



# THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 37 • JUNE 2024



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INCREDIBLE RGHS CLASS OF 2024



Riverview Gardens High School's class of 2024 celebrated a significant milestone in their lives with faculty, staff, family and friends during the commencement ceremony at the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Thursday, May 23.

RGHS scholars will continue their education in universities, colleges, and trade schools and enter the workforce to impact the community.

The Class of 2024's achievements have not gone unnoticed. The senior class earned more than \$14 million in college scholarships.

Congratulations to the class of '24 and best of luck in all your future endeavors. Remember, this is just the beginning of many more accomplishments to come! [PHOTO SLIDESHOW](#)

## RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



### IMPORTANT DATES

- 6/19 JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY  
DISTRICT CLOSED
- 6/20 SPECIAL SAB MEETING | 7PM
- 6/20-6/28 CENTRALIZED REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE - RGHS LIBRARY
- 6/25 SAB MEETING | 7PM
- 6/26 RGSD CAREER FAIR | 4PM
- 7/4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY  
DISTRICT CLOSED
- 7/9 SAB MEETING | 7PM
- 7/8-7/12 CENTRALIZED REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE - RGHS LIBRARY

**ENJOY THE SUMMER**

## HARD WORK AND DEDICATION ARE CELEBRATED AT ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD & PROMOTION CEREMONIES

Schools in Riverview Gardens School District held award and promotion ceremonies to celebrate and recognize scholars' academic excellence and achievements.

During the ceremonies, scholars were presented with awards, certificates and special recognition for their stellar performance in various categories.

RGSD would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to faculty, staff, scholars, parents and community members for a fantastic school year.

And don't forget, if your scholar will be returning to Riverview Gardens School District for the 2024-25 school year, be sure to complete the online enrollment process (Grades K-12) as soon as possible. Pre-K scholars must be enrolled in person at Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PROMOTION PHOTO GALLERY](#)



## SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE VIEW



RGSD scholars needing intervention in Reading & Math must attend the Spring Forward Reading & Math program. Parents were notified directly from their scholar's home school if the scholar was required to enroll in Spring Forward.

Spring Forward will be held from June 3 - June 28, 2024. The program will operate daily, Monday through Friday from 8:15 am to 1:30 pm, Grades K-5 will held at Meadows Elementary School and Gibson Elementary School. Grades 6-8 will be held at Central Middle School and Westview Middle School.

RGSD will also host the Launch Virtual Reading & Math programs for elementary and middle school scholars. Launch offers extensive recovery opportunities for scholars. Teachers are available Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Teachers will offer one-on-one support for scholars. [LEARN MORE INFO HERE](#)

## LOGAN UNIVERSITY COMES TO RGHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Logan University partnered with Riverview Gardens High School to provide no-cost sports physicals for RGHS scholar-athletes. At the event, more than 35 medical professionals administered sports physicals to 65 scholar-athletes in the RGHS gymnasium.

Sports physicals are required for all scholars who wish to participate in the high school sports program. The physicals will allow athletes to participate in sports and are valid for two years.

Thank you, Logan University for your support to the RGSD scholars!



### 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.

## RGSD WELCOMES DR. AMY BLACKWELL TO KOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Riverview Gardens School District named Amy Blackwell, Ed.D., principal of Koch Elementary School for the 2024-25 school year.

Blackwell will lead school operations and provide instructional leadership and direction to support the professional growth of the Koch team. She will study the educational needs of scholars attending the school and develop plans for meeting identified needs. Blackwell will also establish and maintain a safe, positive and academically-focused learning environment.

"I plan to improve social-emotional support, increase academic rigor, and provide innovative experiences to all scholars by using Koch Elementary School as a hub to nurture the surrounding community," Blackwell stated.

"There are many opportunities for growth within the community and I want to be a part of the team that guides Riverview Gardens School District back to greatness," she added.

[READ MORE ABOUT BLACKWELL.](#)



## Laura Erickson Joins Meadows Elementary School as Assistant Principal

Laura Erickson has been selected to serve as assistant principal at Meadows Elementary School.

As assistant principal, Erickson will support teachers in maintaining instructional focus and improving student achievement. She will provide educational leadership and sustain a school atmosphere that supports and encourages the personal growth of faculty, staff and students.

Erickson began her journey in RGSD as an instructional coach at Gibson Elementary in 2018. Before joining Gibson, she served as a classroom teacher at Clay Elementary School in the Saint Louis Public Schools.

