



# THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 29 • SEPTEMBER 2023



## BACK TO SCHOOL RECAP

Scholars returned to school on August 21. Families were greeted with smiles, hugs, and high-fives by our dedicated faculty, staff and special guests. Scholars started off the day with a nutritional breakfast from SFE, the District's new food service vendor. Teachers kicked off the day with introductions, procedures and routines and, of course, teaching and learning.

The Riverview Gardens School District is committed to the success of our scholars, staff and community. As we strive for full accreditation, we need your support! The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires that 90 percent of students attend class 90 percent of the time. We need our scholars in attendance to learn each and every day. Please support our scholars by ensuring your children come to school on time every day. **Here's to a successful school year!**

## RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



### IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/2 MOLINE ACRES PARADE | 11AM  
STARTS AT CENTRAL MIDDLE
- 9/4 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY  
DISTRICT CLOSED
- 9/12 SAB MEETING | 7PM  
1370 NORTHUMBERLAND DR.
- 9/16 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION  
PARADE, GAME & DANCE
- 9/22 NO SCHOOL | DISTRICT OPEN  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 9/26 SAB MEETING | 7PM  
1370 NORTHUMBERLAND DR.
- 9/28 BOEING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT  
GRANT CELEBRATION

## PHONE POUCHES ARRIVE AT RGHS, COMING SOON TO CENTRAL & WESTVIEW MIDDLE

RGSD began the implementation of lockable phone pouches at Riverview Gardens High School at the start of the 2023-24 school year. Scholars are required to lock their phones in the pouch at the start of the day to help keep the focus on learning during the school day. The pouches will arrive at Central & Westview Middle on Sept. 5. Damaging pouches is a violation of District policy. [Consequences & More Info.](#)



*The Riverview Gardens School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining a workplace and educational environment that is free from illegal discrimination, harassment and retaliation in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, activities and facilities. In accordance with law, the district strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment against employees, students or others on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. The Riverview Gardens School District is an equal opportunity employer.*

## STEM CHALLENGE AT WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Westview Middle School science scholars worked in teams on a science STEM challenge. Jessica Hyde, a 6th-grade Science teacher, challenged her scholars to build the tallest structure by using note cards for materials.



## THE RAMILY GOES GLOBAL AS INTERNATIONAL INSTRUCTORS LAND IN RGSD SCHOOLS

Riverview Gardens School District welcomed 26 international instructors to the District. The teachers have come from the Philippines, South Africa and East African nations.

RGSD partnered with Jobs Connect to identify veteran instructors from other countries who could come and fill teacher vacancies. [KMOV](#) and [KSDK](#) have done features on the new additions to the Ramily!

## THE LITTLE BIT FOUNDATION CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Little Bit Foundation is calling for volunteers in the St. Louis Region. [KMOV](#) and [RGSD](#) partner to promote the call!

The Little Bit Foundation's purpose is to serve under-resourced school communities and remove barriers to education. The organization provides Health & Nutrition, Essentials, Wellness & Family, Academic Equity & Enrichment and College & Career Readiness programs.

The organization serves over 14,000 students in 48 schools in the St. Louis area. Most importantly though, the Little Bit Foundation has been a key partner in serving the scholars within the Riverview Gardens School District.

Become part of a four-person team making weekly visits to a Little Bit school to deliver needed items for individual students. The time requirements are once per month up to once per week for four hours.

Interested in serving as a volunteer? Visit <https://thelittlebitfoundation.org/volunteer/>



## BE A PARENT AMBASSADOR!



RGSD is looking for Parent Ambassadors. Parent Ambassadors will help bring parent voice to the district and gain valuable leadership and advocacy training, skills and experience.

RGSD Parent Ambassadors will also help plan and facilitate PTO meetings and events, support District initiatives at school sites and help build capacity with other parents.

To qualify to serve as a Parent Ambassador, you must be a parent/guardian of a current RGSD student.

We are looking for community-oriented individuals with a commitment to providing service to others. Parent Ambassadors should be available five-to-ten hours per month to attend training, meetings and events, including some evening and weekend commitments. Interested applicants should also have the ability to communicate orally and in writing with parents, staff and District administrators. For more information, please contact Te'Ara Arman 314-869-2505 ext. 31147 or [teara.arman@rgsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:teara.arman@rgsd.k12.mo.us).

