



# THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 36 • MAY 2024



## RGSD'S FINE ARTS FESTIVAL OFFERS A NIGHT OF ENRICHMENT FOR FAMILIES



On Thursday, April 25, RGSD hosted the District Fine Arts Festival at Westview Middle School. Art, dance, music and theater were celebrated.

Scholars were provided a platform at the event to showcase their 2 & 3-dimensional artwork displays, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, and ceramics. Visitors explored the displays and interacted with the artist.

The fine arts portion featured phenomenal performances by the RGHS Concert Band, CMS Choir, Westview Theatre Troupe, WMS Band and School Choir, CMS Dance Team, Elementary Mass Choir, RGHS Jazz Band, RGHS Concert Choir and Marching Band.

Special thanks to RGSD scholars, staff, RGSD parents and community members for making this event a huge success.  
[PHOTOS](#)

## RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



### IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/21 **MO-DOT PUBLIC MEETING | 4PM**  
**1370 NORTHUMBERLAND DR.**
- 5/21 **CSIP STEERING COMMITTEE MTG**  
**RGHS LIBRARY | 5:30 PM**
- 5/22 **RGSD CAREER FAIR | 4PM**
- 5/23 **RGHS COMMENCEMENT | 6PM**  
**UMSL - MARK TWAIN CENTER**
- 5/27 **MEMORIAL DAY | DISTRICT CLOSED**
- 5/28 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL | EARLY RELEASE**
- 5/28 **SAB MEETING | 7PM**
- 5/29 **TEACHER WORK DAY**
- 6/11 **SAB MEETING | 7PM**

# ELEMENTARY SCHOLARS HONORED AT THE "DO THE RIGHT THING" EVENT

Two RGSD Elementary School scholars were honored at this year's annual "Do The Right Thing" program recognition event, Daya B., Highland Elementary School, and A' Journi C., Glasgow Elementary School were honored at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Illinois.

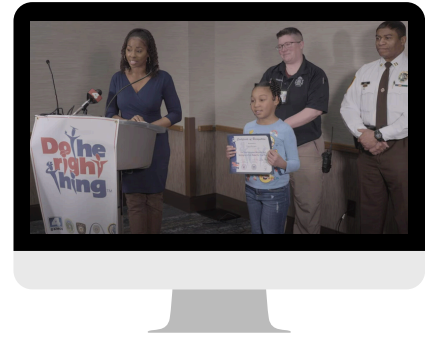
Daya B. was nominated by Officer Jackson. He recognized Daya for her good grades, excellent attendance, and outstanding behavior the entire school year.

"She's respectful, kind and responsible and she is a strong example of Riverview Excellence," stated Hannah Stout, principal at Highland Elementary.

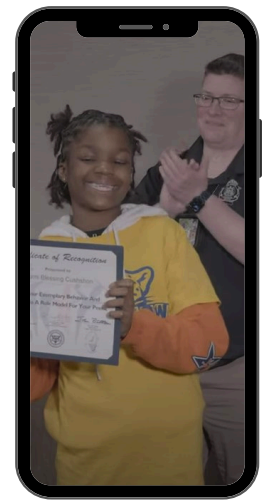
A'Journi C., was nominated by Rachel Dorsey, the classroom teacher for making a difference at Glasgow Elementary. A'Journi is the Class Assistant and assisted the TA with classroom management and instruction when her teacher had a family emergency.

"Her classmates nicknamed her 'Mother Teresa,'" stated Dorsey.

The "Do The Right Thing" program was formed in 1994 with the partnership between the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, St. Louis County Police Department, KMOV-TV, Suburban Journals and the Cooperating Schools Districts of Greater St. Louis, Inc. The program recognizes scholars whom parents, teachers, and the community have nominated, based on heroic acts, service to the community, and good behavior. [YOUTUBE VIDEO](#)



DAYA B.  
Highland Elementary School



A'JOURNI C.  
Glasgow Elementary School



## ARMAN & WILLIAMS JOIN KSDK'S SHOW ME ST. LOUIS

Te'Ara Arman, RGSD's family engagement specialist, and Pash Williams, a parent ambassador, visited KSDK's Show Me St. Louis.

