



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

April 23, 2021

Dear Faculty and Families,

I can say that happiness could be seen through masks this week. All students were welcomed back on Monday, April 19- it has been a good week! Together, we can keep our students and faculty safe and in school.



A picture is worth 1000 words.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

A Few Bits

Board of Education Budget News

The **Annual Town Budget Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held outdoors under a large tent by the Playhouse.

As stated in the Town Charter, Section 10-1. Budget (c), *The annual capital and operating budgets of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen, as recommended by the Board of Finance, shall be brought to the Annual Town Budget Meeting for discussion, then sent to referendum. (Those in attendance at **The meeting shall have the power to decrease or delete any line item, but it may not increase or add any line item or establish any additional line item.** In*

*addition, per the Town Charter, Section 10-1(c), the Board of Selectmen may decide to present certain or all capital items of under \$100,000 per item to the Town Meeting for a vote. (Those in attendance at) **The meeting shall have the power to delete any such capital item**, but it may not increase or add to any line item or establish any additional line item. Said vote shall be binding with reference to those items. All other items on the capital budget shall go to referendum as set forth in Section 10-1(d).*

School Status

There is no change in school status for the coming week. All students are welcomed back!

RPS Summer Bridge Program

The RPS Summer Bridge Program opens for registration today! Click [here](#) to visit the program website, along with descriptions of the course offerings and registration information. You can also access the Bridge Program Website through the home page of Ridgefield.org. All registration will happen online via this website. This is only the first part of registration. Confirmation will come in a week or two from the on-site administrator.

A few quick facts about the program:

- The elementary program is device free and includes multiple opportunities for outdoor time with peers, creativity, an emphasis on social emotional support connected to thematic sessions, as well as math and literacy support.
- Our middle school program weaves community service, cooking, outdoor time, and executive functioning support with opportunities to engage in grade-level mathematics and language arts.
- The high school program offers short “intensive courses,” 3-5 days each, across multiple content areas and experiences, during the end of June only. This is the chance for students to take a non-traditional course that may not typically be offered during the school year.
- All sessions will run in the mornings only.
- Elementary and middle school programs will run in three sessions: 1) the end of June; 2) the first two weeks of July and; 3) the last two weeks of July.
- RHS students have an opportunity to apply to volunteer for qualified community service hours.
- Students K-12 have the opportunity to apply to participate as a “Best Buddy” at the end of July/beginning of August with students in our Extended -School-Year special education programming.

Health And Safety

A vaccination survey was sent out this past week to RHS families. The purpose of this survey is to determine if local support is needed for families who would like to vaccinate their 16, 17, and 18 year old RPS students, and to provide our health and safety team with approximate numbers of students at RHS who have already been vaccinated. We received 562 responses to the survey.

- 68.4% said their 16, 17, or 18 year old has already received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine
- 13.9% are scheduled to receive their first dose
- 6.8% are planning to schedule their first dose soon
- 2% said they would like assistance making an appointment
- 8.9% are opting not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at this time

This was an anonymous non-scientific survey but does provide us with valuable information about the general level of vaccination in our RHS student population, and has helped us determine that we do not need to set up a special clinic for RHS students to be vaccinated at this time.

Athletics

The Connecticut Department of Public health has recently updated its quarantine guidance for student athletes. Quarantined athletes may now return to play on the 11th day after exposure (after a 10-day quarantine) if they get a negative COVID-19 PCR test on the 8th day after exposure.

Vaccinations

There are currently many open appointments for the Pfizer vaccine at the Danbury Mall CHC site every day through the end of May. It is possible to change a later appointment to an earlier appointment. To schedule your COVID-19 vaccination appointment visit <https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/> or call 877-918-2224.

Food Service

We are delighted to report next week is business as usual for food service. We welcome back all the students and look forward to them visiting the cafeteria for healthy, nutritious, and delicious meals. Normal schedule for afternoon meal pick up at East Ridge Middle School: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. In addition, both Scotland and Barlow Mountain Elementary Schools will be providing weekend meals on Friday. Happy Earth Day! Attached [here](#) and [here](#) are some fun activity sheets for Earth Day.

We are excited to partner with Tony Philips, Director of Social Services, Town of Ridgefield, in communicating some Federal/State programs available to families. Kindly find attached here links to these programs:

[Summer lunch/P-EBT](#): Summer lunch funds direct to families/[SNAP](#)

[EBB](#) - Broadband emergency

[UniteCT](#) - Rental Assistance

[CEAP](#) - Energy Assistance

Curriculum Updates

Math Placement Workshops Take Place Next Week!

April 27 at 10:15 a.m. Elementary (5th to 6th Grade)

April 28 at 10:15 a.m. Middle School (6th to 7th & 7th to 8th Grades)

Click [here](#) to access the link to workshops and the form to submit questions.

RPS Highlights

Enjoy the RPS News [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): Getting ready for summer fun!

In today's show we welcome Cory Gillette, Assistant Superintendent and Dr. Elizabeth Hannaway, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services. We talk about Ridgefield Public School's exciting new Bridge Program.

A post-school-year program that's offering a lot of exciting hands-on experiences for our students. Whether it's volunteer work, credit recovery, or just learning a new skill, this "Bridge Program" is going to be a really wonderful way to kick off the summer. Thanks for listening!

Don't forget to sign on to social media. Both are light and fun- kids can tune in also!

Twitter: [@RPS_DaSilva](#)

Instagram: [rpssuper](#)

Quote of the Week

"There is tremendous empathy to be gained from learning why someone sees something different than you do." Colin Seale (*ibid.*)