



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877
Phone: (203) 894-5550 Fax (203) 431-2810

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

Dear RPS Community,

I am so sorry to be writing this letter to our community today. One of our RPS community members, Logan Hale, a courageous 8th grade student at East Ridge Middle School passed away. Our hearts and prayers are with Logan's family and his many, many friends. Logan will be remembered for his strength, smile and kindness toward others, as well as the way in which he cherished his friendships.

Our school community is here to support our students and their families through this incredibly difficult time. We recognize that the grieving process will look different for each student- and we want to support our students and their families in every way possible.

ERMS and SRMS counselors and other mental health staff will be available for our students tomorrow, December 31st, and Saturday, January 1st.

Children who **prefer in-person** support may come to ERMS between 12 noon and 2 pm either day. Students and their parents should visit the counseling suite in the Main Office (2nd floor).

Students who wish to access **virtual support** can fill out this [google form](#) and a counselor will send a google meet link to the student's [rps.net](#) account for a scheduled time during the selected session window.

The following resources may be helpful when supporting children through the grieving process.

- The Coalition to Support Grieving Students - [Talking with Children](#)
- The Coalition to Support Grieving Students - [What Not to Say](#)
- National Association of School Psychologists - [Addressing Grief in Children](#)
- Child Mind Institute - [Helping Children Cope with Grief](#)

If you have any further questions, concerns, or would like more support when school begins on January 3rd, please reach out to one of the following support staff members:

- Dana Tatela (dtatela@ridgefieldps.net), School Psychologist (ERMS)
- Rachel Santorelli (rsantorelli@ridgefieldps.net), School Psychologist (ERMS)
- Meghan Mulvehill (mmulvehill@ridgefieldps.net), 6th Grade Counselor (ERMS)
- Caitlin DeMello (cdemello@ridgefieldps.net), 7th Grade Counselor (ERMS)
- Amy Jonsson (ajonsson@ridgefieldps.net), 8th Grade Counselor (ERMS)
- Ashley Lowney (alowney@ridgefieldps.net), School Counselor (ERMS)
- Audrey Camino-Jara (acaminojara@ridgefieldps.net), Teen Talk Counselor (ERMS)
- Jennifer Phostole (jphostole@ridgefieldps.net), ERMS Principal
- Stephanie Taveras (staveras@ridgefieldps.net) 6th Grade Counselor (SRMS)

- Elizabeth Reynolds (ereynolds@ridgefieldps.net) 7th Grade Counselor (SRMS)
- Dominique Smith (dsmith@ridgefieldps.net) 8th Grade Counselor (SRMS)
- Kim Van Allsburg (kvanallsburg@ridgefieldps.net) School Psychologist (SRMS)
- Sara Minotti (sminotti@ridgefieldps.net) School Psychologist (SRMS)
- Alexandra Avila (aavila@ridgefieldps.net) Teen Talk Counselor (SRMS)
- Tim Salem (tsalem@ridgefieldps.net) Principal (SRMS)

May you find peace in having known or been touched by this special young man.

Sincerely,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D