

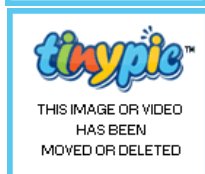
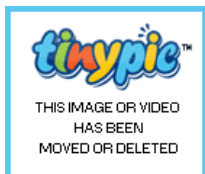


# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Seven Goose Creek CISD students competing in the 2010 National History Day competition also got to tour the Capitol Building as the guests of Congressman Ted Poe. Top row, from left, are Caitlyn May, Sasha Ramjattan, Betzianel Lagunas, Matt Broussard, and Kursten Jaime. In the bottom row are Han Bui, Kimberly Estrada, and social studies coordinator Toni Shuman.



## Horace Mann team places ninth at National History Day

### *Goose Creek students shine with strong showing at national academic contest*

After a year of demanding research and tough competitions, the Horace Mann Junior School team of Han Bui, Kimberly Estrada, Kursten Jaime, Betzianel Lagunas, and Sasha Ramjattan (all eighth-graders) — were named finalists, placing ninth in the group performance category in the 2010 National History Day competition.

A remarkable achievement to be sure considering the teens from Baytown had to best hundreds, even thousands of other students in the greater Houston area and the state just to be able to compete against 2,400 other bright students.

Two other Goose Creek students — Sterling High School ninth-grader Caitlin May and Gentry Junior School sixth-grader Matthew Broussard — fell just short of finalist status, but reaching the national competition is nothing short of a grand accomplishment.

"We are so proud of the seven students who represented Goose Creek CISD. All had very strong showings," said Dr. Toby York, Goose Creek CISD Superintendent.

"Forty-five thousand students across Texas competed at the local level in 2010 to win the opportunity to represent Texas in this contest.

These seven students triumphed over tremendous competition."

Here's a look at Goose Creek CISD's entries in the National History Day competition:

- Junior Group Performance – Horace Mann Junior School  
"I'm Lovin It ... Fast Food Steals America's Hearts"  
Students: Han Bui, Kimberly Estrada, Kursten Jaime, Betzianel Lagunas & Sasha Ramjattan – all eighth-graders  
Teachers: Noemi Liggett and Suzanne Ferrell

In a 10-minute performance, the girls showed the changes in American eating habits over time and the development of the fast food "assembly line" production of meals. The entry dealt explored the benefits and costs of fast food as it relates to childhood obesity, employment, and impact on agriculture. To advance from the preliminaries to the finals round the students had to defend their research and conclusions to a panel of judges. Ninety-eight entries advanced from the various states to compete at the national level. The Horace Mann team came in ninth.

- Junior Individual Performance – Gentry Junior School  
"Anesthesia: No Pain, Medical Gain"  
Student: Matthew Broussard – sixth grade  
Teacher: Toni Rosenbaum

In a 10-minute performance Matt showed the impact of the development of anesthesia on surgery and the practice of medicine.

Each year, History Day centers around a theme — for 2010, the theme was “Innovation in History: Impact and Change.”

Students at both the junior (junior school) and senior (high school) levels write papers and create exhibits, documentaries, performances, and web sites analyzing various inventions and innovations throughout history — including everything from the printing press to antibiotics.

The event was held from June 12-17 both on the University of Maryland’s College Park campus and in Washington, D.C. The national event attracted roughly 2,400 students; of the 26 students competing in the event from the greater Houston area, seven were from Goose Creek CISD.

The contest is comprised of individual and group projects, such as documentaries and exhibits, presented on cultural and anthropological topics which contestants themselves choose.

Winners at the local/district level move on to the state level, and the top 2 winners at the statewide level are then chosen to proceed to nationals, the final and most competitive stage.

“National History Day competition gives our students an opportunity to take a topic of their choice and explore it from its roots to current application,” said Toni Shuman, coordinator of social studies.

“They decide the approach they wish to take and make their own interpretations based on solid research. Reaching the national level shows them that they can compete with anyone and is a solid accomplishment that few of their peers have achieved,” Shuman said.

“I am continually impressed by the work and dedication they exhibit in preparing their entries.”

Despite an outstanding performance, he fell one short of making the final round. Initially planning to become a surgeon, Matt indicated to the judges that his research has led him to reconsider and he is now looking toward anesthesiology as a career path.

- Senior Historical Paper – Sterling High School

“The Microscopic War”

Student: Caitlin May – ninth grade

Teacher: Maggie Eubanks

Caitlin explored the impact of antibiotics on disease and population growth. Like the previous entries Caitlin defended her research to a panel of judges. Before leaving Washington, Caitlin was considering possible topics for next year’s National History Day theme: Debate and Diplomacy.

Aside from the competition aspect, a significant portion of the National History Day events includes educational trips to see historically significant monuments and museums in Washington.

Shuman said that in addition to maintaining their competition schedule and viewing other competitors’ entries, the seven Goose Creek CISD students were able to visit Arlington Cemetery to watch the Changing of the Guard and explore the Custis-Lee Mansion as well as touring the Capitol Building as the guests of Congressman Ted Poe. They also learned to navigate the Washington Metro subway system and visited various national monuments and Smithsonian Institute museums.

The Texas State Historical Association sponsors the National History Day program in Texas in cooperation with the University of North Texas. Founded in 1897, the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) fosters the appreciation, understanding and teaching of the rich and unique history of Texas. TSHA pursues the “actual doing of history,” from research, writing and publications to educational programs designed to support teaching Texas history in the public school system. For more information about Texas History Day or the Texas State Historical Association, please visit [www.TSHAonline.org](http://www.TSHAonline.org).

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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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