

RPS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

September 20, 2018



Our Shared Purpose
Provide highly engaging, relevant
and personalized learning for all
members of the community.

JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools
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A Greeting from Dr. Paddyfote

Dear Members of the Ridgefield Community:

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I write to you at the start of a new school year. In my role as Interim Superintendent, I have met students who are eager to learn; administrators, teachers and support staff of the highest caliber; parents who are meaningfully involved in their student's learning; and community members who value and support Ridgefield Public Schools. With this level of commitment by stakeholders, we can continue to achieve great results, one student at a time.

I am excited about the level of engagement of staff, students and parents. As a team, we can fulfill our mission to provide "engaging, relevant, and personalized learning experiences so all students can pursue their interests and prepare for life, learning, and work as global citizens." Our students are ready to learn and succeed, and our educators are prepared to personalize learning for students. We are appreciative of parental input and feedback to ensure we are meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of our students. Together, we can and will make a difference in the life of each student, one day at a time.

A new school year brings a level of enthusiasm unparalleled during any other time of the year, except for the last day of school and graduation. Try as we might, we need to encapsulate the energy and enthusiasm of the first few days of school to sustain us on our journey through a year of unprecedented achievement and accomplishments. Ridgefield Public Schools has distinguished itself from other school districts by embracing and demonstrating high Standards of Excellence. Our goal in 2018 is to make a great school district even greater.

I extend best wishes to all members of Ridgefield Public Schools for a productive, rewarding and successful year.

Sincerely,

JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D.

BOE Seeks Community Input on Superintendent Search



The Ridgefield Board of Education, functioning as the Executive Search Committee, is seeking an outstanding educational leader for the position of Superintendent of Schools and invites qualified and interested candidates to apply.

[See Search Flyer.](#)

Photo (left to right): Corina Borgia-Drake, James Keidel, Sharon D'Orso, Frances Walton, Kathleen Holz, Tracey O'Connor, Jonathan Steckler, & Margaret Stamatis. (Not pictured, Doug Silver.)

[Cooperative Educational Services \(CES\) Executive Searches](#) will facilitate the search on behalf of the Board of Education. The Search Committee expects the new superintendent to assume full responsibilities of the superintendency on or before March 1, 2019.

CES is conducting an online survey, and focus groups were held to solicit input that reflects the values and needs of our community. Information and a link to the survey were emailed to school personnel, parents, and high school students.

The community survey is available from September 11 to September 21, 2018.

Ridgefield Public Schools Welcomes New Certified Staff

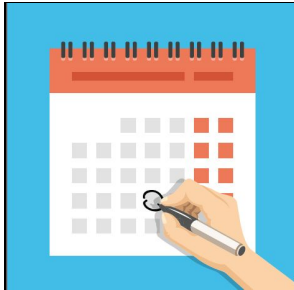


This month we are excited to introduce our new certified staff members! For some, this is their first teaching job. For others, it is an opportunity to build and develop skills in a new environment. Please join us in welcoming them to the Ridgefield Public Schools.

[Meet our new staff.](#)

Mark your Calendars for Open House

Our goal at Open House is to give parents and guardians practical information and insight into plans for future events, programs, and curriculum. Our common understanding and collaboration can help provide the foundation needed to support your child's education.



Please join us for Open House!

Thursday, September 20th at 6:45pm—SRMS

Thursday, September 20th at 7:00pm—BES, FES, VPES

Thursday, September 27th at 6:45pm—ERMS

Thursday, September 27th at 7:00pm—BMES

[Printable 2018-19 School Calendar](#)



Highlights of our “Back to School” Activities

Our summer work kicked into high gear in August as our District Leadership Team gathered for two days of focused collaboration and planning. New teachers were welcomed and oriented; faculty returned to prepare classrooms and participate in professional learning; and convocation speeches inspired us all. We pulled together some highlights of this work to share with you. [Watch the video.](#)

If you want to be inspired like we were, read the full transcript of the speech given by our “Teacher of the Year”, [Jennifer DeJulio.](#)

Coming Soon

Dismissal & Transportation Monitoring Applications for Parents

In October we will begin utilizing two applications that will improve communications and processes related to student transportation.



The first is called [School Dismissal Manager](#). The App will be used in our elementary schools and is a convenient system that allows parents to notify the school of any change to a student's normal dismissal schedule with just a few clicks.



The second application is called [FirstView® Parent App](#) and is a live-tracking application that will show the location of children's buses in real time. Parents will be able to see estimated pick-up and arrival times and can set a variety of customized alerts.

Project Resilience Parent Workshops Scheduled for Fall!

RPS joins with other community organizations in partnership with [Project Resilience](#) to present a new year of parent workshops. All events begin at 7:00 p.m. and take place at the Ridgefield Library. Mark your calendars!

October 3: *Digital Addiction: No One Wins When Kids Get Hooked on Games* - Paul Weigle, MD
[See Flyer for Details.](#)

November 14: *Survival of the Kindest: How Helping Others Fuels Success in Our Children...and Ourselves* - Christopher Kukk, Ph.D.



You may keep up with all of the news from the Ridgefield Public Schools via our [news page](#) on the district site or via social media. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Pinterest](#) as we share news, reminders of important events, and more.

[Contact us](#) if you have any questions or feedback.

