



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | June 10, 2022

## RHS Announces Top Ten Students Hersha Chauhan Is Valedictorian

In anticipation of graduation on June 17, Ridgefield High School released the top ten students of the Class of 2022. In alphabetical order, they are Evan Bellusci, Hersha Chauhan, Adelaine Fincham, Coleman Hoffner, Lauren Kim, Henry Levitt, Ellen Katherine Maerean, Jaquelyn Mantione, Alexander Ni, and Ellis Zusel. Hersha Chauhan (photo right) is Valedictorian and will address the class at graduation. The Class Speaker will be Presley Milton with Senior Class President Molly Lyons and Student Government President Anshuman Suryawanshi presiding. RHS Principal Dr. Jacob Greenwood writes, "Through persistence and patience, mixed with a hefty dose of tenacity, the Class of 2022 has emerged strong, prepared, and poised for their transition away from Ridgefield High School. The countless obstacles this class has faced have prepared them to successfully navigate their tomorrows. The past three years taught them that looking at problems from new perspectives results in creative solutions and inspired them to lead with empathy and a strong sense of community." Congratulations to the wonderful Ridgefield High School Class of 2022!



## Students Playing NCAA Sports



Yesterday, seniors planning to continue their athletic careers in college got together at Tiger Hollow for a photo. For a list of athletes in the photo, click [here](#). Go, Tigers!

## Colleges and Universities '22

Duke, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Princeton, UConn, Vanderbilt, Yale University—the Class of 2022 is heading to some of the most selective colleges in the world. Please see a full list of the Class of 2022 colleges [here](#).



## Calendar

June is PRIDE Month

[Local LGBTQ Events/Resources](#)



June 13 and 27

BOE Meetings

In Person and Streaming

90 East Ridge Road

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

June 24

Tentative Last Day of School  
Early Dismissal for Students


[RPS Calendar](#)

## Holocaust Survivor Visits RHS to Remind Students of Humanity

Judith Altmann, who survived Auschwitz and other Nazi atrocities, visited RHS sophomores to tell her story of survival. She told students that she lived in a democratic Czechoslovakia before the Nazi invasion and that it was “unbelievable” to have her family’s livelihood and humanity torn from them. The last words Altmann’s father said to her were, “Judy, you will live,” when the Nazis sent her and her niece to a work camp and killed the rest of her family. Ms. Altmann survived work camps, near starvation, a broken arm that would have meant certain death if not for her foreign language skills and an SS soldier who vouched for her, and more. Students asked Altmann about her youth, the SS officer, and what she would say to Holocaust deniers. Despite it all, Nathan’s message was one of hope in humanity and joy at being able to speak with RHS students again. Ms. Altmann’s talk was part of a Man’s Inhumanity to Man assembly sponsored by the Ridgefield High School Interact Club, the ADL’s No Place for Hate program, and the RHS Social Studies Department. Members of the Interact Club introduced Ms. Altmann and Pamela Sztzybel, a local Connecticut artist with family ties to Ukraine and the Holocaust.



## Statistics Show Life-Saving Importance of Support for LGBTQ Teens

 Under glorious June skies, last Saturday’s PRIDE in the Park event attracted students and families for a day of fun and celebration. Celebrations of Pride Month will continue through June; information about local events as well as support for LGTBQ students and their families can be found [here](#). Dr. Myeshia Price who is Senior Research Scientist for [The Trevor Project](#) writes, “although our data continue to show high rates of mental health and suicide risk among LGBTQ young people, it is crucial to note that these rates vary widely based on the way LGBTQ youth are treated.” In fact, the Trevor Project survey found that teens in an accepting community and school have reduced acute mental health issues—LGBTQ youth who report having at least one accepting adult were 40% less likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year.



## Students Spike Staff at RHS Unified Volleyball Match



Victory was sweet for students at the RHS Unified Volleyball match earlier this week. Despite some solid play by staff, students took home bragging rights and medals in this fun, inclusive afterschool match-up organized by special education teachers Amanda Rowella and Kaley Kowarick.

## ERMS and SRMS Hatch Chicks; Some Get Yearbook Photos and Names

Pickles, Hen Solo, Nugget, Chickaletta, and Buffalo are just some of the names students came up with for the chicks at Scotts Ridge Middle School. Seventh graders at both Scotts Ridge and East Ridge incubate and hatch chicks as part of a life-science unit, which considers why some eggs hatch and others don't, cells and cell function, reproduction, growth, and other biological and chemical processes of living organisms. Scotts Ridge seventh-grade teacher Charlsie Vanderrest follows up this lesson with a naming contest for the chicks and a yearbook photo of each. Click [here](#) to see the SRMS Class of 2022 Chicks.



## FES and RES Collaborate with Each Other and Interns to Make Banners

Colorful banners that students made themselves will welcome Farmingville and Ridgebury Elementary Schools back to school in the fall. RHS interns created the banners for the art students to color. Art teacher Rachael Penney will hang these colorful collaborations in the FES and RES hallways to greet students and spread positivity.



## East Ridge Reports Music Festival Was "Fantastic"

Last Friday, students who participate in the audition-based performing ensembles at East Ridge and Scotts Ridge Middle Schools (Chamber Singers, Choir, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic Orchestra) spent the morning performing for and receiving valuable feedback from top-tier clinicians. They spent the afternoon celebrating the year's successes at Lake Compounce as a part of the yearly Fantastic Festivals music competition. Read a report of the groups' successes from the East Ridge music staff [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.

