



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Deadline to join Goose Creek CISD dual enrollment program draws near

Goose Creek CISD's dual enrollment program is becoming more and more popular as a way to start college early, saving time and money.

The burgeoning program — under the umbrella of Goose Creek CISD's Career and Technical Education — allows high school students to take college courses — and get credit toward their degree. The program pays for tuition, books, and transportation.

"The technical dual credit program is a goldmine of opportunity for our students who are taking advantage of the program. Goose Creek students have the chance to experience rigorous college-level coursework while still in high school, with the added opportunity to earn college credit," said Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York.

For example, students enrolled in the business program can graduate from high school and earn a Level I Certificate at Lee College at the same time, ready to start work immediately.

Students who begin in the Construction Engineering Technology Program in 10th grade can earn up to 32 28 college hours before they finish high school, all free of charge. Earning an 80 or higher in Architectural Computer-Aided Design class can give them eight four college hours that will apply to the Construction Engineering Technology, Electrical, Instrumentation, Mechanical Engineering Technology and Pipefitting degrees at Lee College.

Furthermore, each of the technical programs lead to high demand occupations being targeted by business and industry all along the Gulf Coast. According to Jim Richardson, Interim Division Chair of Technical Studies at Lee College, they can't graduate students quickly enough to fill the local need.

Also this year, ExxonMobil is teaming up with Goose Creek CISD to develop a lesson designed to demonstrate real-world applications of the knowledge and skills learned in chemistry classes. Industry employees will then do these demonstrations in classrooms, relate the skills to high demand occupations, and provide a sequence of courses appropriate to be prepared for post-secondary training in these high wage careers in the petrochemical industry.

In addition, Instrumentation and Pipefitting classes are new for 2010-11.

Technical dual-enrollment classes are open to any Goose Creek CISD junior or senior who qualifies for these college level courses. The deadline to sign up change high school schedules for the fall semester is Thursday, June 17.

"Technical dual credit allows students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity who otherwise may not have even considered college because of the expense," said Coordinator of Career and Technical Education Monelle Rougeau.

"The students who accept this challenge are earning up to six college hours each semester and are preparing themselves to enter the work force much earlier than their friends who are remaining in all high school courses," said Director of Career and Technical Education Renea Dillon.

Success stories are legion in the technical dual-enrollment program. Here is one such story:

James Zepulveda started the Electrical Technology program in his junior year. His goal was to become an electrician like his father and to work in a refinery in the Baytown area. He earned 15 college credits while in high school during his junior and senior years. James graduated high school in June 2009. One year after graduation, James is completing his associate's degree in Electrical Technology and hoping to find employment soon.

"Technical dual enrollment helps high school students get ahead, and I encourage students in high school to take advantage of this opportunity," James said. "It has helped me reach my goal quickly."

Dual-credit classes came on the scene in 2006 when the Texas State Legislature voted to fund dual-credit classes, opting to pay both high schools and colleges and universities for the college-level classes students take. It is through this additional funding by TEA, that CTE is able to pay for these technical dual credit classes.

Unlike Advanced Placement classes, where students take a class in high school and test out of the college-level equivalent, students in dual-credit classes take direct college classes with the course placed on the college transcript immediately.

In the past four years, the classes have grown increasingly popular and with more than 90,000 students across the state taking academic and technical dual-credit courses in 2009.

Dillon said Goose Creek CISD and Lee College are committed to providing the best educational opportunities for students in the Baytown and Highlands area. Therefore, these two institutions created this partnership to give Goose Creek CISD students the opportunity to get ahead in college.

"We would like to see this program grow each year in enrollment and in offerings as Goose Creek CISD's partnerships with Lee College increase," Dillon and Rougeau concur. It is very rewarding for us to see the students achieve their dreams and goals.

The enrollment deadline for dual enrollment classes is Thursday, June 17. Students can register for dual enrollment classes by contacting their counselor at their high school: Sterling (281-420-4550), Lee (281-420-4535), Memorial (281-421-4400), or Monelle Rougeau at the Career and Technology Department at 281-420-4550.

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