



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

April 1, 2021

Dear Faculty and Families,

Today marks my one-year anniversary as your Superintendent, and what a year it has been. There is no doubt that transitioning to the role during a global health crisis came with its own set of challenges, and yet, it is also a time that proved the value of schools and the people in it. I am grateful to partner daily with a very special faculty and staff and will continue to advocate for the best for Ridgefield students.

Happy Passover seder or happy Easter- I hope it can be spent in the company of loved ones.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

A Few Bits

School Status

There are no changes in the learning model for the coming week. We will continue to meet each Wednesday and will send an update on Wednesday, April 14. This will be specifically important for the secondary schools as it will identify which learning model students and families can expect on April 19.

RPS Summer Bridge Program

RPS will be offering a no cost summer bridge program. We will be presenting more about this program at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 5. The meeting will be livestreamed on the RPS website. You can expect communication to families shortly thereafter.

Health And Safety

The [new case rate](#) of COVID-19 leveled off in Ridgefield this week and was last reported at 22.9 new cases per day per 100,000 residents on a 7-day rolling average. This is down from a recent peak of 46.

Vaccines

Everyone 16 years of age and up is now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Connecticut, and we strongly encourage everyone to do so. [Click here to register](#) for a vaccine- 16 and 17 year olds may only receive the Pfizer vaccine at this time. After students have received their 2nd dose of the vaccine we ask

that you send a scan of your vaccination card to the RHS school nurses. The RVNA does not have Pfizer available to them at this time. Thank you!

Variants

The Connecticut Department of Public Health estimates that 40% of new cases in CT are the B.1.1.7. ("UK") variant which is more transmissible and has been shown to have increased risk of mortality.

Travel Guidance

Please also take a moment to read the travel guidance on page two of the new "[Finish Strong](#)" document from the DPH; and please protect your loved ones and the greater community by continuing to practice mitigation efforts of mask wearing, hand washing, and social distancing.

Athletics

CIAC continues to require a full 14-day quarantine before students return to play after COVID-19 exposure for high school athletes. RPS is enforcing this requirement.

Food Service

Weekend meals at Barlow Mountain Elementary or Scotland Elementary next week were distributed today, Thursday April 1, 2021, due to the holiday on Friday.

Personnel

Meet the new Math/Science Supervisor- you can find the press release [here](#).

We met with students, faculty and families from FES this week as a part of our Principal Search process. Interviews will begin April 9.

Board of Education Budget

The Board of Finance voted to reduce the Board of Education 2021-22 budget from 3.45% to 2.35%. This is a reduction of \$1,103,985 to the Board of Education's approved 2021-22 budget.

The next meeting to take place on the budget process will be the **Annual Town Budget Meeting** to be held on **Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

As stated in the Town Charter, Section 10-1. Budget (c), *The annual capital and operating budgets of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen, as recommended by the Board of Finance, shall be brought to the Annual Town Budget Meeting for discussion, then sent to referendum. (Those in attendance at) **The meeting shall have the power to decrease or delete any line item**, but it may not increase or add any line item or establish any additional line item. In addition, per the Town Charter, Section 10-1(c), the Board of Selectmen may decide to present certain or all capital items of under \$100,000 per item to the Town Meeting for a vote. (Those in attendance at) **The meeting shall have the power to delete any such capital item**, but it may not increase or add to any line item or establish any additional line item. Said vote shall be binding with reference to those items. All other items on the capital budget shall go to referendum as set forth in Section 10-1(d).*

Curriculum Updates

Parent Workshop: Save the date for math placement workshops. The elementary presentation will be on April 27 at 10:15 a.m. and the middle school presentation will be April 28 at 10:15 a.m.

The National Council of Teachers of English identified the "[The 2020 Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts](#)." click on the link for the list.

RPS Highlights

Enjoy the RPS News [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): No podcast this week, tune in next week for a special episode.

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