



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | January 22, 2021

RPS Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr.

Racial equality. Peace. Nonviolence. Hope for the future. The end of poverty. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated for and shaped many of our shared values and dreams. Classrooms across the District recognized Dr. King's birthday and honored his legacy in different, age-appropriate lessons.

East Ridge Middle School students in Andrea Donigian's sixth-grade social studies class wrote essays that reflected on Dr. King's dream, their aspirations, and what Dr. King means to them. Students could choose to submit their work to [Senator Chris Murphy's annual essay contest](#). Mrs. Donigian's students also chose a part of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream Speech" and created a visual representation of what it means to them. Brandon D. drew the powerful image top right.



Creative projects, personal reflection, and read-alouds were also important parts of RPS elementary schools' MLK Day activities. Farmingville Elementary first graders in Sarah Kehoe's class read *I Am Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Brad Meltzer. Then, they compared brown and white hard-boiled eggs in a lesson on how objects with different exteriors can be the same on the inside.



Older students at Branchville and Scotland Elementary Schools read the nonfiction book *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* to connect to Dr. King's character, his gift for language, and his world-changing legacy. Please see RHS responses to the book *Dear Martin* on the next page.

Calendar

January 23

BOE Special Meeting
Full-day Budget Workshop
[Streaming Here](#)

January 25

BOE Meeting

January 29

Early Dismissal/Asynchronous
Professional Development
[Other Asynchronous Days](#)

February 26

March 15

April 26

May 24

January 30

BOE Public Hearing

February 8 and 22

BOE Meetings

February 12-16

No School; February Recess

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

Science Research Program



Last week's [Tiger Talk Podcast](#) was the first to feature RPS students. Host Wes DeSantis interviewed Ridgefield High School seniors Gianna G. (photo left) and Claire G. (photo right) about the Science Research Program—a college-level intensive program at RHS. Joined by teacher Patrick Hughes, the students describe their research in genetics, the effects of COVID-19 on their work, and a free CRISPR workshop the students recently gave for the community. CRISPR is a powerful genetic modification tool that Claire and Gianna have worked with for their independent science research.

BMES Service



This Barlow Mountain Elementary student, Caiden W., and his family came to school on the Monday holiday to help clean up the gardens. Thank you for your service!!!

Artful Responses

Ridgefield High School Reading Teacher Judy Silver reports that the department wanted to offer students greater choice and agency this year. They gave students creative options for projects in response to *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone for 10th grade and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie for 9th grade. Students could film a book trailer, a film soundtrack, or complete a visual arts project. A selection of the students' artistic responses is below.



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.

