



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Schools celebrate 'Freedom Week' in many ways

"Celebrate Freedom Week was the week of September 12-16, and Goose Creek CISD campuses celebrated in many different ways.

At Goose Creek Memorial High School, students participated in the VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest "Is there pride in serving in the military?"

Teachers also recited excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and played patriotic songs during passing periods.

At Sterling and Lee high schools, students participated in activities such as discussing changes in our freedoms, and reciting the Declaration of Independence. They also showed portions of the Congress reading the Constitution aloud and discussed the document and this historic reading that had never happened in Congress.

At the junior school level, Gentry students discussed what it means to be free and the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Some of the activities included discussions about the origins of the Pledge of Allegiance. At Cedar Bayou Junior, during the morning announcements every morning, two chosen students would read morning announcements celebrating "Freedom Week."

They ranged from the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and Declaration of Independence to who the founding fathers were. Students watched a film on the Declaration of Independence and took a short quiz on it. They also watched a film on the American Revolution and discussed it. Lastly, they discussed the preamble and recited it as a class.

The elementary campuses participated in "Celebrate Freedom Week" in several different ways.

Hopper Primary had a visitor from Highlands Elementary read the preamble to the Constitution on the intercom, and classes discussed how it was the rules and regulations of our country.

They discussed some of the things that the preamble meant, how the Pledge of Allegiance is our promise as citizens, and how we honor the people that made, fought, and died for the rules.

Campuses also discussed the flag and what it stood for, why we put our hand over our heart, and how it honors the fallen.

Some campuses even celebrated by wearing red, white, and blue. Students practiced the pledge, made a flag, and drew a picture of what they thought was a freedom.

Students also recited the preamble: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident ..." and wrote letters to the President.

Austin Elementary watched a video called "The One and Only Declaration of Independence" and wrote appreciation letters to local first-responders, veterans, and military personnel.

At Alamo, fifth-graders watched a video on the settlement of Jamestown and discussed specifically about the House of Burgesses and representative government.

Ashbel Smith second-graders learned about the Constitution of the United States.

They learned that this is a document that was written more than 200 years ago by people that did not like the way that the government was going.

They then learned to tell the difference between authority and power without authority.

At San Jacinto Elementary, students completed a characterization lesson on George Washington complete with a display and student summaries displayed on their lockers.

They also utilized Internet resources to research about the Declaration of Independence and discussed the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 2001, Gov. Perry signed House Bill 1776, designating a week of classes in September as "Celebrate Freedom Week" in public schools.

The goal of this legislation is "To educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded."

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Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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