Arman and Williams highlighted the district's resources and parent engagement activities. They also encouraged parents to be active in their children's education. [WATCH](#)



## DR. JPA & DR. TANYA PATTON JOIN FOX 2'S STUDIO STL

RGSD Superintendent Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D., and Assistant Superintendent Tanya Patton, Ed.D., joined Fox 2's Studio STL.

Pruitt-Adams and Patton highlighted the \$14 million in scholarships earned by RGHS scholars, discussed Patton stepping into the role of superintendent for the 2024-2025 school year and promoted the District to job seekers. [WATCH](#)

## MORROW-REEL, WILLIAMS ELECTED TO SCHOOL BOARD, COLEMAN NAMED PRESIDENT

Veronica Morrow-Reel and Monica Williams were elected to serve three-year terms on the Riverview Gardens District Board of Education in the April 2 election. Williams earned 33% of the vote and Morrow-Reel earned 24.2% of the vote. Congratulations!

During a reorganization, Dr. Niketia Coleman was unanimously elected to serve as school board president.

On Tuesday, April 9, Veronica Morrow-Reel and Monica Williams were sworn-in as elected members following the election. With the installation of Morrow-Reel and Williams, the Riverview Gardens School District's Special Administrative Board transitioned from a hybrid board of appointed and elected directors into a fully elected school board.

The RGSD School Board is no longer known as the SAB Board... [READ MORE](#)



Veronica Morrow-Reel and Monica Williams



Riverview Gardens School District Special Administrative Board

## RGSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING & DESE PUBLIC HEARING RECAP



On Tuesday, April 23, RGSD held a School Board Meeting and DESE Public Hearing at Gibson Elementary School. District stakeholders had an opportunity to share their voices. Learn more about the state of the district and share feedback. Stakeholders also received updates about the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).



District leaders set up five stations to go in-depth with attendees on the progress of each CSIP strand. The sessions included topics related to Collaborative Cultures, Attendance, Staffing & Workforce and College and Career Readiness.

All sessions were led by the CSIP Steering Committee and subcommittee leaders. Stakeholders were presented with evidence-based data and allowed to share their perspectives and ideas to drive change at RGSD.



During the SAB meeting, three Meadows Elementary scholars were... [READ MORE](#)

## RGSD'S PARENTS AS TEACHERS LANDS \$1800 GRANT

Riverview Gardens School District's Parent as Teachers Program (PAT) was awarded an \$1800 grant from Books for STL Kids. The grant will provide free books to scholars and families.

The Parents as Teachers Program partners with RGSD's Michelle Obama Early Childhood to provide families with young children a cohesive package of services.

Books for STL is a non-profit organization that seeks to increase access to new books for children of under-resourced families, inspiring their love of reading... [READ MORE](#)



## 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.

## TE'ARA ARMAN NOMINATED FOR THE LAURIE HORNE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AWARD



Congratulations to Te'ara Arman, RGSD's Family Engagement Specialist for being nominated for the Laurie Horne Family Engagement Award. The prestigious award recognizes excellence & innovation in family engagement. Nominees were celebrated at the gala on April 25, at the Raleigh Marriott City Center with the National PTA and the U.S. Department of Education.



### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Jenni Donohoo**  
Author and Speaker



**Diamond Holt**  
Author and Speaker



**Howard Fields**  
Author and Speaker

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



### Exclusive Screening :



**REGISTER NOW!**

### Topics:

- ✓ Creating a Positive Class Culture
- ✓ The Impact of Beliefs on Student Achievement
- ✓ A Framework for Practicing Self Love



**9 & 10 July 2024 at 8:30 AM**



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



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR & SUPPORT STAFF WALK OF FAME CEREMONY

Riverview Gardens School District recognized the teachers of the year, building support staff of the year staff and the district teacher of the year at the "RGSD Walk of Fame" Ceremony at Riverview Gardens High School on Thursday, May 2nd.

