



The VP Press

August 26, 2024



What's in this edition of the VP Press?

1. Welcome to the 24-25 School Year!
2. Important Information/Upcoming Event

1. Welcome to the 24-25 School Year!

A Warm Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear VP families,

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful and restful summer! We are excited to welcome you back to another exciting school year at Veterans Park! If you haven't read my [Welcome Back letter](#) that was sent on Friday, August 16th, I highly encourage you to do so as there is important information for you for the start of the school year.

As we embark on this new academic journey together, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment for all students. Our dedicated staff has been working diligently to prepare engaging and challenging curriculum to foster your child's growth and development.

We look forward to seeing everyone today at **Open School - from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. this afternoon.** Doors will open promptly at 2:00 p.m. and we ask everyone to finish the visit before 3:00 p.m. as

our teachers are busily preparing for the start of school tomorrow. **If you have medication for your child, you may drop it off at the nurses office during this time.** If you have any questions, please contact our school nurse Ms. Carolyn Canavan, ccanavan@ridgefieldps.net or call the main office.

Please read on to learn about important (and fun) information about the first few weeks of school!

Kind regards,
Sheri Prendergast, Ed.D.



2. Important Information and Upcoming Events

Mon. 8/26	Tues. 8/27	Wed. 8/28	Thurs. 8/29	Fri. 8/30
Open School 2:00-3:00 PM	First Day of School Kindergarten 12:15 Dismissal	Kindergarten 12:15 Dismissal	Kindergarten 12:15 Dismissal	Kindergarten 12:15 Dismissal
Mon. 9/2	Tues. 9/3	Wed. 9/4	Thurs. 9/5	Fri. 9/6
Labor Day - No School	Kindergarten regular schedule - 1st Day of Preschool		VP Ice Cream Social (5:00-6:30)	All School Meeting for students*Rain Date VP Ice Cream Social

VETERANS PARK PTA

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5

5:00 - 6:30 PM

VP BACK PARKING LOT

MUSIC & FUN BY DJ KIRK.
ICE CREAM & ICES FROM DEBORAH ANN'S
CHEZ LENARD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
THIS IS NOT A DROP-OFF EVENT.

RAINDATE SEPT. 6

Please click this link to view the 24-25 RPS Student Handbook.

Access to the 24-25 RPS Student Handbook

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zjhwShPh-LvU2FS3RY_iVvRSNnOs2b0dPtGp2bhJ1ZI/edit#heading=h.t407xxhvh3jg

Important Back to School Information and Dates

Please keep this information handy to refer to throughout the school year.

K - 5 School start date: August 27, 2024*
School hours are from 9:10 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Start	2-Hour Delay	3- Hour Delay	Early Dismissal	Extended Early Dismissal	Regular Dismissal
9:10am	11:10am	12:10pm	12:15pm	1:15pm	4:00pm

Please note: Occasionally weather conditions may worsen rapidly over the course of the morning hours, In such instances, the administrative team may decide on closing schools according to the extended early dismissal times. Please remember that children should not be dropped off at school before **8:55am** as there is no supervision prior to that time.

**Preschool families, please follow the arrival/dismissal times and procedures provided by Christina Salvestrini.*

Welcome New VP Staff!

In our upcoming communications, I will be including 'spotlights' of our new VP staff for you to learn more about the newest members of our VP Team.

New Certified Staff	New Support Staff
Erica Ippoliti - VP Assistant Principal Christine Kilkenny -Special Education teacher Dorothy Miller - Special Education teacher Samantha Colmanetti - Preschool teacher Alicia Wimmer - Occupational Therapist Jill Quattrocchi - District World Language Teacher Janice Kovach - Preschool Speech & Language Pathologist	Carolyn Canavan - New Nurse Clara Pavan - New Clerical Para Erica Monson - Preschool Instructional Para Israel Ramos - New Building Substitute Khadiga Alkhelifa- New Supervisory Para

Meet the
SPECIAL
EDUCATION TEAM
VETERANS PARK ELEMENTARY



2024-25

Dorothy Miller, Special Education Teacher
Christine Kilkenny, Special Education Teacher
Kelly Rigney (Feeney), Pathways Special Education Teacher
Alicia Wimmer, Occupational Therapist
Colleen Howarth, Speech-Language Pathologist
Jeff Lovelace, School Psychologist
Sara Myjak, Part Time School Psychologist
Frans Van Vliet, Physical Therapist
Allison Romeo, Special Education Clerical Para
Samantha Colmanetti, Preschool
Janice Kovach, Speech-Language Pathologist, Preschool

Any students who receive special education services will be contacted by their child's case manager during the first week of school to share important information.

