



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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Dr. Michael Norris hired to serve as G-P High School Principal

Gregory-Portland ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos announced today that current Rockport-Fulton High School Assistant Principal, Dr. Michael Norris, will serve as the next Principal for students, families, and staff at G-P High School.

“I am extremely excited to play a part of making Gregory-Portland High School the best high school in the state of Texas,” said Norris. “I’m also looking forward to starting this new adventure with the G-P team, and meeting our students and families. Meanwhile, I’m grateful for the time spent at Aransas County ISD and the people I’ve had the pleasure of working with in the Rockport-Fulton community. My previous experiences and colleagues have taught me so much about what it means to be an educator and a leader. Giving my best to the students, staff, and community of Gregory-Portland is the ideal next step in my journey as an educator, and I am thankful for the experiences that led me to this opportunity at the right moment, for the right purpose: To serve, and support others in serving, our students and community.”

Dr. Norris will report to G-PISD’s Executive Director for School Leadership, Mrs. Sarah Hodges, who said she is looking forward to having him serve G-PHS. “With 20 years in education, and a collaborative approach to leadership that is intentional, thoughtful, and focused on student success, I am delighted to hire Dr. Norris for this all-important position,” said Hodges. “It is vital for us as school leaders to listen to the voices of our students, staff, families, and community when making decisions that will directly impact so many stakeholders, and it was clear that Dr. Norris will be the right leader based on the feedback we received through a survey provided to stakeholders in the Spring of 2021.”

Dr. Cavazos agreed, stating the interview panel used the G-P High School Principal Profile developed from survey feedback as a guide. “Our G-PHS students and families will be served by a leader whose experience, approach to learning, and leadership style will best support the desires of our community. Together with Mrs. Hodges and our entire district leadership team, we intend to provide the necessary resources and support to ensure Dr. Norris has what he needs to lead and serve beginning next school year at G-P High School.”

Prior to serving at Rockport-Fulton High School beginning in 2019, Dr. Norris was an Assistant Principal at Lawrence High School in Lawrence, Kansas, for 10 years. He is a former English teacher, and began his career in education as a Communication Arts teacher in Kansas City. He earned a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Kansas, and a Master of Science as well as a Bachelor of Science (both in Education) from the same university. During his last few years with ACISD, Dr. Norris has supervised and/or evaluated many programs and activities including state assessments, English-language learners (ESL/ESOL), mathematics, world languages, student services, and more. He also supervised discipline management, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students, and various campus activities in addition to other leadership responsibilities.

Dr. Norris worked directly with many students and families devastated by Hurricane Harvey in 2018, and was a key player in navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic at the same campus. At Lawrence High School, he played an active role in transitioning ninth grade students to the campus for the first time in 2009 (prior to that time, it was a 10th – 12th grade school structure). Through various challenges, Dr. Norris said, he developed a “*whatever it takes*” mindset and mantra as it relates to student needs.

With regard to curriculum, Dr. Norris said innovation and engagement are absolutely necessary for student progress. “As a teacher myself, I used dynamic and differentiated instruction to reach students of various learning types and cultural backgrounds. Developing these skills and applying them in the delivery of instruction is necessary to reach our students.”

Dr. Norris will transition to G-P High School within the next few weeks. *The G-PHS Principal Profile, developed from stakeholder feedback, is posted at www.g-pisd.org/HSPincipal.*

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