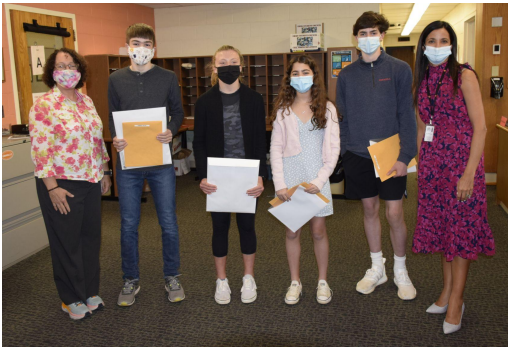




RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | May 14, 2021

Student Award Winners from East Ridge, Scotts Ridge, and RHS



Ridgefield Public Schools' outstanding student achievement was on full display at the Board of Education meeting. Principals from the middle and high school introduced the recipients of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) and Association of School Superintendents (CAPSS)/Western CT Superintendents Association (WCSA) awards.



CABE awards are designed to recognize achievement and potential, and for the Board itself to be recognized as a community leader. Two students from each school stood out for their hard work and going above and beyond to serve as leaders. The recipients are Kate Holbert and Andrew Pearl from East Ridge Middle School; Naomi Vakil and Aidan Mignano from Scotts Ridge Middle School; and Isabel Griffith and Santiago Briones Lopez from Ridgefield High School.



In addition, six students received the CT Association of School Superintendents (CAPSS)/Western Connecticut Superintendents Association (WCSA) awards—two students from each middle school and two from the high school. Awards are based on three criteria: community service, academic prowess (relative to ability), and leadership service to the school community. The recipients are Julia Knispel and Benjamin Voellmicke from East Ridge Middle School; Dakota Smith and Lloyd Mills from Scotts Ridge Middle School; and Kathryn Bucci and Charles DeMatteo from Ridgefield High School.

Calendar

May 18/May 24

RHS Band/Orchestra Concerts
in Ballard Park/[Reservations](#)

May 24

Early Dismissal/Asynch PM

May 31

No School/Memorial Day

May 24

BOE Meeting

[Live Stream and Archive](#)

May 27

[PTA Council Talk for Parents](#)

7 pm

June 14

Early Dismissal for Students

[RPS Calendar](#)

Students Heading to the National Invention Convention on Page 2

PTA Council Talk on Race



It's been almost a year since the George Floyd murder initiated a nationwide conversation about race. But, do we really need to talk to our children about issues like race, gender identity, and other differences? And, if so, how do we talk about these sensitive issues with our kids and teens? As part of this conversation, the RPS PTA Council is sponsoring a talk for parents on May 27, 2021, at 7 p.m. The full flyer including log-in for the YouTube Live talk can be found here [Do We Really Need to Talk About This? Talking to Children and Teens About Questions Surrounding Race, Gender Identity, Culture, and Ability](#). Special thanks to the Branchville PTA who organized some of these panelists in an engaging dialogue this fall.

Let's Talk, Tigers!

Every week, Wes DeSantis produces a Ridgefield [Tiger Talk](#) podcast that touches on part of the Ridgefield Public Schools and introduces some of the pivotal personnel involved. Recent topics include the Ridgefield Intensive Special Education (RISE) program, RHS students at the United Nations International Schools Conference on Covid's Impact, and the genesis of RPS's participation in the Invention Convention. Listen to new and archival podcasts [here](#) or on any platform.

National Bound Inventors



Any venture capitalists or turtle preservationists out there might look no further than their own RPS backyard where we have three inventors heading to the National Invention Convention! Clockwise from top left are Jaden DeLand (Branchville Elementary), wearing her glasses-defogging invention "[ClarifEYE](#)" during one of her prototype tests; Marin Almstead (Branchville Elementary) with her [Back to Work](#) backpack designed to convert to a desk; and Lily Zezula (Farmingville Elementary) in front of her [Turtle Tent Invention](#). These impressive students earned three of Connecticut's 64 spots and will bring their inventions to the next level on June 24. This is none of these girls' first time qualifying for Nationals; Jaden has been three times and this is the second invite for Lily and Marin. Invention Convention is an international competition this year so let's go global, Ridgefield! We are so proud of you, Jaden, Marin, and Lily!



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.

