



# THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 7 • JUNE 2021



## COMMUNITY PRIDE AS C/O 2021 PARADES ACROSS STAGE

The Riverview Gardens High School Class of 2021 celebrated in style as the high school hosted its second consecutive campus graduation parade. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RGHS elected to eschew the traditional high school graduation ceremony in lieu of a drive-through style event. While the event lacked formal commencement speeches, it overflowed with family and community pride.

Families of RGHS graduates decorated their vehicles with photos, artwork, banners and balloons and proudly drove through the high school's circle drive. Each graduate was announced and walked across the stage to receive their hard-earned diplomas. Meanwhile, family members cheered and gathered for photos to celebrate the accomplishments of their newly-minted graduates.

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### RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



#### IMPORTANT DATES

- 6/26 - CAREER FAIR  
WESTVIEW MIDDLE - **10AM-1PM**
- 6/28 - COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC  
GIBSON ELEMENTARY - **12-6PM**
- 6/30 - END OF EARLY REGISTRATION  
FOR RETURNING SCHOLARS
- 7/05 - INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY  
OBSERVED - **DISTRICT CLOSED**
- 7/26 - OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS  
FOR ALL SCHOLARS





Riverview Gardens  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# CAREER FAIR

NOW HIRING

Teachers, Instructional  
Assistants, Cooks,  
Nurses, Custodians,  
Secretaries, DSO Officers,  
Music Teachers,  
Home to School  
Coordinator & Teaching  
Methods Coach

**June 26, 2021**  
**10AM - 1PM**

**WESTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**1950 Nemnich Rd.**

*\*Please bring an updated resume*

*\*\*No Registration Required*



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

*Safe Summer Fun Starts Now!*

**SUMMER CAMP IS HERE!**

## JEAN HEIL NAMED RGSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jean Heil, a third grade teacher at Moline Elementary, was named the Riverview Gardens School District's 2021 District Teacher of the Year.

Heil has served in the District for a year and a half and has nearly three decades of experience as an educator.

"Jean Heil is a terrific educator and is a tremendous asset to Riverview Gardens School District," said Dr. Scott Spurgeon, superintendent of schools. "She is a true difference maker for RGSD scholars."



Heil was shocked to learn of her nomination for Teacher of the Year. When she learned that she was named the Teacher of the Year for Moline Elementary, she teared up. After learning that she was the top honoree across the entire district, those emotions welled up once again.

"It is a truly distinct honor and it's humbling because I am surrounded by the best of the best," Heil stated. "I've been in education for 27 years and the people that I work with every day do this because we love kids."

"To be noticed and to be honored in that way is overwhelming and incredibly special."



*Riverview Gardens*  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# SUMMER

## Food Truck Schedule

**Monday: Lemasters 10a-10:45a | Westview 11a-11:45a**

**Tuesday: Glasgow 10a-10:45a | Highland 11a-11:45a**

**Wednesday: Lemasters 10a-10:45a | Westview 11a-11:45a**

**Thursday: Glasgow 10a-10:45a | Highland 11a-11:45a**

**COVID-19  
Vaccine Clinic**

**Gibson  
Elementary**

**9926 Fonda Dr.**

**June 28, 2021  
12 – 6 PM**



'C/O 2021' - Continued from Page 1 -

"For the second year in a row, Riverview Gardens High School hosted a remarkable event to celebrate our graduates," said Superintendent Scott Spurgeon. "The Class of 2021 showed resilience and dedication to persevere through this pandemic. We are proud to see what they were able to accomplish, despite the adversity presented by COVID-19."

The atmosphere for the graduation parade was jubilant as Band Director and DJ Craig Nowden provided the soundtrack to the upbeat atmosphere.

Graduates beamed with joy, walking across the stage to get their diplomas, in person, after a year dominated by Chromebook screens, webcams and virtual classes. Graduating senior Tyrese Hughes reveled in the event.



"Walking across the stage was a great experience," Hughes said. "It gave me a feeling of accomplishment."

The afternoon was particularly special for Hughes. His twin sisters, Lamya and Damya Green, also graduated and walked across the stage to receive their diplomas together. It was a proud moment for the entire family.

The next step for Hughes will be to attend Tennessee State University. When asked why he selected TSU as the next stop on his educational journey, Hughes' answer was simple.

"It reminded me of my high school," he stated. "I had a good time [at Riverview Gardens High School]. All my teachers taught me well and pushed me to be better."

"TSU just felt like a small community where everyone can come together and help each other."

While Hughes will be headed to Tennessee State University to capture the community feel of RGHS, his sisters will stay in the community. According to Hughes, Lamya and Damya Green will soon become entrepreneurs and open their own cosmetology shop in the area.



## SAB APPROVES SALARY INCREASES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

The Riverview Gardens School District's Special Administrative Board voted 3-0 to approve weighted salary increases on the 2021-2022 salary schedules.

The salary increases fulfill a promise made during the Proposition E campaign to enhance salary schedules and provide fair and equitable salary increases for District employees. Prop E passed with the support of 68.6 percent of voters in the April 6 election.

Under the approved salary schedules, the overall weighted average salary increases are as follows:

- Teachers - 7.5%
- Custodial - 7.71%
- Food Service - 9.87%
- Nurses - 6.86%
- Clerical - 8.70%
- Maintenance - 8.66%
- Instructional Assistants - 6.01%
- MIS - 9.22%
- Security (DSO) - 4.73%
- Administrators - 5.0% (Flat Increase)

The estimated budget impact for the 2021-2022 school year is \$2,092,341.02.

# PROP E

## Educational Equity

*Promise Kept*



## THE SUPER'S REVIEW

By Dr. Scott Spurgeon, Superintendent of Schools

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, it completely shifted the way we educated children, making virtual learning necessary to ensure the health and safety of our scholars and staff. While COVID-19 has not magically disappeared, progress has been made that will soon allow scholars to return to in-person learning.

On Tuesday, June 22, the Special Administrative Board approved the Riverview Gardens School District's 2021-2022 Tentative Return to School Plan. It calls for a return to in-person learning for all students and grade levels for the 2021-2022 school year. Please take the time to read through this critical information.

Please note, this tentative plan is subject to change based on the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. Please check the RGSD website regularly for updates to the plan, as the District is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

We look forward to welcoming our scholars back for another school year and working towards regaining full accreditation. Thank You and It's Always a Great Day to Be a Ram!

