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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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Penny Armstrong hired as G-PISD's Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Gregory-Portland ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos has promoted Penny Armstrong to serve as the district's new Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. This promotion follows Armstrong's dedication to G-PISD in her previous role as Principal of East Cliff Elementary School for the last six years. She will report to Cavazos in her new position and together with the Superintendent will oversee academic achievement for the district's 4,954 students.

"After serving in education for 19 years, the passions that continue to remain the same are supporting students and teachers," said Armstrong. "I firmly believe when we truly collaborate with and support teachers, we are able to provide rich opportunities for students. Having served in G-PISD for the past 11 years, I've learned that we have some of the best examples and models of passionate educators, who are enthusiastic about providing high-quality instruction and know that before anything else we must begin with developing relationships to inspire hearts. I'm honored to serve in this new role as we continue to establish a culture in which we learn from one another, inspire, and empower growth, right alongside our students."

Armstrong expressed thanks to the G-P community and G-PISD leadership, teachers, and staff, for their profound commitment to the district's schools and its students. "I want to extend a special thanks to Dr. Cavazos for placing (her) trust and confidence in me to serve in this capacity, as well as to the faculty, staff, and students of both T.M. Clark and East Cliff for their partnership and support during my time with the district. They have all positively contributed to the fact that I can proudly say, 'I love my job!' and the fact that I truly enjoy what I 'GET' to do every single day. I am thrilled to now extend my service to G-PISD across the entire district, and am eager to continue the collaborative efforts in establishing defined autonomy with the district's curriculum and instruction team that will positively impact teaching and learning."

Cavazos expressed "full confidence" in Armstrong's leadership and said that her commitment to the district for more than a decade, experience as a school principal, and her devotion to students and teachers were paramount to this decision. "I am extremely pleased that (Armstrong) will be expanding her leadership to serve not only a single campus yet all of our incredible schools," Cavazos said. "Her leadership style is one of grace and compassion coupled with the high expectations that have made this district strong and will continue to move us forward to see every student make academic progress in every classroom, every year, at every school."

Furthermore, Cavazos said that the decision to promote from within the organization is a strategic one as she desires to see leaders grow in G-PISD and stay with the district for the long term: "Retention is important to us, and that is only possible when we provide our teams with growth opportunities. This was an intention of our leadership team during a recent restructure. When we have talented leaders in our district who are qualified to take on a new opportunity, we aim to reward them with the chance they have earned to serve in greater ways."

Prior to serving as Principal of East Cliff Elementary, Armstrong was an Assistant Principal at T.M. Clark Elementary within G-PISD. Prior to joining G-PISD, she served Karnes City ISD as a Junior High Principal, elementary Assistant Principal, District Curriculum Coordinator, and 7th Grade English Language Arts and Journalism Teacher. She earned a Master of Education in Administration & Supervision from the University of Houston in Victoria, Texas, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and Education from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Among a long list of notable achievements and associations, Armstrong was a recent nominee for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award and also "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" from 2005-2007.

Her family resides in Portland, Texas, and her husband Sean is a Head Basketball Coach and educator at G-P High School. Their three children attend G-PISD schools, and as Armstrong stated, "there is nowhere else we would rather be than right here in the community that has given our family so much support and especially our children." Armstrong stated she aims to do the same in her new position, together with her team, for all G-P Wildcats. ##