



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Crockett Elementary



**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

## 4500 Barkaloo

David Crockett Elementary School was built in 1981. The school was named in honor of David Stern Crockett, politician, soldier, folk hero and the "King of the Wild Frontier". It is located at 4500 Barkaloo Road. It was the first GCCISD campus to achieve a "Recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency. It was nominated as a "Blue Ribbon School" in April 2003. Currently, Chevron-Phillips is the school's partner in education sponsor. With Chevron-Phillips' support and academic involvement the campus continues to reach creditable ratings.

### RENOVATIONS

When the school was first built there was a Kiva in the entry of the building. It was surrounded by four brick walls that separated it from the walking area of the main hallway. For functionality reasons and to accommodate more students the Kiva was enclosed. Currently, there are two parts of to the school's media center. The primary students enter the Kiva library while the intermediate students utilize the main library. On the north side of the building there are ten portable buildings. Currently, there are two grade level students being accommodated in these buildings. In addition, there was a hard surface playground area that was added for students to enjoy.

### DAVID S. CROCKETT

David Stern Crockett (August 17, 1786-March 6, 1836) was a soldier, folk hero and politician. He is often referred to as Davy Crockett, "King of the Wild Frontier". He is one of the most famous frontiersmen in American History. His legend was reborn by Walt Disney in a 1950's television show. The show also re-introduced his legendary coonskin cap.

Crockett was born in Greene County, Tennessee. He ran away from home about age twelve and did not return until his fifteenth birthday. He joined the Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Riflemen on September 24, 1813 and was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1818. Crockett married Polly Finley in 1806. Later, the couple had three children; John Wesley, William Finley and Margaret Crockett. After nine short years, Poly Crockett died. After Poly's death, David married Elizabeth Patton in 1815. He had three more children; Robert, Rebecca and Matilda Crockett.

Crockett was elected in Tennessee to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1827. In 1835, he was defeated in his re-election bid. On October 31, 1835 he left to explore the territory of Texas, first stopping in Nacogdoches. He and 65 other men signed up as volunteers for the provisional government of Texas for six months. They were promised 4,600 acres of land for their service. Crockett arrived at the Alamo on February 8, 1836 and was met by James Bowie. The Mexican army, led by General Santa Anna, arrived on February 23. Crockett died at the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

### FORMER STUDENTS AND TEACHER MEMORIES

"I was a student at David Crockett Elementary when it first opened. I have many fond memories of being a student at Crockett. When the school first opened we did not have a mascot or school colors. The students were given the opportunity to participate in the choosing of our school mascot and colors. We submitted nominations and then voted for our favorite. I remember getting to cut a piece of Mr. Hallum's tie



### REMEMBER WHEN...

- a helicopter from the Coast Guard would do a presentation for the students out in the field.
- an architect that helped build the school presented a model of the school to students. This person presented this during career day at the campus. (Teacher, JoAnn Fenley)
- a squirrel got inside the school. According to former librarian, Susie Cantrell it was hard to catch it.
- the character parade was presented twice because we started too early. Then, parents started arriving for the schedule presentation; therefore, the students had to present again. (Suzi Cantrell)
- there was a tornado and the outside rugs were floating in midair.
- the students made a hot air balloon by ironing trash bags together. (Teacher, Dana Baker)
- the school opened and we were still putting furniture together. (Former Principal, Wynona Montgomery)
- the school opened there were four Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO's). Former Principal Dick Hallum, did an excellent job unifying the organizations. As a result, the Crockett PTO was very strong.
- the two options for the school's mascot were "The Critters or The Crusaders".
- the school colors were blue and silver. Throughout the years the colors changed.
- after the first "hard" rainfall the gutters looked like waterfalls.
- during a school talent show the kinder teachers barked through an entire song.
- the school talent show was a big production and planning started in January.
- a parent told the receptionist, that "a lady" (the Principal, Wynona Montgomery) was wearing her jacket inside out. The parent suggested that maybe someone should inform "the lady" that her jacket was inside



off because I met my reading goal. I remember he would wear those ties everywhere he went! I also remember building and launching a hot air balloon in the fifth grade. I loved being a student at Crockett. Now, I am a teacher at Crockett. I remember feeling as if I had come home when I first started teaching here. This school has been (and still is) an important part of my life". – Miss Dana Baker (former student and currently a Crockett Teacher)

