



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Noah Campbell (left), a volunteer from Sterling High School, and Michael Roy (right) from Horace Mann Junior School run the last segment of the torch relay at the recent Special Olympics Field Day. Behind them is Ijhaman Stanislas from Sterling, who led the athletes in the Special Olympics Athletes Oath.

GCCISD Developing Athletes Participate in First Special Olympics Field Day

Despite the brief shower that threatened to cancel the event, Goose Creek CISD's inaugural Special Olympics Field Day turned into a sunny, fun-filled experience for the 130 students from 16 elementary and junior schools, teachers and volunteers. The event was a collaboration between the Goose Creek CISD Special Education Department and Texas Special Olympics to provide the opportunity for students to participate and to generate interest in Special Olympics.

Students stepped out of buses at the Ross S. Sterling High School track, greeted by Sterling band and drum line members. After lining them up across the field, Dr. Tom Kelchner, director of special education for Goose Creek CISD, addressed the student athletes.

"We are proud of our GCCISD developing athletes. Along with Texas Special Olympics, this has been a tremendous team effort to put on this event today," said Kelchner.



Following the torch relay, the Flame of Hope is lit to symbolize the Special Olympics goal, which is shining a light on the talents and abilities of the athletes, at the recent Special Olympics Field Day at Ross S. Sterling High School. View the Special Olympics Field Day photo gallery [here](#).

Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, officially launched the games. With RSS Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALs), football players and other volunteers helping the athletes, they advanced through five stations, including flag football, track, soccer, softball and cycling. As they waited their turns, students laughed,

The RSS JROTC Color Guard presented colors, while everyone remained standing for the national anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Ijahman Stanislas from RSS led the athletes in the Special Olympics Athletes Oath, which was meaningful to all athletes.

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,” said Stanislas.

As the Olympics torch relay symbolizes the ceremonial relaying of the Olympic Flame from Olympia, Greece, to the site of the Olympic Games, student athletes participated in a torch relay for the Special Olympics Field Day. The Flame of Hope was lit to symbolize the Special Olympics goal, which is shining a light on the talents and abilities of these athletes.

cheered and danced to energizing music.

At the end of the event, hot dog lunches and drinks, provided by Rex Miller’s students at Stuart Career Center, who grilled the wieners, and Aramark, were handed out by Bernie Mulvaney, GCCISD athletic director, and Pete Gareri, RSS campus athletic director/head football coach, to the tired, but happy athletes. Certificates were given to teachers to pass out to the students upon their return to campus.

Goose Creek CISD students also will participate in the Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program (MATP). A Challenge Day is scheduled for May 18 to allow students to share their developed skills with family members. Students will receive awards based on participation.

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