GOOSE CREEK
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

'Reach Out to Dropouts Walk' set for Sept. 10

Goose Creek CISD's annual Reach Out to Dropouts Walk is set for Saturday, Sept. 10. The event will last from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m., beginning and ending at Ross S. Sterling High School.

The Reach Out to Dropouts Walk is an effort to get students to come back to school. When a student fails to show up for class at the beginning of the school year, volunteers go to the homes of these students and offer the encouragement and resources that they need in order to complete their high school education.

Last year, more than 290 volunteers met at Sterling High School before dispersing in teams to knock on doors.

Teachers, administrators, and community volunteers went to the homes of 300 former students and made them aware of after-school programs that could help them finish their education.

"We live in an age when the ability of an individual to be successful depends largely on their education. The success of a community, in turn, depends on having an educated workforce, prepared for jobs with a future," said Superintendent Dr. Toby York. "The doors of opportunity will not be opened to students who do not complete high school."

News reports show that on a daily basis in our country, more than 1,200 young men and women decide to drop out of school. Once students make the decision to drop out, they lack the tools to compete in today's society. In the Lone Star State, about 18 percent of the high schools have graduation rates of less than 60 percent. The social and economic realities are staggering.

Statistics show that high school dropouts are four times more likely than college graduates to be unemployed and three times more likely than high school graduates to receive public assistance.

Compared to proportions of the general population, a much larger percentage of prison inmates do not have high school diplomas.

That's why Goose Creek officials are asking for employees, parents, alumni, local leaders, and other community members to show students that they care about their future by contacting them at their homes on Saturday, Sept. 10, and encouraging them to complete their high-school education.

Goose Creek officials and teachers want each student not only to graduate from high school but also be prepared for post secondary opportunities. With community support, the district will provide a way for students to return and graduate from high school.

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A Quick Look at Reach Out Walk 2011

What: Through a community and district partnership, Reach Out to Dropouts Walk is a door-to-door program that recovers students who have not returned to school. When students do not show up for class at the beginning of the school year, trained volunteers go to the homes of these students, provide encouragement, and offer available resources so they will return and finish school.

Who: District employees and community volunteers

When: Saturday, Sept.10, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

8:30-9 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

9-9:30 a.m. – Volunteer Training

9:30 a.m.-Noon – Reach Out to Dropouts Walk

Noon-12:30 pm – Return materials to Ross S. Sterling

Where: Ross S. Sterling High School, 300 W. Baker Road, GCCISD invites anyone who wants to participate to volunteer by Friday, Sept. 2.

Visit website at www.gccisd.net or call Guidance and Counseling Dept. at 281-420-1591 to sign up.

Date: Aug. 12, 2011

Subject: Volunteers needed for Goose Creek 'Reach Out to Dropouts Walk' on Sept. 10

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