



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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New Principals serving East Cliff, Stephen F. Austin Elementary Schools in 2017-18

Campus leadership recently changed at East Cliff and Stephen F. Austin (SFA) Elementary Schools, where two former Gregory-Portland ISD Assistant Principals were promoted to Principals for this academic year. Penny Armstrong is serving in this role at East Cliff, and Melba Franco is the Principal at SFA.

“Both of these Principals have been strong leaders in their former positions,” said G-PISD Superintendent Dr. Paul Clore. “They quickly earned the respect and support of their students, colleagues, and community. I am very pleased to see them accept new opportunities for 2017-18.”

Armstrong was formerly the Assistant Principal at T.M. Clark Elementary School. Prior to accepting a position with G-PISD, she served as Principal at Karnes City Junior High School. This promotion within Karnes City ISD came after being a District Curriculum Coordinator and an Assistant Principal at Roger E. Sides Elementary School. Armstrong also taught 7th Grade English Language Arts and Journalism at Karnes City Junior High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies/Education at Texas State University, and also has a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Houston in Victoria, Texas.

“East Cliff has a strong reputation, and my goal is to use that foundation to move our campus to the next level,” said Armstrong. “Together with our talented staff, we will continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities and academic excellence for all of our students.”

Franco was most recently the Assistant Principal at East Cliff Elementary, and will carry that experience with her to serve as SFA Principal. Before taking a position with G-PISD, she spent 10 years as Principal at Jesus R. Perez Elementary School in Kingsville, Texas. She was an Assistant Principal at the same campus before being promoted, and also as an Instructional Facilitator for Kingsville ISD. Franco also taught 5th Grade English-Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies at Gillett Intermediate School. She was also a 5th Grade Teacher at T.M. Colston Elementary, and taught Special Education at A.D. Harvey Elementary. Franco earned a Master of Science in Educational Administration and a Bachelor of Science Studies from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

With regard to plans at SFA this school year, Franco said her team is aligning curriculum across all subject areas and grade levels. The staff is also expanding their implementation of Kagan cooperative learning strategies, and increasing facilitation support to meet students’ needs.

“Everything we do revolves around our students – their success is our success,” she said. “We have a strong staff at SFA, with many experienced teachers who are also open to new and innovative ideas because they have a real passion for helping students achieve. They know what we need to do, and coupled with supportive parents we are confident that this will be a very successful year.”

Both East Cliff and SFA also have new Assistant Principals this year: Susan Drennan-Svadlenak will serve East Cliff, after previously holding the position of Assistant Principal at SFA. Judi Charlton, a former SFA 2nd Grade Teacher, will now serve as SFA Assistant Principal.

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