"I remember every year we would have a fall carnival on a Saturday. There were all kinds of games and activities: ring toss, dunking booth, fishing for goodie bags, face painting, a cake walk in the gym, prizes in the cafeteria. There were a ton of other booths. Chevron would come out to help set up some of the booths, and the fire truck always came to fill up the dunking booth." – Miss Jill Cisco (former student and currently a Crockett teacher)

"It was a big deal during Rodeo time for first grade. We did a grade level Texas Unit. Then on Friday, we had a first grade Rodeo. The kids dressed up in western wear and we would have "rodeo" type events. In January, we held a 100 days parade down the middle of main hallway. We also did a huge Earth Day unit in first grade. Every class had a different theme and all the kids would rotate through each biome. We had the rainforest, grasslands, wetlands, desert, tundra the kids had a blast. My second year at Crockett, we were awarded a grant from the state of Texas Land Office and I created a Wetlands theme in my classroom. The head of the land office, I don't remember his name, was supposed to come and visit my room, but had to cancel at the last minute. It was still a big deal. Also, on the last day of January, first grade always had a marshmallow snowball fight in our pod. That was awesome!" – Elma G. Villanueva (former teacher, currently a Bilingual Specialist)

#### FOND MEMORIES...

– Even though Crockett did not house the GATE/GIFTED program, parents chose to leave their children at the school. They would say that the community was warm and welcoming. They were happy at Crockett. As a matter of fact, I remember some students returned to Crockett. (Teacher, Cheryl Roeschen)

– "When my children were going to start school, I was undecided on whether to home school, send them to Baytown Christian Academy or Crockett. However, after inquiries, I opted to send them to Crockett. This was the best choice." (Teacher & Former Parent, Cheryl Roeschen)

– For as long as I can remember, it has been difficult to get a job at Crockett. The teacher turnover rate is very low. When teachers get hired at this campus they do not leave for a long time. (Teacher, JoAnn Fenley)

– In spite of most of the students having to be bused to Crockett, it is "a true neighborhood school." (Teacher, JoAnn Fenley)

out. Little did the parent know that this was a planned wardrobe. We were celebrating Red Ribbon Week. (Former Principal, Wynona Montgomery)

– Wynona Montgomery and her Travis students wrote a letter to school board members suggesting that the school be named David Crockett after a Texas hero. Ms. Montgomery explained that the students were learning about Texas heroes; therefore, this became a project for them. Obviously, their opinion was taken into account.

– we were at West Town, students checked books out of boxes that were in the cafeteria. These boxes were moved everyday and brought back for circulation purposes (everyday). (Former Librarian, Suzi Cantrell)

– there was a crow that would hit the window all the time. Poor thing thought he could fly into the building through the window.

– we had big rainforest units presented to students. These presentations were so elaborate, but well worth it. Students gained great insight from them.

#### CROCKETT WAS THE FIRST SCHOOL TO...

– host the kindergarten tea. This was done before the school year started to meet parents (1981).

– host kindergarten workshops where parents could rotate through the learning centers and make activities with their children.

– organize the Senior Tea Celebrations with the first group of students who started in kinder (when the school opened). Candis Bond initiated this activity and it is still going strong.

– to serve as a cluster school for bilingual students that were not zoned to this campus.

– to have special needs students and life skills students after the disbanding of the Kilgore campus.

– have the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This program was initiated by the librarian Sarah Wahl (currently the district head librarian).

– receive a RECOGNIZED rating in the Goose Creek ISD.

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