The evening was brimming with festivities, award presentations, a delicious dinner and captivating entertainment. The RGHS jazz band and Gentlemen of Vision (G.O.V.) provided the entertainment.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fabulous event.

## DR. AMY BLACKWELL NAMED PRINCIPAL OF KOCH ELEMENTARY



Dr. Amy Blackwell will join Koch Elementary to serve as principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

Blackwell currently serves as the interim principal at Clyde C. Miller High School. She previously served as an assistant principal at Vashon High School and a dean of students in the Normandy School Collaborative. Full announcement coming soon!

## COURTNEY RACHEL NAMED ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL AT RGHS



Courtney Rachel will join Riverview Gardens High School as the associate principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

Rachel currently serves as an assistant principal at Central Middle School. She previously served as a social studies teacher, PBIS school counselor and substitute teacher in RGSD. Full announcement coming soon!

## LAURA ERICKSON NAMED ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT GIBSON

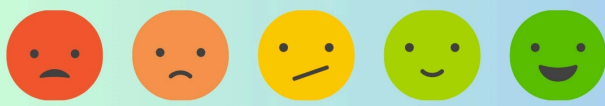


Laura Erickson will join Meadows Elementary School as assistant principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

Erickson has served as an instructional coach at Gibson Elementary School since 2018. She previously served as a classroom teacher at Clay Elementary in St. Louis Public Schools. Full announcement coming soon!

# BULLETIN BOARD

## RGSD CLIMATE & CULTURE SURVEYS



*We need your feedback!*

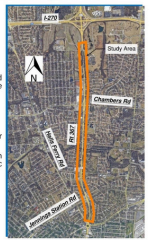
**SURVEY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 7**



Join Us!

**Route 367 Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
**4 – 6 p.m.**

Riversview Gardens School District 1370  
 Northumberland Dr., St. Louis, MO 63137



**Who Should Attend?**

Residents, business owners, civic leaders, and all users of Route 367 from south of Interstate 270 to north of the Halls Ferry Circle.

**Why Attend?**

Meet with MoDOT staff and the study team to provide your input for the Route 367 Corridor Study. Engineers will provide safety, speed, and crash data along with current and projected traffic volumes.

**We Need Your Input!**

1. Local crash patterns
2. Safety concerns when using Route 367
3. Potential solutions

**How To Participate?**

1. Phone: 1-888-ASK-MODOT
2. Meeting: May 21 from 4 – 6 p.m. at Riversview Gardens School District, 1370 Northumberland, St. Louis, MO 63137
3. Website: <https://rgsd.mo.gov/Route367>

Project survey will be open from May 21 – June 4, 2024.

Learn More Here!



*The Riversview 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.*

## RAMILY MATTERS

*Podcast*

Episode 23



Travis Brown, Jr.  
 Lemasters Elementary School  
 Principal

## RGSD COMMUNICATIONS REQUEST PROTOCOL

All calendar event details, dates, and requests for Communications Department coverage should be sent to [communications@rgsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:communications@rgsd.k12.mo.us)



UPCOMING EVENTS



*Commit to Creating a New View on the Horizon*



Join a committee!



