



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | January 15, 2021

## Superintendent Previews 2021-22 Budget; Invites Participation



Ridgefield Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Susie Da Silva, presented her proposed budget to the Board of Education at Monday’s meeting. She highlighted the importance of continuity and solidifying structures in being able to innovate and support the District’s Mission: “to provide engaging, relevant, and personalized learning experiences so all students can pursue their interests and prepare for life, learning, and work as global citizens.” [Her presentation and the budget can be found here](#). Dr. Da Silva also outlined the budget process over the next few months including a full-day online workshop on Saturday, January 23, which is a new way for District leaders to present specific components of the budget to the community. This workshop will be open to the public.



## Kenneth Choi Named Regeneron Scholar

Congratulations to Ridgefield High School senior Kenneth Choi for being named one of 300 Top High School Scholars in the 80th Regeneron Science Talent Search! Choi and RHS will each receive \$2000 to use toward STEM-related activities. Choi’s research concerns quantum computers that have the potential to accurately model complex systems that classical computers cannot. He created a quantum computing algorithm called the projected cooling sensor algorithm to model any general physical system, which can be applied to complex systems in many different scientific fields including cancer treatment. Choi’s presentation can be found [here](#).

## Calendar

**January 18**  
No School: MLK Day

**January 23**  
BOE Special Meeting  
Full-day Budget Workshop  
[Streaming Here](#)

**January 25**  
BOE Meeting

**January 29**  
Early Dismissal/Asynchronous  
Professional Development

**[Asynchronous Days](#)**  
January 29  
February 26  
March 15  
April 26  
May 24

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

**Martin Luther King Day in Next Week’s RPS News.**

## What Makes a Culture?



Scotts Ridge Middle School sixth-graders are rounding out their cultural unit. One team designed websites about Chinese culture. They added maps, documents, images, and their own creations to create professional-looking results. The photo above left shows SRMS principal Tim Salem viewing a student's video about Chinese clothing. The other team visited sacred places around the world using virtual reality as seen in the photo on the right. Students will compare differences and similarities between cultures.

## Art at RHS



Ridgefield High School Art Teacher Jane Grassi shared these beautiful examples of work from her 3D art students. Images clockwise from top left: Birdcage by Sophia G., Watercolor by Keelan M., and City Dwelling by Georgia K.

Ms. Grassi also shared student Ava D.'s striking portraits, one of which is on the right. Please view a gallery of Ava's portraits [here](#).



## BES Book Club



Branchville Elementary PTA sponsored its first virtual Parent/Child Book Club. Fourth and fifth-graders signed up with their parents to read the graphic novel *New Kid* by Jerry Craft. Principal Keith Margolus and PTA Co-President Angela Rice facilitated conversations about diversity, fitting in, and inclusion with parents and students.

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.