## RGSD UNVEILS ALL NEW CSIP PLAN FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The Special Administrative Board approved a new CSIP Plan for the 2023-2024 school year at the August 8 meeting. The new CSIP plan establishes a new mission and vision for the Riverview Gardens School District. It also lays out smart goals for Student Performance, Collaborative Climate & Culture, Staffing & Workforce, College & Readiness and Attendance. [LEARN MORE](#)

### RGSD MISSION:

Collaboratively educate and empower our scholars to thrive in challenging environments.

## CSIP PLAN 2023-24

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



## SOUTHWEST FOOD EXCELLENCE (SFE) WEEKLY MENU APP

Keep your scholar's weekly breakfast and lunch menu handy. Download SFE's mobile menu app, powered by Nutraslice, today! The app is available online and in the [Apple](#) and [Google Play Store](#).

The app allows you to review the daily menu, filter for allergens, and understand the nutrition behind each meal.

Menu information ... [CLICK HERE](#)

## RGSD PARTNERS WITH NEXTREQUEST FOR OPEN RECORDS FULFILLMENT

Riverview Gardens School District is an open access public school district. Since approval in February 2023, the Custodian of Records has developed a process through NextRequest to respond to incoming Missouri Sunshine Law and/or FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests. [NextRequest](#) is an online public records management software solution.

NextRequest improves the records request process by making it easy for the District to:

**Receive** records requests in a modern online portal; **Track & Process** records requests automatically; **Electronically release** records of any type or size; and though **Redaction tools** available for the entire agency. For questions or concerns regarding the records request process, please contact Sha Fields, custodian of records, at 314.869.2505 ext. 20123. [FULL STORY](#)





## CHRISTINA CLAXTON JOINS RGSD HR DEPARTMENT

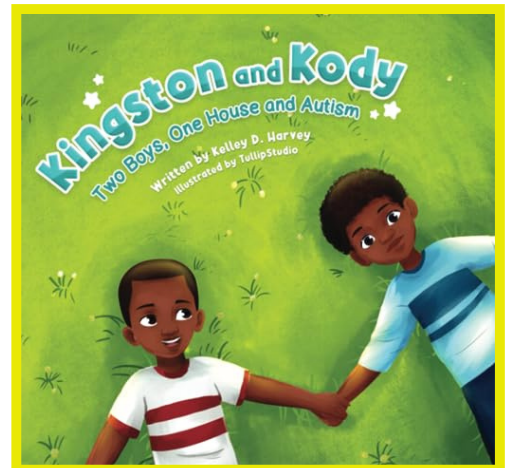
Christina Claxton has joined the Riverview Gardens School District's Human Resources team as an administrative assistant.

Claxton will assist with coordinating and implementing training and orientation programs. She will complete employment verifications. Claxton will also maintain necessary personnel data and reports for local, state and national reports and questionnaires.

"Christina Claxton is a highly effective and dedicated staff member. She works to complete her tasks with excellence and is passionate and motivated about serving our students and staff," stated Travis Ford Sr., assistant superintendent of Human Resources. [FULL STORY](#)

## GARDEN GLANCES Q&A: RGHS' KELLEY HARVEY PUBLISHES CHILDREN'S BOOK

Kelley Harvey has worked in the Riverview Gardens School District for three years as a Secretary II at Riverview Gardens High School. Harvey recently released a book, *Kingston and Kody: Two Boys, One House and Autism*. She took time out of her schedule to speak with *The Inside View*. Learn more about her writing journey, and what inspired her to write and publish the book.



### Q. What do you enjoy most about working in RGSD and/or Riverview Gardens High School?

A. I enjoy watching the transformation/growth of our scholars. To see a student start out rough at the beginning of the year and by the end of the year they're soaring, makes my heart glad.

### Q. At what point did you decide to be an author, and what was your path to publication?

A. I've always loved to write - mainly short stories, skits and plays. A friend of mine suggested I make my skits available to theater groups by putting the skits in a book and publishing it. Thus the adventure began.

### Q. What inspired you to write this book?

A. My twins, Corey and CJ. They have autism. When they were younger, they faced the stares and the laughing. CJ was even bullied at one time. I want young children to have a better understanding of autism and to know that people with autism are really no different from you and me. My hope is that they will carry that knowledge with them for the rest of their lives.



