



# RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

October 29, 2021

Dear RPS Community,

Today, we congratulate Rick Lupinacci, our long-time Transportation Coordinator on his retirement. Rick's service to the students and families of the Ridgefield community will be remembered for many years to come. First Student honked 56 bus horns along Governor Street this afternoon in honor of Rick's service. Thank you, Rick!

For all the ghosts and goblins out there, enjoy a safe and Happy Halloween-you deserve it. Rock those costumes! For those preparing the goodies, just an 'FYI'- according to a recent "survey", *Licorice*, *Tootsie Rolls*, and *Good & Plenty* are not fan favorites.

Election Day is on Tuesday, November 2nd- no school for students. Good luck to all of the candidates running for elected positions!

Warmly,

*Susie*

Susie Da Silva, Ed. D.

## **Friday BITS**

### PreK- Gr 6 COVID-19 Screening Program

We had a successful first day of PCR screening testing at BES, FES, VPES, and ERMS. All tests came back negative for COVID-19. Then on Monday evening we received word from the state of CT that the screening testing would be temporarily paused so the DPH could work out some logistical issues with Quest. Unfortunately, this resulted in the cancellation of testing for BMES, RES, SES, and SRMS for this week.

Quest reached out to us on Wednesday to confirm that, per a request by the state of CT, pooled testing will no longer be done. Each student will receive an individual PCR test. The experience for students will not change. Testing is set to resume Monday, November 1 since there is no school on Tuesday, November 2. Testing at all schools will be done on Monday only next week and will resume on Mondays and Tuesdays the following week. About 50 additional students have been enrolled in the program since last week. We now have 520 students participating. If

you would like to opt your child into this voluntary program please sign the consent in PowerSchool by Wednesday for them to be included in the following weeks' testing.

### Health and Safety

Per the CT DPH, COVID-19 vaccinations for 5-11 year olds may begin in CT as soon as Thursday November 4. This is pending the expected final sign off by the CDC on November 3.

**Ridgefield Tiger Talk:** Joining us on this week's podcast is Terence Houlihan, Ridgefield High School's Head of the Counseling Department. We discuss the shift away from the term guidance counselor to school counselor and why it's such an important distinction. We also talk about the goals of the modern counselor as well the new dynamics that our students have to encounter in both their personal life and preparing for the future. Thanks for listening!

### Curriculum and Instruction

This week the Curriculum Department presented at the Board of Education meeting on Monday evening. The first presentation was on how we as a district are recovering learning by focusing on curriculum, assessment, and strengthening supportive school-wide systems that we already have in place. The second presentation was an update from the K-12 Math Leaders on the Middle School Math Placement Process. Click [here](#) to access the link to the Board of Education meeting.

We are all looking forward to a day of professional learning on November 2. Departments/grade levels/teams have time to collaborate and study. A special thank you to Kathleen Kweskin from *Grow Wellness* and Sharon McSpedon from *Pilates Bar* for providing a mindfulness session and a pilates session during the 'Self- Care' time of the day.

### Transportation

Starting Monday, November 1, we will be asking the help of parents to complete a transportation questionnaire. This questionnaire is a part of a study of our transportation program to assess for possible efficiencies. This very short three question questionnaire will be asking parents- in looking at their current situation this year, would you have chosen to opt-out of transportation if given the opportunity to. Participating in this questionnaire *will not* change your current transportation situation. We are gathering the information to perform a review of who may not need transportation and how that could possibly affect our bus routing set up.

### Food Service

November is "Let's Get Cooking" month! Throughout November the cafeterias will be engaging students with delicious recipes that will include fun and informative nutritional education. Let's Get Cooking is a celebration of homemade foods and the empowering of students to make some of their own recipes at home to share with family and friends, especially with the holidays approaching. [Attached](#) are some fun facts to get you started with "Let's Get Cooking".

RPS News found [here!](#)

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Quote of the Week

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.” Arthur Barker