



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

Phone: (203) 894-5550 Fax (203) 431-2810

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

April 17, 2020

Dear Families and Faculty,

I hope this communication and update finds you and your families well.

It has been a busy week at RPS. We began the week with a virtual Board of Education meeting. If you did not have an opportunity to view the meeting, you can access it by clicking [here](#), and the agenda can be found using this [link](#). As highlighted during the meeting, our continued priorities have been to support the eLearning experience and navigate the Budget needs of now and the future. We hope the Board of Education meeting helped to clarify questions and/or misconceptions regarding savings for this fiscal year and the District's unpredicted budget needs for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

Running parallel to this work is that of my 90-Day Entry Plan. The Entry Plan is focused on 'Listening and Learning.' This information-gathering phase will be obtained from a wide group of stakeholders. A summary of patterns/trends will be shared over the summer. This summary will help guide the next level of work.

Guiding questions used during the 90-Day Entry Plan are:

What are the strengths of the Ridgefield Public Schools?

What are the challenges for the Ridgefield Public Schools?

What are the opportunities for the Ridgefield Public Schools?

What should I know about the Ridgefield Public Schools and the community?

Enjoy the weekend, and please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

COVID-19

Student Attendance

The District continues to take attendance during the eLearning experience. Each level is monitoring attendance differently based on the developmental needs of students. Please be sure to let the school know if your child is unable to 'attend' school.

Special Education Extended School Year

Plans continue to move forward for the Special Education Extended School Year Program, including staffing, instructional resources allocation, facilities, and transportation. We anticipate that student enrollment this year may be different from the years past, given the potential academic and social/emotional impacts of the school closure. Regardless of the state of the public health crisis, Extended School Year Programming will run this summer in person or virtually, and the district is planning for multiple contingencies depending on social distancing guidance at that time. Special Education case managers will be contacting parents in May to review their child's Extended School Year eligibility status.

RHS Principal Search

We have released the 'pause' button on the High School Principal search. We will carry on with the hiring process virtually. As most of you know, Dr. Stacey Gross, our RHS Principal, is retiring at the end of this school year, and it's very clear that she will be missed!

Grading

We realize that both students and families are anxious to hear about grading practices during COVID-19. Since my last update, we have been hard at work and our team is now in the process of tending to the details and partnering with our teachers. We hope to provide an update by early next week. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Grades 6-12 Parent Survey

More than 1100 parents of students in Grades 6-12 were able to provide feedback on the eLearning experience thus far and how we can improve our work with students. Parents may have noticed some differences this week and can continue to expect shifts in the upcoming weeks with more 'live' and pre-recorded lessons. You can find the eLearning update presented to the Board of Education on April 13th [here](#).

'Live' Lessons

As we increase the 'Live' Teaching across all levels, please be reminded that:
lessons are not to be recorded without advance permission from the building Principal
only students assigned to the class are allowed to participate
all students need to comply with Board of Education policies and acceptable use policies
faculty are working hard and taking risks as they approach this new type of teaching

Read Aloud Resources

Through the generosity of ACT of Connecticut, Ridgefield Public School students may access a weekly STORYTIME episode. Episodes can be found on the ACT of Connecticut [Facebook video page](#); the [ACT of Connecticut YouTube page](#); or ACT's [Livestream](#) website page.

Pre K-5 'Sizzle' Reel

For those of you that did not get a chance to view this great video on Twitter, start your weekend off with a smile, and view it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovof3bgOYnA>

Social Media: *Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva* Instagram: *rpssuper*

AP Test Schedule

The College Board has announced AP's new testing schedule, it can be found here:
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/coronavirus-updates>