“Laura Erickson is a welcome addition to the Meadows Elementary team,” stated Principal Windy Winfield, Ed.D. “She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as an instructional coach and classroom teacher.”

Erickson received the Apple of the Teacher Award from the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority (Alpha Zeta chapter) in November 2023. [READ MORE ABOUT ERICKSON.](#)



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## Courtney Rachel Named Associate Principal at RGHS



Courtney Rachel has been named associate principal at Riverview Gardens High School.

As associate principal, Rachel will serve as the lead assistant to Principal Jarret Smith, Ed.D. Rachel will be charged with providing the educational leadership to create and maintain a school atmosphere that supports and encourages the personal growth of faculty, staff, and students.

She will supervise scholars, teachers and building support staff personnel. She will also help to develop and maintain a positive school culture at Riverview Gardens High School.

Rachel currently serves as an assistant principal at Central Middle School. She is also a proud graduate of Riverview Gardens High School.

“I am excited that Courtney Rachel will be joining the leadership team at Riverview Gardens High School,” stated Traci Nave, the incoming assistant superintendent of Leadership & Accountability.

“Rachel has a proven track record and possesses the experience and positive relationships with scholars and parents to be a successful associate principal at RGHS,” Nave added.

[READ MORE ABOUT RACHEL](#)





End of the Year



Staff Celebration



# BULLETIN BOARD

## REGISTER FOR SCHOOL NOW!

GENERAL REGISTRATON IS OPEN FOR ALL STUDENTS



Click or Scan QR Code to Register

- REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE STUDENTS MUST REGISTER EACH YEAR
- PARENTS LOG-IN INFORMATION WILL BE NEEDED TO ENROLL ONLINE
- USE EMAIL & PASSWORD PREVIOUSLY USED, SAME INFORMATION USED TO ACCESS YOUR STUDENT'S GRADES
- IF YOU HAVE LOST YOUR LOG-IN INFORMATION, YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR STUDENT'S SCHOOL TO RESET YOUR LOG-IN



There's a New View on the Horizon!

- NEW PARENTS**
- MUST CREATE AN ACCOUNT
  - CLICK "PARENT" TAB
  - CLICK "REGISTER NEW FAMILY"

Register here:

## STEAM & SPACE DAY

POWERED BY CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

Giveaways! Prizes!

### Join us for a FREE STEAM & Space Day!

Bring the whole family and explore hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, and Space-themed activities!

Free lunch! June 22, 2024 10:00AM-3:00PM Space Missions!

STEAM Academy at McCluer South Berkeley  
201 Brotherton Lane, Ferguson, MO 63135

Contact: info@clstlouis.org

## SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM!

- Free breakfast and lunch must be consumed on-site, NO RSVP required!
- Children 18 or younger must reside in RGSD's attendance area
- No adult meals served
- Children receiving meals must be present



## JUNE 3 - JUNE 28

**Breakfast Served**  
Monday - Thursday  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Lunch Served**  
Monday - Thursday  
10:30 AM - 12 PM

### Participating RGSD Schools

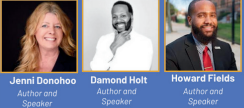
Michelle Obama ECAC  
Gibson Elementary  
Glasgow Elementary  
Lewis & Clark Elementary  
Meadows Elementary  
Moline Elementary  
Central MS  
Westview MS  
RGHS



## 2024 EQUITY IN ACTION CONFERENCE

Theme: **Equity Now, Success Tomorrow**

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Richard Milner**  
bestselling author of *These Kids Are Out of Control*



- Exclusive Screening:**
- Creating a Positive Class Culture
  - The Impact of Beliefs on Student Achievement
  - A Framework for Practicing Self Love

REGISTER NOW!



9 & 10 July 2024 at 8:30 AM

Westview Middle School  
1950 Nemnich Rd.  
St. Louis, MO. 63136



## RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Registration Event

Please visit RGHS for assistance with school registration for the 2024-25 school year on the dates below:

June 25 - 8:00am - 7:00pm  
June 26 - 8:00am - 4:30pm  
June 27 - 8:00am - 7:00pm  
June 28 - 8:00am - 12:00pm

July 8 - 8:00am - 4:30pm  
July 9 - 8:00am - 7:00pm  
July 10 - 8:00am - 4:30pm  
July 11 - 8:00am - 7:00pm  
July 12 - 8:00am - 12:00pm

**Required Documentation**

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Proof of Residency (Past 30 Days)

Riverview Gardens High School  
Library / Building 1  
1218 Shepley Drive

## SUMMERTIME SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION & HEALTH SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES



Riverview Gardens SCHOOL DISTRICT

## RGSD CLIMATE & CULTURE SURVEYS



We need your feedback!

