

This principal was the real 'McCoy'

As many former teachers reflected on Southmore Intermediate's past, one name kept coming to mind — former principal Jack McCoy.

Words such as “unforgettable,” “caring,” and “a man of dignity,” were commonly used to describe the man who served the longest term as principal of the school from 1964 to 1986.

“I knew him personally and professionally,” said Southmore teacher Webb McEvoy. “He is a great man and there's nothing he wouldn't do for kids.”

Former Southmore coach and teacher Donald Bass also shared those same sentiments.

“He always told me that we wanted good athletic programs,” Bass said. “But he emphasized that the most important thing was that they were good students first. He truly cared for the students and had their best interest at heart.”

Southmore teacher Sally Jones remembered her initial job interview with McCoy. “He really wanted to know what kind of person I was,” she said. “He wanted to know about my family before he wanted to know about my philosophy of education. He not only saw teachers as his employees, he took the time to get to know them personally as well. It created a very family-type atmosphere on campus.”

Most of all, Bass said he remembers McCoy's character. “He was very fair and would back you up in any situation,” Bass said. “He never rushed to judgement.” ★



Jack McCoy



Students were quick to give the thumbs-up sign after the district received its fifth consecutive recognized rating.

Pasadena ISD earns recognized rating for fifth consecutive year

Behind the hard work of teachers and students, nothing could stop the drive for five. The drive for a fifth consecutive state recognized rating, that is.

The Pasadena Independent School District was one of only two districts with an enrollment of more than 40,000 to be named a recognized district for the fifth consecutive year, according to the Texas

Education Agency. According to the TEA ratings, Pasadena ISD has 15 state exemplary and 24 state recognized schools - which signifies a continued increase in student achievement. District scores were above state averages on all academic indicators.

The district's overall Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test scores among all students in grades 3, 8 and 10 were near or above 90 percent. According to the results, 94.4 percent of students passed the math portion of the test, while boasting a 91.9 percent mastery rate on the reading portion of the test. The district also showed 89.5 percent of students passed the writing part the exam.

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every child successful,” said Superintendent Rick Schneider.

Elementary schools earning exemplary ratings were Atkinson, Burnett, Frazier, Garfield, Matthys, Meador, Moore, Morales, Parks, Pearl Hall, Pomeroy, Mae Smythe, Stuchbery, Teague and Turner elementary.

The recognized elementary schools include Bailey, Fisher, Freeman, Gardens, Golden Acres, Jensen, Jessup, Kruse, McMasters,

Red Bluff, L.F. Smith, South Houston Elementary, South Shaver, Sparks and Young. Secondary schools earning recognized ratings are Beverly Hills Intermediate, Bondy Intermediate, Park View Intermediate, Queens Intermediate, South Houston Intermediate, Thompson Intermediate, Dobie High School, Sam Rayburn High School and South Houston High School.

Seven campuses were also honored for their academic achievement by earning District Commended status. These campuses missed state recognized honors by less than two indicators. The district commended campuses include Miller Intermediate, Genoa Elementary, Richey Elementary, San Jacinto Intermediate, Southmore Intermediate, Pasadena High School and Williams Elementary. ★