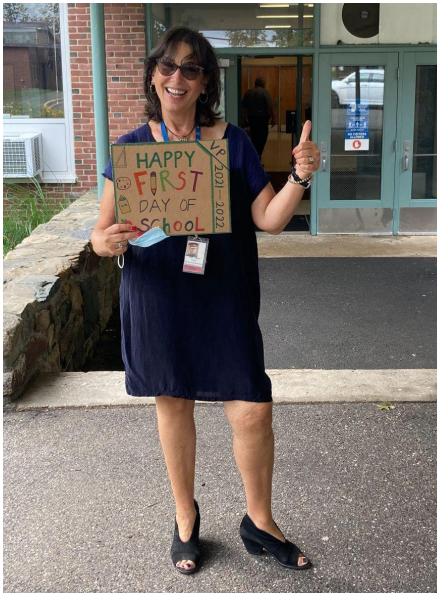




RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | September 3, 2021

RPS Students, You Have Champions Here



The mood in the Ridgefield Public Schools this week was celebratory...and then soggy! Party songs welcomed Veterans Park Elementary students; school buses were buzzing; Ridgefield High School student leaders wore leis to help new students identify sources of help and direction; middle schoolers smiled for the obligatory first-day-of-school photo a kindergartener told Superintendent Susie Da Silva that he's waited his whole life to go to kindergarten. Even with Storm Ida wreaking havoc, it is great to be back.



On the first day of school, Dr. Da Silva shared a TED Talk by Rita Pierson called "Every Kid Needs a Champion" with faculty. With humor, insight, and inspiration, Pierson urges teachers to connect with and champion their students. True to her lesson, Pierson lauds teachers saying that they are born to make a difference.

Everyone who steps into RPS schools will see educators making that vital connection. From the elementary classroom teachers to the middle school library staff guiding eighth-graders through their first morning announcements to the High School Student Life Office's thoughtful ninth-grade orientation where "No One Sits Alone"—RPS staff embrace Pierson's message to be their students' champions. They collaborate to find ways to connect with, inspire, and support our students. Our educators are champions. Please see more back-to-school photos from all nine schools on pages 3-6 of RPS News. Hope you have a great four day weekend!

Calendar

September 7
No School/Labor Day

September 13 and 27
BOE Meetings
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

September 16
No School/Yom Kippur

September 8
No School/Rosh Hashanah

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

September 23
Early Dismissal for Students
Professional Development

American Ninja at RPS

East Ridge sixth-grader Lily Zezula is a competitor on Season 3 of American Ninja Warrior Junior. RPS can watch Lily test her speed and agility starting September 9 streaming on Peacock TV. She will race on Episode 8. By the way, Lily was a National Champion in the Invention Convention for her incredible [Turtle Tent](#), making her a tween mutant ninja turtle *lover*.) Go, Lily!



9/11 Reading Resources



This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Scotts Ridge Middle School Librarian Janine Johnson recognizes that this is a difficult topic for our students and may not be appropriate for some ages. Ms. Johnson says that books are often a good way to memorialize and understand the tragic event and its history for our students who weren't born when the attack occurred. She plans to host live virtual author visits arranged by the Connecticut Association of School Librarians on Thursday, September 9th in the SRMS LLC. More information on authors and books about 9-11, including a link to an evening presentation for families, can be found [here](#).

Calendar and Curriculum



RPS asks that you check the calendar before planning family vacations or medical appointments. Subscribing to the [RPS Calendar](#) is easy; just check the box for your students' schools and then the "subscribe" button. When you subscribe, you will receive reminders about important events like Back to School Night, Early Dismissal, etc. right to your electronic devices. Recently, the District has received questions about the curriculum. We wanted to call your attention to the [Parent Curriculum Website](#), which offers a review of the curriculum and academic pathways at each level.

[Parent Curriculum Site](#)

Join Your PTA!

As you are ticking through your back-to-school to-do list, please join your PTA. Every year, Ridgefield PTAs go above and beyond to work with staff to support our shared mission. Parent involvement comes in many different forms, and joining the PTA can be an important step in staying connected to your child's education. Find information and links for all nine schools on the Ridgefield Council of PTA's [website](#).

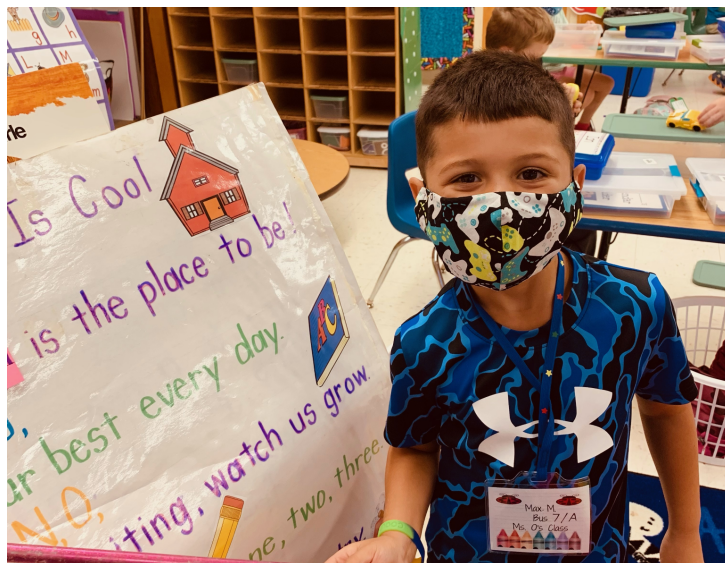
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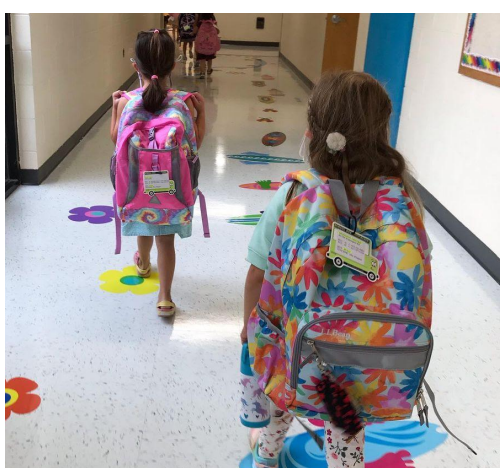
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Welcome Back!

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