



# RPS NEWS

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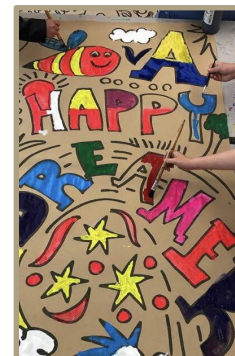
## Twelve RHS Students Named National Merit Semifinalists



Congratulations to the twelve Ridgefield High School National Merit Scholar semifinalists: Stephen Chen, Emily Christel, Liam Flaherty, Katherine Landler, Joyce Li, Julia Lin, Nicholas Mantione, Questin McQuilkin, Henry Meyler, Helen Ni, Ryan Pratt, and Ryan Taylor! These students had top PSAT/NMSQT scores and earned the opportunity to compete for college scholarships. Among the group shown in the photo on the left are five musicians, three mathletes, members of the RHS mock trial team, a volleyball player, a tennis player, and a center on the varsity football team. All the best to them!

## Collaborative Posters Introduce FES Book of the Year

Farmingville Art Teacher Rachael Penney created posters with her students as a collaborative project to launch the school's "One School, One Book" program. This year's FES book is *Happy Dreamer* by Peter Reynolds. The cheerful posters, drawn by Penney and painted by every class at FES, remind us to dream big, share those dreams, "bee" kind, and respect each other's dreams.



## Calendar

**Sept 23**  
BOE Meeting\*

**Sept 30**  
No School  
Rosh Hashanah

**Oct 7**  
Project Resilience Workshop  
[View flyer](#)



**Resiliency 1-2-3:  
Fostering "Can Do"  
Spirit in Kids**

...with  
**Donna Volpitta, Ed.D.**

**Oct 9**  
No School  
Yom Kippur

**Oct 10**  
Early Dismissal  
Professional Day for Staff

**Oct 14**  
No School  
Columbus Day

**Oct 15**  
BOE Meeting\*

**Oct 16**  
How to Raise a Reader Talk

**Oct 28**  
BOE Meeting\*

Visit [ridgefield.org/Calendar](http://ridgefield.org/Calendar)  
for full calendar.

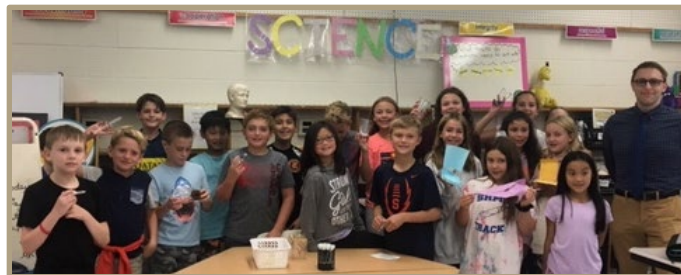


## Unified Sports at East Ridge

Students are biking, having fun, and training for competition once a week after school at East Ridge during the Unified Sports program. According to ERMS Special Education Teacher Nikki Hardman, “Unified Sports is a registered program of Special Olympics that combines athletes of varying abilities on sports teams for training and competitions. The program helps to foster an inclusive school community, instilling the values of tolerance, patience, and sensitivity.”



## RPS Names STEM Supervisor



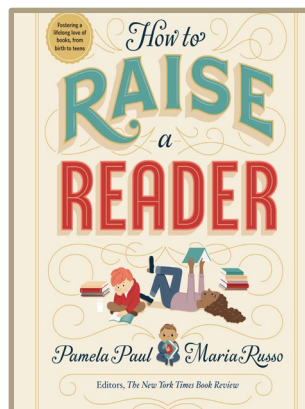
RPS hired veteran RHS Science Teacher Dr. Wes DeSantis as the district’s new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Supervisor. DeSantis is shown above with students from Amanda Pasquarella’s grade 5 class holding their Puff-Mobiles and Viscosity Models. DeSantis said, “I love teaching. This job is an opportunity to take my experience teaching and my educational research and apply them to meet the needs of teachers and provide STEM proficiency for our students.”

## New Sign at Scotland



Scotland parents, present and future students, and staff with the new “Scotty” sign.

## Book and Talk Recommendation



Veterans Park Principal Ellen Tuckner and K-12 Humanities Supervisor Alison Villanueva recommend *How to Raise a Reader* by Pamela Paul and Maria Russo, a book that gives sound advice on how to encourage reading at every age and combat the draw of technology for this screen-soaked generation. The authors will be discussing the book at East Ridge on Oct. 16 at 6:30 pm. This RPS event is free and open to the public.

## Congratulations



Congrats to RHS teachers Julie Henderson, Anne Lester, and Ashley Vidmar for earning Dario fellowships for professional development. Read Henderson’s account of their week. Thanks to the RPS Community for a great start to the school year 2019-20!

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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.

