



# 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*

June 17, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

Today is a day of celebration- we honored our Senior Class of 2022 as they embark on the next chapter of their life's journey. Our seniors closed this chapter with an RPS message, "you matter more than you'll ever know..." We look forward to celebrating with our students in grades 5 and 8 next week during their promotion ceremonies.

Sunday, June 19th, also known as Juneteenth- this is one of the "youngest" federal holidays. When we think of how fast news travels now and to freely access information, it was not the case in 1863 with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates when the proclamation was finally announced two years later in Galveston, TX and marks a day in which enslavement in the United States was ending. This history is part of our US history courses chronologically and this holiday gives our whole nation a reminder of what can be done together.

On Sunday, we celebrate Father's Day. May you enjoy this day with health and family.

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

## **Friday BITS**

### **Are Schools Open or Closed on Juneteenth?**

There is no legal requirement to close schools on federal holidays, outside of the months of December and January. School districts may decide which federal holidays they plan to open or close- for example, you may notice that some school Districts are open on Veterans Day or Columbus Day, and others are closed. Here at RPS, the Board of Education usually approves calendars two years in advance.

### **BRAVO!**

Listen to ERMS 6th graders performing 'Black Bird'! And RHS students performing an original composition from an afterschool club!

### **Summer Enrichment Grants funded by CT Department of Education**

Families can search high quality, community-based, and financially accessible summer enrichment programs by visiting: <https://summerct.org/>.

### **From the Governor's Council on Women and and Girls Education and STEAM Subcommittee**

The Governor's Council on Women and Girls Education and STEAM Subcommittee has launched the centralized Advancing Women and Girls in STEAM Portal in an effort to keep young women and girls engaged in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. The portal provides a "one-stop shop" for parents, educators, students, employers, and researchers connecting many educational STEAM programs and activities. You can access the portal here: [https://portal.ct.gov/steam?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/steam?language=en_US)

### **RPS NEWS FOUND [here!](#)**

### **Registration for Before-School Care for Late Elementary Schools on July 1st**

At a recent Board of Education meeting, the district announced that the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club will be offering before-school care from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for students of the three later-starting elementary schools. Look for more information to come.

### **Friendly Parking Reminder - Handicap Accessible Spaces**

We kindly remind any and all guests to our schools for visits, or pick ups from school and athletic events to be mindful that handicap accessible parking spots are solely for cars with an issued handicap placard. As we near the end of the year and school celebrations will take place, and parking lots will be full, please be sure to respect the handicap parking signage and those individuals who need those spaces due to their special needs.

### **[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#)**

This will be the last Tiger Talk for the 2021-22 school year! But don't worry we will return at the beginning of the school year in the fall! In this week's show we welcome Superintendent Dr. Susie

Da Silva; Assistant Superintendent, Cory Gillette; and Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, Dr. Elizabeth Hannaway. We close out the year by talking about all of the exciting graduations; the amazingly jam-packed summer of fun RPS is providing its community; and a brief talk about all the things we are excited about for the fall. Thanks for listening, we here at Ridgefield Tiger Talk are wishing everyone a happy, restful, and safe summer!

## **RPS Kindergarten Registration**

Help! If you have a friend or neighbor who is planning on joining kindergarten next year, remind them that registration is open! Families now have the opportunity to register using our brand new online system. Click [here](#) to take a look! Registration status impacts our ability to maintain and/or hire teachers.

## **Financial Assistance Opportunities**

Below is information about various tax credits and financial assistance opportunities for families who are interested in participating. We are sharing this information in collaboration with the Town Social Services' Department for any families who are interested in learning more about them.

- CT Child tax rebate, apply through July 31, \$250 per child, up to 3 children - <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Credit-Programs/Child-Tax-Rebate/Overview>
- CT State Energy assistance ends June 30, people can now apply on their own [https://portal.ct.gov/heatinghelp/applyonline?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/heatinghelp/applyonline?language=en_US)
- ACP is a \$30/mo discount for broadband service, <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> , <https://www.xfinity.com/learn/internet-service/acp> , <https://frontier.com/resources/discountprograms/affordable-connectivity-program>
- SNAP food assistance, <https://www.endhungerct.org/> or <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/SNAP/Supplemental-Nutrition-Assistance-Program---SNAP/Eligibility>
- Mortgage assistance program was just created by the state, <https://www.chfa.org/myhomect/>

## **Health and Wellness**

COVID-19 cases are updated on the RPS COVID-19 tracker on a daily basis. You can find the tracker at this web address:

[link.https://sites.google.com/ridgefieldps.net/rps-covid-19-data-2021-2022/home](https://sites.google.com/ridgefieldps.net/rps-covid-19-data-2021-2022/home) You will notice that we continue to see decreases in cases within our schools.

## **Follow us here:**

**Twitter: @RPS\_DaSilva**

**Instagram: rpssuper**

## **Quote of the Week**

*Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else. -Margaret Mead*