



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | End of the Year Edition | Ridgefield, CT | June 24, 2022

## RPS Is Grateful! Hats Off to All Our Students, Staff, and Families

What a week! We celebrated commencement ceremonies at all the RPS schools. What a month! We had field days and field trips, retiree celebrations and proms, concerts and art shows that highlighted the talents of our students and staff. What a year! Together, families, teachers, staff, and the town accomplished so much. We are so grateful to have each other in this truly special district. Thank you! Photo captions [here](#).



## Calendar

**June 24**

Last Day of School  
Early Dismissal for Students

[District Calendar](#)

**June 27**

BOE Meeting  
In Person and Streaming  
90 East Ridge Road

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

**August 29**

First Day of School,  
Gr. K-9 Students

**August 30**

First Day of School,  
Gr. 10-12 Students

Have a Great Summer, RPS!



## RHS Class of 2022 Graduates!

On June 17, the wonderful RHS Class of 2022 graduated with pomp, circumstance, and speeches (linked below to speakers' name) that dropped science, rock and roll metaphors, and advice on seniors and their families. The senior class selected English teacher, [Emily Kilbourn](#) as the graduation speaker. In a funny and profound speech, Kilbourn called the group tenacious and quoted "philosopher" Tina Turner saying these students are, "Simply the best. Better than all the rest."



The student speakers—Valedictorian, [Hersha Chauhan](#); class president [Molly Lyons](#), and class speaker [Presley Milton](#);—certainly seemed wiser and more articulate than their years. Superintendent Dr. Susie Da Silva told students, "You matter more than you'll ever know." RHS Principal [Dr. Jacob Greenwood](#) noted how "bittersweet" it was to say goodbye to this inspiring group forged but not defined by the pandemic.



Molly Lyons and student body president Anshuman Suryawanshi deftly read the [names of the 385 graduates](#). Many were exceptional RHS students, musicians, athletes, artists, actors, active community service volunteers, and leaders. At least one already published a book, [Step Bravely](#). Four seniors won a National rowing championship (story on Page 3). One knitted the cover for her mortarboard. For some, completing the requirements for a diploma is a shared District and family triumph. Congratulations and best of luck, Class of 2022! We love you. Please find a list of the Class of 2022 colleges [here](#). **See a slideshow from graduation [here](#).**



## "Pursue Your Passions": Valedictorian Offers Advice to RPS Students

Valedictorian Hersha Chauhan took time out of her busy pre-graduation schedule to talk to *RPS News*. She offered this sage advice to students: "I would advise anyone and everyone to pursue what they are passionate and curious about. The more you immerse yourself in, the more people you meet and experiences you gain, each of which will contribute to your future in some meaningful way. Get involved in activities for no other reason than to genuinely have fun and chase your curiosities. Your time in elementary school, middle school, and high school will fly by so when you ground yourself in the present and surround yourself with various people, you can cherish every moment you have for many years to come." Hersha will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. Photo Caption: *Hersha is third from the left in the beautiful photo from senior prom.*





## Crew Seniors Take Gold at Nationals

RHS Seniors Claire Poremba, Katie and Sarah Rapaglia, and Julia Clavi took gold at the 2022 US Rowing Youth Nationals in Sarasota, Florida. This all-RHS boat beat out much larger teams in a victory for their small but mighty [GMS Club](#). View an interview with the girls [here](#) (33 min mark). Their families report that “their dedication to the sport is complete, training two hours per day plus travel to the Housatonic, six days a week, all year long/rain or shine. They gave up homecoming, prom, *and* graduation to achieve what they have while sustaining their grades. Claire, Katie, and Sarah are currently in Chula Vista, CA. at an Olympic training center, training with other selection finalists vying for a spot on the US team which will compete at Worlds in late July.” All four rowers have earned D1 college scholarships to continue rowing next year. Congratulations!



## ERMS French Students Host Senegalese Market!

East Ridge Middle School French students have been learning about Senegal, a French-speaking country, its history, and its tradition of craft markets. Students then created their own authentic Senegalese marketplace with 6th-grade social studies students as their customers. Using only French, students haggled to buy and sell authentic Senegalese craft items that they had made in the maker space. These items included artwork, beaded jewelry, baskets, and musical instruments. As students immersed themselves in the culture of an authentic Senegalese marketplace, they enjoyed an engaging educational experience!



## RHS Is Red, White, and Blue



RHS earned the distinction of being a [Red, White & Blue School](#)! According to the CT State Department of Education, the Red, White, and Blue initiative, aims “to promote the importance of civic involvement among Connecticut students of all ages. Schools that participate develop civics programs and classes that are innovative and informative.” This year’s theme was State and Local Government. Social Studies Chair Danny Martins said that RHS has long-established programs around voting and civic engagement. RHS works with town officials and organizations, including the Ridgefield Registrar of Voters, the Ridgefield League of Women voters, and more. Please see Mr. Martins and Government Teacher Carla Kahlbaugh’s report about the ways in which RHS classes and clubs engage with politics [here](#).

## Boys and Girls Track Are All-Americans

The Ridgefield High School boys and girls distance medley teams earned All-American honors at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals. Read about their impressive victories and see more photos in this [Hamlet Hub link](#). Congratulations to the girls running coach John Goetz for being FCIAC Fall Coach of the Year. Goetz is retiring this year.



## Live from Ridgefield! New Visual and Performing Arts Website



Please check out the new [RPS Visual and Performing Arts Website](#) that went live this week. The website features changing exhibitions and performances, which showcase the ongoing creativity in the visual arts, music, and theater at RPS.

## To Market to Market to Buy a Lip Scrub; Grade 6 Does Good

ERMS Team Andes students concluded their sixth-grade year with a Day of Action. The day included many activities, including making 135 sandwiches for those in need, 12 care packages for active duty service members, Red Cross Emergency information kits for senior citizens, 150 dog treats for the animal shelter, and cards for elderly nursing home residents. They weeded the school gardens, picked up trash around the outside of ERMS, and decorated bags for Meals on Wheels. Students funded the projects by making crafts and products like lip scrubs then selling them at Market Day. ERMS is proud of its students and knows they will continue to spread kindness through their actions. See a slideshow of Day of Action in action:) [here](#).



## Ruby's Pantries Open All Summer; Give Help; Get Help

Ruby's Little Pantries has five convenient locations open 24/7, where families can find simple meals and other nonperishables. Please consider helping to keep these filled over the summer months or visiting them to find meals, snacks, and cleaning products. All the information about the supplies most needed, the best summer donations, and the addresses of the five pantries is [here](#). Thank you!

## Summer Reading and Curriculum for Every Grade

For some of us, summer means more free time to read. For others, reading is low on the list of favorite activities. Whether a student is an avid or reluctant reader, the [Ridgefield Library](#) is a great partner. The curriculum department has pulled together [Summer Bridge Resources](#) for engaging educational experiences at every grade level. Ridgefield High School students (and their families) can also access great reading suggestions (including the 2022 *Lodestar Literary Magazine*) on the [RHS LLC Website](#). HAGS!

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.

