



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Carver 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

## 610 S. Pruett

George Washington Carver School was first organized in 1921. It was first known as the Goose Creek School for Colored. The school was first located at 603 Oak Street at the west end of Carver Street. The Mt. Rose Baptist Church on Oak Street was used for the first two years of the school's existence. Tillie Brown served as the first teacher/principal. A wood frame building was built in 1923. Ernest (E. A.) Archia was named as the principal of the school in 1927. It only went to the ninth grade for many years and in 1941, it was accredited as a 12th grade high school. The school board changed the name to George Washington Carver in June 1940, in honor of George Washington Carver (1864-1943), an African-American scientist, educator, inventor and botanist. He was famous for his research using peanuts and sweet potatoes.

A new high school was built in 1947 and was located in the Oak Addition community of Baytown, on the east end of Carver Street at Lee Drive. It was the only high school to ever serve Baytown's African-American community and it also served La Porte's black community. The 1948 class was the first class to graduate from the new high school.

W. Marion Davis was elected as the principal in August 1948, to succeed the late E. A. Archia. The school also published a monthly news magazine, "The Carver Panther", which covered all aspects of school life and activities in the Baytown black community.

Clyde Messiah was elected as the interim principal at Carver School in February 1954, to succeed the late W. Marion Davis. Edward (E. F.) Green came to Baytown in August 1954 to serve as the fourth principal at Carver. He served as principal from 1954 to August 1966. In the fall of 1966, he became the first black Assistant Deputy Superintendent in the school district, in charge of curriculum.

The Goose Creek Independent School Board voted unanimously to close Carver after the 1966-67 school year, as a part of the district's desegregation plans. George Perkins served as principal from August 1966 to August 1968. He was the last principal of George Washington Carver High School. The seniors of 1967 were the last graduating class.

The school won 8 state championships in sports in the Prairie View Interscholastic League. There were three in football-in 1955, 1958, and 1961. The track team, coached by Roy A. Hutchins, won five state championships in track & field-in 1954, 1956, 1959, 1960 and 1961. The track team also finished second 7 times, which made it the winningest track program in the state. The band, led by band director Thaddeus E. Cartwright, won nine Division 1 ratings at the Prairie View State Band Meets-1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1965. Academically, the school produced many outstanding scholars and they won more than 25 awards at the PVIL State Literary Events.

Carver became an elementary school in the fall of 1967, after the Baytown schools were integrated. Grades 1 through 8 were contained in the old high school building and the name was changed to G. W. Carver Elementary School. In the fall of 1968, grades 6 through 8 were phased out and the name was changed to Anson Jones Elementary School, with the closing



The "new" Carver Elementary School dedication program was held in the fall of 2002. The cornerstone for the "old" Carver School was moved to the "new" school, which opened in 2002. It is located at 600 S. Pruett Street. The principals of Carver over the years have been Tillie Brown (1921-1924), Anna Edwards (1924), Helen Stafford (1924-1927), Ernest (E. A.) Archia (1927-1948), W. Marion Davis (1948-1954), Clyde Messiah (1954), Edward (E. F.) Green (1954-1966), George Perkins (1966-1968), (Mrs.) Willie Terry (1968-1973), Jepp Busch (1973-1979), Carol Fontenot (1979-1981), Brandon Spruell (1981-1982), (Mrs.) Billie Hinton (1982-1988), Joy Wristers (1988-1990), Jay Stailey (1990-1996) Wynona Montgomery (1996-2003), Elizabeth Jernigan (2003-2006), Stefania Noble (2006-2009) and Rachel De Leon (July 2009-present).

### RENOVATIONS

1927 - Brick classroom addition was added  
1955 -  
1967 - Media center was added  
1973 - Covered play area was added  
1995 - School evacuated because of tar-like substance  
2002 - In February, ExxonMobil demolished the old building

### NOTABLE AND FAMOUS ALUMNI

**Buddy Ace** (James L. Land) (1956), R & B singer, "The Silver Fox of the Blues"

**Charles Brown**, R & B singer of "Merry Christmas, Baby" fame. Taught at Carver 1942-1943

**Sam Burton** (1959), first black to become a Captain & the highest-ranking black officer in the U. S. Coast Guard

**Quentin Coryatt**, Texas A & M University and Indianapolis Colts (NFL) football star

**Leon Carr**, Prairie View A & M U. & NFL football star

**Alfred F. Fonteneau** (1963), U. S. Consul General to Dhahran

**Charles Godfrey** - Iowa University and Carolina Panthers (NFL) football star

**Dr. Ella Choyce-Scott** (1931, 9th grade graduate), Doctorate from the U of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

