



THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 32 • DECEMBER 2023



Ms. Coleman | KG

THE LITTLE BIT FOUNDATION HELPS TO INCREASE LITERACY ONE BOOK AT A TIME IN RGSD

Two-thirds of low-income families do not have reading material in the home.

The Little Bit Foundation, RGSD's Community Partner, hosted its annual fall book fair at the Glasgow Elementary School library on November 16.

The 1-2-3 Read! program brings book fairs to every partner school once per semester. Each student can select two new age-appropriate books to keep. Little Bit volunteers read stories to the scholars while they wait to choose their books.

The goals of the 1-2-3 Read! program is to help families build scholars' in-home libraries, increase vocabulary and increase reading engagement.

RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/4 **FRECKLE MATH CHALLENGE BEGINS**
- 12/20 **END OF SECOND QUARTER/1ST SEMESTER**
- 12/21 - **WINTER BREAK**
1/2 **DISTRICT CLOSED**
- 1/3 **NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORKDAY**
- 1/9 **SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER RIBBON CUTTING**
RGHS | 4 PM
- 1/9 **SAB MEETING @ RGHS | 7 PM**
- 1/23 **SAB MEETING & TOWN HALL**
WESTVIEW MIDDLE | 6:30 PM



RGSD ATTENDANCE MATTERS

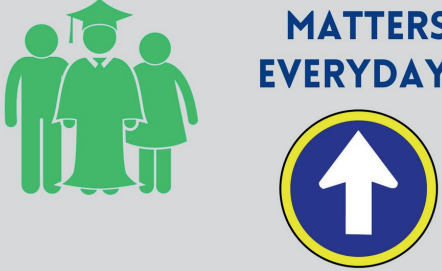
100 **Excellent**
0 School days missed in an academic year

95 **Nearly There**
9 School days missed in an academic year

90 **Concerned**
20 School days missed in an academic year

85 **Very Concerned**
30 School days missed in an academic year

ATTENDANCE MATTERS EVERYDAY



Riverview Gardens SCHOOL DISTRICT

Every minute counts towards a scholar's success. Every tardy, absence and early check-out adds up.

In a school year, if a scholar is five minutes late each day, the scholar will lose 15 hours of learning. Scholars who miss 18 days in an academic year are less proficient in reading, writing and math. To achieve academic success, all scholars must attend school daily.

Riverview Gardens School District is fully committed to the advancement of all stakeholders. We need your support in this endeavor as we strive for full accreditation.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires 90 percent of students to attend class 90 percent of the time.

Help RGSD scholars to succeed and advance by being on time each day.



Ms. Parks | KG | Lewis & Clark Elementary School

MICHELLE OBAMA HOSTS "FEAST FOR TEN" GROUP CONNECTION EVENT

The Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center Parents as Teachers program hosted a group connection event for families on November 16, from 5 PM to 7 PM at MO-ECAC.

The theme of the group connection was based on a classic children's book, "Feast for 10" by Cathryn Falwell. PAT staff read the book aloud while families were served dinner by Southwest Food Excellence (SFE), the District's food service vendor.

A group connection is one of the many components of the Parents as Teachers program. PAT offers a minimum of eight group connections per year.



RGHS BOOK CLUB HOSTS NOVEL NEIGHBORS AUTHOR

The RGHS Book Club hosted the Novel Neighbors Q & A event with author, Kendare Blake. The RGHS Book Club is sponsored by Christina Atkinson, the library media specialist at RGHS.

The Novel Neighbors Q&A was moderated by Micah L., who also serves as a student representative to the Special Administrative Board (SAB). Scholars had an opportunity to hear from Blake, learn more about her book and ask questions. All attendees received a signed copy of Blake's book, "Champion of Fate." The books were donated by the Nobel Neighbor, the non-profit arm of the Novel Neighbors.



RIVERVIEW EXCELLENCE STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER



Stanley Henderson has been named Riverview Excellence Staff Member of the Month for November 2023.

