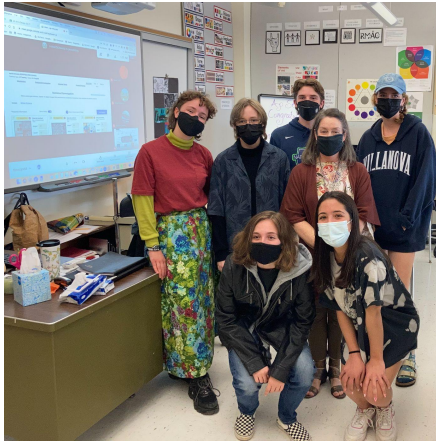




RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | May 21, 2021

AP Art Portfolios, Literary Magazine, and Live Music!



May is the time of the school year at Ridgefield High School when the relatively private practice of making art, writing poetry, and practicing musical instruments becomes public through publication and performance. This year, getting together feels extra special.

On the penultimate school day of their RHS careers before starting internships and senior projects, nine Advanced Placement Art students gathered to share their portfolios and celebrate. The photo top-left shows students Bea A., Will B., Kyra D., Kloe K., Caroline L., Astrid S., Miriam S., Sarah T., and Madeleine W., flanking their teacher Anne Marie Lester, who will retire this year. Three of the students joined the festivities remotely. Although the media the students used varied widely from pencil to acrylic, computer to collage, watercolor to wood, all the students completed the rigorous demands of Advanced Placement Studio Art, which required students to submit 15 process pieces that included an investigation as well as five final works. Some common themes emerged—nature, environmental degradation, emotion, transformation, politics, and also isolation and social pressure.



Astrid S., who will be attending Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), drew the cover art for the RHS literary magazine, *Lodestar* (right), published last week. Sarah T. and Miriam S. helped edit the magazine, and all of the AP Studio Art students

have work in the magazine, which can be found in print at RHS and seen virtually [here](#).

On Tuesday, the RHS Concert and Jazz Bands and the Wind Ensemble gave a concert at Ballard Park (photo lower-left) under the direction of George Beratis. The RHS Orchestra, conducted by Michael McNamara, will perform at 6 p.m. on May 25. [Reservations](#) (required by the Town of Ridgefield).



Calendar

May 24

Early Dismissal/Asynch PM

May 24

BOE Meeting

[Live Stream and Archive](#)

May 25

Orchestra Concert
in Ballard Park/[Reservations](#)

May 27

[PTA Council Talk for Parents](#)

7 pm

May 31

No School/Memorial Day

June 14

Early Dismissal for Students
Last Day

SRMS Changemakers



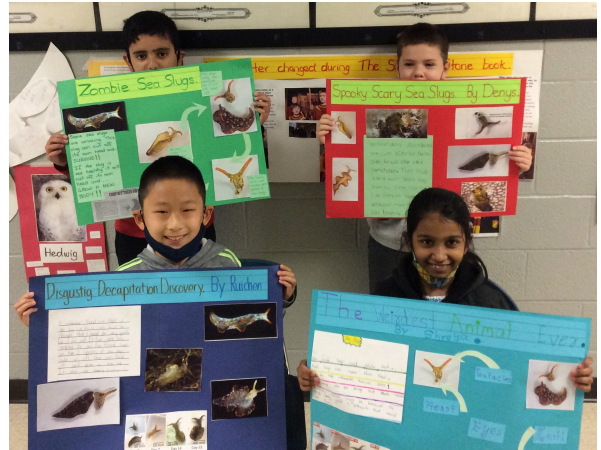
Scotts Ridge Middle School's Changemakers have been holding a food drive for several months to support student [Ruby W.'s pantries](#)—the 5 new Little Food Pantries recently designed, built, and gifted to Ridgefield. Changemakers Advisors Autumn Hoey and Emily Sherwill have encouraged the entire school to bring in canned and non-perishable packaged food items to help fill the pantries and help fight food insecurity in our town. Sixth-grade Social Studies Teacher Tricia Dowd even held a contest for students to top her donation count! In total, 204 items were collected, which means each pantry will benefit from over 40+ items of food!

Math Teacher Honored



SRMS Math Teacher Dr. Merryl Polak (photo above with students) is a state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program.

Self-Decapitating Sea Slugs at VP



Third and fourth-grade English learner students at Veterans Park Elementary School read a fascinating *New York Times* article about a Japanese scientist's gruesome discovery of self-decapitating sea slugs. Students read her research about sea slugs that are able to remove their own head, and then regenerate an entirely new body. Each student wrote and designed a poster that explained part of the sea slugs' weird 'life' cycle. They presented their posters and answered grisly questions from VPES students and staff. The students are from four different countries, (Syria, Ukraine, India, and China), and between them can speak *nine* different languages.

Film Recommendation

RPS Special Services recommends the documentary, *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* (Netflix; Rated R), which tells the story of how campers from a summer camp designed for teens with disabilities became activists for the disability rights movement in the 1970s. 👍👍

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.

