



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

October 2, 2020

Dear Faculty and Families,

I hope you are enjoying the start to the fall season. We are looking forward to the arrival of our students in grades 3-5 on Monday!

A few bits are attached- I hope you find them helpful.

Warmly,

Susie

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A Few Bits

Reopening of School

On Tuesday evening, we provided the Board of Education and public an update on the reopening of schools. You can watch the meeting [here](#).

Highlights included:

- Teacher feedback consistently indicates the need for more time for planning, training and curriculum work.
- Health and safety protocols will be updated as additional information is received and available on District website
- The successful return of our elementary students (increase in car ridership makes dismissal a little longer than usual-thank you for your patience)
- We are in the process of assessing RHS to determine next steps.

Here is what you need to know now:

- K-12 students will be dismissed from school using each schools 'early dismissal' schedule on the dates below. Once students arrive home, they will be expected to log on for asynchronous learning. Additional details will follow from your schools.

- October 9 and October 29
- November 25 (This date is an existing early dismissal day on our school calendar, **now** students will remain home for the full day, and log-in during the morning and expected to engage in asynchronous learning)
- October 9, October 29, and November 25 are all cohort B days (if grades 6-12 stay hybrid after the first quarter). These days were chosen because cohort A had/has less in-person days in September, October, and November in the established calendar due to school closure on the first day of school and long weekend holidays.
- We will reevaluate the need for future dates as we approach the end of the month

Here is what is next:

- Preparing for students in grades 3-5 to return on Monday- welcome back!
- Continuing to revisit middle school possibilities/structures
- Assessment of social distancing at the high school will be taking place and next steps will be discussed at the Board of Education meeting on October 13

Health and Safety Protocol Updates

Shared (physical) materials:

- Students are permitted to share materials so long as the materials are disinfected between classes/periods.
- Materials shared can be any that are not disposable, and are made of a material that may be disinfected without ruining it (e.g. plastic).

Book sharing:

- After a book goes home it must be quarantined for 48 hours before being shared between students in school.
- As long as students wash their hands and wear masks in school, it is ok for them to share books in the classroom that are not going back and forth to home

COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison

See here for a [Letter from Aaron Crook](#), COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison

Attendance

Please see [linked letter](#) regarding students' attendance (remote and physical).

RPS Highlights

Enjoy the RPS News [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): In this episode we welcome two guests, Tricia Raneri, Principal of East Ridge Middle School and Tim Salem, Principal of Scotts Ridge Middle School. We talk about how the middle schools are handling hybrid learning, the hard work the teachers are doing to rise to this challenge, as well as climate and culture with both students and teachers. Thanks for listening.

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

@RPS_DaSilva Instagram: rpssuper

Resources on Activism

School Library Journal features, Cicely Lewis recommends the following books on voting:

- *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965* by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane Evans (Random/Schwartz & Wade, 2015), grades 1-4
- *For Which We Stand: How Our Government Works and Why It Matters* by Jeff Foster, illustrated by Julie McLaughlin (Scholastic, 2020), grades 3-7
- *We the People: The United States Constitution Explored and Explained* by Aura Lewis and Evan Sargent (Quarto/Wide-Eyed Editions, 2020), grades 5-8
- *The Voting Booth* by Brandy Colbert (Hyperion, 2020), grades 7-10
- *Votes of Confidence: A Young Person's Guide to American Elections* by Jeff Fleisher (Lerner/Zest, 2020), grade 8 and up

Quote of the Week: "Someday is not a day of the week." —Janet Dailey