Grades 3 - 5 World Language



World Language

Grades 3-5
Spanish language instruction
30 minute lessons
In the classroom
Once every six days



Jill Quattrocchi



Letter to Grade 3-5 Families from Sra. Quattrocchi

Dear Families,

I am Jill Quattrocchi, the new elementary World Language teacher in Ridgefield. All students in grades 3-5 will be learning Spanish this year. Students will engage in Spanish instruction for thirty minutes once every six days.

Before joining Ridgefield Public Schools, I worked as an elementary Spanish teacher for Greenwich Public Schools, where I also served as the district elementary world language learning facilitator. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Spanish, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a certificate in administration.

I am thrilled to join Ridgefield Public Schools and am excited to begin the world language program! Look for more information coming soon!

Please Join the VP PTA! (Click below)

BECOME A
MEMBER

2024-2025 Membership is Now Open

Our Membership sign-up form is now Live. Please join the Veterans Park PTA to become a member and support your school community. PTA Membership is annual - even if you were a member last year, you will need to renew.

vppta.membershiptoolkit.com

JOIN OR RENEW
VP PTA

2024-2025

CONNECTING VP FAMILIES & STAFF

The simplest way to enrich our kids' school experience, support our teachers, connect with the Veterans Park community, and make a difference this school year.

\$5 DISCOUNT EXPIRES SEPT. 15
vppta.membershiptoolkit.com

Visiting Veterans Park

VISITS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

- If you are coming to VP for a meeting or a classroom visit, the staff member organizing the visit/meeting will have you added to our VP Visitor's Log.
- If you wish to enter the school building for other reasons, you need to complete the Google Form via the [VP Visitor Google Form](#) in advance or scan a QR code when you arrive at the building.
- Please be sure to have your driver's license to be scanned once you are admitted to the building.
- All visitors should enter through the main doors - never enter in from another aspect of the school.
- We will have a table available at the main entrance for you to drop off any items for your child. We will provide post it notes and markers so that you can label the item with your child's name and teacher so that they will receive the item.



Essentials



- Each K to 5 class will have a 45 minute essential per day (Art, Library, Music, or P.E.)
- Preschool will participate in a modified essential period
- We will continue to follow the six day A-F day schedule
- Please find the essentials rotation below

		Essentials Rotation by Grade-Level Teacher (First Half)					
		A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day	E Day	F Day
PK	Pre K	PE	ART	MUS	PE	LIB	MUS
	Bender	LIB	PE	LIB	MUS	PE	ART
Kinder	Dunphy	MUS	LIB	PE	LIB	ART	PE
	Guernsey	ART	PE	MUS	LIB	PE	MUS
Grade 1	Tibbits	MUS	ART	PE	MUS	LIB	PE
	Cummins	PE	MUS	LIB	PE	MUS	ART
Grade 2	Gero	MUS	LIB	PE	MUS	ART	PE
	Craig	ART	PE	LIB	MUS	PE	MUS
Grade 3	Flynn	PE	ART	MUS	PE	MUS	LIB
	Faloon	LIB	PE	LIB	MUS	PE	ART
Grade 4	Funk	MUS	LIB	PE	LIB	ART	PE
	Hoey	ART	PE	MUS	LIB	PE	LIB
Grade 5	Pasquarella	PE	ART	LIB	PE	LIB	MUS

Cell Phones/Smartwatches/Personal Devices

Students with cell phones at the elementary level are not permitted to use them during the school day. If a parent makes the decision to permit their child to have a cell phone, smartwatch, or similar device at school, it is expected that the cell phone or smartwatch be turned off and in the child's backpack at all times. **This includes the duration of the bus ride.**

Please note, we treat smartwatches (e.g. the Apple Watch, the Gizmo Watch, the Android Smart Watch) or other similar devices that provide a student with the ability to text, take photos, or make calls in the same way we treat a cell phone and they are subject to the same practice.

If a staff member sees a student with any of the above mentioned devices, the student will be asked to remove the device and store it in their backpack and their teacher will likely contact you about the concern.

