

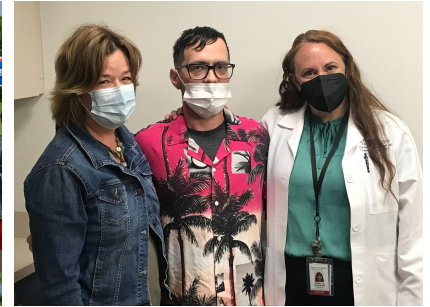


# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | June 3, 2022

## ERMS Teacher Shares Her Donation Story to Inspire Others

May 18 marked the year-anniversary of East Ridge Middle School social studies teacher Maureen Tyra's inspiring act. Tyra donated 60% of her liver to a stranger, a young man who would not be alive today without her gift. She recently met the man who received her liver (photo far right with Tyra and his transplant doctor). While Tyra wants to deflect attention from herself, she knows firsthand the importance of sharing stories about organ donation. Tyra decided to be a donor after reading about a woman's need in the *News-Times*. Tyra says, "the motto in my family growing up was, 'if you have, you give.' My kids were grown; I was healthy." Despite a significant scar, which Tyra's grandchildren love to touch, Tyra is doing great. On a recent ERMS Global Running Day, Tyra is skipping, walking, and running with her students and colleagues. In fact, she would like to donate again (she's not eligible). Her nephew calls her a "Sliver of a Liver Giver." Find more information about being an organ donor at [Yale New Haven Hospital](#).



## Senior Prizes and Scholarships



On Wednesday, Ridgefield High School celebrated senior prizes and college scholarships in back-to-back celebrations of excellence in academics, service, and leadership. RHS seniors received thousands of dollars of merit scholarships. View the prize-winners in [The Hamlet Hub](#).

## PRIDE Kicks Off This Saturday



Gay Straight Alliance groups at Ridgefield High School and the Middle Schools have helped plan the annual PRIDE in the Park event at Ballard Park tomorrow, June 4. Information about the family-friendly event and local support groups for LGBTQ students and their families is available [here](#).

## Calendar

**June 4**  
PRIDE in the Park  
[PRIDE Month Activities](#)

**June 13 and 27**  
BOE Meetings  
In Person and Streaming  
90 East Ridge Road  
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

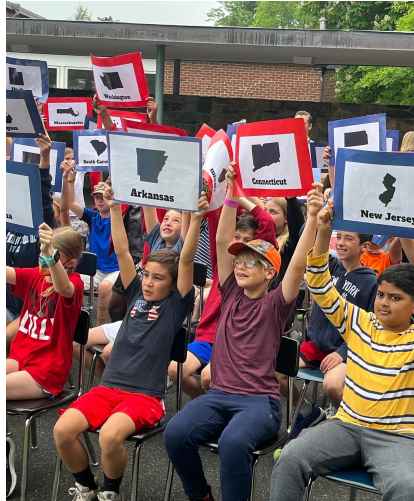
**June 24**  
Tentative Last Day of School  
Early Dismissal for Students

[RPS Calendar](#)