**Joe Tex** (Joseph Arrington) (1954), R & B singer

**Haron Tibbs**, (1955), Prairie View A & M U. football star & aeronautical engineer at Boeing

**Gene Washington**, All American, Michigan State U. and Minnesota Vikings (NFL) football star - included among the 50 Greatest Viking players at the 50th anniversary celebration of the team

### GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

of the old Anson Jones Elementary School campus. In May 1969, the G. W. Carver Alumni Association presented the school board with a petition that contained 451 signatures, requesting that name be changed back to G. W. Carver. The board voted to change the name to George Washington Carver-Anson Jones Elementary School. On November 21, 1987, the Carver Alumni Association again asked the Goose Creek School Board to change the name back to Carver. On February 8, 1988, the school board changed the name back to George Washington Carver Elementary School.

It was still being used as an elementary school in August 1995, when a tar-like substance from a former earthen oil storage pit was discovered. When the Labor Day weekend clean-up process proved to be more than originally planned, the district made the decision to close the school and relocate the faculty and students to six (6) different locations. For the next two school years, Carver Elementary students attended classes at Eastside Baptist Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Hopper Elementary, Harlem Elementary, Highlands, Elementary and Horace Mann Junior School. The school board decided in April 1996, that for the 1996-97 school year, students would be sent to the Kilgore Center, until a verdict could be reached on the outcome of the tar-like substance.

The school board decided the old Carver Elementary site was not appropriate for the education of children and they reverted the deed back to Exxon in 1998. On October 2, 1999, Goose Creek CISD passed a bond issue for \$91,901,787.00, which included the replacement of Carver Elementary School. The new site is located at 600 Pruett Street, at the former Horace Mann School site. ExxonMobil then demolished the old school building in February 2002 and held a farewell "Home Going Celebration" on the former school site, for more than 300 former students on June 22, 2002. A permanent brick monument to the school's legacy is now located at the corner of Lee Drive and Carver Street.

George Washington Carver (1864-January 5, 1943) was an African-American educator, inventor, scientist and botanist. He was born in Newton County, Missouri. He is famous for his research using peanuts and sweet potatoes. His work using these two resources led to more than products that were useful in the house and on farms., including paints, plastics, dyes, cosmetics, gasoline and nitroglycerin. He created more than 300 uses for peanuts and more than 100 for sweet potatoes.

His vision was to have farmers plant peanuts as an alternate crop to cotton. He became the first black student at Iowa State Agricultural College in Ames, Iowa. He graduated in 1894 with his undergraduate degree. One of his professors's encouraged him to stay and work on his Masters degree. While working on his second degree, he worked as a researcher at the Iowa Agriculture Experiment Station. His research in plant pathology and mycology gained him his first national recognition. He received his Masters in 1896. He began teaching at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1896. He was then working under the college's founder and president, Booker T. Washington, another famous African-American educator. He remained at Tuskegee for 47 years.

Carver was not widely known for his research until 1921. President Theodore Roosevelt admired his work. One of his former teachers at Iowa State, James Wilson, was Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1913. Another of his college teachers, Henry C. Wallace, was Secretary of Agriculture from 1921 to 1924. Wallace's son, Henry A. Wallace, was his college classmate and served as Secretary of Agriculture from 1933 to 1940. Henry A. Wallace was also Roosevelt's vice president from 1941 to 1945. Carver had plenty of political support in Washington, D. C.

He spoke before the U. S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee. He was representing the United Peanuts Association of America in their battle to get congress to pass a peanut tariff in 1920 and convinced them to impose a tariff on imported peanuts from China. The committee rose in applause and his speech made him famous all over America. Congress passed the Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922, which included a tariff on imported peanuts. In 1928, Simpson College awarded him an honorary doctorate. In 1941, Time magazine called him a "Black Leonardo", in reference to the famous Italian painter, Leonardo da Vinci. He died on January 5, 1943.

Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)  
*George W. Carver, 1864-1943 George W. Carver School, 1948 George W. Carver Elementary School, 2009*

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