



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



GCCISD Education Foundation awards \$16K in grants to teachers

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's Surprise Patrol was out again Tuesday.

In two days, the Education Foundation awarded grants amounting to more than \$16,000 that will go toward innovative projects submitted by teachers from across Goose Creek CISD.

Sterling High School earned the most grants with three, while Lee High School, Bowie Elementary, and Harlem Elementary each earned two grants apiece.

"It was great to see the teachers and the excitement they have shown on receiving their grants. What wonderful things this will do for our school district," said Goose Creek Superintendent Dr. Toby York.

In its inaugural year, the Education Foundation awarded 16 grants to 15 teachers at 11 different campuses. Next year's goal is to raise \$75,000 for grants to be distributed in the fall and spring semesters.

"What a great opportunity to be able to provide teachers with those special extras that make all the difference in their ability to teach our students," said Goose Creek CISD trustee and foundation board member Ken Martin.

"It was great being a part of the Surprise Patrol," said foundation board member Daryl Fontenot. "It was really fun to see the teachers and how appreciative they are of receiving the grants, and you know they will put the money to good use. It was great to be a part of it."

On Tuesday, Education Foundation's Surprise Patrol — again led by cheerleaders and band members from each of the three high schools — handed out 11 more grants to 10 teachers at seven campuses Tuesday morning. Each campus does not know what or if it has won until the yellow school bus pulls up and deposits foundation president Roger Elswick, Superintendent Dr. York, school administrators, foundation board members, and other community representatives who come bearing checks.

In one case, the Surprise Patrol made back-to-back surprise visits to Bowie Elementary teacher Michelle Sulak. The fifth grade teacher earned two innovative teaching grants totaling \$2,110.

Mrs. Sulak was awarded one grant for \$1,200.98 for a teacher who will integrate science into language arts classes for fifth grade students, and another grant for \$910.04 for a project that provides the necessary materials and opportunities for disadvantaged children to take home literacy activities to help them perform on grade level. Materials include take-home bags with a reading workbook, reading response journal, writing journal, highlighter tape, and sticky notes.

In order for teachers to receive money, they had to submit a grant proposal to the foundation. The foundation received a total of 43 submissions in March and "all were excellent submissions in striving to enhance and improve student learning through innovative techniques," said the foundation's vice president of programs, Art Ochoa, who headed up the grant selection team.

The teacher grant selection process is handled through a committee that reads each submission and scores according to a scoring rubric.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Programs Committee consists of Tracey Prothro,

Here is a complete list of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Surprise Patrol winners:

- Carver Elementary teacher Elizabeth Sanchez received a \$996 grant for "Wild about Learning English." Designed for early childhood, this project will enable students to link visible letters with the sounds they hear played back through the Cardmaster device. This repeated, multi-modal, kinesthetic, visual and auditory reinforcement helps solidify mental connections between the written and spoken word and is a useful teaching tool for assessment and literacy training.

- Austin Elementary teacher Lisa Purifoy received a \$974.84 grant for "Building a Non-Fiction Reading Library for Fifth Grade Science." This project proposes to increase student achievement in science through building and integrating a non-fiction library that will be used during reading and science small group instruction. This program includes purchasing a set of 176 Delta Science Readers that are aligned to 5th TEKS in reading and science. Along with books, skill builder activities will be provided for each fifth grade student. The skill builder booklets provide reading and science activities for each title that is purchased. Through this project, reading and science teachers will provide small group reading instruction as a part of the school day to supplement regular classroom instruction, with opportunities for students to build both word attack and decoding skill, while increasing their knowledge in all science objectives.

- Cedar Bayou teacher Sherry Otahal received a \$1,129 grant for "Writing Camp 2011." This project aims to raise TAKS writing scores for seventh graders by holding a one day writing camp for the students. The students will be in a classroom with teachers coming into the classes with motivating, energizing tips to improve student writing. The projector and the mimeo interactive will be used to make these presentations.

- Crockett Elementary teacher Melissa Chapman received a \$1,047 grant for "Science Boxes." The purpose of this grant is to allow children to take home science activities and do them with their parents. This will help them to not only grasp the concepts better but will also provide an opportunity for the parents to be involved in their child's education.

- Sterling High School teacher Tina Wash received a \$989.97 grants for "Video Essay in Rhetoric and Literature." This project will enable students to visualize and refine ideas present in their writing while utilizing imagery and sound to enhance ability to communicate those ideas.

- Sterling High School teacher Stephanie Cottle received a \$900 grant for "Geography Alive." This mapping lab will allow students to first pre-assess their knowledge and then use multiple challenges of increasing difficulty to answer critical thinking questions. Students must decide which maps to ultimately fill out charts that allow students to identify that location in a given photograph and defend their decision.