Visit the Middle School Virtual Art Gallery on Page 2

## VPES Hosts 41st Annual Memorial Day Celebration

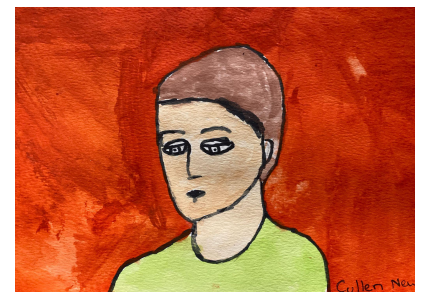
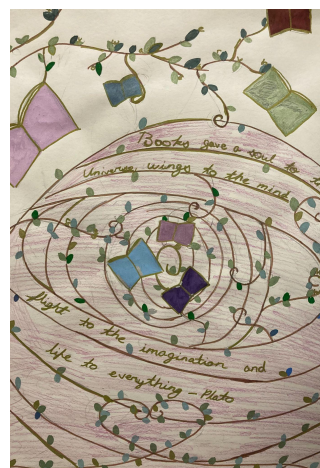
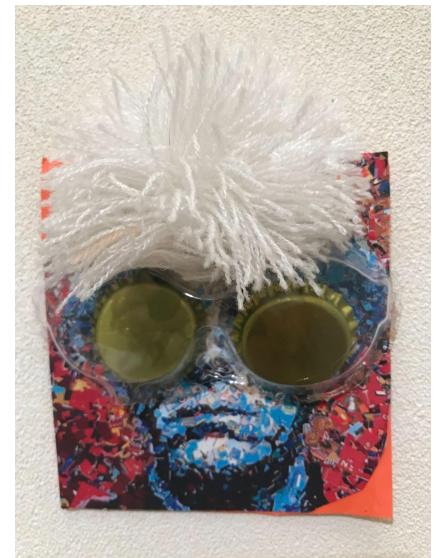
Hearing the Veterans Park Elementary third, fourth, and fifth graders perform Ray Charles's rousing "Fifty Nifty United States" was more than music to the ears of the attendees of the VPES Memorial Day Celebration. This perennial favorite was a symbol of some RPS traditions lost during the pandemic and the joy of being together. Gathering to hear the songs, the patriotic poems, the raising and lowering of the flag, and honoring the fallen felt important. Doctors Claire and Edmund Galal, who served in the Navy and are VPES parents,



addressed the students, staff, and community about sacrifice (photo far right with VPES Principal Ellen Tuckner). Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and RHS senior intern Lauren Kim collaborated on a speech about Memorial Day as part of Lauren's Town Hall internship. The VPES fifth-grader student council members ran the program with help from music teacher Ryan Dunne with each grade contributing a song or two. RPS honors all who sacrificed to protect our freedoms.

## An Octopus Baller, Self-Portraits, Warhol, and More at MS Art Gallery

Prepare to be delighted! There are so many surprises and delights in this combined [East Ridge and Scotts Ridge 2022 Virtual Art Gallery](#). Take a look. Middle school art teachers provided work from every grade in a variety of media that showcases the creativity and thought of RPS middle grade art students. Captions clockwise from top left: Nisha S. (Gr. 6), Brian D. (Gr. 6), Cullen N. (Gr. 6), Claire Y. (Gr. 7), Katz (Gr. 8), and Hunter R. (Gr. 8). Don't miss this feast of art.



More RPS News on Page 3!

## Fashionable *and* Thrifty Clients at RHS Business Symposium

The fifth-annual RHS Business Symposium last month drew attention to the remarkable opportunities available to Ridgefield High School students interested in business. Over the semester, more than 150 business students participated in two authentic market research projects for local businesses, KydRides and the Ridgefield Thrift Shop. The students conducted research, evaluated the competition, developed surveys, and analyzed the data. The analysis led students to final recommendations for both businesses. The Symposium ended with a Fashion Show, planned by students, which showcased student models wearing items from the Ridgefield Thrift Shop. Through the Fashion Show, students increased awareness about the benefits of thrifting to the local community and to the environment. To view a list of Business Symposium participants, hear a student's perspective, or find ways RHS can work with your business next year, view the Business Department's press release [here](#) or see the Symposium flyer [here](#). Listen to a Tiger Talk Podcast with Business Department teacher Jesse Peterkin and student Corrie Vakil [here](#).



## ERMS Gets Running, Walking, Moving for Physical (and Mental) Health



East Ridge Middle School celebrated Global Running Day with community partner, Ridgefield Running Company. ERMS PE teacher Alison Picarella organized the event with health teacher Kristi Montemurro and the PE team to spread the value of moving for mental and physical health. RHS interns clocked staff and students' laps around the field. Students raced against themselves to earn prizes in a fun school-wide event about health and wellness.

## RHS Theater, We Can See Your Halo, Halo, Halo!

Congratulations to the RHS Theater Department for the recognition at the Halo Awards this week. "All in the Timing" won for Best Performance by a Cast in an Ensemble Production (photo far left) and Best Specialty Ensemble (Nate C., Motria H., Audrey H., and Henry R.). The cast of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" performed at the awards ceremony, which honors high school theater productions across the State of Connecticut.



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.

