



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*

December 3, 2021

Dear RPS Community,

I hope this update finds you having had a peaceful Thanksgiving holiday; and just like that we embrace and celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. Happy Hanukkah!

The winter holidays are typically associated with joy, celebrations, laughter, and gift-giving. Yet, we also know that the season, and this month in particular can be stressful to many. While it may appear hard for those of you in need, lean in on your colleagues, neighbors, friends, and community- without judgement; we are here to help.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

Friday BITS

Curriculum and Instruction

As we enter the holiday season our K-12 music performances begin in person. Click [here](#) to see the events listed on the district calendar (individual school calendars). They begin next week and continue until the end of January. If you visit Main Street on December 20 at 2:15 p.m., listen for 5th grade carolers from VP!

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk:](#) In this week's podcast we have two middle school music teachers joining us. Tiger Talk welcomes Shane Peters and Hilary Brown back to the podcast to talk about all the exciting things happening at East Ridge and Scotts Ridge Middle Schools. We cover how this year's COVID protocols are working for music courses, the different offerings RPS has, how the curriculum is being updated for a full K through 12 approach, and lastly all of the exciting events coming up. Thanks for listening!

RPS News found [here!](#)

From the CSDE

The CT State Department of Education (CSDE), together with CT Children's and the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is hosting a webinar on **December 16, 2021, from 5-6 p.m.** to share the latest medical information for keeping students safe, healthy and in school during the winter months. Please see the attached flyer and distribute it widely to families in your district. This session will be recorded and posted online with closed captioning in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic. Everyone registered will receive a notice when it is posted.

Flyer is linked [here](#).

PreK- Gr 6 COVID-19 Screening Program

This week, two PCR tests from the screening program came back positive. Last week, one came back positive.

Health and Safety

On November 2, 2021, the CDC approved a COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. According to data from the Town of Ridgefield, 38.4% of 5-11 year olds (1,090 children) have already received their first dose of the vaccine.

According to CDC and CT DPH protocols, if your child has been fully vaccinated, and it has been two weeks since their second dose, your child will not need to be quarantined if they have an exposure to COVID-19 at school as long as they remain symptom free. The school will need to have documentation of your child's COVID vaccines in order to waive any quarantine period. We encourage you to send a copy of your child's completed vaccine card to your school nurse.

The CDC expects to have more data on the Omicron variant to share in the coming weeks. In the meantime the CDC is recommending vaccination for everyone ages 5-17 and booster shots for all adults 18 years and older.

Vaccine Clinics

As a convenience to families who are interested in vaccinating their children locally, RPS is assisting with the coordination of mobile vaccine clinics exclusively for 5-11 year olds. The mobile vaccine clinics are being run by the CT Department of Health (DPH) and Griffin Hospital. The first clinic was held this past Tuesday at East Ridge Middle School.

Future clinics will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at Scotts Ridge Middle School, and Tuesday, December 21 at East Ridge Middle School from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. These clinics will be providing both 1st and 2nd doses. Both of these clinics are almost full as of right now based on the registration sent to all grades K-6 families before Thanksgiving. If you are interested in having your child on the waitlist for a first or second dose on December 14 or 21, please fill out this [form](#).

Follow us here:

Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva

Instagram: rpssuper

Quote of the Week

“We all want to perform and be appreciated. A good leader values who we are today but also challenges us to stretch ourselves and do better to realize more of our true potential.” *Becoming a More Humane Leader* by Rasmus Hougaard and Jacqueline Carter