



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

June 11, 2021

This will be my final letter of the 2020-2021 school year. This week was filled with Moving Up ceremonies across our schools- each of them were a joy to see. Our seniors graduated from RHS this evening- my message to them this evening included 3 wishes, which I will share with you all as well. You can watch the entire graduation event [here](#).

My Three Wishes

My first wish for you is to learn from the past, take advantage of the present and not to wait til tomorrow for what you can do or say today.

I was recently inspired by a pop up on my Instagram page-- "Ships don't sink because of the water around them. Ships sink because of the water that gets in them. Don't let what's happening around you get inside you and weigh you down." My 2nd wish is that you remember not to let what's happening around you get inside you and weigh you down.

*My 3rd and final wish for you is that you love and be forgiving of yourself and do the same for others. We are human and imperfect- all of us. "As you grow older, you will discover that you have **two hands**, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." — **Maya Angelou***

Thank you for a successful school year.

Have a wonderful summer,

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

A Few Bits

RPS Summer Bridge Program

Families look for communication from Directors about arrival and dismissal procedures. We can't wait to welcome 1300 students to RPS Summer Bridge starting June 17th!

Health And Safety

The 7 day rolling average of new cases per day per 100,000 residents for the town of Ridgefield hit 0.0 this week. While this is wonderful news, there is some concern about the Delta variant of the virus beginning to take hold in the US. Studies have shown that there is a significant improvement in protection against the Delta variant after the 2nd vaccine dose of a 2 dose series. Hospitalizations are currently increasing in some parts of the US with low vaccination rates.

We are anticipating new guidance for schools for the fall from the CT DPH and will share it when it becomes available. The DPH said on a call this week that the best thing we can all do to prevent the need for students to wear masks at school this fall is to get vaccinated.

We would like to express our gratitude to the community for the partnership in keeping our community as safe and healthy as possible this year.

Food Service

The State of Connecticut is filing a waiver to the Federal Government in order to partake in the Federal Government's free meal program for all of our next fiscal school year. What this means for Ridgefield is the opportunity to continue to offer a free meal in all of our elementary and middle schools. We have also been in discussions with the State about the possibility of adding the high school to the program for one year, allowing for free meals at the high school. We will communicate more on this as the process unfolds.

RPS Highlights

RPS News- found [here](#).

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): Happy summer everyone! This is our final podcast for the school year and we are super excited to have Dr. Susie Da Silva the Superintendent of Schools, Cory Gillette the Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Elizabeth Hannaway the Assistant Superintendent of Special Services. In this show we put Dr. Da Silva in the hot seat to answer student questions submitted to the podcast. We here at Ridgefield Tiger Talk wish everyone a relaxing and safe summer break. Stay cool and see you in the fall!

Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva

Instagram: rpssuper

Both are **ridiculously** light and funny- kids can tune in also! Check out summer updates.

Curriculum Update

The Curriculum Department shared updates at the Curriculum Committee meeting. Click [here](#) to view.

Quote of the Week

*“As you grow older, you will discover that you have **two hands**, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” — **Maya Angelou***
