



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

May 14, 2021

I hope everyone enjoyed their Mother's Day. Hard to believe that we have four weeks left of school. Should all things stay the same, the last day of school is June 14. I look forward to seeing everyone at the end-of-year events over the next few weeks. The weather is expected to warm up - enjoy it! I certainly will.

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

## **A Few Bits**

### **Board of Education Budget News**

The Board of Education 2021-22 Operating Budget passed this week at the Town Referendum. We will begin fall planning as soon as possible. The approved budget will be posted to our District website and updated documents will be distributed today to those who have budget notebooks.

### **School Status**

We continue to welcome all of our students back to RPS- there are no changes in our learning model for this coming week.

### **Curriculum Update**

On Monday evening, Cory Gillette- Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Linda Johnson-Elementary Director, Ellen Tuckner- Principal of VP, Dr. Kara Tanner, VPES Literacy Coach, Tricia Winkler, VPES Literacy Interventionist presented on Phonemic Awareness and the primary resource that will be used across our six elementary schools. You can watch the presentation [here](#).

### **FES Principal Search**

We hope to finalize the Principal Search in the coming week and will make an announcement shortly thereafter.

### **ERMS Principal**

Principal Raneri has resigned from East Ridge Middle School as of July 1. Ms. Raneri is looking forward to pursuing other professional opportunities where she may work directly with students. We thank Ms. Raneri for her contributions to RPS and wish her the best of luck.

We have begun our search for Ms. Raneri's replacement.

## **RPS Summer Bridge Program**

The PreK-5 Summer Bridge Program has received an incredible response from families. (We had almost 1,000 families register!) We are excited to offer this opportunity to such a large number of our Ridgefield elementary students.

The Directors have been hard at work on creating classes and assigning teachers. Families can expect to hear confirmation of registration requests **by Tuesday, May 18**. This is a change from the original date of today, Friday May 14. Families of students who are not currently enrolled, and we were not able to accommodate, will be put on a running waitlist and notified as spots open up.

The Middle School Summer Bridge registration was completed this week. They were able to accommodate all students who registered. Sessions 2 and 3 are open for additional students until the end of next week. High school students can also still register for June Intensives and July High School Readiness.

In the following weeks, registered families in all programs can expect to receive more specific information about the programming and all of the logistical details.

## **Health And Safety**

New COVID-19 infections are continuing to decline in Ridgefield, in Fairfield County, in Connecticut and Nationally. Vaccination efforts are paying off!

On Thursday, we learned CDC released guidance that fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks indoors. At this stage, RPS has not been given the authority to make any immediate changes to our health and safety protocols. We await further guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education and Department of Public Health. When new guidance comes from the State of CT, we will share it with the community. In the meantime, masks must continue to be worn by RPS staff and students both indoors and outdoors.

## **Vaccinations**

Everyone 12 years and older are now eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in Connecticut. The only vaccine currently approved for 12-17 year olds is Pfizer. Many appointments are available at nearby providers. To schedule your appointment you can visit <https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal> or call 877-918-2224.

Here are special links to sign up for a clinic at the Danbury Mall:

[Danbury Mall vaccination site on 5/19 registration](#)

[Danbury Mall vaccination site on 5/20 registration](#)

[Danbury Mall vaccination site on 5/21 registration](#)

[Danbury Mall vaccination site on 5/22 registration](#)

[Danbury Mall vaccination site on 5/23 registration](#)

Once your child receives their 2nd dose please send a photo of your vaccine card to your school nurse.

Fully vaccinated individuals **do not need to quarantine** if they have been exposed to COVID-19, as long as they remain symptom free.

### **Food Service**

We are happy to report food service meal distribution will be 'business as usual' this week with afternoon meal pick up available at our East Ridge Middle School on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for any student age 18 or younger. Barlow Mtn. Elementary and Scotland Elementary will be providing their weekend meal distribution on Friday as normal.

We hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy the wonderful weather expected this weekend! Here are some fun summer [tips](#).

### **Anti-Harassment Resource**

The U.S. Departments of Education and Justice (USED and DOJ) released a new resource for students and families: [Confronting COVID-19-Related Harassment in Schools](#). This fact sheet is available in multiple languages and will be a valuable addition to our toolkit as we work together to counter racism and ensure equity and equal opportunity for all.

### **RPS Highlights**

Enjoy RPS News [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): In today's podcast we welcome back three RHS music teachers George Beratis, Kevin Haines, and Michael McNamara. We talk about all the extraordinary things the high school music department has done while addressing this year's challenges. Spring concerts in Ballard Park, streaming musicals, and new methods for teaching are just a few of the things we talk about. Thanks for listening. From information please visit: [www.rhsperformingarts.info](http://www.rhsperformingarts.info)

If interested in purchasing tickets for the spring concert please email: [gberatis@ridgefieldps.net](mailto:gberatis@ridgefieldps.net)

Don't forget to sign on to social media.

**Twitter:** [@RPS\\_DaSilva](#)

**Instagram:** [rpssuper](#)

Both are **ridiculously** light and funny- kids can tune in also!

### **Quote of the Week**

"To learn deeply, students need to interact with content, e.g., by linking new information with prior knowledge, wrestling with questions and problems, considering different points of view, and trying to apply their learning to novel situations." Harvey Silver and Jay McTighe