



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

June 19, 2020

Greetings Faculty and Families,

There were many special events this week, I feel privileged to have been a part of them. This week ended with a beautiful culmination of the virtual RHS graduation. If you are not a parent of a Senior, you can still enjoy the moment by watching the video here: [RHS Graduation](#).

I have made a point to grab an extra cup of coffee this week in Ridgefield to get to know the community a bit. Ridgefield is a special place.

Wishing you a peaceful summer.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D

Updates

Hiring

As most of you know, we have hired our new RHS Principal, Dr. Jake Greenwood. I shared [this announcement](#) after Dr. Greenwood's appointment during Monday evenings Board of Education meeting.

We are still in the midst of hiring for our elementary principal positions. After July 1, parents of children from Farmingville and Barlow Mountain with questions should communicate with Mr. Craig Creller, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at ccreller@ridgefieldps.net, (203) 894-5550, ext. 1.

We will provide you further updates as soon as we are able.

Reopening of School

We are expecting to receive official guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education on the reopening of school. This guidance is expected within the next week. Our Reopening Committee will continue to stay focused on Ridgefield and what is best for our community and students. Below is an update from Dr. Hannaway and Ms. Karen Dewing since our presentation to the Board of Education:

- *Parents, students, and community members who are interested may provide input to the Reopening Committee via this email address: reopening@ridgefieldps.net*
- *The Steering Committee finalized the formation of the committee and membership and members have been notified of the subcommittee in which they will participate.*
- *The Steering Committee has developed reflection surveys to receive feedback from parents, grade 6-12 students, and staff on their experiences during the distance learning model in Spring 2020. If you received this survey, please make sure you complete it as the committee appreciates the feedback.*
- *Committee members were provided with an orientation video with an overview of the format of the work, such as the mission of the Reopening Committee, committee structure including scheduling of meetings, agenda and accessing the information as well as roles and responsibilities and timelines.*
- *The first subcommittee meetings are scheduled for the week of June 22, 2020.*

Shared Racial Justice Resources

Today is Juneteenth, and as such, let us celebrate freedom! NBC News provides a brief historical account of the events in Texas that led to '[Juneteenth.](#)'

Our Library Media Staff shared summer book resources: "[Reading About Race](#)"

Immunization Guidance for Fall 2020

Please click [here](#) for important immunization information from the Department of Public Health (DPH). It is important to note that there will not be any grace periods for immunizations. On Monday, June 22, parents of rising grade 6 and rising grade 9 students will receive additional information via direct email.

Feed our Tigers

A message from the Director of Social Services:

Ridgefield Social Services has partnered with Tiger Hollow Inc. to continue providing ANONYMOUS food assistance through the summer. We are calling this program *Feed our Tigers*. If you have previously identified yourself as a family who participates in this program, click [here](#) to register to continue receiving food assistance during the summer. Help us help you by completing the survey. Please share with your friends if you think they may also qualify and be interested in receiving assistance.

Weekly PK-12 Highlights

Summer Learning

Don't forget to visit our Summer Learning website all summer long. New activities will be added frequently. [RPS Virtual Learning Website](#)

A big elementary thank you to our [Lead Facilitator team!](#)

Check out our MS students perform in this virtual strings concert under the direction of Mr. Shane Peters, ERMS/SRMS Orchestra Director [ERMS and SRMS Virtual Strings Concert](#)

RPS News can be found [here](#)

Catch our latest **Podcast** by clicking here: [Ridgefield Tiger Talk, with Dr. Deeeeeeesantis](#) or search "Ridgefield Tiger Talk" in your favorite podcasting app. For the past eight years, Ridgefield High School has had the pleasure of being led by Dr. Stacey Gross. Earlier in the school year, she announced her retirement and will be leaving at the end of June. In this show we discuss her career, the amazing accomplishments of the high school community, and what the future holds for RHS. One thing is for sure: she will be missed. Thanks for listening!

SAT updates

Parents of rising 12-grade students should have received this important SAT update yesterday:

Ridgefield High School (RHS) will be offering an additional SAT-Day at no cost to all Seniors on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 **during the school day**. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will cover the cost of this test, however it will not include the Essay portion.

We appreciate the parent feedback re: SATs, and understand the difficulty that many are having to secure a seat at a nearby testing center. Our goal is to make sure that all of our students have access to the SAT here in Ridgefield.

More details about the October "SAT Day" will be provided when students return in the fall.

Please note that we will still be hosting the Saturday SAT on September 26, 2020. However, please note that students must register and a fee will be required.

Middle School Academic Support Plan

If your child received either an "F" or an "Incomplete" for quarter 4, please reach out to his/her Guidance Counselor immediately to take advantage of personalized support through Friday, June 26th.

You can find updates on Twitter *Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva*, Instagram *Instagram: rpssuper*

A Quote Worth Sharing....especially to our graduates:

The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be. -Ralph Waldo Emerson