## 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 Riversview 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:



# GRADUATION & PROMOTION CEREMONIES

## RIVERVIEW GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL



**COMMENCEMENT**  
UMSL - MARK TWAIN CTR  
THURSDAY, MAY 23  
6:00-7:00 PM



# 2024



## ACE - ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM



**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING  
GRADUATION**  
TUESDAY, MAY 21  
FAMILY & COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
1160 ST. CYR RD.  
3:00 - 5:00 PM

## CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



**8TH GRADE PROMOTION**  
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22  
1:00 PM

## ACE - ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM



**ALTERNATIVE LEARNING  
GRADUATION**  
TUESDAY, MAY 21  
FAMILY & COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
1160 ST. CYR RD.  
3:00 - 5:00 PM

## GIBSON ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
9:00 AM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
TUESDAY  
MAY 28  
10:30 AM

## HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
9:00 AM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
1:00 PM

## LEMASTERS ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
THURSDAY  
MAY 23  
1:00 PM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
5:30 PM

## KOCH ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
10:00 AM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
11:30 AM

## LEMASTERS ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
THURSDAY  
MAY 23  
1:00 PM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
5:30 PM

## LEWIS & CLARK ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
9:00 AM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
11:00 AM

## MEADOWS ELEMENTARY



**KINDERGARTEN  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
9:00 AM

**5TH GRADE  
PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY  
MAY 24  
11:00 AM

## MOLINE ELEMENTARY



**3RD-4TH  
GRADE  
AWARDS**  
THURSDAY  
MAY 23  
8:45 AM

**KDG-2ND  
GRADE  
AWARDS**  
THURSDAY  
MAY 23  
10:15 AM

**5TH GRADE  
AWARDS**  
TUESDAY  
MAY 28  
10:00 AM

## MICHELLE OBAMA ECAC



**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROMOTION**  
FRIDAY, MAY 24  
FAMILY & COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
1160 ST. CYR RD.  
12:00 PM & 2:00 PM

## WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL



**8TH GRADE PROMOTION**  
WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22  
1:30 PM

For an up-to-date list of graduation and promotion ceremonies, visit  
<https://www.rgsdmo.org/graduations>

# A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Schools



Greetings RGSD Stakeholders,

On behalf of Central Services, I want to wish the amazing teachers of Riverview Gardens School District Happy Teachers Appreciation Week (May 6–10). I would also like to recognize our dedicated nursing staff for National Nurses Week.

On behalf of the District Leadership Team, we want to thank you for your dedication, passion and commitment to our scholars. Know that all you do to educate and support them has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate your work, your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment. You are inspiring!

I also would like to offer sincere gratitude to the faculty and staff members who will celebrate their retirement on Thursday, May 16.

## **SURVEY TIME!**

Effective schools recognize the vital role of stakeholders in shaping their climate and culture. The input from RGSD stakeholders, including students, faculty and staff, parents, community leaders, residents and partners provides a comprehensive perspective on the overall school environment.

The District conducted a climate and culture survey in the fall and shared the results with the community at an SAB meeting, a town hall meeting, via newsletters and by posting the results online. As we approach the end of the 2023–2024 school year, it is important to conduct a follow-up survey to assess how we have done.

Several changes were made following the results of previous surveys including increased student and staff recognition, the implementation of a Support Staff of the Year recognition, the outsourcing of the food service program, enhanced community partnerships, such as Clement Auto's Drive for Excellence program, increased parent engagement via the Parent Ambassadors program, the creation of the Ramily Matters Podcast to highlight scholars and staff and more.

In order to identify necessary changes and sustain continuous improvement in the climate and culture of the district, we must make informed, data-driven decisions. Your participation in the survey, through open and honest feedback, will help district leadership prioritize initiatives that address the specific needs and concerns of the RGSD community.

## **BE GREAT!**

Lastly, as we approach the graduation and promotion season, I would like to congratulate all the amazing scholars in Riverview Gardens School District. Riverview Gardens High School's Class of 2024 has endured many challenges and changes due to the COVID pandemic. Your high school experience was very different than your parents', however, as you near the finish line, know that you persevered through unimaginable obstacles and are still standing tall.

RGHS scholars have earned more than \$14M in college scholarships! Many others will go straight into the workforce and become successful and productive professionals. I am extremely proud of every scholar who fought through the obstacles