

# 20 Questions with

Alton Frailey has called Katy home for almost three years and enjoys being a part of a great community



# *Alton Frailey* *Katy ISD Superintendent*

As the superintendent of Katy ISD, Alton Frailey leads a growing Recognized school district, which serves more than 58,000 students at 52 campuses – with 44 of those campuses named Exemplary or Recognized by the Texas Education Agency in 2009. A busy administrator, husband, and father, Frailey shares his views on leading a school district, Katy living, and the value of family with Katy Magazine.

## ***1. How long have you been in Katy?***

I joined Katy ISD in July 2007.

## ***2. What do you most enjoy about living and working in Katy?***

I think the best part has been the opportunity to be part of such a great community. In the last two years, I have found that there are intangible yet unique qualities that make the Katy community special. We are blessed with talented families that care about education and support our schools.

## ***3. Why did you wish to work with Katy ISD?***

For many years I was next door in Spring Branch ISD and I knew that Katy was a great community in which to live and work, so it was only natural that I would want to be part of it when the opportunity presented itself.

## ***4. What have your first years as Katy ISD superintendent been like?***

These past two years in Katy have been outstanding. The best part has been meeting many of the great people in our district and our community and seeing first-hand the passion and excitement they have for our children.

## ***5. What are your goals for Katy ISD?***

My personal goal is to continue to build partnerships and forge shared and articulated high-level aspirations for ourselves and our community. To me, the quality of the community is the leading indicator of the quality of our schools. We have something truly worth supporting.

## ***6. What has been the biggest reward of being superintendent?***

The biggest reward for me has been the energy and excitement that I've felt from the students. My Student Roundtable meeting is one of the things I most look forward to. We have great kids here.

## ***7. What has been the biggest challenge?***

The biggest challenge has been to maintain the community identity that is familiar to residents who have been here, as well as to preserve the characteristics of a top quality school district that has, and continues to, attract families to Katy.

## ***8. What do you most enjoy about your career?***

The best part about working in education, especially as superintendent, is the ability to assemble a great team of dedicated

educators and partners to create a safe, purpose-filled learning environment for our students and their families who entrust them to our care.

## ***9. Why did you pursue a career in education?***

I wanted to have the opportunity to serve others and to contribute to making this a better world. Education is what transformed my life and raised me from my circumstances. I wanted to help others achieve the same.

## ***10. What kind of student were you?***

As I have gotten older I have a greater appreciation for the type of student I was. I worked hard, followed the rules, and tried to make my school a better place. I was not valedictorian, but I did graduate with honors and served in many leadership positions, including two terms as president of my class.

## ***11. What is your fondest school memory?***

My fondest school memory is my senior year of high school. We were a small but close-knit group of students. Most of us had been together since kindergarten. Most of us were already responsible adults and provided positive role models for the school.



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## 12. Growing up, who were your role models?

There were many “images” I accepted as models for the kind of person I wanted to be. Among these were characters from two of my favorite television westerns. The characters Ben Cartwright [played by Lorne Greene] from Bonanza, and Matt Dillon [played by James Arness] from Gunsmoke represented two men who valued family and community. They portrayed integrity, courage, and strength. There were also two family friends from my community who provided tangible quality examples.

## 13. Who has been influential in your life?

My mother passed away in 1992. Not a day has gone by where I don't think about her and all that she taught me. I can think of nothing I would love more than to be able to ask her how she thinks I'm doing. I still want to please her and make her proud.

## 14. What is your greatest accomplishment?

I believe my greatest accomplishment to date is my personal testimony. I have truly been blessed to experience tremendous change in my personal life. The power of my faith and education has moved me far beyond the circumstances of my youth. I am extremely proud of my family. My wife and our children mean the world to me.

## 15. What three adjectives best describe you?

Focused, passionate, driven.

## 16. Do you have any hobbies?

I do love various types of music. I rarely turn down a chance to play golf. I also love to tinker around the house.

## 17. What is something that would surprise people to know about you?

One thing may be that I still tinker as a DJ. I did this in high school and college. I love music and I love to share music. I've done this for events my kids are involved in or what my wife volunteers me for. It's a great feeling when I can play a song that brings back fond memories and helps folks smile for a while.

