



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### District welcomes 115 new teachers

Scores of yellow school buses will hit the streets of Baytown and Highlands Monday morning marking the official end of summer. Ready or not: Goose Creek CISD will open its doors to another school year on Monday, Aug. 23.

The first school bells will ring at the three high schools at 7:30 a.m., followed by the elementary schools, and finally with the junior schools at 8:40 a.m.

Goose Creek CISD is estimating around 21,000 students for the 2010-2011 school year.

The district has hired 115 teachers for the 2010-11 school year. Some are experienced teachers moving to the district from other school systems while others are beginning their first teaching job.

The district employs more than 1,500 teachers.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toby York said Goose Creek CISD is proud of the new hires.

"We bring in folks who are excited about what they do, who are passionate about what they do and who love kids," Dr. York said.

"Home grown" teachers are part of the district's Baytown Area Education Recruitment and Retention program. Goose Creek CISD, Lee College and the University of Houston – Clear Lake partner to produce teachers, many of whom are former Goose Creek CISD graduates.

Bernardo Villegas Jr., is one of 15 of the district's "home grown" recruits. Bernardo attended San Jacinto, Baytown Junior, Lee High School, Lee College and then graduated from the University of Houston – Clear Lake.

While attending college to complete his degree and teacher certification, Villegas was hired in 2003 as an itinerant interpreter in the district. He will be a deaf education teacher at Lee.

Pat Hutchins, his UH-CL supervisor, called Villegas a "great teacher."

Villegas said he was inspired to pursue a career in teaching by his fifth grade teacher at San Jacinto Elementary School, Ms. Lopez.

"It was my first year to attend a school in the United States and I was very impressed by the patience she had with her students when teaching them English," he said. "She inspired and encouraged me to be the same way and never to give up on a child no matter how much he or she struggled."

Villegas said that Lee High has changed quite a bit since he was a student there.

"The science building, the cafeteria, and Sultis Stadium are a few I can think of that have been added or rebuilt. It's good to see the improvement in the teaching facilities to accommodate for a better learning environment for our students," he said.

"I feel very comfortable because I have seen in the past years, working here as an interpreter, how the teachers in the different departments work good together and make new teachers feel welcome."

As graduates of Sterling High School, "home grown" educators and brothers Kade and Kyle Griffin will be teaching at Impact Early Learning High School at Lee College and Highlands Junior, respectively.

Both men are experienced teachers and will be joining their parents who are also currently employed in the district.

The long lineage of educators in their family began with their grandparents, Larry Whitley (1970-1992) and Wanda Whitley (1964-1991), who retired as counselors from GCCISD.

In addition, their mother, Susan Griffin, is the assistant principal at Highlands Elementary and their father, Charles Griffin, is a teacher/coach at GCM.

Here are some interesting facts about Goose Creek CISD's new teachers:

- Women vs. men: 76 women, 27 men
- Goose Creek high school grads now teaching in GCCISD schools: 12 REL grads and 15 RSS grads.
- Where are the new teachers are assigned: elementary, 53; junior, 17; and high school, 30.
- Fifteen of the new hires earned degrees from out of state. Roughly 86 percent of the district's new teachers are from Texas.
- The district hired approximately 24 former substitute teachers who worked as substitutes and then completed their degrees to become teachers.
- New teachers with a bachelor's degree (87) far exceed those with a master's degree (16).
- The largest group (28) of new hires are University of Houston-Clear Lake graduates followed by Lamar University (6), Sam Houston State University (5) and University of Texas (5). The Longhorns outnumber the Aggies 5 to 3.

To be a teacher in Texas, one must be a college graduate and obtain certification through a traditional route, which includes student teaching, or be enrolled in an alternative certification program, which requires completing a state-approved internship year.

In addition, teachers must pass a criminal background check and have successful references.

And there are still openings for teachers at Goose Creek CISD.

Current open positions include 5th grade bilingual, elementary music and deaf education. For more information about these positions, please feel free to contact Susan Moore-Fontenot, Director of Personnel at 281-420-4859 or 281-420-4865.

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