



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

March 12, 2021

Dear Faculty and Families,

It is hard to believe that tomorrow will mark one year when schools began to close across Connecticut due to the pandemic. Here we are... one year later, with hope on the horizon. With the more challenging months behind us, let us take a moment to think back to that time and to lessons learned, silver linings, and the feeling of spring. Cheers!

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

A Few Bits

Important Board of Education Budget Dates:

Monday, March 15- The Board of Finance will hold a BOF Public Hearing on the Town and

Board of Education 2021-22 Budgets.

Thursday, March 18- The Board of Education will present their budget to the Board of Finance.

Saturday, April 24- Annual Town Meeting on the Town and Board of Education 2021-22 Budgets.

Tuesday, May 11- Town Referendum on the Town and Board of Education Budgets.

Asynchronous Learning Day

On Monday March 15th, elementary students will be able to access a special virtual science event by DOKTOR KABOOM! and the Wheel of Science. This event is sponsored by the Ridgefield Education Foundation, the Ridgefield Council of PTA's, and the Ridgefield Public Schools. Teachers will share the link to the event on Monday.

School Status

Week of March 15: Elementary school students will continue in the full in-person learning model. SRMS and ERMS continue to remain in hybrid. RHS also remains hybrid; however, due to the number of families who are opting for Temporary Remote Cohort C, families choosing in-person cohort A/B are able to attend five days in person, so long as RHS attendance rates remain low and can accommodate this option. Families should contact their child's school counselor at RHS with any questions.

March 15- change for elementary students only. Elementary students will engage in a full day of asynchronous learning rather than a half day. The reason for this change is due to CSDE requiring teachers to be assessed in the Foundations of Reading assessment. Teachers will be taking this proctored assessment on March 15. As a reminder- due to COVID, we do not have allocated professional development time for teachers, thus it will be necessary to make this adjustment to the school day for students.

March 15 will remain as an asynchronous 'afternoon only' for all students in grades 6-12.

Next Steps: Our team met this past week regarding next steps with our Secondary Schools. We hope to be able to present a plan to the Board of Education on March 22. You can expect that we will communicate after that date to allow all students, faculty and families to prepare.

Standardized Testing

On March 18th K-12 District Administrators will give a presentation to parents on standardized testing. The presentation will be virtual and will run from 10:15 am to 11:00am. Parents can access the live presentation as well as the recorded presentation [here](#) on our district Youtube Channel. Questions prior and during the presentation will be collected. Click [here](#) to send in questions.

Health And Safety

In partnership with the Town of Ridgefield we have been able to expedite the timeline for RPS staff vaccinations. We surveyed our staff this week and over 90% of

survey respondents will have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by the end of this week.

Food Service

East Ridge Middle School will have pickup meals available between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday next week. In addition, our weekend meal program at SES and BMES will continue next week. We thank the students and families that are supporting our program by choosing to take advantage of the wonderful lunches being offered in all our schools, and in receiving meals through our weekend and afternoon meal distributions. Kindly see the food service social media post [here](#).

RPS Highlights

Enjoy the RPS News [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): In this episode we welcome three East Ridge Middle School Music teachers to the show. Hillary Brown, Rebecca Merrick, and Shane Peters join us as we talk about modifications that they had to make to their music programs this year, new technology that they are using that will carry over when after Covid is over, music learning for non-musicians, and intro/ending music created by students. Thanks for listening!

Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva

Instagram: rpssuper

Quote of the Week

“We must think of race not as a *subject* that begins and ends with any particular course of study, but as one of the most important *lenses* that can be applied to *any* unit of study.” Matthew Kay