

MEET KATY'S NEW PRINCIPALS



James Cross, pictured with his family, is the new principal at Cinco Ranch High School



Cazilda Steele, pictured with her husband Tirone, will lead the staff at Mayde Creek High School



Ann Smith, pictured with her family, hopes to inspire teachers and students at Golbow Elementary



Imelda Medrano is looking forward to her first year at Exley Elementary

Get to Know These New Katy ISD Principals

They may be new to their school or even Katy ISD, but they all have one thing in common: a passion for teaching. Twelve educators will take the reins as principals at Katy area schools, and with their experience, goals and determination, we can all expect great things from them this year.

JAMES CROSS

Cinco Ranch High School
Years in Education: 17

Why did you decide to enter the education field? I

knew I wanted to work with kids when I was a teenager and I became an uncle for the first time. I truly enjoyed playing with and teaching my nephew. I always felt like I would take great pleasure in working with children. I didn't make a firm decision until I met my wife Mitzi and listened to the excitement and enjoyment in her voice as she talked about being a teacher. She came from a family of educators who shared that same passion. It didn't take much to convince me. I am extremely satisfied with my choice. No regrets!

How do you plan to make a difference at your new school?

I want to take time to really listen to our students, parents, and teachers. I want to make each person feel important and noticed. I know it will not happen overnight in a school of almost 3,000 students, but I do know that it is worth the effort. I cannot say how excited (that's a puny word) I am to be a part of this incredible school. Go Cougars!

Do you have any words of encouragement for your school, students and staff?

Live the dream. Make it real. It is our theme for the upcoming year. I think it sums up what our school is about. Our kids walk through the doors each day with the highest hopes and the greatest dreams. It is our job as the caring adults in their world to help them fulfill those dreams. We help them turn their dreams into reality.

IMELDA MEDRANO

Exley Elementary
Years in Education: 16

What specific gifts and talents do you think you will bring to your new school? I am an action-oriented person who loves to take care of folks and make things happen. I pay attention to detail and strive to do everything in the spirit of excellence. I am excited about becoming part of the Exley family and continuing their legacy of excellence.

What is most rewarding about being an educator?

The most rewarding thing about being an educator is the wonderful relationships that you develop with your colleagues, your students and their families. I have gotten to know so many families over the years and am blessed to have been a part of their lives.

What is your favorite part of working in Katy ISD?

The people in Katy ISD are very serious about doing a good job and very eager to lend a hand. Everyone is ready to share their power points, their handouts, their handbooks, and anything else that will make my job easier. I feel very welcomed and supported in Katy ISD.

“I feel very welcomed and supported in Katy ISD.”

- Imelda Medrano

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CAZILDA STEELE

Mayde Creek High School

Years in Education: 24

What college did you attend and what degrees do you have?

I attended the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from the University of Houston main campus with BS in Biology Teacher Education in 1984. I received my Master's degree from UH in Administration and Supervision in 1990, and recently graduated in 2006 with a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston.

What specific gifts and talents do you think you will bring to your new school?

I am known for building good sound trusting relationships with people, being a straight forward communicator, and being very positive. I feel that my zest and passion for the work that I do will permeate our school. I also get things done. I set goals and work very hard to reach them. I am looking forward to working with the dedicated staff at Mayde Creek High School to build a culture of success through hard work.

Have you always wanted to teach?

In the very beginning, I thought I might go into pharmacy school or med school. I really enjoyed studying biology while in college but did not like chemistry which was really a prerequisite for those fields. The longer I was in college, the more I found my passion to teach. It was also the only life I knew. Both of my parents were educators. My mom was a teacher aide for bilingual students and my dad was a school principal and superintendent.

STEVE ROBERTSON

Katy High School

Years in Education: 23

Tell us about your experience in education. I began my career as a teacher and Assistant Principal in Spring Branch ISD. We moved to Conroe ISD where I was a principal for nine years. We moved to Katy in 2003 when I became the principal of Jeanette Hayes Elementary. I served as the principal of Cinco Ranch Junior High from 2005 to 2009.

