



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

October 16, 2020

Dear Faculty and Families,

While our community experienced a challenging day today, it provided the opportunity to reflect on the past few months and the planning and thoughtfulness of the educators of RPS, as well as the many stakeholders that contributed to the Reopening Plan. As a result of these efforts, we were well prepared and equipped to navigate the events of today. I feel a great sense of pride in being a part of this school community- as it is clear that RPS' north star is well aligned.

Enjoy your weekend.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

A Few Bits

Reopening Update

On Tuesday evening, Dr. Greenwood, RHS Principal, updated the Board of Education on the Reopening of Schools. Dr. Greenwood shared the current successes, concerns, and considerations as RHS planned for next steps in the reopening of school. While maintaining a Hybrid model is not the ideal outcome, the most prudent result in our current situation for our RHS students and Ridgefield Community. The full Board of Education meeting can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Update

As most of you know by now, we did have an individual in our RHS school community who tested positive for COVID-19. In addition to this case, a group of RHS students were exposed to another individual outside of our school district. All those individuals that require quarantining have been notified. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Aaron Crook, COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison, Coordinator of Nursing Services at acrook@ridgefieldps.net

RPS Highlights

Enjoy the RPS [News here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): Joining us on this week's show is Dr. Jacob Greenwood Principal of Ridgefield High School and Assistant Principal Michael Yagid. We discuss the work that went into the high school's decision to stay hybrid, ways that we're supporting our students, lessons learned over the past six months, and a giant pumpkin?! Thanks for listening! (*side note: this was recorded prior to today- no time for a voice over*)

Don't forget to follow *fun* and important news on social media at: **Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva**
Instagram: rpssuper

The Time Feels Right

[A great article on strengthening your empathy muscle....it feels like the right time!](#)

Quote of the Week

"You have two ears and one mouth, so you can listen twice as much as you speak." Karamo Brown, quoting his grandmother

the school staff is meeting the needs of our youngest learners, and the excitement plus positivity of having students back in the building. Thanks for listening!

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Resources from CSDE

"Join us for the KC 2020 Virtual Kids Convention. On October 17 and 18, we will join Stepping Stones Museum for Children and partners, Literacy How and Norwalk Public Schools, for the inaugural KC 2020 Virtual Kids Convention. KC 2020 will give children, families and classrooms across the U.S. a global platform to talk about their place in the world and dreams for the future. Empower your children and students with the information and inspiration they need to make a positive difference by registering for KC 2020 today! Register at <http://www.steppingstonesmuseum.org/kc2020> and use the promo code VOICE at the final checkout screen. All students and families who enter the VOICE promo code will receive free access to the entire two-day virtual convention. For more information, contact Brooke Miron at brooke@steppingstonesmuseum.org.

Interesting Resource

I fell upon this resource, Harvard's "[Making Caring Common](#)" project- useful links for families and faculty. Enjoy.

Quote of the Week

“Consider teaching in a post-COVID world the most massive project-in-Beta ever. It’s going to be messy, but that’s how humans learn and grow and adapt. Continue to experiment, fall apart on the days when it’s your turn (because everyone seems to need a turn every now and then), ask students and parents for feedback, observe other teachers when you can, and most importantly, keep giving yourself and your students grace. We’re getting through this.” Cult of Pedagogy, Jennifer Gonzalez, September 29, 2020.