



# THE INSIDE VIEW

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## GIBSON & MEADOWS FACE OFF IN ROBOT WARS

Scholars from Gibson and Meadows Elementary Schools participated in a Lego Robotics competition on April 12.

The Gibson Geek-Codes faced off against the Meadows ThunderBots in a rousing competition of math, science and circuitry.

Both teams did an excellent job with navigating through each stage of the competition. The event was livestreamed on the District's [YouTube](#) page.

Special thanks to The Little Bit Foundation for helping to make this event happen. They came in weekly to work with staff and scholars and helped stage an incredible event.

## RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



### IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/6 STATE BOE VISITS RGSD
- 5/7 SAB RETREAT
- 5/7 CAREER FAIR | 10AM - 1PM  
RGSD ADMINISTRATION BLDG.
- 5/10 SAB MEETING | 7PM
- 5/24 SAB & TOWN HALL MEETING  
WESTVIEW MIDDLE | 6:30PM
- 5/25 CMS PROMOTION CEREMONY  
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL | 2PM
- 5/25 ACE GRADUATION  
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL | 6PM
- 5/26 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
UMSL MARK TWAIN CTR | 6PM
- 5/27 WMS PROMOTION CEREMONY  
WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL | 6PM

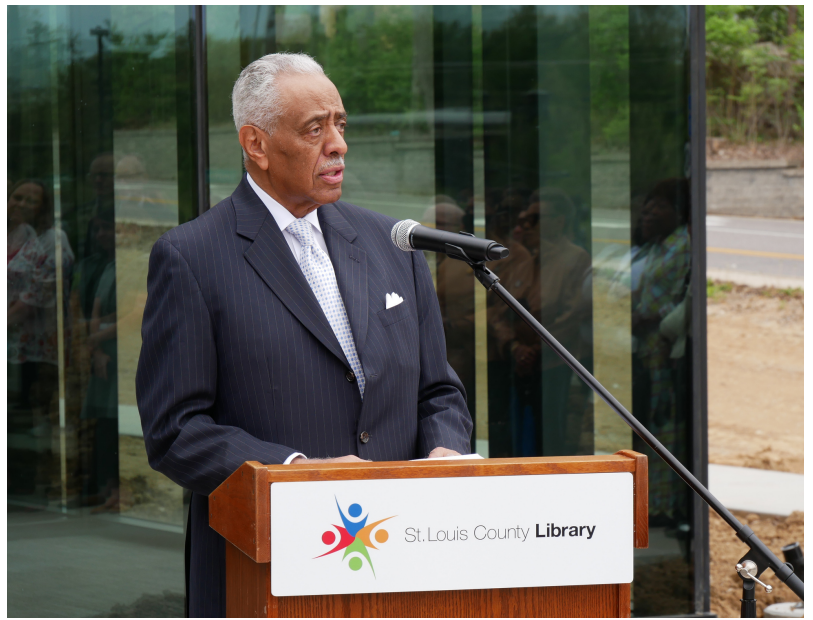


## COUNTY LIBRARY NAMES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN HONOR OF DR. LYNN BECKWITH, JR.

On April 28, the St. Louis County Library officially unveiled the Lynn Beckwith Jr. Administrative Building. Located at 1412 S. Spoeede Rd.,

The building will serve as the center of the St. Louis County Library's operations. SLCL announced that all materials processing, mobile services, program development, information technology, marketing, and administration for will be located in the new administrative headquarters.

In December, 2020, Kristen Sorth, the Director of the St. Louis County Library wrote: "The Board and employees of the St. Louis County Library would like to honor Dr. Beckwith for his unparalleled service to the Library. Dr. Beckwith has served on the Library Board since August of 2007 and has been the Board President since March of 2010."



## PRECIOUS BARRY HONORED AS SHERO & LIVING LEGEND

Riverview Gardens High School Scholar Precious Barry was honored as a Living Legend and Shero by Be the Change at the Missouri History Museum on April 22.

Barry, an amazing activist, was honored alongside 10 talented and passionate teens making a positive impact in the community.

"Being honored as a Living Legend was overwhelming," said Barry.

"As young activists, we are cultivating mindsets that we can be greater in life and we can be a part of the decision-making process."



## PARISS BARNES NAMED RGSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Pariss Barnes, a fifth-grade teacher at Danforth Elementary School was named the District's Teacher of the Year.

Barnes has served as a teacher at Danforth for two years. She earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Southeast Missouri State University.

"I decided to go into the education field because I believe that representation matters and is important for the success of future generations," Barnes stated.

"Every day I walk into my classroom I am reminded that 'a teacher's purpose is not to create a student in his own image, but to develop students who can create their own image.'"

Barnes will proceed as the representative for the Missouri State Teacher of the Year nomination. The Missouri Teacher of the Year Program is facilitated annually by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education collaboratively with the National Teacher of the Year Program.



**Lewis & Clark Branch**  
9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd. | St. Louis, MO 63136 | 314-994-3300  
Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit [www.well.org](http://www.well.org)

A large graphic for "Happy Teacher Appreciation Week". The text "happy" is in a blue cursive font, "TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK" is in large, bold, black block letters. A red play button icon is overlaid on the word "APPRECIATION". To the right is the Riverview Gardens School District logo, which includes a ram's head and the text "Riverview Gardens SCHOOL DISTRICT". Below the text are three cartoon children and a stack of colorful books with a lightbulb on top.

## SCENES FROM THE 'VIEW





## NAKIA KING NAMED PRINCIPAL OF WESTVIEW MIDDLE FOR 2022-23

Riverview Gardens School District announced the hiring of Nakia King as the principal of Westview Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year.

