



RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | November 6, 2020

Sounds of Music: The Joy of Playing Together

Outside flute lessons, socially distanced orchestra practices, recorded concerts, masks—these are all adaptations that RPS educators have taken to continue the district’s exemplary music program.

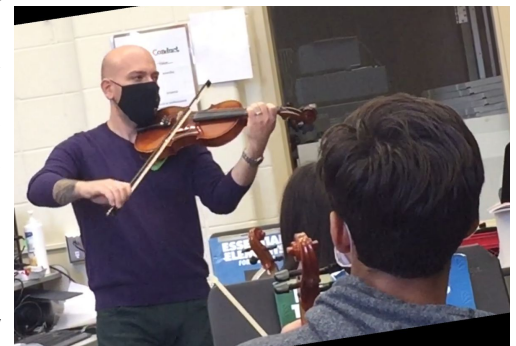
Teacher Shane Peters (photo middle right) says, “It’s wonderful that we get to make music in our classrooms this year with the help of masks and physical distance. Working with my orchestra kids at both middle schools and hearing the progress that they are making gives me hope for the future. It is also incredibly exciting that with cohorts in place, the co-curricular Symphonic Orchestra is able to continue at both East Ridge and Scotts Ridge Middle Schools. Though things are different this year, making music with students is still a joyous experience.”

Alexandria McGowan, Elementary Orchestra Director at Barlow Mountain, Ridgebury, and Scotland Elementary Schools reports that school orchestra students have been hard at work learning their first new notes on their string instruments. They are mastering songs such as "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Jolly Fellows." McGowan says “all students attend either in person or virtually so everyone can join in on the fun! We look forward to making music together every week.”

RHS Orchestra Director, Michael McNamara says that they have been focusing on just one or two pieces at a time and then recording a concert as soon as they are ready. The RHS Orchestra was able to record two pieces already and are at work on an outdoor spring performance for May.

McNamara’s emphasis this year is on the music of Beethoven, who McNamara sees as an inspiration for this challenging time. “It is highly unusual and very difficult to be a deaf musician,” McNamara writes, “yet Beethoven found a way to make it work. His music embodies his triumph over a very difficult life.” Please enjoy this wonderful [teaser of the October performance of Beethoven's Creatures of Prometheus Overture](#), which will be released in December.

Parents can learn more about the RPS K-12 music program at [Ridgefield Music Matters](#).



Calendar

November 9 and 23

BOE Meeting

[BOE website for information](#)

November 17

Parenting Workshop

[Registration Information](#)

November 25

Early Dismissal

November 26-27

Thanksgiving Recess

Weather Related Closings



Because Ridgefield Public Schools are fully equipped for remote learning, weather-related dismissals and cancellations might be less frequent. Please see [Superintendent Da Silva's letter addressing new weather procedures, delays, and early dismissal times](#). The photo above shows Farmingville Elementary Psychologist David Lucian as the weatherman flanked by various weather forecasts.

Good Morning, SRMS

Live from Scotts Ridge Middle School



It's the SRMS Morning Show!

Live from Scotts Ridge Middle School, it's the SRMS Morning Show! Kudos to the SRMS team for transitioning into a virtual production of its morning show while middle schools are remote. Eighth graders (shown from their homes) produced the first show.

FCIAC Central Champions!



Ridgefield High School Boys and Girls (photo above) Cross Country Teams won FCIAC Central division titles this week with several RHS students placing in the top ten finishers in both races. Congratulations!

[Boys' results here.](#) [Girls' results here.](#)

Timely Parenting Workshop

Project Resilience parenting workshops resume this month with the topic: "Executive Functions and COVID-19: Helping Children Stay Structured During This Unstructured Time."



Join psychologists Melanie Pearl, Ph.D. (photo left) and Patrick McAuliffe, Ph.D. (photo right) to learn about human brain structures that help manage behavior in challenging and not-so-challenging times.

This free workshop is part of the ongoing "Parenting the Selfie Generation" series. It will take place on November 17 at 7 pm on Zoom. Please visit the [Ridgefield Library website](#) to register or call 203.438.2282.

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.