Henderson is a lead custodian at Riverview Gardens High School. He was nominated for his years of dedication to RGSD. He encourages students and staff to perform at their highest potential. He leads with integrity each day. He takes pride in ensuring the RGHS campus is clean and ready for teaching and learning.

Henderson was recognized at the December 12, 2023, SAB meeting.

DECEMBER



Myneka Martin has been named Riverview Excellence Staff Member of the Month for December 2023.

Martin is a paraprofessional at Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center.

Martin was nominated for her commitment to the scholars at MO-ECAC. Martin is pursuing a bachelor's in Early Childhood Education. Her ultimate goal is to have her classroom in RGSD. Along with her full-time job, Martin works before and aftercare at MO-ECAC. Martin enjoys volunteering and helping others.

Martin was recognized at the December 12, 2023, SAB meeting.

RONNEL "RJ" COMPENTENTE FEATURED ON KMOV NEWS



RGHS Life Sciences teacher Ronnel "RJ" Compentente was featured on KMOV news. Compentente was the subject of a story entitled, "[Teacher moves from Asia to St. Louis to teach North County students.](#)"

The story, which aired on Tuesday, Dec. 19, chronicled the teacher's decision to travel thousands of miles, from his home country in the Philippines, to the United States to teach at Riverview Gardens High School. He is one of 25 veteran international teachers teaching in the district this year.

"Seeing me from another part of the world transported and transplanted in their classrooms it gives them a different perspective," he says. [VIEW THE NEWS STORY](#)

ADRIANNE BLAKEMORE JOINS RGSD AS PROJECT AWARE COORDINATOR

Adrienne Blakemore has joined RGSD as the Project Aware coordinator.

Blakemore will manage and administer the district-level Project AWARE grant while supporting other project partners, ensuring RGSD collaborates with the community to strengthen behavioral health systems for students, families and staff. She will serve as a liaison to community-based behavioral health service providers... [LEARN MORE](#)



TAKE STEPS TO HELP YOU STAY HEALTHY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide the following recommendations to help you have a safe and healthy holiday season.



- If you are sick, stay at home.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Stay away from others who are sick.
- Wear a mask.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash your hands often.
- Open windows when possible.

For more information, visit the [CDC website](#).



TOWN HALL MEETING

TUES.
JAN 23



6:30 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
1950 Nemnich Rd | Saint Louis, MO 63136

RGSD Mission

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

RGSD 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.

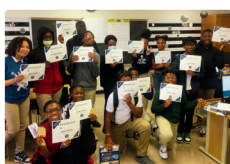
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS STUDENTS LEARN WITH LINGO CODING



In November, Central Middle School 7th- and 8th-Grade Robotics students participated in a four-day STEM programming workshop sponsored by The Little Bit Foundation.

Scholars delved into engineering and coding principles. The hands-on project culminated in the construction of an autonomous vehicle. Scholars met with guest speakers from the Intelligence and Homeland Security Division, including Deborah Davis, V.P. & G.M. at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT).

Three scholars received a \$25 gift card for being the first three students to complete the coding simulation.



PROP E PROMISES KEPT EXPANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD

Proposition E, an Operating Tax Levy Increase, was passed on the April 6, 2021 election. Expanding access to Early Childhood was included as a top priority.



Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center, is adding additional infant and toddler rooms. Prop E funds have been used to support salaries, purchase equipment, supplies, furniture and upgrade the playground. A YWCA Early Childhood satellite expansion program has also been started at Lewis & Clark Elementary School.

On Dec. 12, the SAB approved a plan to place Prop S on the April 2024 election ballot. Prop S is a no-tax rate increase bond issue for \$25,000,000. Prop S funds would cover major projects including Safety & Security issues, as well as Roofing, HVAC and Technology Upgrades.

[Learn more about Prop S.](#)

RGSD PARENT UNIVERSITY "HAPPENINGS" AT THE VIEW



Above: Quiana Chapple of Goss'Up Pasta Restaurant donated a meal for a family of eight to raffle off at the Dec. 4 PAC meeting.

