



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

May 7, 2021

Dear Faculty and Families,

We wrapped up "Teacher Appreciation Week" today- we are deeply grateful to partner with our educators and administrators. We know their commitment and dedication is what anchors our school community.

Happy Mother's Day!

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

## **A Few Bits**

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

The Town Referendum will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at the East Ridge Middle School between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### **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.

### **FES Principal Search**

Our search is well underway. We hope to finalize the process soon. Keep you posted!

### **Congratulations!**

Our very own Merry! Polack from SRMS has been selected as a state-level finalist for 7th-12th grade teachers of mathematics for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program. State-level finalists will be honored at a future date to be determined.

### **RPS Summer Bridge Program**

**Elementary** Summer Bridge has closed registration for all sessions. Our goal is to get the first round of registration completed by May 14. We are excited by the enormous response and are starting to begin the fun work of planning the content of our sessions.

**Middle School** Summer Bridge has closed registration for session 1. We will start to confirm registration next week. Sessions 2 and 3 will be open for registration until 9 a.m. Monday, May 10.

**High School** June Intensive options for all current high school students is still open! We know that this is just what high school students will enjoy- we just need help signing them up!

Families and students can expect to hear responses from Best Buddies, Summer Volunteering, and High School Readiness in the next two weeks.

### **Health And Safety**

Ridgefield, Fairfield County, and Connecticut have seen a steady decline in new cases of COVID-19 since mid-April. The rate of new infections in Fairfield County has dropped to the lowest level since the beginning of the pandemic: below 0.7 new cases for each case of the virus. The trend is strongly downward. Local and state vaccination efforts are clearly reflected in these numbers.

### **Vaccinations**

The FDA is expected to approve the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 12-year olds and up as soon as next week.

On April 28, Governor Lamont signed a new law eliminating religious exemptions to vaccinations for students in private and public schools in Connecticut. The Connecticut State Department of Education is working on a guidance document for districts and families. When this document becomes available, we will share it with the community.

### **Food Service**

Next week's schedule for food service remains a normal week with afternoon distribution at our East Ridge Middle School on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Both Barlow Mtn. and Scotland Elementary schools will continue with the weekend meal program, distributed on Friday for families who wish to participate. Happy spring to all, as the weather is getting nice!

### **Curriculum Updates**

Math placement for students moving into grades 6-8 goes out today. Elementary families will receive a letter and middle school families will be able to view placement in PowerSchool.

The Assistant Superintendent, Cory Gillette; the Elementary Director, Linda Johnson; and Principal, Ellen Tucker will present to the Board of Education about our District Phonological Awareness Implementation Plan on Monday night at 7 p.m. Families can view on our [YouTube Channel](#).

### **RPS Highlights**

Enjoy RPS News [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): In today's podcast we are excited to talk to some of the hard-working members in RPS's RISE program. Joining us will be Anthony Showah, Anthony Spinelli, Christina Cipriano, and Taylor Leach. They will talk about the amazing effort that goes into meeting the needs of our RISE students; collaboration between the many stakeholders involved; what makes RISE different from traditional special education; and the fulfillment it brings to both our children, parents, and educators. Thanks for listening!

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**

"Teenagers' social media worlds promise connection yet frequently inspire anxiety and isolation." Andrew Simmons in "[Using Literature to Help Teens Develop Healthy Relationships](#)" in *Edutopia*, April 26, 2021