



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*

1/7/2021

Dear Families and Faculty,

As our nation watched the events of last evening unfold, I know we share in disbelief and sadness. The foundation of our country has been shaken in unimaginable ways. Peaceful protest is protected in our country, and diversity of opinion and perspective should be valued and encouraged- violence and breaking the law aren't doing either of these.

As adults, the events of yesterday are difficult to conceptualize, and thus we can only imagine the impact that this event has on the fragility of our youth. Our schools and educators will navigate the events in responsible, developmentally appropriate ways and as needed. The Special Service Department at RPS has offered the following resources for educators, all of which are accessible to families as well.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/2021/01/talking-to-your-kids-about-chaos/>

<https://www.apa.org/topics/talking-children>

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/when-bad-things-are-happening>

https://youtu.be/5nvB_s9qkcw

Children respond to these situations differently, and our schools are prepared to support them in any way possible. Our schools are safe places where children are encouraged to share their feelings. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal or psychologist with questions, concerns, or for strategies.

Let us embrace our country and one another during this incredibly difficult time.