



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | December 17, 2021

Bonjour! Ciao! Hola! Nǐ hǎo! World Language at RPS

The World Language Department leaders at Ridgefield High School (Allyson Power), East Ridge (Rebecca Gittens), and Scotts Ridge (Kristin Kleis) presented the RPS World Language program past, present, and future at Monday’s Board of Education meeting. The full presentation can be found [here](#) (starting at the 24-minute mark). Leaders contrasted the previous textbook-centered way of teaching with the more dynamic, current approach flowing from middle school through Ridgefield High School. Powers highlighted the importance of aligning the program with the RPS Vision of the Graduate to encourage students to take risks in the language, develop respect for other cultures, curiosity, and proficiency. When Board Members asked about World Language at the Elementary School both Assistant Superintendent Cory Gillette and Superintendent Da Silva, who is trilingual and started as a bilingual teacher, expressed interest. “This is part of our long-term goal,” said Dr. Da Silva. “There is a lot to consider about how to fit it into the school day and how to pay for it.” They also briefly discussed the criterion for which languages should be offered in this engaging conversation.



The Joy of Live Music Returns!

Three cheers and a standing ovation for the musicians who performed at the Ridgefield High School concert on Wednesday. The Choir’s complex harmonies, the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, and the Concert and Symphonic Orchestras delighted the audience with the first full in-person, inside concert since December 2019. The RHS Directors—George Beratis (Concert Band and Wind Ensemble), Kevin Haines (Choir), and Michael McNamara (Concert and Symphonic Orchestras)—led the hundreds of students (and the audience during the last number) through difficult pieces of familiar and less well-known music. Middle and Elementary School concerts also began this month and will continue into the New Year. Wonderful!



Calendar

December 22
Early Dismissal

January 6
Early Dismissal for Students

January 17
No School/MLK Day

Dec. 23-Jan. 3
No School
Winter Break

January 10 and 24
BOE Meetings
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

[RPS Calendar](#)

Author Moved by RHS Readers



Last Friday, Deb Caletti, author of *A Heart in a Body in the World*, visited Ridgefield High School Teen Voices in a Changing Society classes and went on

Instagram to praise the students and teacher, Judy Silver. “These students created beautiful, profound art,” wrote Caletti. “Students have just blown me away with their passion and compassion, insight and talent....a teacher has blown me away with her passion and compassion, insight and talent. Their questions were so smart.” See more of the students’ projects and photos from the visit [here](#).

Branchville Gives



In the spirit of giving, the Branchville Elementary fifth-grade student council organized a schoolwide drive for the [Dorothy Day House](#) in Danbury. Dorothy Day serves 60-80 meals every day, and shelters 13-16 people each night. BES also collected Toys for Tots, which is a nationwide organization that brings new toys and joy to children in need.

Student Shines Off-Broadway

Ridgefield High School freshman Dean Murray Trevisani received some exciting news recently when he learned he had been nominated for Broadway Worlds’ 2021 Best Performance in an Off-Broadway play. Dean played Otto in *The Last*



Boy, which has also been nominated for Best Off-Broadway Play, Best Production, and Best Director. The play ran this summer and will reopen Off-Broadway on February 22 with a special Broadway benefit at Town Hall on April 27. According to the play’s website, “*The Last Boy in The Second Republic of SHKID* is a work of historical fiction inspired by the incredible real-life events of Sidney Taussig and the boys of Dorm Number One in Terezin concentration camp who created the longest-running underground publication of the Holocaust.” The play threads “poems, prose, and songs from the boys’ magazine throughout this gripping story of human triumph told through the eyes of teenage boys.” Dean performed in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Mary Poppins* while at Scotts Ridge Middle School and will take Acting 2 at RHS in the spring. He regularly performed with [ACT](#) (A Contemporary Theatre of Connecticut) in Ridgefield before landing this role in New York. [Tickets for April 27 Broadway fundraiser.](#) [Vote for Dean here.](#)

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.

