



**Gregory-Portland Independent School District**

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**Priscilla “Ashley” Banda hired to serve as  
Principal of East Cliff Elementary School**

Gregory-Portland ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos has announced the hiring of Priscilla “Ashley” Banda to assume the role of Principal at East Cliff Elementary School, following the appointment of former Principal Penny Armstrong to another role in the district. Banda is being promoted after serving as Assistant Principal at the same campus for the last three years and also at T.M. Clark Elementary School prior to serving at East Cliff. She will report to Dr. Michael Norris, the district’s Executive Director of School Leadership and Accountability who works collaboratively with the Superintendent to develop the talents of exceptional school leaders for G-PISD students, staff, families, and the greater community.

“The opportunities I have received at G-PISD have been remarkable,” said Banda, and cited her time at both campuses serving with school leaders Mr. Bobby Rister (retired), Mrs. Melinda Pena, and Mrs. Penny Armstrong. “I am beyond grateful for the impact of these exceptional mentors, as their support has helped to develop my ability to serve and lead within our district.

“Now, it is with great honor that I take on a new role as East Cliff Elementary School’s Proud Principal. I look forward to continuing the incredible progress led by our leadership team, including the focus on providing certainty and maintaining a positive culture for all of our staff, partnering with our East Cliff families and community, and consistently making educational decisions for the best interest of our students.”

Norris said he invites and encourages the East Cliff community to join him in extending full support and confidence in Banda as she assumes the helm of leadership for the campus: “There is no one better qualified to support this outstanding team of educational professionals and devoted staff. I am excited to serve all of them through the support of Ms. Banda in her new role, and look forward to seeing the community rally around her as much as they have for past principals and team members given her expertise, experience at the campus, and genuine devotion to academic success that is driven by a student-centered approach to teaching and learning.”

Cavazos agreed, stating the decision to promote Banda to Principal was a natural and strategic move. “Ms. Banda will do great things for the East Cliff community, and we extend our full trust in her leadership. This promotion is further confirmation that we are growing leaders here in G-PISD and our process of doing so is intentional,” she said. “We are fortunate and grateful to have many talented people who are doing the right work in the right places for our students and staff, and growing our Assistant Principals to be able to assume the next step when they are ready is one way we are able to give back to the incredible school teams who serve our community.”

Prior to serving as an Assistant Principal at East Cliff and T.M. Clark Elementary Schools, Banda served Taft ISD as a Grade Level Lead Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher, and a New Teacher Mentor. She earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Banda said her career path led her to the district, and it is where she intends to stay: “My journey and growth will continue at G-PISD, and as I am fully committed to educating, inspiring, and empowering our future Wildcats. I am looking forward to next school year and beyond with our amazing team at East Cliff, and we can’t wait to welcome our scholars back this August for another exciting year of growing, learning, and building lasting relationships together!”

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