



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | January 29, 2021

RPS Prioritizes Transparency This Budget Season

Last Saturday, the Board of Education hosted an all-day budget workshop that was open to the public and continues to be available [here](#). Each “cost center” in the District presented its budget, including additions, subtractions, or reallocations.

Administrators and board members also rearticulated district priorities, this year’s many successes and challenges, and raised policy issues including “pay to play” for RHS sports, co-teaching (general and special education) in elementary school, transportation costs, and elementary art teachers.



RPS aims for transparency, collaboration, and public engagement during this budget season. Please find the [Superintendent's 2021-22 Proposed Budget Book here](#).

New Technologies

Ridgebury Elementary reports that fifth graders are using technology in new and engaging ways (photo far right). In Mrs. Dowey's math class, students have been using number lines, pattern blocks and geoboards from the recently purchased Brainiaccamp apps (online math manipulatives) to show their understanding of adding and subtracting mixed numbers.



In the photo near right, Barlow Mountain

Elementary fifth graders are having fun practicing their math facts on [Osmo](#), a hands-on interactive system with manipulatives, purchased with a grant from the BMES PTA.

Calendar

January 29

Professional Development

[Other Asynchronous Days](#)

February 26

March 15

April 26

May 24

January 30

BOE Public Hearing

On Zoom at 10 AM

[Streaming here](#)

February 8 and 22

BOE Meetings

February 12-16

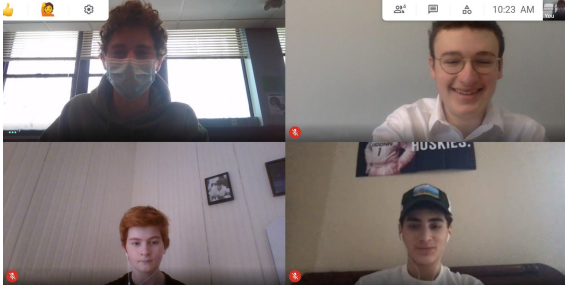
No School; February Recess

Offices Open 2/16

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

How You Can Help RPS on Page 2

College Admission Reform?



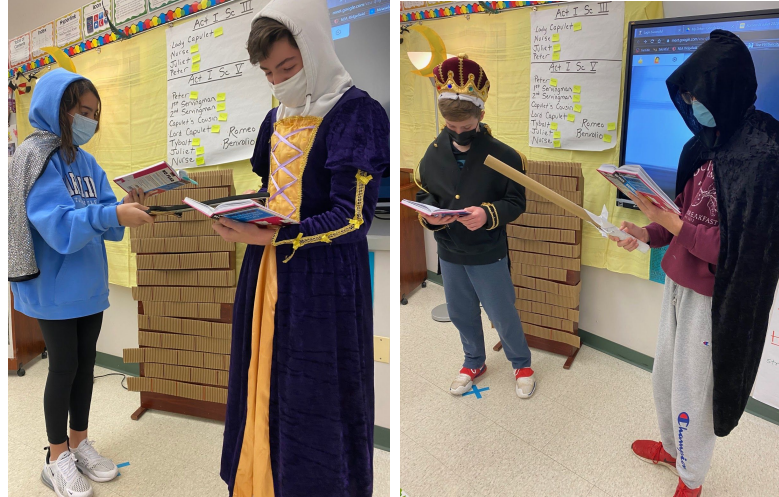
Ridgefield High School debaters tackled the timely topic of College Admission Reform at the Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) Online Tournament. Ninth-graders James C. and Jeremy H. took fourth-place in the novice category qualifying for the State Tournament in March. Henry L. racked up two wins as a singleton in the varsity division.

Student Art Spotlight



For the second week in a row, students join host Wes DeSantis on the [Tiger Talk Podcast](#). RHS Art Department Chair Michael Rivera brought senior Beatrice A. (photo right) and sophomore Ryder D. (photo left) to discuss their art journeys and experiences at RHS. Beatrice describes her 3-D work and how her background in art allows her to see things through different lenses. Ryder discusses his photography, interest in film, and his dream to be a famous director. Please see a gallery of Beatrice and Ryder's work [here](#).

Shakespeare at SRMS



Scotts Ridge Middle School eighth-grade students performed Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in English class. They found ways to relate to the story and to see this Renaissance piece of literature as relevant and current with themes that transcend time.

Help Us Stay Healthy

In a recent letter, Superintendent Dr. Susie Da Silva reminded RPS families of their vital role in keeping our schools open and mitigating COVID spread. Please keep children home from school when they show any [symptoms related to COVID-19](#). Many families are being proactive and keeping children home when any member of the household develops symptoms. The District has bought face shields for all Grade K-8 students to wear during lunch. Please continue to wear masks properly, wash hands, monitor symptoms, and avoid social gatherings.

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.

