



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 26, 2021

Dear Faculty and Families,

Spring has Sprung! You may remember from our kindergarten days, "March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb." Let's hope that this is the case.

This is the time of the year when we begin planning for the special end-of-year celebrations. We will communicate how we will be handling these events in the coming weeks. Thank you for your patience.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

A Few Bits

Board of Education Budget

The Board of Finance voted to reduce the Board of Education budget from 3.45% to 2.35%. This is a reduction of \$1,103,985 to the Board of Education's approved budget.

The next meeting to take place on the budget process will be the **Annual Town Budget Meeting** to be held on **Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** As stated in the Town Charter, Section 10-1. Budget (c), *The annual capital and operating budgets of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen, as recommended by the Board of Finance, shall be brought to the Annual Town Budget Meeting for discussion, then sent to referendum. (Those in attendance at) **The meeting shall have the power to decrease or delete any line item**, but it may not increase or add any line item or establish any additional line item. In addition, per the Town Charter, Section 10-1(c), the Board of Selectmen may decide to present certain or all capital items of under \$100,000 per item to the Town Meeting for a vote. (Those in attendance at) **The meeting shall have the power to delete any such capital item**, but it may not increase or add to any line item or establish any additional line item. Said vote shall be binding with reference to those items. All other items on the capital budget shall go to referendum as set forth in Section 10-1(d).*

School Status

We presented a plan to the Board of Education on Monday evening to return to a full learning experience for our secondary students. You can view that meeting [here](#). Additionally, a follow-up memo was sent out providing further clarification. You can find that memo [here](#).

Health And Safety

Next Thursday, April 1, all individuals 16 years of age and older will be eligible to be vaccinated in the state of Connecticut. The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only vaccine approved for 16-17 year olds. After [registering in VAMS](#), you will be able to search for locations offering the Pfizer vaccine. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after exposure to a COVID-19 positive person.

We are closely monitoring the increasing rate of new COVID-19 infections in Ridgefield and Fairfield County. The most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to maintain six feet of distance to others and wear a mask. The virus is often spread by people in the 48 hours before they develop symptoms when they don't know they are potentially contagious.

Food Service

Food service is on a modified schedule for next week with afternoon pick up of meals at our East Ridge Middle School location on Monday and Wednesday only between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday is a holiday with schools and offices closed. Extra meals will be available for pick up on Wednesday due to the holiday.

Weekend meals at Barlow Mountain Elementary or Scotland Elementary next week will be distributed on Thursday April 1, 2021, due to the holiday on Friday.

Personnel

We will be offering FES families and faculty an opportunity to provide feedback and insights as we engage in the search for our FES Principal. You will receive an invitation to attend if you are interested.

Curriculum Updates

Math Placement: A collaborative K-12 team has been working on revisions to the math placement process into middle school and from grade-to-grade in middle school. Specifically, this committee is studying the impact of COVID-19 on traditionally-used data points and processes. Families can expect a comprehensive communication from the elementary and middle schools the week of April 19th, with a breakdown of all of the components. The week of April 26th will include two presentations on the process. The elementary presentation will be on April 27 at 10:15 a.m. and the middle school presentation will be April 28 at 10:15 a.m. Links to the presentations and a form for submitting questions will be shared next week.

Parent Workshop: Click [here](#) to view the presentation from March 18 on standardized testing by K-12 administrators. The purpose of the presentation was to inform parents about the assessments that students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will take this spring.

RPS Highlights

RHS Music Department....look at this [Talent!](#)

Enjoy the RPS News here!

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): We have a very inventive show for you today. Megan LiVolsi, Magda Fincham, and Sarah Pettitt join the show today to talk about the Invention Convention; how it was started at Branchville Elementary School; the amazing opportunities that it provides our invented students; and some of the really cool products our children were able to create. Thanks for listening!

Twitter: [@RPS_DaSilva](#)

Instagram: [rpssuper](#)

Quotes of the Week

If you hear a voice within you say “you cannot paint,” then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced. –Vincent Van Gogh

“The best thing educators can do right now is to gather as much information as possible about what students have experienced over the past year – their learning, their worries, and their ideas – and take that data seriously and build on it as we return to in-person learning.” Joe Heim in “Teachers Tested” in [“How the Pandemic Is Reshaping Education”](#) in *The Washington Post*, March 15, 2021