



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

12/10/21

December 10, 2021

Dear RPS Community,

The light snow that found its way to our community on Wednesday evening was absolutely beautiful. My early morning walk with Lucky found the snow untouched and glistening- it is amazing how something so simple like the sparkle of snow can bring such a feeling of joy. The small, no-cost, things can make a difference. I hope they do for you as well.

This week I sent a reminder to the community of the resources available in and out of our schools. You can find this letter [here](#). The schools are the heart of every community; please reach out.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

Friday BITS

Board of Education Meeting

Our regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m..

To watch the Board meeting use the YouTube link below.

YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFK7CGQjWPOQQo5N2_2zROA

For Public Comment:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oiEXWH_XRtOn6L5-c8DrOg

View Agenda [Here](#).

Weather

In addition to the beautiful sparkle of the snow....here are our [weather reminders!](#)

Curriculum and Instruction

Next week Dr. DeSantis and his team will launch the first parent workshop in the RPS series for the 2021- -22 School Year. As advertised in the [Fall Curriculum Newsletter](#), the workshop is called **Instructional Technology: Parent Survival Guide**. It will take place virtually on December 16 at 9:30 a.m. [on this YouTube Channel](#). The workshop will provide parents with all the tools that they need to support their children at home with instructional technology. The workshop will be livestreamed and recorded for future viewing.

On Monday night, the leaders of the World Language Department will present an update to the Board of Education. This update will include their common vision, where they were as a department, where they are now, and what they are working on for the future. This high-energy team will follow the technology department with the second in the series of parent presentations on January 13. The title of the presentation is called **Learning a Language for Life** and will describe what proficiency language instruction looks like and sounds like in our classrooms.

Click [here](#) for newsletter with more information.

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk:](#) Joining us on this week's show are the Teen Talk counselors from East Ridge and Scotts Ridge Middle Schools. Alexandra Avila and Audrey Camino-jara tell us about their role in their school; how the position is different from a guidance counselor; all the services that they provide;and resources that both parents and students can access. Thanks for listening!

[RPS News found here!](#)

PreK- Gr 6 COVID-19 Screening Program

The COVID-19 screening program will continue in our schools leading up to holiday break. In consultation with the Town of Ridgefield Health Director, Ed Briggs, RPS Medical Advisor, Dr. James Ahern and the Districts steering committee, we are assessing the continuation of the state sponsored voluntary PCR screening program for students. It is important to note that after running the program for seven weeks, there has been a very low level of asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 detected in our school buildings. Further, no evidence of in-school transmission has been found as a result of this program. Of the 14 positive results from this program, 6 students received 2 negative PCR tests in the days immediately following, deeming the original test to be a false positive. We are in conversations with Quest about the diagnostic testing threshold for positive results. Quest has run reporting on all RPS testing to date. Of 2,759 tests run, 12 tests resulted positive at a low diagnostic threshold, yielding a false positive rate 0.4%. We will continue to evaluate the pros and cons of this program with our team.

Health and Safety

As a reminder for families- if your child has any of the CDC listed symptoms of COVID-19, they should not come to school. These symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore

throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. If your child has any of these symptoms, please contact your school nurse.

Food Service

This week Chartwells would like to announce that after winter recess, the Ridgefield School Lunch Program for the high school and middle schools will be getting some menu upgrades to provide more variety for students. To do this Chartwells will be adding some new Brand Concepts. The new concepts will be American Choice, Sono, Roadtrip, and Bok Choy. Each concept will bring something unique to the menu. American Choice and Roadtrip lend to popular American staples with classic American dishes like Sloppy Joes, as well as regional recipes like Baby Back Ribs. Sono and Bok Choy will entice the students with some international flavors. Sono is a brand that lends itself to Latin flavors while Bok Choy has a more eastern flavor profile.

Taco Tuesday is a weekly staple and adds more variety to the grill for the high school. We have noticed that the students really enjoy the Beef Nachos that are on the current menu and would like to expand upon that. Chartwells has added a few other items they hope the students will like into their weekly rotation to bring Taco Tuesday to life. Please come to the cafes and enjoy the new choices.

Follow us here:

Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva

Instagram: rpssuper

Quote of the Week

"...She makes the staff feel appreciated and has positively changed the climate and morale for staff and students alike. People like her make a difference each day and I wanted to extend my gratitude and acknowledge her leadership." Feedback from one RPS staff member to another RPS staff member