



RPS NEWS

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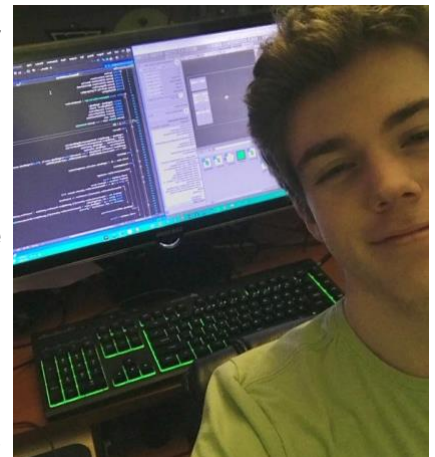
Senior Options: Do Good, Think Creatively, Grow

COVID-19 has dealt RHS seniors a particularly devastating hand. Plays canceled one day before opening night, athletic seasons cut short or not started at all, prom dresses hanging in closets, choosing a college without being able to revisit, well-planned internships ended before their start date, and a lot of uncertainty.

That is why it's so inspiring to see seniors reaching out beyond themselves to do good and be productive. RHS sisters Emma and Katie L. (photo top right) organized a Virtual Run-a-Thon for Ridgefield runners to honor RHS Coach Owens who passed away last year. Running a combined total of over 350 miles, RPS families raised almost \$8000 for RVNA Health as well as funds to provide meals to health care professionals. [Watch the video here.](#)



RHS Principal Stacey Gross and Interim Grade 12 Assistant Principal Molly Kreitz designed the Senior Options Program when it became clear that the traditional Senior Internship program was not viable for students this year. According to Kreitz, "the purpose of the Senior Option Program, similar to that of the Senior Internship, is to put students in a position to think actively and creatively; to experience individual growth; and develop skills and integrity necessary for becoming productive members of society outside the boundaries of their formal educational program. Embarking on a Senior Option will provide seniors with an opportunity for individual exploration and a useful transition from high school."



For his senior option, Ryan T. (photo lower right) is developing a planetary motion simulation that will be used to help teach future AP Physics students at RHS. Ryan's RHS computer science teacher, Steven Anton is mentoring Ryan's Senior Option, which will replace outdated software. Ryan aims to include different features that will help students better understand Newton's laws and orbital mechanics, including preset systems and a clear user interface. Ryan plans to major in Computer Science and Computational and Systems Biology at UCLA in the fall.

Calendar

May 18*

BOF Public Hearing on
BOE Budget (7 pm)

May 25

No School
Memorial Day

June 17

Last Day of School

May 19, 20, 21

BOF Budget Discussions
(Time TBD)

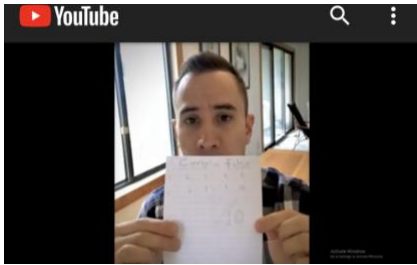
May 26*

BOE Meeting (7 pm)

*Check [website](#) for information

[Full 2019-20 RPS Calendar](#)

Middle School Sizzle



This week marks the third week of live eLearning at East Ridge and Scotts Ridge Middle Schools. K-12 STEM Supervisor Dr. Wes DeSantis put together this “Sizzle Reel” of RPS middle school teaching. Watch social studies teacher Michael Hougasian, a “Hamilton” sing-along, and Jessica Seewald’s dramatic reading of her original poem “Ode to Donuts” to get a taste of educators’ putting their all into eLearning.

[Middle School eLearning Sizzle Reel.](#)

Congratulations!

RHS seniors Emily C., Julia L., Nico M., and Quentin M. earn National Merit scholarships. RHS senior runners Simon J. and Emma L. are FCIAC Scholar Athletes of the Year.

Plank Chair Hockey

Veterans Park Elementary physical education teacher Mike Fraioli offered his students this fun family challenge. Using a chair and three socks families can work their core and spend some time away from screens. [Watch his video and try to beat Mr. Fraioli’s 5 point round.](#)



BES Principal’s Bald Move!

Branchville Elementary Principal Keith Margolus shaved his head last week to complete his side of the Acts of Kindness bargain. He had challenged the Branchville community to complete 100 acts of kindness. In typical RPS enthusiasm, families went above and beyond. So, with good humor, a clipper, and help from his children and wife, he lived up to his side of the bargain by shaving his head. He also challenged Ridgebury Principal Jamie Palladino to do the same. [See the video of Mr. Margolus going bald for kindness.](#)



Part of the Solution

Like many other RPS students and families, this model Ridgebury Elementary student picked up trash during Earth Day. Thank you, Mathea!



Student Sees COVID Need

RHS junior Kenneth C. guided other talented high school students to create a website to identify COVID-19 testing sites. Impressive work, Kenneth! [Read Boston Globe article.](#)

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.

