



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877  
Phone: (203) 894-5550 Fax (203) 431-2810

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

June 5, 2020

Dear Families and Faculty,

As many of you know by now, our community lost Brooke Blake, a 6th grader at SRMS and a graduate of BMES yesterday morning to a heroic battle against cancer. Prior to my official arrival at RPS, I learned of this courageous young lady from my colleagues. My colleagues described Brooke and her family as, "brave, incredible, kind, full of spirit, and strong." The impact that Brooke and her family has had on Ridgefield's heart is powerful and I know that Brooke Blake will be remembered always. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Blake family.

I wish you, and your families a peaceful weekend.

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

## **Updates**

### **Recent Events in the News**

Click [here](#) for my June 3rd letter that contains links to help your family discuss recent events. Here are a few other resources:

[Children's books about race \( by age group\)](#)

[Books Matter: books about racism, social justice, self-concept, and diversity](#)

### **Hiring**

Focus groups for teachers and families for both Farmingville and Barlow Mountain Elementary Schools Principal positions will take place early next week.

As shared last week, we are wrapping up the hiring of RHS Principal. We look forward to sharing soon.

## **Graduation**

As communicated at the Board of Education meeting on May 26, 2020, Dr. Gross and the committee, consisting of teachers, parents, and students at RHS, have finalized the 3-part graduation events. On May 29, 2020, the Governor shared new guidance on graduation events after July 6. This recent guidance indicated that outdoor events could take place for up to 150 people (this is inclusive of graduates, parents and faculty) so long as the public health data continued to support this. Our current graduating class is 381 students. Given the level of detail and planning required with any graduation event, RHS is committed to moving forward with the 3-part event planned and presented at the Board of Education meeting on May 26, 2020.

## **CIAC Sports**

The CIAC has identified its intent to return to interscholastic athletics and activities. You can find their letter [here](#). CICI's full resocialization document can be found [here](#). While we have not made decisions at the local level, our Athletic Director, Dane Street is beginning to meet and plan with our coaches. As we have updates, we will keep you posted.

## **LGBT PRIDE Month**

LGBT PRIDE is celebrated each year in June. For history and events, click [here](#)

Students, parents and allies can access LGBT support by sending an email to the local PRIDE group: [supportgroup@ridgefieldctpride.com](mailto:supportgroup@ridgefieldctpride.com)

## **Extended School Year and Summer School**

### ***Extended School Year***

Parents of students who are eligible for Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) services were sent a letter this past Monday, June 1, which outlined the design of RPS' planned program for this summer. Click [here](#) for a copy of that letter. Parents will be notified next week of orientation dates for ESY, as well as their child's assigned service provider(s).

### ***Summer School***

The RHS Summer School offerings will be posted next week, save the dates:

- Dates: July 6 - July 31
- Times: M-F, 8-11:00 a.m.

### ***Reopening Committee***

On Monday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m., the Board of Education will receive an update on the new RPS 'Reopening Committee'. This committee of many stakeholders will be reviewing all state and local guidelines and making recommendations to the Superintendent on how our schools will open in the fall. Parents who expressed interest in participating in the committee will receive a response by Monday.

## **Podcasts**

Catch our latest Podcast by clicking here: [Ridgefield Tiger Talk, with Dr. Deeeeeeesantis](#) or search 'Ridgefield Tiger Talk' in your favorite podcasting app. Joining us this week are Music Teacher, Kevin Haines, and art students Melanie Kardos and Ryan Sierakowski. We talk about how Ridgefield High School Visual Performing Arts students are handling distance-learning; some of the exciting projects they are working on, and how this year's art show is going completely digital with a custom website. Thanks for listening!

## **Elementary 'Sizzle Reel'**

For video highlights of the week, click [here](#).

## **Chromebook Returns**

If you will be with us in the Fall, please keep your Chromebook until further notice. If you are not returning to RPS, please plan to return your Chromebook on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 18: 1-3:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 19: 9-11:00 a.m.

The IT/Tech department will be sending out more information directly via a Blackboard message soon.

## **K-5 Mathematics**

Today, RPS Math Specialists began meeting again with National author, consultant and math expert Sue O'Connell to fine tune our Curricula for September. The focus is to assess and refine what has been accomplished during the COVID-19 eLearning and prepare for fall. For a podcast and blog link to Sue O'Connell's work, click [here](#).

## **RPS Newsletter**

The June 5 *RPS News*, click [here](#).

## **Quote of the Week**

The Horace Mann League offers a weekly quote; some are good enough to share; author unknown:

**"Don't tell me what you value. Tell me what you do most of the day and I'll tell what you value."**