SURVEY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 28



## PARENTS AS TEACHERS

PAT is a free parent education and support program that serves families from prenatal to kindergarten entry. PAT is offered to families that reside in the Riverview Gardens School District. PAT provides certified parent educators, home visits, developmental screenings, and resource connections.

To follow PAT on Facebook scan the QR code below:

Riverview Gardens SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Riverview Gardens School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, including employment and admissions, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). All forms of sex-based discrimination are prohibited in the district, but this policy focuses exclusively on sexual harassment as defined in Title IX that occurs within the education programs and activities of the district. However, the district will respond promptly to investigate and address any report or complaint of sexual harassment.

## SUPERINTENDENT DR. JOYLYNN PRUITT-ADAMS SAYS FAREWELL TO RGSD TO EMBARK ON RETIREMENT JOURNEY

Superintendent Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D., is retiring after 47 years in education. Dr. Pruitt-Adams joined RGSD in November 2021.

This will mark Dr. JPA's third retirement.

Pruitt-Adams served as the Superintendent of Schools in the Oak Park and River Forest High School District in Oak Park, Illinois. She also served as the Superintendent of Schools in the School District of University City.

"It's an honor to be able to do what I've always had a passion for," Pruitt-Adams stated.

"I plan to relax, spend time with my husband, my fur baby, Chewbacca, kids and family, and take it one day at a time," she added.

"To the faculty & staff here at Riverview School District, your impact on my life is immeasurable. Thank you for allowing me to be your superintendent for the past two-and-a-half years."

Congratulations, Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams! Thank you for your service to scholars. Your retirement is well-deserved!



## PARADE OF APPRECIATION FOR DR. JPA



RGSD faculty, staff, and scholars organized surprise retirement parades for Superintendent Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D.

Pruitt-Adams is set to retire after more than 40 years as an educator.

During the parades, she was presented with flowers, signs, hugs, and laughs from scholars and staff at each RGSD school.

Pruitt-Adams was shocked and overjoyed by the outpouring of love from the RGSD community.

Special thanks to Clement Auto Group for providing vehicles for the parades.

Happy Retirement. Thank you for your service to the RGSD stakeholders!

— HAPPY —  
*Retirement*

# A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Schools

Greetings RGSD Stakeholders,

As the 2023-2024 school year officially comes to a close, I am filled with immense gratitude as I reflect on our journey together for the past two-and-a-half years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your superintendent. I thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support and commitment to the scholars in Riverview Gardens School District.



For more 40 years, I have dedicated my career to the field of education, inspired by the profound impact that teaching and learning have on our lives. Throughout my journey, I have been fortunate to witness remarkable growth and achievements of students and the dedication and passion of teachers and staff.

Though my career has taken me to several destinations, I can truly say that my time in Riverview Gardens has been the most fulfilling and impactful of my career. Together, we have navigated through seemingly insurmountable challenges, celebrated successes, and continuously strived to provide the best educational experience for our scholars. Your support has been a cornerstone of our success. Continued and increased support will be needed for RGSD to continue on its trajectory to regain full accreditation.

As I step away, into retirement, I am confident in the leadership and vision of Dr. Tanya Patton. Dr. Patton is an intelligent, dedicated and capable leader who will thrive as the next superintendent of Riverview Gardens School District. Her leadership has already transformed the district's Student Support Services department. I fully expect that she will have continued success as superintendent.

Our district is home to incredibly talented and dedicated educators and staff. I have no doubt that they will continue to inspire and support our students in reaching their fullest potential.

To the students, you have been my greatest inspiration. Your curiosity, resilience, and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind my commitment to education. Despite the narrative that is sometimes shared on news, social media or in gossip circles, you have proven time and time again that you are brilliant, talented and creative. You have the potential to change the world. I believe in you!

To the parents and guardians, your involvement and trust have been invaluable in creating a supportive learning environment. To the teachers and staff, your dedication and hard work have made a lasting difference in the lives of countless students. And to the community members and partners, your collaboration and support have enriched our educational programs and initiatives.

Thank you all for making my career in education so fulfilling and meaningful. I leave with cherished memories and a heart full of gratitude, confident that the future of our schools is bright.

With deepest appreciation,

Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D.

