The Dogs of Ridgefield Public Schools: Part 2

While the SRMS dogs featured in last week’s RPS News are available to all students and staff, guide dog Flint keeps his eyes only on Karen Dewing. Ms. Dewing (shown right with Flint) is RPS Director of Personnel and has worked for RPS for 24 years. She co-chaired the Reopening Committee, which coordinated the effort to get schools open and keep the community healthy. Flint is Dewing’s first guide dog as her blindness has been progressive. He came from Guiding Eyes for the Blind of Yorktown, NY. According to Dewing, Guiding Eyes’ rigorous training can cost up to $50,000 per dog and many dogs ultimately do not get placed with a blind person because the dog might not be able to perform all the tasks required. SRMS dogs Grady and Quinn are released as Guiding Eyes dogs. Flint is trained to be quiet and inconspicuous, and help Dewing navigate her environment safely. “You should see him in New York City,” Dewing says. “He can guide me across very crowded streets with no problem. He’s an incredibly smart dog.” Dewing wants families to know that guide dogs should not be greeted or touched as that can distract them from their important work of keeping their owners safe. She shared her story to build awareness of some of the differences in our community and the tools that might be necessary for some people to access their environments. Thank you to Ms. Dewing for sharing your story, all you have done to open schools this fall, and for your long term commitment to the RPS District.

Grades Pre-K to 5 In Person

For the first time since March 15, all RPS pre-kindergarten and elementary students can attend full-time in-person classes. SRO Mark Giglio, shown in the photo right, came up with a new dismissal plan at Branchville Elementary to better accommodate the number of parent pickups. Thank you to everyone for your patience and vigilance in following the rules and keeping students with COVID symptoms home.

Calendar

October 9 and 29
Early Dismissal Students
Professional Development

October 12
No School; Columbus Day

October 13 and 26
BOE Meeting
BOE website for information

Full RPS Calendar
Silver Wins Gold!


Goals, Inside and Out

Veterans Park Elementary Teacher Michael Fraoili posted this shot of a student showing “commitment and responsibility” as well as skill while completing his virtual PE assignments.

MS Principal Team

Middle School Principals Patricia Raneri (photo above right) and Tim Salem (photo above left) talk with Dr. Wes DeSantis about the hybrid middle school model in this week’s *Tiger Talk Podcast*. Principals share their collaboration and the remarkable work of teachers and students to be flexible, practical, and kind to rise to the challenges of school in the time of COVID.

Got Guts? Sisters? Bad Kitty?

Barlow Mountain Elementary students in Grades 3-5 had a great virtual author visit with Raina Telgemeier, author of many graphic novels including *Smile*, *Sisters*, and *Guts*. BMES Grades K-2 met with Nick Bruel, author of the best-selling *Bad Kitty* series. In these engaging visits, BMES students were able to meet favorite authors, ask questions, and learn about great new books.

Keep up with Ridgefield Public Schools News on our website [news page](#) and [calendar](#). We would love to hear from you, [contact us](#) with questions and feedback.