



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

February 11, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

The week started off with Governor Lamont's announcement of his recommendation to lift the statewide mask mandate in schools by February 28, 2022. The Commissioner of Education, and the Commissioner of the CT Department of Health (DPH) also supported the Governor's recommendation. If you have not had the opportunity to view the press conference, you may do so [here](#). As a reminder, from the beginning of the pandemic RPS has partnered with our local health committee and has followed guidelines/recommendations from CT DPH/CT State Department of Education. This newest DPH recommendation will be discussed with the Board of Education at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022.

As with all guidance, there are details that will need to be tended to as well, just to name a few:

- Communication with students
- Current federal law requiring masking on transportation
- Screening practices
- Quarantining procedures
- Impact on extracurricular activities

While we may not have all the details fleshed out, we will provide our school community with an update shortly after our Board of Education meeting on Monday evening.

It is hard to believe that we are almost at February break. Our students will be dismissed early on February 17 and return on February 28. February break is new this year, and we ask that families not extend the holiday break beyond the allotted time. Faculty and families who are traveling and would like a test kit, please contact your school nurse. We hope to welcome all of our students back on February 28!

Our next **Friday BITS** communication will be on March 4.

May you all enjoy the winter recess in the company of your families!

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

Friday BITS

Board of Education

In addition to a discussion on the Governor's announcement on lifting the mask mandate, the Board of Education will also be discussing the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2022-23 Budget. You may view the meeting via YouTube link and/or register to comment publicly.

Public Comment Registration is [here](#).

For watching the meeting, a link can be found [here](#).

RPS NEWS FOUND [here!](#)

Next week, Valentine's Week, we are celebrating our love for each other and our love for RPS. Each day our schools and the district as a whole will celebrate in different fun ways. The focus is on finding ways to show our appreciation. It is not a monetary activity, but instead pushes us to get creative. Sharpen your pencils and get out your scissors.

Even more exciting, businesses in town are also sharing their love for RPS with lunch specials and discounts for staff all week!

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): In this week's Tiger Talk we welcome Principal Tim Salem and Assistant Principal Lisa Frese of Scotts Ridge Middle School to talk about RULER at the middle school level. We discuss how it was a helpful resource during the pandemic; how students/adults can use its tools in everyday life; modeling the use of therapy dogs in a school environment; and how these dogs are trained. Thanks for listening!

Curriculum

This past Thursday, February 10, the K-12 Mathematics Team presented two virtual parent workshops *Math Placement: Elementary* and *Math Placement: Middle School*. These sessions were recorded and can be viewed on the [RPS YouTube Curriculum Channel](#). The elementary session focused on information for 5th grade families and the middle school session focused on information for 6th and 7th grade families. Each session discussed details of the math placement process within the middle school, the courses available at each grade level, and the different mathematics pathways students can take through middle and high school.

Health and Safety

Ridgefield is continuing to see improvement in case rates of COVID-19. The current seven-day rolling average of new cases per day per 100k population is 18.9.

Follow us here:

Twitter: [@RPS_DaSilva](#)

Instagram: rpssuper

Quote of the Week

“You don’t have to become something you’re not to be better than you were.” Sidney Poitier,
Oscar-winning actor