## 18. What motivates you to stay involved in so many educational and community organizations?

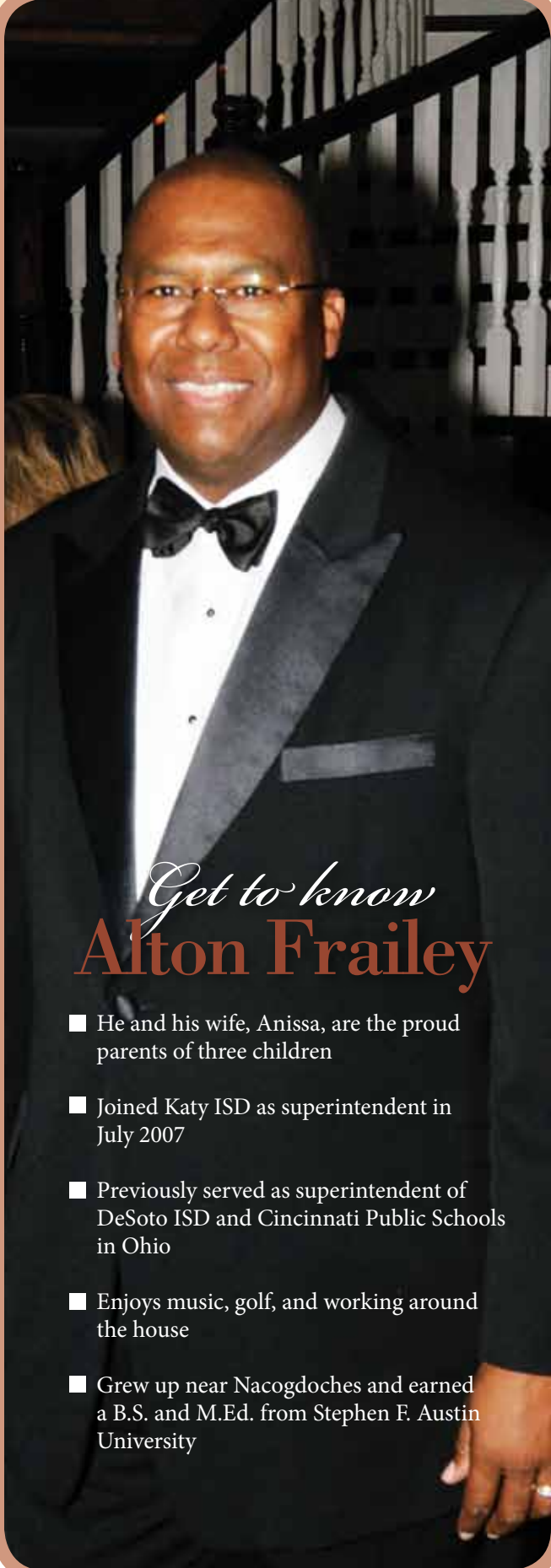
I am motivated to stay involved beyond what is required for work because I truly love our country. I believe that family by family and community by community is what makes our country great! I trust my family and the Katy community to be quality leaders and influencers.

## 19. What do you feel is the most important challenge facing students today?

The rapid pace with which information is learned and disseminated today is much different than it was when many of us were in school. Students today need to learn how to filter all of the information they are receiving in order to determine what is meaningful and truthful.

## 20. What do you believe are the key ingredients for a successful school district?

I believe that the community is one of the greatest influences on a school district. A successful school district is one that engages and listens to the community. A successful school district respects serving a community's children as a privilege and tremendous responsibility. A successful school district's employees accept and honor the increased expectations on how they practice their craft and conduct their lives. A successful school district's governing board is in tune with the community and accepts the community's needs and values as their own. KM



*Get to know*  
**Alton Frailey**

- He and his wife, Anissa, are the proud parents of three children
- Joined Katy ISD as superintendent in July 2007
- Previously served as superintendent of DeSoto ISD and Cincinnati Public Schools in Ohio
- Enjoys music, golf, and working around the house
- Grew up near Nacogdoches and earned a B.S. and M.Ed. from Stephen F. Austin University

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