



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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**G-PISD Superintendent names Julie Verstuyft to serve as
G-P Middle School Principal beginning in 2021-2022**

With the decision that current G-P Middle School Principal Gabe Alvarado will soon transition to serve as the new G-P High School Principal, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos realized the need for sound and trusted leadership for 6th through 8th grade students and staff – all of whom will soon be moving into a new school building for the 2021-22 school year. Today, she announced that the next leader selected to fill the position will be current W.C. Andrews Elementary Principal Julie Verstuyft.

“It’s one of the most important parts of my job to be sure that our schools have excellent leadership, and in this case, it was also important for our middle school teachers and staff to be set for success as they actively prepare to move and open a brand new school building next year,” Cavazos said.

“Mrs. Verstuyft is a visionary leader with the kind of incredible talent, high expectations, generous compassion, sound resolve, and love for students that I know is crucial for middle school students and staff, but even more – she also has experience managing the move to a new campus. Mrs. Verstuyft was instrumental in leading her staff as the team made the move to the district’s new W.C. Andrews Elementary in January of 2019. Her leadership style fits with what our students, staff, and families need at this time, and I am proud to support her as she begins a new journey at G-P Middle School next year.”

Transitioning to the new school will be a bittersweet experience, Verstuyft said, but she is ready to serve the district where she is needed most. “It’s extremely difficult to think about having to say goodbye to my WCA family. There really aren’t words to fully describe how much this team has impressed me, and how I have been truly honored to be a part of it. When you have the kind of amazing team that we’ve built together at our school, these kinds of changes are tough, however I’m thankful that my next adventure will take place right here in G-P where I can keep in touch with my WCA family and fully support the next leader who is lucky enough to share in the joy that I’ve experienced the last three years with those students, teachers, staff, and all our families.

“Even better, I know there’s excitement and new memories yet to come with my new G-P Middle School family in a district where community, tradition, and a genuine sense of service drives us all to educate, inspire, and empower one another to be our best for our students. I’m thankful to have the support of Dr. Cavazos, current G-PMS Principal Gabe Alvarado, and so many in our community, and I absolutely cannot wait to meet my new team and start working with our students. G-P Middle School has a tradition of excellence, and I can’t wait to be a part of all the new traditions we will build together in our new school building – thanks to this incredible community’s support.”

Verstuyft has been serving as Principal of W.C. Andrews for the past three years. Her prior experience included 13 years at Southwest ISD in San Antonio where she worked as middle school teacher, academic coach, assistant principal and principal. She also worked for one year as Director of Early Childhood Education in Central Administration. She holds both a bachelor and master’s degree from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

After feeling ‘at home’ for 20 years during frequent trips the Coastal Bend, Verstuyft and her husband Jim made the decision to make their permanent home in South Texas after Hurricane Harvey. Together, they enjoy being proud of 6 adult children and 7 grandchildren, and spending weekends with their family. “It’s one of my greatest joys to see children grow and become who they are meant to be – my own, and all of our students. I’m excited to gain some new perspective from our amazing 6th through 8th graders in the years to come.”

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