### Q. Can you tell us about the book?

"The book is about 2 brothers, Kingston and Kody. They have autism. The story is told from Kingston's point of view. He explains what autism is and how it affects him and Kody differently. [FULL Q&A](#)

# BULLETIN BOARD

St. Louis County Library

## AFTER SCHOOL MEALS

FOR SCHOLARS



LEWIS & CLARK BRANCH  
FLORISSANT VALLEY BRANCH

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 3:30 - 4:30 PM

## RAMILY MATTERS

Podcast

Episode 13



Keesha Fifo  
Principal, Koch Elementary



## RIVERVIEW GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING

Saturday, September 16


Parade 8:30 AM  
RGSD Bus Depot  
807 Chambers Rd.

Game vs Jennings 11 AM  
RGHS  
1218 Shepley Dr.

\*Tailgate Begins at 10AM at RGHS



Use QR code to register a float for the Homecoming Parade  
The Homecoming theme is "The View in the Lou"

## Riverview Gardens SCHOOL DISTRICT

### COVID-19 Parent Information & Procedures for SY 2023-24

Revised August 30, 2023

A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON  
Where Learning is Required.....

## 2023-2024 UMSL BRIDGE PROGRAM



ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EDUCATE

## SATURDAY ACADEMY

An intensive Saturday program designed to support high school students transitioning to college.

**Requirements**

- Currently enrolled in grades 9th-12th
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Enrolled in/completed Algebra
- Enrolled in St. Louis metropolitan area high school

**Class Dates + Times**

- First two Saturdays of the month from October through February from 7:45 am - 12:00 pm @ UMSL North Campus
- First class: October 7, 2023

**Other Programs**

- Parent Academy
- Summer Academy (Middle School and High School)
- ACT Summer Intensive for Rising Seniors
- Spend the Summer WRITE for Rising Seniors
- College Preparation Workshops

Apply by **September 8, 2023**

[apply.umsl.edu/register/bridgeprogram](https://apply.umsl.edu/register/bridgeprogram)



314.516.5196 • [precollegiate@umsl.edu](mailto:precollegiate@umsl.edu) • [umsl.edu/precollegiate](http://umsl.edu/precollegiate) • @umslbridgeprogram



RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Music Through The Decades

Plans - Questions - Music Trivia

## Parent Advisory Council Meeting

A VIRTUAL MEETING

A Virtual Discussion

Free & Open to ALL PARENTS

TUESDAY  
SEPT. 5th  
6:00pm to 7:00pm

Join Virtually using the link below:  
Meeting Id: 956 9008 6683  
Passcode: 152892

Speaker:   
Te'Ara Arman  
Family Engagement Specialist

For More Information: [teara.arman@rgsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:teara.arman@rgsd.k12.mo.us)



## Moline Acres Appreciation Day Parade & Festival



## Saturday, Sept. 2

# A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Schools

Greetings RGSD Stakeholders,

We've had an amazingly smooth start to the 2023-24 school year.

Our scholars are showing up every day with smiling faces and eager to learn.

Thank you, parents! As you know, attendance matters. If students aren't in school, they cannot learn. At RGSD we want to ensure that they are learning every single day.

To our staff, I want to thank you for all the hard work you did this summer with curriculum audits, conferences and Solution Tree. Special thanks also go out to our partners that participated in the Equity Conference and professional development that we completed at the beginning of the school year. Writing those nine weeks of units has proven helpful in kicking off our school year.

Additionally, we reinstated uniforms at the elementary and middle school levels. I'm proud to announce that the process has gone amazingly well.

We also instituted phone pouches at the high school. Phone pouches will be implemented at our middle schools after Labor Day. We have had a few ripples, however, that has also gone amazingly well.

Our focus this year is on ELA, Science and Mathematics. We will also focus on the district's new Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. The CSIP will be a primary focus for the entire school year as we seek to regain full accreditation.

Again, I want to ask each of you to visit the RGSD website and look at our committees. We are intent on having stakeholder, parent and student voice at all levels of decision-making within the Riverview Gardens School District.

We are also hiring at all levels - teachers, substitutes, support staff, custodial and maintenance positions.

If you are looking for a great job or know an active job seeker, please tell them to visit our website at [rgsdmo.org/jobs](https://rgsdmo.org/jobs) and sign up.

Lastly, don't forget Homecoming activities will take place on September 16. Please come out and support the Rams!



## Vision: Riverview Gardens School District will be a district where:

- There are high expectations for all.
- There will be healthy, loving, empathetic and kind relationships.
- Where students are at the center of our decisions.
- Supports are provided so students become grade level ready.
- There is transparency, accountability, timely, clear communication, and high levels of customer service.
- All stakeholders have a voice.
- There is a focus on college and career readiness.