



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 27, 2021

Dear Families and Faculty,

Our faculty and staff returned to RPS this week to begin formal preparations for the start of the school year. On Wednesday, we came together for convocation- this year, we held two. It was an exciting event that balanced pure fun with a strong message to our faculty and staff, "...educators are the defining variable for our students." A few highlights are shared below.

We look forward to welcoming our students to school on both Monday (Grades K-9) and Tuesday (Grades K-12). We are thrilled to have them back! Looking forward to riding some school buses.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed. D.

Friday Bits

Health and Safety Video

See attached [health and safety video](#), from our Director of Nursing Services and COVID-19 Liaison, Aaron Crook. The video addresses updated quarantine procedures for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals as well as the latest mask guidelines.

Students and staff with any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school whether vaccinated or unvaccinated. If you have symptoms please stay home and contact your school nurse.

Board of Education Meeting

We held a Board of Education meeting this past week; you can watch the video [here](#). We were excited to share our reports on all of our successful summer programs. A special thank you to Dr. Tony Showah and his ESY and Best Buddies staff and the Bridge teachers and directors!

Convocation

Enjoy this [moment](#) and this [moment!](#)

Reminders

Parent and Student Handbooks for the 2021-22 School Year

The updated handbooks have been released and are available on the district website and the RHS website respectively.

Click [here](#) to view the K-8 Handbook

Click [here](#) to view the RHS Student and Parent Handbook

2021-22 Chromebook Distribution

If you still have not watched these videos, please take a moment to watch a short informational video on this year's Chromebook distribution and policies. [CLICK HERE FOR VIDEOS](#)

Teaching and Learning Updates

The Curriculum Department has updated the Parent Website in order to make it easier for parents to find what they need. It is attached to the RPS website under the Departments tab, then click the Curriculum & Instruction link to locate the Parent Curriculum Site. [Click here](#) to take a look!

Teachers engaged in professional learning this week. At the elementary level, the focus centered around curriculum updates in all content areas; differentiated learning through small group instruction; and the use of new Chromebooks. Special Education, PK, Kindergarten, and First Grade teachers also received training in the new curriculum resource Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. Essentials and grades 6-12 core content area teachers worked on alignment and collaboration.

Food Service

As a reminder- in partnership with CSDE, Ridgefield Public Schools will continue to offer a free meal in all of our schools, ***including the high school***, for the entire 2021-22 school year. This free meal will be a fully nutritious meal as guided by the State of Connecticut and Federal Regulations. Any 'a la carte' items outside of a full meal will still need to be purchased. While we have been approved to offer a free lunch for all high school students, we have not yet been approved to offer a free breakfast (although our request is still being considered); so more to come on that. Click [here](#) to find a welcome back letter from Chartwells Food Service with more information.

Advanced Child Tax Credit

Find more information [here](#).

Transportation

The Transportation Department has finalized the bus runs for the opening of school that are now available on the parent portal. Our bus drivers have been back to work inspecting their buses, adjusting mirrors, checking radios, and preparing a safe bus for your children. You may have noticed some buses already on the road as drivers check their runs for changes and new stops. We are looking forward to having many more students riding this year. Our friends at First Student Bus Co. were busy this summer training and hiring new bus drivers to keep our fleet ready for the opening of school.

Follow us here:

Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva

Instagram: rpssuper

You can find clips of Convocation, Professional Learning Days, and other fun stuff!

Quote of the Week

“Recognize how much you matter to your students, how much of a difference you make, and how YOU have the ability to change a life.” Da Silva, Convocation 2021