another milestone in the history of the Goose Creek School District. The area was de-annexed by the Crosby School District so that it could join the Goose Creek system. The additional territory gave the Goose Creek District a total square mile area of 80 miles, compared to the 126 miles square mile area in 2009.

During World War II the community housed military and war plant personnel. The community was incorporated in 1930 and the next year its charter was voided, leaving it unincorporated again. A 1956 attempt to incorporate failed and in 2009 it still remains unincorporated.

Highlands had a population of 3,000 in 1948 and rose to 5,000 in 1977. In 2000, its population was 7,089.

Source: Goose Creek CISD Records

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