



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | September 24, 2021



## ERMS Makes Peace

Ridgefield Public Schools Director of Education Technology Dr. Wes DeSantis captured this [drone video](#) of East Ridge Middle School's United Nations International Day of Peace event. All ERMS 6th-grade students and teachers assembled to create a human peace sign while students read the preamble and the articles of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) over a loudspeaker. If you zoom in close, you'll see students making the peace sign with their fingers.

## Post High School Transitions at RPS

Jessica DiValentino, the new RPS 18-22 Year-Old Transition Coordinator, talks with *RPS News* from the food court at the Danbury Fair Mall while she waits for one of her students. Ms. DiValentino is committed to working with her older students to find employment, develop independent living skills, and access the State of Connecticut resources. On this particular day, she will meet a student to work on important skills of social interaction and independence. Each of her students has an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), and each student has unique goals and needs. Some of her students receive support in their post-secondary school college education. One works at Rising Starr Horse Rescue and Quarry Ridge Animal Hospital to achieve her dream of being a vet tech. Another of Ms. DiValentino's students has a passion for landscaping so he spreads mulch, weeds, and gardens for a local landscaper. The photo left shows Dylan B. on the job at Planet Pizza. All learn basic life skills so that they might be able to get and keep a job. Ms. DiValentino also works with all RPS students with an IEP and their families to assure the transitions between middle and high school will serve the students' needs. Our 18-22 year-olds are considered Ridgefield High School students but work out of the Auxiliary Classroom on the Veterans Park Elementary campus to acknowledge their accomplishment of graduating from RHS and transitioning to the next phase of their lives.



## Calendar

**September 27,  
October 12 and 25**  
BOE Meetings  
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

**October 4**  
[Project Resilience Talk](#)

**October 11**  
No School/Columbus Day

**October 21**  
Early Dismissal for Students  
Professional Development  
[\(Other PD Days\)](#)

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

## NHS at RHS



Ridgefield High School inducted the Class of '22 National Honor Society members this week. NHS is a nationwide program that has rigorous academic and civic requirements. The purpose of the [Ridgefield High School Chapter of the National Honor Society](#) is to serve the school and the community with projects such as peer tutoring, Elementary School Homework Club, and Elementary School Science Project. The photo above shows NHS student leaders, Emma G. (Vice President), Sabrina P. (President), Sophie D. (Secretary), Henry L. (Tutoring Chair), with RHS co-advisor Amy Christofer, Superintendent Da Silva, RHS Principal Greenwood, and co-advisor Liz Karlan.

## Wear It Wednesdays at BMES



The Barlow Mountain Elementary PTA is sponsoring "Wear It Wednesdays." On the third Wednesday of every month students get decked out in their spirit wear to show BMES Bobcat fever.

Please [join your PTA](#) if you haven't already!

## RHS Alum on Broadway



The photos above (credit: Joe Heinzmann) show Ridgefield High School alum Sam Gravitte when he was headlining RHS productions of *Les Miserables* and *The Pajama Game*. Now, Mr. Gravitte is sharing his prodigious talents on Broadway. Gravitte plays the lead male character, Fiyero Tiggular (The Scarecrow), in the hit show *Wicked*, which recently reopened to the delight of theater-goers. Mr. Gravitte was a star football and lacrosse player at RHS who went on to play lacrosse at Princeton University.

## RVNA Flu Clinics at RPS

[RVNAhealth](#) has worked with RPS Nurse Aaron Crook to arrange [flu vaccine clinics](#) for all RPS families. Note: SRMS goes to RHS; BMES to SES

Branchville: 10/26, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
 ERMS: 10/25, 3-4 p.m.  
 Farmingville: 9/29, 4-5 p.m.  
 Ridgebury: 10/12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
 RHS: 10/4, 2:15-3:30 p.m.  
 Scotland: 9/28, 3:30-5 p.m.  
 VPES: 9/30, 4-5 p.m.

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.