The theme of the PAC meeting was inspired by the PBS KIDS series "Work It Out Wombats." Families experienced hands-on learning. There were surprise raffles, several giveaways, prizes and other incentives.



Family Engagement Specialist Te'Ara Arman is "making moves" for RGSD stakeholders.

"We have heard our parent's voices," stated Arman. "We schedule around the needs of the parents and students of our families."

On December 13, Parent University presented a Social-Emotional Awareness Workshop. Candice Cox CEO of KHAOS, INC. served as the key speaker.

In January 2024, Parent University will kick off the Second Annual Resource Fair series at several locations around the district. The scheduled dates are Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Jan. 31, and Feb. 7. The fairs will take place from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Resource fair participants can select two 25-minute workshops, stop by vendor tables, hear guest speakers and more!

2023 RGSD PARENT AMBASSADORS ANNOUNCED

Riverview Gardens School District is proud to announce three new Parent Ambassadors to RGSD Family, Pash Williams, Dominique Nash and LaTunja Glenn.

A Parent Ambassador serves at the PTO president. They are parents or guardians of RGSD scholars. Parent Ambassadors actively work to support their child's school and positively promote programs, services, events and activities to Riverview Gardens families and community members.

All Parent Ambassadors are interviewed and screened. They must pass a mandatory background check to work in the school buildings.

Pash Williams will serve as the parent ambassador at Koch Elementary School. Dominique Nash will serve as the parent ambassador at Westview Middle School. LaTunja Glenn will serve as the parent ambassador at Riverview Gardens High School. Glenn will serve at Central Middle School as well.



Pash Williams
Koch Elementary School



Dominique Nash
Westview Middle School



LaTunja Glenn
RGHS / Central Middle

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Congrats!

BULLETIN BOARD



Seasons Greetings
DISTRICT CLOSED
DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 2
 JANUARY 3, 2024 - TEACHER WORKDAY



rgsd.k12.mo.us/election  *RiverView Gardens*
 SCHOOL DISTRICT

BECOME AN **RGSD** SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Candidate Filing
 Dec. 5 - Dec. 26

Two Seats on the April 2024 Ballot

SPECIAL INFORMATION
 WILL BE GIVEN TO ASPIRING SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES AT THE 11/28 SAB MEETING. THERE WILL BE TWO SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS ON THE APRIL 2024 BALLOT. SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE



Commit to Creating a New View on the Horizon




Join a committee!



RiverView Gardens
 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Ferguson Metro Plaza-Lower Level
 3156 Pershall Rd Suite 152
 Ferguson, MO 63136

Open Tuesday
 (Closed on the 5th Tuesday of Each Month)
9AM-12:30PM



For more information contact: 314-795-4753



RAMILY FAMILY SAFETY FIRST

Safety is a crucial aspect of our daily lives. It is important to take precautions to ensure our well-being and the safety of those around us. Here are some safety tips that can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

USE CAUTION WHEN DRIVING

- Always wear your seatbelt while driving and obey traffic rules.
- Avoid distracted driving by not using your phone or other devices while driving.

STRANGER DANGER

- Be cautious with strangers: Never share personal information with strangers or accept rides from them.
- Teach children about stranger danger and how to stay safe.



STAY ALERT!

Always be aware of your surroundings, especially when you are in public places. Be mindful of potential hazards such as slippery floors, uneven sidewalks, and traffic.



KEEP YOUR HOME SECURE

Make sure your doors and windows are locked when you leave the house. Install good quality locks and security systems to deter burglars from targeting your home.




PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY

Install smoke detectors in your home and check them regularly to ensure they are working properly. Have a fire escape plan in place and practice it with your family.

REMEMBER

Safety should always be a top priority. These tips can help you stay safe in a variety of situations and prevent accidents from happening.



All students who are not fully immunized by January 8, 2024 will be excluded from school.

