



RPS News

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No Place for Hate at RHS

Ridgefield High School Assistant Principal Jennifer Phostole reports that the No Place for Hate (NPFH) initiative is gaining momentum this month in its quest for RHS to become one of the first No Place for Hate high schools in Connecticut. NPFH is an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) program that the executive board of the Student Council signed onto this fall. Since then, many members of the RHS community have signed the NPFH pledge. About sixty student ambassadors from all grade levels have spearheaded various programs and acted as role models. Some of these programs include the Humans Of Ridgefield initiative, 2021 Acts of Intentional Respect, a podcast about microaggressions, and a speaker series. The ADL Names Day program for tenth-grade students will take place in March. Inspired by the movie, *The Social Dilemma*, senior ambassador Riley C. initiated an important conversation about the pitfalls of social media. Riley said, “if every member of my generation sits back and does nothing to combat the issues we face, no positive change will occur. We all must choose to act.” To learn more about all the NPFH initiatives, including signing the pledge or becoming a student ambassador, visit the [RHS NPFH website](#) and subscribe to the NPFH [Instagram](#). Please read [Ms. Phostole’s article](#) for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education on how NPFH aligns with RHS’s goals to be a more inclusive place that values respect, empathy, and equity.



The Simpsons ERMS Episode

Principal Raneri’s scooter for her bum leg, Mr. Grace’s signature vest, Mr. Settani’s “Stress Free Zone” (right)...A hall of portraits of East Ridge Middle School staff rendered Simpson-style has given the school a much-needed laugh this week. Under art teacher Hillary Lewis’s direction, eighth graders borrowed Matt Groenig’s signature style to capture teachers’ essences without being mean. Please enjoy some laughs with [this gallery of ERMS Characters](#). Special thanks to ERMS students Bridget K. and David Z. for the tour!



Calendar

February 12-16
No School; February Recess
Offices Open 2/16

February 22
BOE Meeting

June 14
Tentative Last Day of School
[Emergency Closing Calendar](#)

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

[Kindergarten Registration for School Year 2021-22 Is Open](#)

Artists and Orators at RHS



Ridgefield High School students Ariel L. and Valeriya L. won Gold Key recognition in the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards and will move on to the prestigious National Competition in New York. Valeriya's work (above) won in the Digital Art category. Ariel's dress and bag (below) took top honors in the Fashion category.

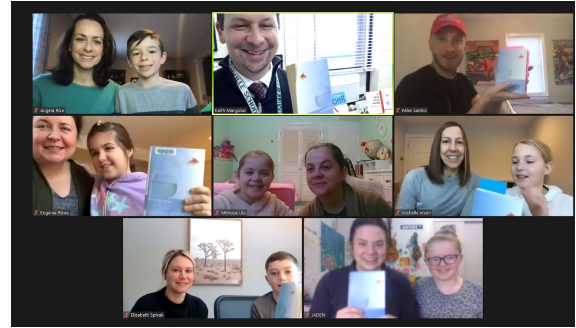
Miranda D., Caroline L., Emma Y., and Carol W. all earned honorable mentions. The National Scholastic Art Awards, created in 1927, to honor the "creative excellence" of young artists is the largest and oldest student competition in the country.



RHS sophomore Jackson F. (photo right) won the school's annual Poetry Out Loud recitation contest. Jackson will represent RHS in the regional finals. Beatrice A. was the runner-up.



Out of My Mind at BES



Branchville Elementary PTA co-president Angela Rice and Principal Mr. Margolus teamed up again to offer students in Grades 3-5 and their parents a Parent/Child Book Club. They read *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, a book that confronts challenges people with disabilities have to face, which many take for granted.

Socs vs. Greasers



After Scotts Ridge Middle School seventh graders finished *The Outsiders* by J.C. Hinton, they got ready to rumble. Students created a character figure of either a Greaser or a Soc from the novel. To score points during the game, they had to reflect on what they knew about the characters' backgrounds and demonstrate an overall understanding of the characters' personalities by speaking as if they were that character.

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.

