



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Dear Families,

We hope this communication finds you well. At the RPS Board of Education meeting this past Tuesday night, we shared that the district has received feedback from faculty and administrators regarding the need for designated time for planning, collaboration, and training.

As you may recall, the district removed the monthly early release professional development days in our reopening plan when we were under the guidance that all schools had to meet 900 hours of student instructional time for the school year. The removal of this professional development time has proven to limit needed time faculty needs in order to continue to adapt their teaching practices for students in our changed school experience.

We want to ensure that students are "in front" of a teacher/faculty member who is most and best prepared to provide high quality instruction. To this end, the district will be providing additional time for faculty for planning, collaboration and training via the following:

October 9 and 29: Students will be dismissed early, based on the early dismissal schedule (by school). Students will be involved in "asynchronous" (not live teaching) activities in the afternoon from home. Both of these will be considered full school days, albeit the latter part of each as asynchronous from home.

November 25: Students will not come into school (an already scheduled early dismissal day). Students will be involved in asynchronous activities in the morning from home.

Asynchronous activities when students are at home might include:

- Independent reading/responding
- Catching up on missing assignments
- Google Classroom assignment
- A short writing assignment
- Math games/activities
- An art activity
- Online activities such as: Dreambox, Epic Books, Raz Kids, etc.

We recognize that this is a change from the previous plan, and understand the inconvenience that a change for the end of next week brings. From the beginning of our reopening planning, we have known that we will be required to be flexible and adjust given the needs that arise. We thank you for your continued partnership, and are committed to provide clear information as soon as we have it to share.