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINICS


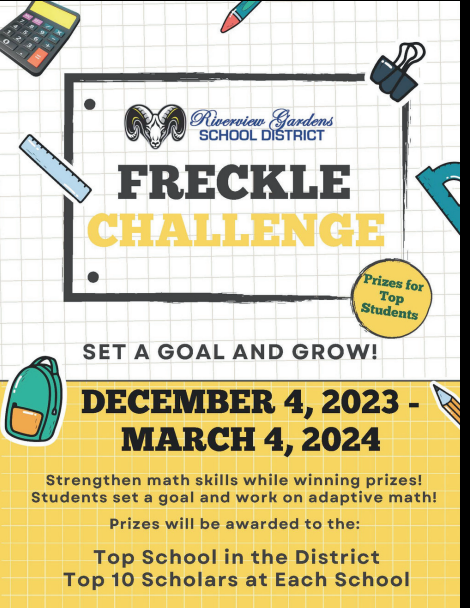
Children's Hospital's Health Kids Express Mobile Van will host several vaccination clinics at different RGSD schools from 9AM - 1PM on the following dates:

- 1/4 @ WESTVIEW MIDDLE
- 1/5 @ CENTRAL MIDDLE

CareSTL will host vaccination clinics at the R.A.M.S Clinic on the campus of Riverview Gardens High School. Parents can schedule appointments for Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.
 Call 314-882-1284

Immunizations are also available at The John C. Murphy Health Center
 6121 North Hanley, Berkeley, MO 63134
 Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM. For more info, call 314-615-0500.

Consent Forms Needed in advance of appointments. Click to complete consent or contact your school nurse.

RiverView Gardens
 SCHOOL DISTRICT

FRECKLE CHALLENGE

Prizes for Top Students

SET A GOAL AND GROW!

DECEMBER 4, 2023 - MARCH 4, 2024

Strengthen math skills while winning prizes!
 Students set a goal and work on adaptive math!

Prizes will be awarded to the:
Top School in the District
Top 10 Scholars at Each School



A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Schools

Greetings RGSD Stakeholders,



The Riverview Gardens School District's Special Administrative Board voted Tuesday, Dec. 12 to remove "interim" from the title of Dr. Tanya Patton. In October, the SAB chose Dr. Patton to lead Riverview Gardens following my upcoming retirement at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. Patton will serve as the permanent superintendent beginning July 1, 2024.

The board made its decision to help give continuity in District leadership in light of upcoming changes for the 2024-25 school year, including retirements and a planned reorganization of Central Services.

"Dr. Tanya Patton has the full support and confidence of the Special Administrative Board," stated SAB President Veronica Morrow-Reel. "By removing the interim designation, we can reassure District stakeholders that her strong leadership will continue as we build a successful learning community."

We look forward to realizing the new view on the horizon, where learning is required, under Patton's leadership. Riverview Gardens School District is in great hands!

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire RGSD community. Thank you to the scholars, staff members, parents, community partners and the greater RGSD community for making each and every day a memorable one.

From as early as I can remember, I always wanted to be a teacher. While other kids in my neighborhood had dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers, scientists, entrepreneurs, athletes and more, I knew from the very beginning that I wanted to teach. It is a great pleasure to serve as the superintendent of Riverview Gardens School District. It has truly been a gift to guide alongside this amazing community over the past two years.

For Riverview to succeed, we will need the continued support and engagement of the entire community. On Tuesday, January 23, RGSD will host its first Town Hall of the 2023-24 school year. At the Town Hall, I will provide a State of the District update. We will also present the updated Annual Progress Report data with District stakeholders.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Jan. 23 Town Hall. We need your voice, your commitment and your buy-in to help the scholars of Riverview Gardens reach their full potential. We are hard at work to improve all aspects of learning in the District. To achieve our goal of regaining full accreditation, we must collectively roll up our sleeves and put in the work necessary to achieve success. As educators, parents, scholars, residents and responsible citizens, it is our duty to work to do whatever it takes to support our young people.

Please, enjoy the holiday season. Spend time with your families and loved one. Rest. Rejuvenate. Recharge. Then let's come back together in 2024 and make the second semester a smashing success. Happy holidays!