VP Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

K - 5 Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival 8:55 AM - 9:10 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bus Riders will be dropped off at the bus loop at 9:10 AM (No Car Drop-off allowed)Walkers will enter through the main entrance between 8:55 AM - 9:10 AMCar Drop-off students will enter through the Market St. entrance (doors will open at 8:55 AM)
	
Dismissal 3:50 PM - 4:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bus Riders will board the buses and exit through the bus loop.Pedestrian Pickup (Walking) will wait at the doors of the cafeteria by the Lounsbury House. Parents must park across Governor Street in the public lot. NO PARKING AT LOUNSBURY HOUSE.Car Line Pickup will be dismissed from the gymnasium through the Market St. entrance

Preschool Arrival and Dismissal

VPES Parent Drop-off and Pick-up

For parent drop-off and pick-up at VPES, please park your vehicle at the public lot off Governors Street (see the map below). You may then walk your child across the street to meet our Preschool staff at the PK/K exterior doors. They will be waiting to escort students to their classroom.



School Dismissal Manager

We will continue to use School Dismissal Manager this year at Veterans Park. Please click below for information regarding this system. This system will be available to families in late August. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!



SDM Parent Presentation 24-25

School Dismissal Manager Parent Information Veterans Park Elementary School 2024-2025 School Year

[docs.google.com](#)



Veterans Park SDM Letter to Families 2024-2025

Veterans Park Elementary School Dr. Sheri Prendergast, Principal
Ms. Erica Ippoliti, Assistant Principal August 2024 Dear Veterans Park Parents and Guardians, Welcome to School Dismissal Manager for the 2024-2025 year! School Dismissal Manager (SDM) is an organized and efficient tracking...

[docs.google.com](#)

School Lunch 🥪

School lunch will be available from the first day of school. Aramark is the District-wide food service provider. The school lunch menu is available online on the RPS website; click Departments and click on [Food Service](#). For all students, utilize MySchoolBucks for families to fund student lunches.

MySchoolBucks is available via the PowerSchool Parent Portal, and communication was sent to families in early August regarding adding funds for lunch. Any balances have been rolled over from LunchTime to MySchoolBucks. Additionally, the district sent a communication in early August regarding Reduced Lunch for eligible students.

Snacks for Purchase in the Cafeteria:

Students in grades 2-5 are permitted to purchase snacks during lunch (last 10 minutes). Please be sure you have set up MySchoolBucks if you would like your student to be able to purchase a snack.

- In short, students eligible for reduced lunch will be provided free lunches in grades K-8 for the 2024-25 school year.
- Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Free School Meals for Children grant, please do not hesitate to contact us or the District Business Office.
- Questions in regard to school MySchoolBucks can be directed to Andrea McCurry, RPS Food Service Director at 203-894-5550 x2143 or amccurry@ridgefieldps.net

Website to set up an account.

[MySchoolBucks](#)

Some Support Links for Troubleshooting:

[Updating Your Payment Method | MySchoolBucks](#)

[Setting up Automatic Payments | MySchoolBucks](#)

[Adding a New Student | MySchoolBucks](#)

[Setting Up Low Balance Alerts | MySchoolBucks](#)

[Reset Your Password Using Your Mobile Phone Number](#)

[Reset Your Password Using Your Email Address/Username](#)

Reminders

Playdates and Riding the Bus:

We know how fun it is for our students to get together after school and enjoy time together! Due to safety and limited space on the buses, we are asking that students have no more than 2 guest riders with them at a time. Anytime there is a need for more than 2 additional students to ride, families will need to make arrangements for parent pick up that day. Thank you for understanding!

Hats & Hoodies:

Over the last several years there was no standard hat/hood procedure in the elementary schools, likely related to Covid, when classroom windows were kept open for air circulation and there was the potential for it to be cold in classrooms.

As we have started the 24-25 school year with a typical school opening, we will return to only permitting hats to be worn outside the school building. Students may choose to wear a hat, but will

be reminded to remove it upon entering the school building. Students will be permitted to wear hats for outdoor recess. Teachers have discussed this with students and I will remind our school community during the morning announcements on Tuesday.

On special occasions/spirit days, hats may be permitted and this will be communicated to students and families.

Ridgefield Public Schools Digital Backpack

RPS distribution flyers for outside groups via a [Digital Backpack](#).

Organizations that meet the RPS policy may submit their request for inclusion in the digital backpack. Please help us in our effort to go green by checking students' [Digital Backpacks](#)

Organizations that meet the RPS policy may submit their request for inclusion to cmelagrano@ridgefieldps.net. Thank you!



About Us

For more information, please use the following information.

Email: sprendergast@ridgefieldps.net

Website: <https://vpes.ridgefield.org/Home>

Location: Veterans Park Elementary School



Phone: [203-894-5525](tel:203-894-5525)

Facebook: facebook.com/TBD



Sheri Prendergast

Sheri is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

