



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Summer is a busy time for Goose Creek CISD

There is an illusion of inactivity in Goose Creek CISD during the summer months, and that false appearance is clearly attributable to the absence of students.

Yet, there are nearly 3,000 students attending classes across the district on five campuses. In fact, half of the district's school bus fleet is in service to transport the students.

The education of Baytown and Highlands children and teenagers continues at Bowie, Lamar, and Walker elementary schools, and at Gentry and Horace Mann junior schools and at Sterling High School.

(District officials remind drivers that the speed limits at school zones at these Goose Creek CISD schools are still in effect.)

"We all look forward to greeting all our students when Goose Creek CISD begins the new school year on August 23. Rest assured that, despite any appearances, much work goes on to prepare for students' return," said Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York. "Summer is, in fact, a busy time in Goose Creek CISD."

Although the district is not fully operational this summer in terms of schools and educational programs, York said he is extremely proud of the rewarding work and educational efforts that are being made this summer.

For example, administrators and teachers have been hard at work preparing for the new school year by way of a broad range of curricular projects.

Some are regular revisions of materials that the school district has long relied upon, while others represent more major restructuring of course materials based on state requirements or locally recognized needs.

There are numerous staff development opportunities for teachers and administrators to attend as well.

Furthermore, there are numerous behind-the-scenes activities that have been occurring without student participation, but all of these have been undertaken in anticipation of their arrival.

Among the activities are:

- Registration continues during the summer for students new to Goose Creek CISD or who have moved to a residence in a different attendance zone over the summer.
- Because of summer school, 50 percent of the district's school bus fleet is running the roads, while the other half are undergoing inspections and repair work. Also, among the most complex and critical task is the development of a transportation plan so that students arrive at the appropriate location every single day.

- The food service department is still serving breakfast and lunch to many of our students. Security officers are still making the rounds and are stationed at junior schools and high schools open for summer.

- Preparation for the opening of the district's Early College High School, housed on the Lee College campus, continues.

- On the construction front, crews are making electrical upgrades (lights and motion sensors) at Robert E. Lee High School and over at Sterling High School, new carpet and flooring are being installed.

- Construction continues at the new Peter E. Hyland Center where a new wing and day care center are being added to the building. Over at Highlands Junior School, work is set to begin on crosswalks at Wallisville and Mary.

- The district continues to monitor the work at the new Goose Creek Support Center on Market Street that will house the print shop, food services and warehouse.

- The special education department has moved into its new offices in San Jacinto Mall.

- Coaches from many schools are hosting sports camps. (See district website, www.gccisd.net, for sites and times.) Also, practice for football and volleyball players will start up soon. Both sports start playing scrimmages before school opens on Aug. 23.

Another busy department is the technology department. There are always updates, upgrades, and uploads in this field; however, one of the major projects this summer is to install a classroom set of laptops for each fifth grade classroom providing each student with a one to one computer learning environment.

So much for the perceived inactivity during the summer. All of these projects, and a many others, are to be completed before school starts.

"As you can see, summer is being put to good use in Goose Creek CISD as we prepare for the return of students on August 23. That will represent the start of another school year for our staff and for our students — a year that promises challenges and rewards in just the right combination," Dr. York said.

"Schools are fortunate to have some time to prepare for each year. Summer allows us to have a real 'start' to each year, thus reinforcing this chance to re-dedicate ourselves to our efforts in a meaningful way," he said.

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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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