



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Jacinto 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

2615 Virginia

San Jacinto Elementary School was first built at 212 Kentucky Street in 1930. The school was named for the Battle of San Jacinto. After the communities of Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown consolidated in 1948, the address was changed to 2602 Kentucky.

The school was destroyed by fire in December of 1979 and rebuilt in 1982 at the same location. However, the new building faced Virginia Street, so the address became 2615 Virginia Street.

The Battle of San Jacinto

The Battle of San Jacinto was fought on April 21, 1836 in present-day Harris County, Texas. It was the decisive battle in the Texas Revolution. General Sam Houston led the Texas army. The Texans defeated General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's Mexican army in a fight that lasted just 18 minutes. Approximately 630 Mexican soldiers were killed, and 730 were captured. Only 9 Texans died.

Santa Anna, the President of Mexico, was captured and held as a prisoner of war. He signed the peace treaties that dictated that the Mexican army would leave the Territory of Texas. These treaties did not specifically recognize Texas as a nation, but they did stipulate that Santa Anna was to lobby for Texas independence in Mexico City. The Republic of Texas was created by a new constitution on March 2, 1836. Texas became a state on December 29, 1845.

San Jacinto News From The Past

Wanda Orton, newspaper columnist and retired Baytown Sun managing editor, is one of many outstanding San Jacinto graduates.

She writes, "I attended San Jacinto from first through fifth grades, 1940-41 through 1944-45 and have such happy memories. We formed lifelong friendships there. Our principal was Dr. A.N. Foster, who did double duty, serving also as principal of Baytown Elementary. Dr. Foster was an innovative educator and initiated the system of elections of student offices, developing leadership and teaching responsibility. For sixth grade (elementary school included grades 1-6 then) we all transferred to Baytown Elementary because of lack of space at San Jacinto. After the sixth grade, we all went to Baytown Junior High for grades 7-9, where we merged with former students from Wooster's Burnett Elementary, Highlands Elementary, and the original, All-Mexican DeZavala Elementary. I attended Baytown Elementary for a few months in the second grade when we had a change of address but we moved back into the San Jacinto zone.



My teachers at San Jacinto were Alma Miller, first grade; Sunshine Oltman, second grade; Ophelia Cook, third grade; Erma Harden, fourth grade; Ruth Royder, fifth grade. Lillian Spear taught us music in the fourth grade and Lucille Fulmer, math. Music in the fifth grade was taught by Mary Louise Middleton and math by a Mrs. Smith. We didn't have kindergarten in public schools back then, but some of us attended private kindergartens. San Jacinto's neighbor, St. Joseph parochial school, wasn't built until the 50's. They used to allow us to leave the campus to take piano lessons during the day. We never went far~the two main teachers were Mrs. Kilgore and Mrs. Cone, both on New Jersey Street.

World War II started when we were in the second grade and lasted throughout our years at San Jacinto, ending finally in late summer 1945 just before we entered the sixth grade at Baytown Junior.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Another notable alumnus of San Jacinto is Goose Creek CISD School Board member and former board president, Agustin Loreda. He completed his Baytown education in 1992 when he graduated for Robert E. Lee High School. He then completed his college education at Lee College and the University Of Houston. He is now a teacher at South Houston High School. Not only did Loreda attend San Jacinto, but now his three children are proud students there!

Some of Our Former Principals

Mr. Herbert Zimmerman, principal from 1964 to 1974, tells that when he first came to the school, kindergarten classes had just been added, and the 6th grade had been moved from elementary to junior high schools. Mr. Zimmerman became the principal of San Jacinto and the original De Zavala, the school for Spanish-speaking students. He was told that since he had two schools, his salary would be \$9,000, the highest salary ever given to a beginning

principal.

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