



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 4, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

There is no doubt that the news coming from Ukraine is truly devastating. While the war may feel like a world away for some, for others, it isn't. Earlier this week I spoke to a member of our RPS community who shared the profound and direct impact this war has had on her family both here and in Ukraine. Hearing the worry, fear, and grief in her voice has left an immeasurable impact. I am reminded of the importance of listening, supporting, and caring for our community. Let us come together...and help in any way we can.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

Friday BITS

A Budget Conversation

Save the Date for a Budget Conversation!

Come and Learn About the 2022-2023 BOE Proposed Budget

Facilitated by:
Cory Gillette, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Elizabeth Hannaway
Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

When:
March 8, 2022
10:30 am

Where:
Ridgefield Library
Main Program Room
472 Main Street

Ridgefield Educators Stuff the Bus

Join our teachers in stuffing the bus! Find more information [here](#)

RPS NEWS FOUND [here!](#)

RPS Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration opens Monday! Families will have the opportunity to register using our brand new online system. Click [here](#) to take a look!

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#)

In this week's episode we talk to James Reed, the English teacher in charge of the student newspaper, *The Ridgefielder* and two student editors- Kavya Podila and Michael Stamatis. We learn about the creative process in planning articles, conducting boots on the job journalism, professional article layout, and social media/distribution of their news publication. Thanks for listening!

Curriculum

On Thursday, March 10, K-12 Administrators and the Curriculum Team will provide a parent information session on the State Mandated Assessments that our students take in the spring. [Click here](#) for more information.

K-8 Tutoring Launch

Next week the middle schools will begin to offer virtual evening tutoring sessions. Click [here](#) to learn more about it. The rollout is also occurring at the elementary levels. Elementary schools will be reaching out to families to offer before or after-school tutoring sessions for small groups of students in areas of need.

Health and Safety

Over the last six weeks there has been a very significant drop in the number of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, Fairfield County and Ridgefield. This decline in cases has also been accompanied by a drop in hospitalizations. Data on cases and hospitalizations from the Town of Ridgefield can be found [at this link](#).

Last week the CT Department of Public Health issued guidance about transitioning to a model of routine respiratory disease prevention and enhanced outbreak management and control for CT Schools. This document can be found [at this link](#).

As of this past Monday, February 28, masking is now optional in Ridgefield Public Schools. The CT legislature has allowed the Commissioner of Education the legal authority to reinstate a statewide mask mandate before June 30 if conditions warrant.

With the lifting of the school mask mandate, COVID-19 protocols from the State of CT are still in place. These protocols can be found [at this link](#). They include:

- Students and staff should not come to school if they have any symptom of COVID-19, however mild. Please contact your school nurse.
- Students will still have the ability to access quarantine learning if they meet the criteria.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school on day 6 after a positive test and must wear a mask in school through day 10 after testing positive.
- Students who test positive will not be allowed to participate in singing or playing of wind instruments through day 10 after testing positive.
- Unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 at home must isolate themselves at home and may not return to school until the 11th day after the positive family members' test; upon return to school they must wear a mask for 5 additional days.

If there is a case of COVID-19 in an elementary school classroom, or if we learn that your child ate lunch within six feet of a positive individual, you will be notified by your building administrator or school nurse via email.

RPS has acquired a significant number of rapid at-home tests. We currently have 3,600 test kits on hand with 4,500 more on the way. If RPS families or staff would like a test kit(s) for any reason you may obtain one by contacting your school nurse.

Follow us here:

Twitter: @RPS_DaSilva

Instagram: rpssuper

Quote of the Week

“I never dreamed about success. I worked for it.” —Estée Lauder