- Sterling High School teacher Judy Bender received a \$971 for "Arithmetic Art." This project is designed to allow students to create calculator art and then relate that art to mathematical equations that formed it. Students will also begin to understand the limitations of functions (asymptotes) and calculator that graphed them.

- Lee High School teachers Sheila Gruver and Roxolyn Anson were awarded a \$1,000 grant for "Shattered Dreams." This program is an alcohol awareness program that shows, in a meaningful and memorable way, how alcohol abuse can

- Mary Bethel, Goose Creek Memorial High School, for "Collaborative Learning with Audio Books (\$933.14)." Collaborative Learning incorporates audio books that allow students to follow along with the novel to improve reading fluency and comprehension. Students are also able to focus on plot analysis that is the foundation for critical higher-level analysis of the literary work. Audio books also benefit students with special needs. Students with attention deficit hyperactive disorders (ADHD) are able to stay focused and on task while reading the text along with the audio book. Audio books also greatly benefit English Language Learner's (ELLs) and students who are reading below grade level and struggle with fluency and comprehension.

- Harlem Elementary teacher Linda LeDay was awarded \$1,000 for her "Knowing our Place and Finding our Way" teaching project that will incorporate hands-on classroom activities, school, and parent involvement utilizing environmental education. "Knowing our Place and Finding our Way" will be a nine-month project that will enhance students' learning about the impact they have on their environment and their ethical responsibility toward it. All science lessons and activities are specifically aligned with fourth TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and the district-based curriculum.

- Harlem Elementary School teacher Stephanie Juarez received a \$945 creativity grant for Teacher-Mate Innovations for Learning, which is a hand-held computer that looks like a typical gaming device. However, this gaming device is specifically designed to facilitate learning. The Teacher-Mate has games for math and reading that are curriculum based. The teacher is able to set the games that she wants the students to play and is able to monitor the student's progress. The system ensures that the games complete the week's lesson.

- Gentry Junior School teacher Toni Rosenbaum was awarded a \$959.98 grant Friday from the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation for "Video Communication Channel" which is aimed at teaching students how to use the Internet to their advantage, enhance the educational process, and create lifelong learners who are ready to meet this technological world.

- Bowie Elementary teacher Michelle Sulak received a \$1,200.98 grants for "Integrating Science to Benefit Students" project. This project will provide a language arts teacher with the science books that meet each individual fifth grade science TEKS. Sulak also received a grant for \$910.04 for "Literacy Launch." This project provides the necessary materials and opportunities for disadvantaged children to take home literacy activities and perform on grade level. Materials include take-home bags with a reading workbook, reading response journal, writing journal, highlighter tape, and sticky notes.

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation aims to enhance community support and to expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in the Goose Creek school system.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is a charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Service section 501(c)(3), and contributions to the organization are tax deductible.

Thirty-two volunteers serve on the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Board of Directors and represent many areas of community, corporate, parental, and educational interests.

Weston Cotten, Shirlyn Cummings, Connie Tilton, Carlton Porter, Joe Blommaert, Don Coffey, and Ochoa. These folks evaluated each submission and weighted their individual merits according to the scoring criteria. Once all scoring is submitted, Ochoa brings everyone together to review each high scoring grant application. During this meeting, the committee ensures that each recipient has met the parameters with respect to Board of Trustees' goals, campus goals and that these submissions additionally meet the criteria of promoting innovative programs that enhance student education.

"Our first grant recipient was Linda Leday, and she was greeted by resounding 'Linda Delay this your day!' However, in addition to Linda, it's the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's Day with many more to come," Ochoa said. "There is so much the teachers are doing to benefit the kids to increase their knowledge and writing skills. They are doing a wonderful job, and I am just glad to be a part of it."

directly affect students and their peers.

- Lee High School teacher Dena Arnold received a grant for \$1,000 for "Video Capture & Graphical Analysis of Motion using Dig/Tech."

This project is aimed at improving science TAKS scores through a video capture and analysis technology project. The ability to slow down motion frame by frame enables students to see the motion, not just hear about it.

- Highlands Elementary School teacher Bonnie Hogue received a \$1,200 grant for "The Science of Survival." Using the theme of survival, Mrs. Hogue's students will explore energy transformations.

Students will make their own solar stills to transfer salt water into fresh water using solar energy. Students will also be expected to create a meal using a solar oven and generate light by assembling a flashlight from parts. Students who successfully complete assigned task will be deemed a "survivor" of science camp.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is totally supported through the donations of businesses and people who care about Goose Creek schools and desire to participate by financially supporting it. If anyone would like to be a part of this exciting program, contact the GCCISD Education Foundation office at P.O. Box 8081, Baytown, Texas, 77522; by phone at 281-839-7700; or check out its website at www.gccisd.net/educationfoundation.html.

Share This!



© Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District

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

[Statement of Non-Discrimination](#)

[Contact the Webmaster](#)

[Required Internet Postings](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Google Translate](#)