



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877  
Phone: (203) 894-5550 Fax (203) 431-2810

---

*Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

April 22, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

We hope everyone had a wonderful April break. You will soon notice that RPS News (linked below) will grow longer and longer as we highlight all of the exciting spring events happening across our school community. Stay tuned, as there is so much to be proud of.

I enjoy seeing the field trip requests from our teachers to expand student learning outside the classroom. We all know that many of our fondest memories from school days were the opportunities to engage outside the classroom.

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

## Friday BITS

**RPS NEWS FOUND [here!](#)**

### **[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#)**

Tiger Talk will return next week with a brand-new show! RHS Athletic Director, Dane Street will be giving us the 2022 spring sports update. For now, be sure to catch up on our 60-episode catalog. We cover many exciting topics ranging from PreK all the way up to college and beyond. *Tiger Talk* is one of the best ways to stay up-to-date on all the exciting happenings here at RPS. Thanks for listening!

### **BRAVO!**

Tim Salem, who received American Association of School Librarian's Distinguished School Principal Award

Keith Margolus, 2022 CT PTA "Dawn Hochsprung" Outstanding Elementary School Principal

### **Board of Education Meeting**

The Board of Education will have a regular meeting on April 25. View the agenda [here](#). This meeting will be held in person in the BOE Conference Room located at 90 East Ridge Road. While you may also watch the meeting from home [here](#), public comment must be made in person.

### **RPS Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration is open! Families now have the opportunity to register using our brand new online system. Click [here](#) to take a look! Please tell your friends to register as soon as possible. Registration status impacts our ability to maintain and/or hire teachers.

### **Parent Workshops**

We invite families to view our [parents workshops](#) posted on our curriculum website through our YouTube Channel. We have covered a variety of topics so far this year and are always open to feedback on any additional topics that parents are interested in learning more about.

### **K-12 Tutoring**

The middle schools continue to offer virtual evening tutoring sessions. This program has had great success and will now continue through May! Click [here](#) to learn more about it. Elementary schools have reached out to families to offer before or after-school tutoring sessions for small groups of students in areas of need. The high school is working on a similar model in which select students will be offered additional support before or after school, based on need.

### **RPS Summer Bridge Extension '22**

The [RPS Summer Bridge Extension website](#) is open and linked to the front page of the RPS website. Registration for K-8 is complete. Parents can expect to hear from the K-8 Directors about confirmed registration by May 6. Registration is still open for current 8th through 11th graders for **High School Intensives**, as is **High School Readiness** for rising 9th graders. **High School Readiness** is a tried and true program that supports rising 9th graders as they transition into high school. Students connect with new peers; get to know teachers and the buildings; have fun and practice some skills that will support the transition.

### **Health and Safety**

Our COVID-19 Health and Safety Committee continues to meet regularly to review RPS COVID-19 procedures. Beginning May 2, RPS will no longer be offering asymptomatic PCR screening tests in school. We have several thousand Rapid antigen home test kits available to RPS families. If you would like test kits, you can obtain them from your school nurse.

Also beginning on May 2, RPS will no longer be sending daily COVID-19 case notices via email. Cases will continue to be updated at the [RPS COVID-19 tracker](#) on a daily basis. Families will be alerted by their building principal when there has been a COVID-19 exposure in their child's classroom.

As a reminder for families, students, and staff- anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home from school and contact your school nurse. When returning to school, please remember to provide either a negative COVID-19 test result or a note from your physician stating a diagnosis other than COVID-19. For home test results, please take a photo of the test with name and date taken, then send it to your school nurse.

### **Notable children's books of 2021**

In the publication *Language Arts*, a list of books was selected from 538 titles as the best for readers in grades K-8, they are shared below:

- *Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Frank Morrison
- *All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier
- *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Cozbi Cabrera
- *I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon James
- *I Talk Like a River* by Jordan Scott, illustrated by Sydney Smith
- *If Dominican Were a Color* by Sili Recio, illustrated by Brianna McCarthy
- *Lift* by Minh Le
- *On Account of the Gum* by Adam Rex
- *Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices* edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed
- *Overground Railroad* by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome
- *Packs: Strength in Numbers* by Hannah Salyer
- *Swashby and the Sea* by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal
- *Swish! The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated

by Don Tate

- *The Day Saida Arrived* by Susana Gomez Redondo, illustrated by Sonja Wimmer
- *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read* by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora
- *The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel Payne* by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by John Parra
- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Grade
- *What I Like Most* by Mary Murphy, illustrated by Zhu Cheng-Liang
- *Winged Wonders: Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery* by Meeg Pincus, illustrated by Yas Imamura
- *Write! Write! Write!* by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, illustrated by Ryan O'Rourke
- *Your Name is a Song* by Jamilah Thompson-Bigelow
- *Your Place in the Universe* by Jason Chin

**Follow us here:**

**Twitter:** @RPS\_DaSilva

**Instagram:** rpssuper

**Quote of the Week**

“Above all else, teachers want to know if they are making a difference for their students.” Thomas Guskey and Laura Link