



# RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | November 20, 2020

## RABC Scholar at Ridgefield High School

RHS senior, Natalie E. is a Ridgefield A Better Chance (RABC) Scholar. RABC (established in 1987) is a local chapter of a national program that recruits academically talented and motivated high school students of color from educationally underserved areas.

Natalie, a Massachusetts native who lived in Nairobi, Kenya for seven years, learned of A Better Chance at an International Food Night at her middle school. Her family was open to new opportunities and encouraged her to apply.

RABC scholars like Natalie undergo a rigorous interview and application process to secure one of the eight spots in the program. Once accepted, the RABC girls live together in a house that becomes like a home away from home for their four high school years. One of Natalie's favorite parts of her day is dinner at 6 p.m. when the girls put away their cell phones and share what is going on in their lives. The girls also have a phone-free study hall scheduled from 7-9 p.m., lights out at 11:00. Academic advisors and college counselors help RABC Scholars navigate the rigors of high school and the college application process. Local host families provide a deeper Ridgefield connection for each girl.

Natalie cites the clubs at RHS as one of her favorite parts of the school. "There are so many opportunities here and new people to meet," she says. She is one of the founding members of the Black History Club, which does the morning announcements in February during Black History Month. Natalie says that RHS history teacher Jennifer DeJulio has been one of many supporters at RHS. "Ms. DeJulio has always been here for me, understanding, and welcoming." Ms. DeJulio's support was particularly important last spring when Natalie was called the "N" word online by two classmates in the wake of the George Floyd killing and Black Lives Matter protests. The classmates didn't see the word as being problematic, which Natalie strongly disagrees with. "That word shouldn't be used for any reason," she says. She felt a bit better after RHS addressed the students directly, and learned a valuable lesson of taking care of herself. For her, that meant taking a break from social media.



[For more information on RABC Scholars and becoming a host family, please visit RABC's website.](#)

## Calendar

**November 23**  
BOE Meeting

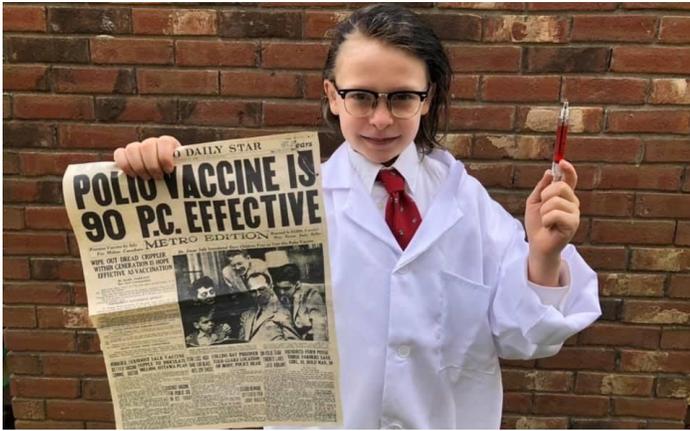
**November 25**  
Early Dismissal

**November 26-27**  
Thanksgiving Recess

[BOE website for information](#)

RPS Employment Opportunities on Page 2

## Biography Day at RES



Jonas Salk, Jane Goodall, Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein—these are all historical figures that Ridgebury Elementary fifth-graders chose for Biography Day.



## Help Wanted

Ridgefield Public Schools is hiring. More than ever, substitute teachers are playing a vital role for RPS students. Please visit [the RPS website](#) to find district openings.

## No Place for Hate



Ridgefield High School has paired with the Anti-Defamation League to ask students to make a pledge to get involved in ending hate and antisemitism. [No Place for Hate website.](#)

## SRMS Students Give Back



Two Scotts Ridge Middle School eighth graders helped the Ridgefield Rotary Club raise over \$10,000 to help those hit hard by the pandemic. Aakarsh P. (left) and Tyler H. call themselves the Musical Rescuers and have been taking their musical talents to Main Street to raise funds for important causes.

## RHS Athletes Sign Letters

Ridgefield High School hosted a socially-distanced signing day for 12 seniors intending to continue their athletic careers in college. Congratulations to these RHS student-athletes:  
Stephanie B.—Colgate (Swimming)  
Kelly C.—Univ. Of Delaware (Soccer)  
Rylie G.—Bucknell Univ. (Swimming)  
Mary H.—Quinnipiac (Lacrosse)  
Connor H.—Univ. Of Michigan (Swimming)  
Phoebe I.—Indiana Univ. (Rowing)  
Charlie K.—Univ. of Pennsylvania (XC/Track)  
Grace M.—Cornell Univ. (Track)  
Rylie P.—College of the Holy Cross (Lacrosse)  
Hannah S.—Northeastern Univ. (Swimming)  
Jillian S.—Indiana Univ. (Rowing)  
Samantha S.—Univ. Of Delaware (Tennis)

Keep up with Ridgefield Public Schools News on our website [news page](#) and [calendar](#).

We would love to hear from you, [contact us](#) with questions and feedback.

