



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

February 11, 2021

Dear Faculty and Families,

We have a short week ahead of us in honor of Presidents' Day. I hope these days prove to be an opportunity to unwind and relax. A colleague shared this article (linked [here](#)) from the Harvard Business Review, "Don't Underestimate the Power of a Walk." Enjoy.

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

## **A Few Bits**

### **School Status**

Elementary school students will continue in the full in-person learning model. (A reminder that schools are closed on Monday and Tuesday of next week.) SRMS and ERMS continue to remain in hybrid. RHS also remains hybrid; however, due to the number of families who are opting for Temporary Remote Cohort C, families choosing in-person cohort A/B are able to attend five days in person. Families should contact their child's school counselor at RHS with any questions.

### **Health and Safety**

Daily cases of COVID-19 have seen a steady decline in Ridgefield since mid-January, with most recent numbers reporting at 18.9 new cases per day per 100k population, as per [February 7 Ridgefield COVID-19 prevalence data](#). While we are pleased that these trends are going in the right direction, cases are still at a high level. We ask the community to remain vigilant with mitigation measures outside of school hours. Most specifically, we ask that the community partner with us to continue social distancing, masking, and hand washing. The length of the

COVID-19 pandemic can have a fatiguing effect on us all, but it is critical that we not relent with the safety practices that we know have made the biggest impact on keeping us all safe.

If you are planning to travel outside of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey or Rhode Island over the upcoming long weekend, please be reminded of the travel advisory mandates travelers to:

- quarantine for 10 days upon arrival back to CT or,
- to get a COVID-19 test.
- please forward your negative test results to your school nurse.

*If you travel outside of CT, NY, NJ or RI, please plan on arriving back into CT within enough time to receive your COVID-19 test results to return to school/work on Wednesday morning.*

### **Food Service**

Reminder: this week at our East Ridge Middle School location we will be offering four meals tonight Thursday, February 11, 2021 between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to support families during the school break. There will be no meal distribution at East Ridge Middle School on Friday, February 12 or Monday, February 15. We will be back on our regular schedule for Wednesday, February 17 and Friday, February 19 of next week.

### **RPS Highlights**

Enjoy the RPS News [here!](#)

No Tiger Talk Podcast this week.....a perfect opportunity to binge your missed episodes!

**Twitter:** @RPS\_DaSilva

**Instagram:** rpssuper

### **Letter to Families from New Assistant Superintendent**

Click [here](#) to view Cory Gillette's introduction letter to families.

**Quote of the Week:**

“Let us walk with these warriors,  
Charge on with these champions,  
And carry forth the call of our captains!  
We celebrate them by acting  
With courage and compassion,  
By doing what is right and just.  
For while we honor them today,  
It is them who every day honor us.”

*“Amanda Gorman in her Super Bowl poem, [Chorus of the Captains](#), honoring educator Trimaine David, nurse manager Suzie Dorner, and Marine veteran James Martin, in “Amanda Gorman, in a First, Brings Poetry to Super Bowl” as reported in PBS NewsHour, February 7, 2021*