Do you have any children and do they attend this school district? My wife Elaine and I have three children. Nicholas graduated from Katy High school and will be a freshman at Texas Tech this fall. Our daughter Meghan is a sophomore at Katy High School. Our youngest child, John Michael is a 7th grader at WoodCreek and looks forward to being a Katy Tiger!

What is most rewarding about being an educator?

Education is a remarkable profession. It is difficult to describe the feeling a teacher gets when students learn what you teach. As a principal, you have the ability, through your leadership, to increase the number of opportunities that exist for teachers and students to experience that incredible feeling of achievement and success. I find that is very motivating and rewarding!

“It's difficult to describe the feeling a teacher gets when students learn what you teach.”

- Steve Robertson

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JULI NOELDNER

Mayde Creek Elementary

Years in Education: 17

Tell us about your experience in education. I have been in education for 17 years (this is my 18th year). All 17 years have been at Mayde Creek Elementary. I taught first grade for 6 years, was a reading specialist for 7 years, and served as assistant principal for 4 years. I was named principal of Mayde Creek Elementary last March.

Why did you decide to enter the education field?

My mother is a teacher in Katy ISD, and I enjoyed going into her classroom and helping her and her students. I have always had a great rapport with children and love working with them.

What is your favorite part about working in Katy ISD?

I am a product of Katy ISD attending Wolf Elem., Bear Creek Elem., Mayde Creek Junior High, and Mayde Creek HS. As a former student in this district, I know firsthand what a quality education Katy provides for their students.

MARK MCCORD

Morton Ranch Jr. High

Years in Education: 23

What specific gifts and talents do you think you will bring to your new school?

I have the ability to motivate, encourage, and support people. I never ask someone to do something that I would be unwilling to do. I respect everyone.

Have you always wanted to teach? From third grade until my last year in college, I wanted to be a geologist. When in college, I discovered my passion for teaching.

How do you plan to make a difference at your new school? I plan to make a difference by listening actively and working collaboratively with all of our stakeholders.

New Principals in Katy ISD for

2009/2010

Anita Jacobs

Felder Elementary

Tory Hill

Mayde Creek Jr. High

Ann Smith

Golbow Elementary

Mark McCord

Morton Ranch Jr. High

Imelda Medrano

Exley Elementary

James Cross

Cinco Ranch High School

Juli Noeldner

Mayde Creek Elementary

Steve Robertson

Katy High School

Jeff Stocks

Beck Jr. High

Cazilda Steele

Mayde Creek High School

Elizabeth Kuylen

Cinco Ranch Jr. High

Mark Grisdale

Morton Ranch High School

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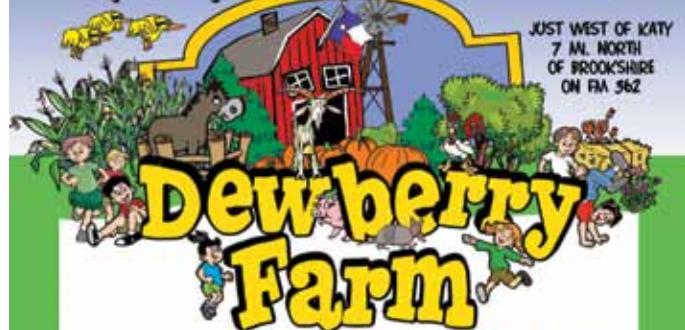
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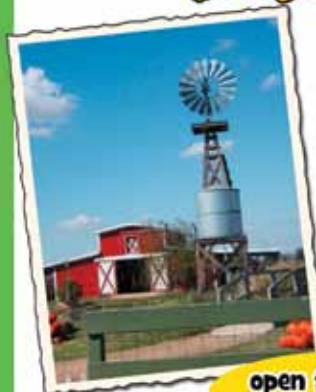
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