



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Foundation surprises teachers with grants

The Surprise Patrol from the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, a nonprofit that funds educational opportunities in the district, awarded 16 grants to 15 teachers at 11 different campuses on May 20 and, May 25.

Of course, the patrol did not simply walk into schools — instead Education Foundation members along with Goose Creek CISD school board members and administrators — armed with noise makers, kazoo's, clappers, air horns, and accompanied by band members and cheerleaders from each of the three high schools — marched up and down the halls boisterously before arriving at the classrooms.

In those 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.

Each campus did not know what or if it had won until the yellow school bus pulled up and deposited foundation president Roger Elswick, Superintendent Dr. York, school administrators, foundation board members, and other community representatives who come bearing checks.

"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.

"This is so great for us," said Education Foundation president Roger Elswick. "We wanted to do this up in a very big way and make it a fun event for the teachers and the kids. None of these teachers knew we were coming, or that they were chosen for the money. It was a big surprise."

In its inaugural year, the foundation raised more than \$16,000 for Goose Creek CISD teacher grants. In order for teachers to receive money, they had to submit a grant proposal to the foundation.

The education foundation's grants committee, led by vice president of programs Art Ochoa, then reviewed them and chose the recipients.

The foundation's goal for next year is to raise \$100,000, \$75,000 of which will be given to teachers to enhance education across the school district.

Here is the 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



[Photo Gallery 1](#)
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[Students' Choice](#)
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• 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.

• 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.

• Mary Bethel, Goose Creek Memorial High School, received a grant 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.

• 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.

• Harlem Elementary School teacher Stephanie Juarez received a \$945 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.

• 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.

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.

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.

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4344 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

P.O. Box 50
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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