



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | June 4, 2021

Kindergarten Registration Reminder!

As RPS winds down this school year, we want to remind parents who plan to send their children to kindergarten in the fall to [register](#) as soon as possible. RPS puts extensive thought into welcoming our youngest students so having the enrollment numbers and families is integral to proper planning.

RHS Is No Place for Hate!

This week, Ridgefield High School learned that it was one of eight CT high schools to earn the No Place for Hate designation! RHS Assistant Principal Jennifer Phostole, who championed this program, attributed RHS's success to student involvement: "I continue to be impressed by the students at RHS. Achieving this designation is a direct result of the commitment of our students and their desire to make RHS a more inclusive space for all. I look forward to seeing how the program expands in the future." Visit the [RHS NPFH website](#) to learn about the program, see photos, and read Ms. Phostole's article.



Birds Eye View of VPES

"Chalk" it up to collaboration. Working together is what allowed Veterans Park Elementary School to complete this "stained glass" chalk activity captured by a drone flown by former VPES parent, A.J. Romeo. The fifth-grade student council worked with Mike Fraioli, Sandy Griffin, Krista Gunzel, Matt Hoey, Jason Olivo, Kelly Rivera, and Denise Schimenti to get this project off the ground and documented before the Memorial Day weekend deluge. To view VP's awesome 2019 "collaboration" also captured by Mr. Romeo, please visit the [Veterans Park website](#).



Calendar

June 11

Is My Kid Ok?

[Zoom Panel, 12-1 p.m.](#)

June 14

Early Dismissal for Students

Last Day of School

June 14 and 28

BOE Meetings

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH



The Great APUSH Bake-Off on Page 2; Late-breaking Senior News on Page 3!

SRMS Offers Adaptive Art



Scotts Ridge Middle School Principal Tim Salem reports that this was the first year SRMS offered an adaptive art class led by Christen Riegel. Ridgefield Intensive Special Education (RISE) students were exposed to many different mediums and created a variety of beautiful pieces that are proudly displayed in the foyer of the building. Mr. Salem writes: “We are so grateful for Ms. Riegel’s immense talent, patience, dedication, and vision and we look forward to many more wonderful creations!”

Owls, Shadows, and Monsters



Branchville and Veterans Park Elementary students have been learning about texture, composition, color, and using a variety of media in art class this spring. Please see kindergarten monsters, second-grade owls, fourth-grade silhouettes, and art from every BES and VPES grade in [this gallery](#). Art teacher Jennifer Zeyer added vivid descriptions of the lessons and the artists that inspire them.

PTA Panel Helps Parents

The PTA Council’s talk, [Do We Really Need to Talk About This?](#), offered parents an important forum to ask questions about how to talk to kids about issues of race, orientation, and difference, and the importance of these conversations. Please watch if you haven’t!

“Teddy Barsevelt” Takes 1st

Ridgefield High School AP U.S. History students had a post-exam bake-off. Tyler I.’s “Teddy Barsevelt” (photo right) claimed first prize in a competitive and creative field of confectionery and U.S. History mastery. To see more entries in the bake-off, including the “Mayflower” cake, click [here](#).



Seal of Biliteracy

Congratulations to the almost [100 RHS seniors who qualified for the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy](#), which recognizes students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. Students complete all English-language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or above in those classes. Students must also demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English. The Seal of Biliteracy can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices.

Photo right, Evelyn Carr, World Language Prize Recipient (Italian).



RHS Class of 2021, You Are Awesome!

Kenneth Choi Is Valedictorian; Ellie Carter Is Class Speaker

Top Ten Scholars, Colleges, Awards, and Scholarships

In anticipation of the 150th Annual Ridgefield High School Commencement, RHS released a slew of information about this year's senior class and the plans for the graduation ceremony. The top ten scholars in alphabetical order are Evelyn Carr, Ellie Carter, Kenneth Choi, Aidan Flaherty, Claire Griffin, Lucas Kaye, Michael Kovacs, Rory McGrath, Harriette Thomas, and Isabel Voellmicke. Kenneth Choi (photo top right) is Valedictorian.



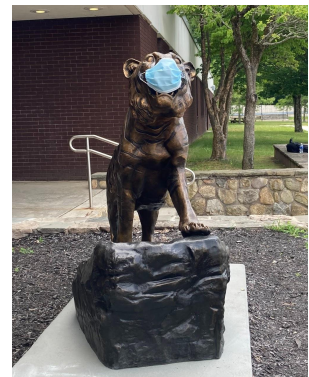
The graduation ceremony will take place at Tiger Hollow on Friday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 12 is the rain date. Ellie Carter (photo bottom right) is the Class of 2021 Invited Graduation Speaker. Class President Charles DeMatteo will also address the graduating class.



From Harvard to Howard University, Rhode Island School of Design to Rutgers, Dartmouth to Trinity College Dublin, UConn to the University of North Carolina, MIT to Middlebury, [the list of colleges and universities](#) this class plans to attend is impressive—made all the more impressive by the obstacles COVID-19 placed to college visits, in-person learning, and athletic recruiting. Senior Awards recognize scholarship, character, leadership, and service. [View the full list of senior awards here](#). Scholarships come from the larger Ridgefield Community and beyond. [The scholarship recipients are here](#).

RHS Principal Dr. Jacob Greenwood acknowledged this class's achievement: "The class of 2021 has continued to excel despite the circumstances of this most challenging year. As a class, they have been patient, committed, and kind as we worked together to resume normalcy in their remaining days at RHS. Their resilience is unquestionable and flexibility unmatched. We are proud of all of their accomplishments and know they will achieve all of their goals in life."

Assistant Principal Jennifer Phostole wrote, "The Class of 2021 has made a lasting impact on the RHS community because of their ability to overcome unforeseen challenges, their commitment to making their school a more inclusive space, and for their general creativity and enthusiasm. We have seen them grow into intelligent and mature young adults who have exceeded expectations and embraced opportunities. I wish them success in the future."



Congratulations, Class of 2021!

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.

