



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Highlands 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

200 E. Wallisville

Highlands Elementary School opened in 1926 as part of the Crosby Independent School District. The school remained in Crosby ISD for two years before becoming a part of Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District in 1928. Goose Creek CISD includes the Baytown and Highlands areas. All Highlands students from first through sixth grades attended Highlands Elementary. Junior high students were bused to Baytown Junior until 1958 when Highlands Junior was built. High School students were bused to Lee High School in Baytown until Sterling High School opened in 1966 and now (2010) all high school students attend Goose Creek Memorial High School which opened in 2008.

In 1980, since there were more than 1,000 students in grades K-5, Hopper Primary opened. Originally all kindergarten, first, and second grade students attended Hopper. Since the original building was built in 1926 and after many add-ons and portable buildings, Goose Creek CISD decided to build a new school on the same site as the old building. The new Highlands Elementary (97,000 square feet) opened in August of 1992. Within a few years, the Hopper attendance numbers exceeded their expectations and second graders were moved back to Highlands Elementary. The campus currently has a population of 750+ students in second, third, fourth, and fifth-grades with a total of 86 faculty members including custodians and cafeteria workers.

The Highlands area is extremely fortunate to have two new campuses for our intermediate and high school students to enjoy. The new Highlands Junior School building (186,000 square feet) was funded by a 2005 bond and opened in 2007. Goose Creek Memorial High School opened their doors on August 25, 2008.

Highlands was originally known as "Elena" when the first post office found a letter addressed to "Elena." The name remained until 1930 when Highlands was incorporated. The incorporation charter was subsequently voided. There was an effort to incorporate again in 1956, but that effort was defeated. To this day, Highlands is still not incorporated, which means there is no elected government body such as Mayor, etc. The population was listed as 7,089 in the 2000 census which is a long way from the 200 or so listed in the 1930's.



The name "Highlands" came from it being situated on the east bank of the San Jacinto River and the east bank has a "higher" elevation than the west bank. During the early 1900's a number of canals were dug to supply water for 17,000 acres of rice fields. After World War I, the land was broken up and sold to Humble Oil, Tyrrell-Garth Company and Elena farms. Cotton, clover, corn and other vegetables were first grown here, then a giant fig orchard known as the Magnolia Fig Company was planted and thrived in our climate. Between 20,000 to 30,000 pounds of figs were picked and processed daily.

In 1928 Tyrrel-Garth built facilities to gin their cotton, can their figs and other products. The facility was sold to A.J. Smith, Jr. who turned it into a pickle cannery. During the intervening years canned dog food, green beans, black-eyed peas, and fruit punch have also been canned. In recent years, the plant packages antifreeze, motor oils and oil lubricants.

Principals over the years have included: **B.P. Hopper** (1935-1971), **Bob Bradford** (1971-1973), **Brandon Spruell** (1973-1979), **Carol Fontenot** (1979-1983), **Larry Topfer** (1983-2002), **Judy Duncan** (2002-2010), and **Ruth Perrin** (2010-). Attached are memories from some of the principals. As you can see, Mr. Hopper was principal for 36 years. When Highlands Junior first opened, he was the principal at both schools. Everyone knew Mr. Hopper – so when it was time to name the new primary, it was easy to choose a name.

We hope the pictures attached bring back fond memories.

Rose Comeaux

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