



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

November 12, 2021

Dear RPS Community,

Across our schools, we honored our Veterans this week. Each event was incredibly special, and students were at the heart of every ceremony. We hope that all of our Veterans know the depth of gratitude that we have to them and for their service. Thank you, and we salute you.

Warmly,

Susie

Susie Da Silva, Ed. D.

Friday BITS

PreK- Gr 6 COVID-19 Screening Program

Close to 500 PCR screening tests were run this week on Monday and Tuesday. All came back negative. This is valuable public health information indicating that asymptomatic cases of COVID-19

in PreK-Gr 6 are not common.

Health and Safety

With the new Screen and Stay program now in place, it is important to remind families and staff that those who are experiencing a symptom of COVID-19, whether vaccinated or not, must stay home from school. We are still following [Addendum 5](#) which states that any person with a COVID-19 symptom must get a negative antigen or PCR test to return to school, or isolate at home for 10 days if not tested. Students who are sent home by the school nurse may return to school immediately upon receipt of a negative COVID-19 test as long as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea are not present.

RPS has begun following the CT DPH [Screen and Stay](#) protocols. Unvaccinated students who are exposed to COVID-19 at school with masks on may opt to continue coming to school if parents or guardians attest that they are performing a COVID-19 symptom check daily for 14 days. Fully vaccinated individuals are not

required to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19 if they remain symptom free. This applies even if the exposure happened within six feet during lunch with masks off. Students who are not fully vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 within six feet while masks are off at lunch are not eligible for Screen and Stay and still need to quarantine at home. Students participating in Screen and Stay may continue to come to school but must quarantine from extracurricular and after-school activities. They can get a negative test on day five and return to after-school activities on day eight if they remain symptom free. The detailed protocols can be found [here](#).

Children ages 5-11 are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination is the most effective mitigation strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in school. To locate a COVID-19 vaccine provider visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/> or <https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal>. After your child has received their second dose, please share a copy of your vaccine card with your school nurse.

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#): In this week's show we welcome back Aaron Crook, Ridgefield Public School's Director of Nursing Services, and COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison. He gives us an update on the state of Connecticut's new guidelines for its in school COVID policies and how Ridgefield is implementing them. It's a very informative show, definitely worth a listen!

Curriculum and Instruction

This week representatives of the K-12 Music Department presented to the Board of Education. This presentation came in response to two district priorities. One priority is on alignment and collaboration of departments K-12, and the other priority is around the study of student experiences, instructional minutes, and alignment to standards in the essentials. The agenda for the presentation included the following: an introduction of the revised vision of the department; department participation rates; the multiple music pathways K-12; a list of performances; and current and future innovation plans. This presentation is the first of the series in the essential areas, which include physical education, art, library media and music. Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

Transportation

Thank you to all parents who have participated in our Transportation Survey! We will keep the survey open until the end of next week (Friday, November 19). If you have not participated yet, please do so ASAP (survey can be found on the Powerschool parent portal.) Thank you again for all your support with our transportation process review.

Food Service

In continuation of reviewing food allergies, we would like to present some educational details about peanut and tree nut allergies this week. In addition to peanut and tree nut allergies, sesame allergy

is joining the top eight allergens as of 2023. Ridgefield is a nut-free district and we are working to become a sesame-free district as well. There are two breads available within the Food Services ordering process that comply with us being a nut-free district. One is white and the other is wheat.

Our breads are processed in a separate facility to avoid any chance of contamination. Attached [here](#) are some education details that touch on many aspects of nut allergies.

RPS News found [here](#)!

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Quote of the Week

“Perseverance is failing 19 times and succeeding the 20th.” Julie Andrews