



# RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | Graduation Special Edition 2020

## Congratulations RHS Class of 2020!

The Ridgefield High School Class of 2020 graduated last week in a series of events that celebrated this storied rite of passage under a completely new set of conditions. On Thursday, a drive-in graduation brought students and families together while recognizing state social distance guidelines by splitting the class in half alphabetically.

Three large screens broadcast the speakers, including Principal Dr. Stacey Gross, who declared this to be a special class. Senior Class President Clodagh Ryan echoed Dr. Gross, calling the class's spirit, achievements, and engagement as defining and superlative.

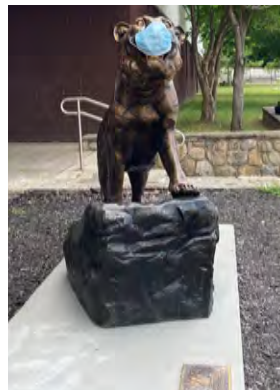
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Da Silva said, "Hindsight is The Class of 2020." She charged the class to take advantage of the now; be advocates for a better and more equitable society; and take agency to be the person they want to be.

Class speaker Kyra Linekin recognized the shock the quarantine caused and the perspective it brought. She encouraged her classmates to remember the seemingly small things and recognized the support of her RHS community.

Long-time RPS parent, Deirdre Basile summed up the day like this, "Fourth and final RHS graduation. Certainly different than the others - but really special in its own way. 45 minutes, decorated cars, horns, blaring as applause - we loved it."

Congratulations Class of 2020! Thank you for all you contributed to RPS and best of luck.

You are loved. You will be missed!



Full List of Colleges on Page 2

## Diploma Pick-Up

A cardboard cutout of RHS Principal Stacey Gross was just one of the fun touches of Diploma Pick-Up day on June 12. Families could pose with Dr. G for a socially distant memory of this important milestone.



## Senior Awards

Questin McQuilkin (in photo far left with graduation participants, Clodagh Ryan, Kyra Linekin, and Matthew Sorgie) is Valedictorian. [Top Ten RHS Scholars](#). [Full list of senior awards and scholarships](#).



## Arts and Literature

The [RHS Virtual Arts Festival](#) showcases the artistic acumen of the Class of 2020. From art to theater to website design and music, this group has talent. The [Lodestar Literary Magazine](#) offers a cross-section of the literary and artistic prowess of RHS. Please enjoy these two creative endeavors.

## Athletics

The Class of 2020 includes many students planning to play sports at the next level.

[RHS athletes who attended Fall '19 and Spring '20 commitment ceremonies](#)



## Virtual Graduation Video

On June 19, RPS released [this virtual graduation video](#), which includes the speeches, photos of each graduate, and a message.



## Reading of Names

2020 Class President Clodagh Ryan and Student Body President Matthew Sorgie read [the names of all 380 graduates](#).



## Colleges

The Juilliard School, Duke, UCLA, Harvard, McGill, Northeastern, University of Michigan, UConn, Wesleyan, and Yale University are some of the selective universities the Class of 2020 will attend in the fall. See the [full list of colleges](#).



## Podcast

Departing RHS Principal Dr. Stacey Gross is Dr. Wes DeSantis's guest on this week's Ridgefield Tiger Talk podcast. Please tune in to hear Dr. Gross's advice for the incoming RHS principal and highlights of her eight-year tenure as Principal at RHS. All episodes of [Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#) are available.



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