

THE INSIDE VIEW



HIGHLAND FAMILY FOOD MARKET SERVES FRESH FOOD

On Thursday, Nov. 18, Highland Elementary School opened the doors to the Highland Family Food Market. The school celebrated the grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that featured local elected officials, school officials, community partners, scholars and local media in attendance. The market is a joint effort of the school, St. Louis Area Foodbank (SLAFB) and the Little Bit Foundation.

The Highland Family Food Market provides access to healthy food options for families of scholars attending Highland and Glasgow Elementary. The market offers a mix of fresh produce and dairy products, shelf-stable and frozen foods.

The market is open to families, by appointment, every Thursday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. It is also available to school staff at any time to provide for emergency student needs.

RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

11/22-11/23 RGSD WELLNESS DAYS DISTRICT CLOSED

11/24-11/26 THANKSGIVING BREAK DISTRICT CLOSED

> <u>11/30, 7PM</u> SAB MEETING

12/4, 10AM - 1PM CAREER FAIR

DISTRICT LEADERS HOST LISTENING & LEARNING TOURS WITH SCHOLARS

Scholars at Riverview Gardens High School, Central Middle School and Westview Middle School participated in "Listening & Learning Tours" with District administrators the week of Nov. 8.

The sessions were formed as a collaboration between the Departments of Student Support Services and Leadership & Accountability.



During the sessions, scholars shared how they were impacted by virtual learning in the pandemic. Many openly discussed how social anxieties, motivational challenges and outside distractions impacted their learning experience.

Scholars were also asked how schools could be improved. Suggestions included enhanced lunch options, additional elective courses, incentives and rewards for positive behavior, an increase in social events and more.

The scholars' responses were documented and will be used by school and District officials to create policies, procedures and plans to improve the learning environment, provide necessary resources and address student concerns.



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RGSD CLOSED DURING WEEK OF THANKSGIVING

The Special Administrative Board and the District administration team are appreciative of the commitment shown by RGSD faculty and staff. In order to support scholars, staff and community, Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 have been reclassified as RGSD Well-Being Days by the SAB. On these days, all schools,

District Closed Nov. 22-26 Well-Being Days + Thanksgiving

offices and departments will be closed to allow our community to focus on social and emotional health.

This means that the District will be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 22-26).

We encourage our staff, scholars and community to utilize this time to rest, relax and rejuvenate so we can return to finish out the semester strong!



Elizabeth Smith, Counselor at Highland Elementary, worked with students and staff to create this amazing Veterans Day display, honoring heroes who valiantly served to protect our freedoms.

RGSD SCENES FROM HALLOWEEN



DR. JOYLYNN PRUITT-ADAMS APPOINTED ACTING SUPERINTENDENT FOR RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Riverview Gardens School District announced the appointment of Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams as Acting Superintendent, effective November 15. Dr. Pruitt-Adams will lead the District following the announcement of Dr. Scott Spurgeon's leave of absence until June 30, 2022 and his retirement on that date. The Special Administrative Board made the appointment at its Nov. 1 meeting.



"I'm excited to be joining the Riverview Gardens School District team as the Acting Superintendent," Dr. Pruitt-Adams stated. "I'm even more excited about rolling up my sleeves, collaborating with all stakeholders as we work together to charter the next chapter for the district."

Dr. Pruitt-Adams most recently served as Superintendent of Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 in Oak Park, III. There, she built collaborative relationships, developed a culture focused on instructional reform and increased student voice at all levels of district decision making.

"Dr. Pruitt-Adams has a proven track record of leadership and effective collaboration," stated Veronica Morrow-Reel, Special Administrative Board President. "We are confident that she will make a positive and immediate impact as we educate scholars and strive to regain full accreditation."

Prior to her time at Oak Park and River Forest, Dr. Pruitt-Adams served as the Superintendent of Schools in the School District of University City. In U-City, she led efforts to increase student academic outcomes, which led to the district retaining its Full Accreditation status. She also developed partnerships with the Center for Creative Arts (COCA) and Washington University in St. Louis.

"Over the next 7.5 months, I'll be working with the Board and our dedicated team to establish a foundation that paves the way for our students to have high quality instruction in a safe environment that will set them up for future success," Dr. Pruitt-Adams stated.

Dr. Pruitt-Adams earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL). She also earned a Master of Education in Elementary Administration from UMSL and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education/Special Education from Harris-Stowe State College.