

Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry was drawn to Cy-Fair because of its many traditions of excellence and large amount of community support



*Superintendent  
Dr. Mark Henry*

Meet Cy-Fair ISD's new leader at the helm of education

*Written by Jen Petty and Miranda Enzor*

It takes an educator with a certain something to run Cy-Fair ISD, the state's third largest school district. When it was announced last spring that former Cy-Fair ISD Superintendent Dr. David Anthony would be leaving the district to become CEO of Raise Your Hand Texas, a nonprofit focused on increasing student achievements, the search for his replacement began.

It ended with one name: Galena Park ISD Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry. "There weren't many school districts that could have pried me away from Galena Park, but Cy-Fair ISD was one of them," Dr. Henry shares. "The traditions of excellence and community support in Cy-Fair are known statewide."

### A+ Passion for Education

Dr. Henry's passion for education shows in his background. Before he even finished his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Arlington, he was already in the classroom teaching. Going on to earn a master's and doctorate degree, Dr. Henry completed his education at the University of North Texas by earning a Doctorate of Education in administration. While completing his studies, he worked as an assistant principal and principal at middle schools and high schools in districts around north Texas, including Milford, Collinsville, and Sulphur Springs ISDs.

In 2004, he accepted the position as superintendent of Galena Park ISD in east Houston. During his seven years with Galena Park, Dr. Henry received much recognition for his dedication to the district, including being named a finalist for the Texas Superintendent of the Year and being named Region 4 ESC Superintendent of the Year and ATPE Texas Administrator of the Year.

### Family of Educators

With his move to Cy-Fair ISD, Dr. Henry hopes to continue his tradition of excellence and share his passion for education. Cy-Fair's strong sense of family has been a welcoming setting for him. "I feel like I have just been adopted into a large family," he says.

In his own family, education is king. Dr. Henry's wife Cindy is an educator, who teaches in Houston ISD. His three adult children, Ryan, Emily, and Stephen are all educators or are finishing degrees in education. Though their children are grown, Dr. Henry says they enjoy going to movies or sharing meals together when everyone is home. "We have also made it a point to schedule at least one family vacation a year," he adds.

### Focused on Success

As he begins the enormous task of running Cy-Fair ISD, Dr. Henry recognizes that all school districts have challenges and successes. Cy-Fair ISD is no exception. "One of the most consistent and refreshing experiences I have had is people sharing that they have adult children who were educated in Cy-Fair ISD, accepted to top-notch universities, and now have successful careers," he says. "They attribute their success to the school district and the quality education they received."

With those kinds of success stories found around every corner, it makes the challenges of running a district of more than 107,000 students a little less daunting. While many families move to the area for the top-notch schools, rapid student enrollment, coupled with recent statewide cuts in funding, presents challenges at every school.

While managing resources, Dr. Henry says his focus will be on continuing to educate students. "We will do this, as has been done in the past, by focusing on incremental improvement in student success that is sustainable over time," he says. "During my time with the district, I hope to maximize each student's ability to reach his or her highest level of achievement."

To focus on individual students needs, Dr. Henry says he will rely on the continued collaboration between educators, students, parents, and community members – a characteristic of the district he has already taken notice of. "Cy-Fair ISD will meet the needs of our students by engaging our parents to partner with us in their children's education and hiring and retaining quality staff, so that students may reach their goals," he shares.

### Committed to the Community

With Dr. Henry's commitment to students and the community, Cy-Fair ISD looks to be in a good place to achieve and surpass his first-year goals. Dr. Henry shares, "In five years, I hope Cy-Fair ISD will continue to be one of the most successful school districts in the country and be a model for school, parent, and community collaboration." CFM

*JEN PETTY is the mother of three, including one Cy-Fair ISD first-grader, and considers herself to be a lifelong student.*

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Photo by Gary Durrenberger

Dr. Henry greets Melody during a visit to Sheridan Elementary School



Photo by Gary Durrenberger

McFee Elementary first-grader Bryan and Dr. Henry



Photo by Gary Durrenberger

Dr. Henry serves more than 107,000 students and connects with Cy-Fair ISD's strong sense of family