



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

August 7, 2020

Dear Faculty and Families,

What a week! I hope this communication finds you safe and with power. While this communication is brief- there is a significant amount of important information related to the opening of schools. Please be sure to click on the links within the communication.

Families and faculty can expect more frequent school-based communication in the coming weeks.

Stay safe, and be well.

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D

## **Updates**

### **Reopening of School:**

On Thursday, August 6, 2020, we updated the Board of Education with RPS' Reopening Plan. Linked are the revised [RPS Reopening Plan](#), and Presentation [here](#). You can watch the BoE meeting [here](#). Our new plan includes a 'Transition to Full' Hybrid for K-8 and a Hybrid in grades 9-12. Pre-K will open with full, in-person classes five days each week. School specific information regarding cohort and class assignments, schedules, and building procedures will be forthcoming from school principals and administrators on or around August 14. We will not have this information prior to this date. A communication will be sent in advance with

directions to access this information via Powerschool. Also, by August 14, the District will have a link on the main webpage with all 'Reopening' information.

Families who elect to have their students temporarily remote learn will be asked to complete this form: [Temporary Remote Learning Option](#). This form is also available on our website. You may certainly do this now, or may wait until you have further details from your schools. Additionally, we ask that families complete this [Bus Ridership Opt-Out Form](#) if you do not intend on accessing the school bus (hybrid and/or full). We understand that these decisions are complex, and are family specific. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal with any questions.

### **Topics on Racism, Diversity and Equity:**

[Classroom Discussions on Race: Hear What 5 Black Students Say They Need](#)

[9 Picture Books for Preschoolers That Celebrate Diversity](#)

- *Let's Eat!* by Ana Zamorano and Julie Vivas
- *Bintou's Braids* by Sylviane Diouf
- *Chester Bear, Where Are You?* by Peter Eyvindson and Wendy Wolsak-Frith
- *Julián Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love
- *Mommy's Khimar* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and Ebony Glenn
- *The Different Dragon* by Jennifer Bryan and Danamarie Hosler
- *It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity* by Theresa Thorn and Noah Grigni
- *Big Red Lollipop* by Rukhsana Khan and Sophie Blackall
- *Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter* by Mark Gonzales and Mehrdokht Amini

### **Hiring**

This week, we announced an Interim Principal (2020-21 school year) for Farmingville Elementary School, as well as an Interim Elementary Supervisor. You can find the announcement [here](#).

### **Domestic Violence Resources for the School Community, Students and Families**

CSDE: Resources are linked [here](#)

### **Quote of the Week**

“I have taken good online classes and bad online classes. What determines their quality has little to do with the format itself and everything to do with the teacher’s pedagogy, their grasp of the technology, and their ability to design a course around that.”

Shalon van Tine