



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 14, 2020

Dear Faculty and Families,

Happy Friday. By now, it is likely that you have received communications from your schools and Principals, I hope they are helpful. In that spirit, I will keep this communication brief. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal with any questions or concerns. We are here to help.

Warmly,

Susie

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Updates

Reopening of School:

Schools will be sending out detailed communications over the next week. You can expect videos and the District resource site to be available to family and faculty early next week. These videos/resources are intended to bring the school experience to life, as well as provide easy access to resources by topic area. While we hoped to have these resources ready for you today, we are awaiting additional guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education and want to provide you with the most accurate information possible.

Schools are sending out cohort lists in the coming days. As you can imagine, the process of cohorting is complex- we ask for your patience as we make tweaks along the way. At the middle and high school level, we continue the process of refining the schedule. If we need to make changes, we will communicate these to you.

Topics on Racism, Diversity and Equity:

Linked here, is an interview with Gloria Ladson-Billings a former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. [Practical Advice on Addressing Racial Justice in K-12 Schools: A Q&A with Gloria Ladson-Billings](#)

Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence is offering a free course for educators. The Dario Education Initiative is offering all CT faculty and staff a no cost 10 hour course. The goal is to provide faculty and staff with the tools they need to navigate their own well-being and that of their students. Faculty and staff may sign up and learn more here: <https://www.ycei.org/selcourse>.

Athletics

This afternoon we received an announcement from Glenn Lungarini from the CIAC which communicated that based on the Department of Health recommendations, all in-person interscholastic fall sport activity, including conditioning programs will need to be paused until Monday, August 24. Mr. Street and Dr. Greenwood will keep families informed as decisions are made. I know that this is a significant disappointment for our athletes.

Chromebooks:

Please see attached google form for students in grades PK-12 who need access to a digital device and/or internet: [PK-12 Chromebook Request Form](#). You will receive further information from Assistant Superintendent Creller notifying you of a pick up date.

If you have an RPS device that you no longer need, please email Lauren Rushka at:

lrushka@ridgefieldps.net

Quote of the Week:

“There are no adolescents on the planet who will be emotionally healthy if they feel incompetent.” Douglas Reeves in [“Don’t Forget the ‘L’ in SEL.”](#) August 2, 2020