King will supervise the overall instructional process at Westview Middle. She will also provide instructional leadership and direction to support the professional growth of staff for positive educational change.

King currently serves as an interim assistant principal at Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School. She previously served as the principal of McKinley Classical Leadership Academy from 2018-2021 and principal of Gateway Middle School from 2016-2018.

“Nakia King brings a wealth of experience and expertise as the incoming principal at Westview Middle School,” Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D., superintendent of schools. “She is highly talented and boasts an impressive track record of success that we are confident she will continue in Riverview Gardens School District.” [FULL STORY](#)



A poster for a community forum. It features a group of diverse people. Text includes: "Community Forum with the State Board of Education", "WE INVITE PARENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, SCHOLARS &amp; STAFF TO SHARE YOUR VOICE", "An Open Discussion", "Westview Middle School", "Tuesday, May 24", "Following the Special Administrative Board meeting Starting at 6:30 P.M." and the Riverview Gardens School District logo.

A poster for a career fair. It features a child and a woman in a lab setting. Text includes: "CAREER FAIR", "Discover A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON", "Teaching, Administration, Clerical, Food Service, Maintenance, Security, Technology, Nursing, Coaching, Custodial &amp; More", "MAY 7 | 10AM - 1PM | 1370 NORTHUMBERLAND DR.", "rgsdmo.org/jobs", and a QR code.

A poster with a blue background and a white clock face at the bottom. Text includes: "NO MORE LATE START WEDNESDAYS", "All Schools Observe Regular Start Times for the Rest of the School Year", and a table of start times: High School (7:30 AM Start), Elementary (8:05 AM Start), Middle School (8:45 AM Start).

## KEESHA FIFE NAMED PRINCIPAL OF LEWIS & CLARK ELEMENTARY FOR 2022-23



Riverview Gardens School District announced the hiring of Keesha Fife as the principal of Lewis & Clark Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Fife will provide instructional leadership and direction, establish a safe, positive and academically-focused environment and address the educational needs for scholars at Lewis & Clark.

She is an accomplished teacher and with extensive experience in curriculum development with data-driven, measurable results.

“Keesha Fife possesses leadership skills and experience as a principal that make her the perfect fit to lead the scholars at Lewis & Clark Elementary,” said Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, interim superintendent. “Her strengths in communication, curriculum development and project-based teaching will benefit our scholars, staff and community.”

Fife has served as a first grade teacher at Lemasters Elementary School since 2020. She previously worked for the District as a sixth grade English Language Arts teacher from 2016-2017.

Fife also brings administrative experience as a former principal at Jackson Arts & Technology Academy in Lansing, Mich. [FULL STORY](#)



## DR. NIKETIA COLEMAN & WANDA LANE ELECTED TO SAB



Dr. Niketia Coleman

Wanda Lane

Two new board members were elected to serve on the Riverview Gardens School District's Special Administrative Board.

Dr. Niketia Coleman and Wanda Lane were elected by the voters in the District in the April 5 election. Coleman and Lane were sworn into office by Interim Superintendent Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams at the April 12 SAB meeting.

Coleman and Lane will each serve three year terms. Their election brings the total number of board members from five to seven.

Riverview Gardens School District now is comprised of a hybrid school board. Five members were appointed by the Missouri State Board of Education.

In December, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced plans to gradually transition Riverview Gardens School District back to local governance. Over the next few years, the appointed board seats will be filled by elected board members.



## KIMBERLY MOTT NAMED MATH CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Riverview Gardens School District announced the hiring of Kimberly Mott as the District's math curriculum coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mott will develop and revise the District's math curriculum to align with state standards and District goals for student achievement. She will provide support for teachers, evaluate academic programs, support PLC teams and engage teachers in various forms of professional development.



"We are happy to welcome Kimberly Mott to the team," stated Stacey Nichols, Ed.D., assistant superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. "The District and schools will greatly benefit from Ms. Mott's knowledge, skills and experience."

Mott brings skills as a capable and proven organizational leader in her new role. She will be instrumental in promoting the growth and development of students, teachers and support staff through stimulation, direction and guidance.

She has served as an instructional coach in RGSD since 2019. Mott joined the RGSD family in 2012 as a kindergarten teacher at Meadows Elementary, beginning in 2012. Mott also has experience as an early childhood educator. [FULL STORY](#)



# A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Acting Superintendent

The Riverview Gardens School District's Special Administrative Board recently approved a five percent pay increase for all employees for the 2022-2023 school year. This is not a weighted average. This means each and every employee will see the five percent increase in salary. It is our hope that in the future we are able to build on that as well. I would like to thank the SAB for approving the salary increase. Our hard working teachers, support staff and administrators have earned it.



On Friday, May 6, the State Board of Education will be visiting the District. The BOE will visit Riverview Gardens High School, Westview Middle School and Moline Elementary. During the visit the State BOE representatives will learn about the three schools they will attend, take a guided tour of the District, engage with scholars and more.

If fact, the State will be more actively engaged in the things that are taking place in our District. The State will return on May 24 for a Community Forum. I would like to encourage every teacher, every parent and every administrator to come to the Community Forum and ensure that your voice is heard!

Recently the State BOE identified three of our elementary schools as Turnaround Schools:

- Highland
- Meadows
- Lewis & Clark

As a part of being a Turnaround School, over the next four years, we will be working with an expert in turnaround schools with a guarantee that our ELA and Math scores will increase. The turnaround vendors will work with our teachers, principals and administrators to improve the curriculum, provide professional development and continue to build a positive and welcoming learning environment.

As we move forward, we're going to work more collaboratively to make a difference for our scholars. We know that we cannot do that without you. It is my hope that you will join us to continue the journey to the new view on the Horizon.

Take care and have a great week!

