

Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation awards \$23,000 to schools

It wasn't a visit from Ed McMahon, but several Goose Creek CISD teachers were pleasantly surprised this week by a visit from the "Surprise Patrol."

Thundering drums and oversized checks greeted teachers throughout the Goose Creek school district as the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Surprise Patrol made its rounds on Thursday and Friday, awarding 23 grants totaling more than \$23,000.

The grants enhance the quality of education and provide students with learning opportunities that otherwise would be unavailable. Grants are awarded to teachers for creative, innovative and enrichment activities in the classroom.

Each campus does not know what or if it has won until the yellow school bus pulls up and deposits school administrators, foundation board members, donors, and community representatives who come bearing checks.

Of course, the patrol does not simply walk in. Armed with noisemakers and horns, and accompanied by high school drummers and cheerleaders, they raise a raucous marching up and down the hallways before arriving at the lucky classroom.

Students throughout the district are sure to benefit from a wide range of programs as a result of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation grants.

See full list of grant winners here.

"These days, financial resources for educators are limited, and teachers sometimes have to rely on outside funds to fuel their creativity," said Roger Elswick, Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation president. "We are pleased to offer support for programs and projects that might otherwise go unfunded in our schools."

Last year, the Education Foundation awarded more than \$16,000 in grants to 15 teachers. In the spring, the Patrol will be out again, awarding around \$50,000 more in creative teaching grants after topping its \$100,000 fundraising goal.



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The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's goal is to enhance community support and to expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in Goose Creek CISD

In order for teachers to receive money, they had to submit a grant proposal to the foundation. The teacher grant selection process is handled through a committee that reads each submission and scores according to a scoring rubric.

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education 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.

To find out more information about the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation or to inquire about becoming an investor, 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 <u>here</u>.



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