

New Katy School Namesakes

New schools are opening soon in Katy and are named after prominent Katy families, educators, and leaders in the community

Written by Lorrie Crow Kimble | Select photography by Layla Zakaria

Katy ISD will be opening two new elementary schools and one junior high school by August 2016. In August 2017 they will be adding one elementary, one junior high school, and one high school. All of the new schools have been named after exemplary Katy ISD influences in the community.

Jenks Elementary



MAYDELL JENKS was an educator for 43 years, teaching students various languages. She began teaching German at Katy Taylor High School in 1981 and remained in Katy ISD for 31 years.

Jenks was hired as the first district coordinator for ESL, bilingual, and foreign languages in 1985. In recognition of her commitment to foreign language, Jenks Elementary School will be a bilingual campus.

Maydell Jenks worked as a language educator for 43 years

LOCATION

27602 Westridge Creek Ln.

MASCOT

Jaguar

OPENING

School just opened

SCHOOL COLORS

Purple, black, and silver

PRINCIPAL

Troy Kemp



Bethke Elementary



Catherine Bethke has been a beloved educator in Katy ISD for 31 years

CATHERINE “GIGI” BETHKE began her 31-year career in Katy ISD as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at the original Williamsburg Settlement Elementary. She also served as teacher leader in the opening of Winborn, Alexander, and Creech Elementary Schools. She was named as a Campus Teacher of the Year and a District-wide finalist. Although formally retired, Bethke works part-time as a gifted and talented assessment proctor for the district.

LOCATION
4535 E. Ventana Pkwy.

MASCOT
Bison

OPENING
School just opened

SCHOOL COLORS
Blue and silver

PRINCIPAL
Carrie Lowery



Stockdick Junior High



The Stockdick family was one of the first to settle in Katy

STOCKDICK JUNIOR HIGH is named after one of Katy’s first and most prominent families.

In 1895, the Stockdick family was one of the first families to arrive in Katy, helping open a one-room schoolhouse, Stockdick School, on what is now known as Stockdick School Road.

The family has had several generations attend Katy ISD schools and continues its heritage in Katy ISD education as teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators, board members, and volunteers.

LOCATION
4777 Peek Rd.

OPENING
March 2017



Bryant Elementary



The Bryants have more than 57 years of combined educational service

ROBERT AND FELICE BRYANT are a husband and wife team of Katy ISD educators. Prior to his retirement last year, Robert “Bob” Bryant was the executive director of band and fine arts. He was previously the band director at Katy High School and was named 2007 to 2008 Texas Musical Administrator of the Year, and was with Katy ISD for a little over 32 years. Felice began as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at Winborn Elementary, then moved to Katy Elementary. She was honored as Katy Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1997, and is now retired after spending 25 years in Katy ISD.

OPENING
July 2017

ENROLLMENT
1,030 students

LOCATION
29801 Kingsland Blvd.



Paetow High School

PATRICIA “Patti” PAETOW spent her 28 years in Katy ISD as an educational diagnostician, as assistant principal at Hutsell Elementary, and then as principal at Wolfe Elementary. She then went on to hold the position of director of campus administration and support, and retired as Katy ISD’s superintendent of administrative support. In the 1998 to 1999 school year, she helped Wolfe Elementary to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. In 2000, she became the principal at Creech Elementary School. Paetow was a beloved educator who passed in July 2015 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer.

LOCATION
23111 Stockdick School Rd.

OPENING
June 2017



Tays Junior High

JAMES AND SHARON TAYS have nearly 60 years of combined educational service that they committed to Katy ISD. James began his career as a coordinated vocational academic education teacher at Katy Junior High, became the assistant principal at West Memorial Junior High where he also took over as principal. Sharon taught second grade at Katy Elementary and Hutsell Elementary where she was named Campus Teacher of the Year. She served as a reading specialist at Katy Junior High until her retirement. **KM**

LOCATION
26721 Hawks Prairie Blvd.

MASCOT
Titans

OPENING
School just opened

SCHOOL COLORS
Red, white, and blue

PRINCIPAL
Dr. Kris Mitzner

