

# THE VP PRESS

October 4, 2024



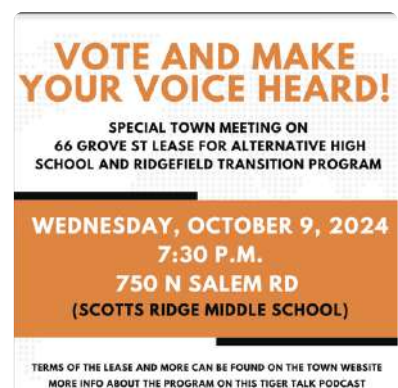
## What's in this edition of the VP Press?

1. Principal's Message
2. Thank you, VP, from Mr. Fraioli
3. VP Two Weeks in Review!
4. Curriculum Corner
5. Upcoming Events
6. Important Information

## 1. Principal's Message

Dear VP families,

Welcome to the month of October! As the leaves begin to change and the air grows crisp, we're excited about the fun activities and events planned for our VP students. On **Monday, October 7th**, author **Darren Sardelli of Laugh-a-Lot Poetry** will visit Veterans Park, thanks to the VP PTA and its generous contributing members. He will present two assemblies, split by older and younger grades. He will also lead poetry workshops for grades 3-5.



**October 9th - Get out and vote at SRMS @ 7:30 p.m.**

**We moved our VP PTA general assembly meeting to allow for our VP community to attend this vote!**

We have a very important vote coming up that will determine if we can move forward with a new site for educating our Alternative High School and Ridgefield Transition Program. As many of you may know, Veterans Park currently houses our 18-22 RPS Transition program in our portables and

the program is growing to meet the needs of our RPS students. The result of this vote will determine the fate of the future of these programs and directly impacts us at Veterans Park. Please listen to the [Ridgefield Tiger Talk podcast](#) and [Monday's Superintendent's Report](#) (approximately 36 min mark) to learn more about this project in advance of the October 9 town vote on the lease.

**Preschool Families - Flu Shots:** Please make sure your child has received their flu shot. Preschoolers must have the vaccine by the end of the year. If they don't get vaccinated, they will not be able to attend school beginning January 3rd. We encourage all families to get vaccinated to help prevent the spread of illness.

Lastly, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank **Mr. Mike Fraioli** for his 12 years of service to our Veterans Park community. Today, is his last day with us at VP. He has been an invaluable member of our school community. Mr. Fraioli's passion for physical education and his commitment to our students has had a profound impact on our school. Under his guidance, our students have learned the importance of physical activity, teamwork, and sportsmanship. We wish him all the best in his next professional venture. You can read some words from Mr. Fraioli to our VP community below in our newsletter.

Kind regards,  
Sheri Prendergast, Ed.D.  
Principal

## ***2. Thank you, VP, from Mr. Fraioli***

Dear VP Families,

As I prepare to embark on this new chapter, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared. It has truly been a gift to watch your children grow and progress over the years. Each moment spent with them has been a joy, filled with laughter, learning, and the unique spark that each child brings.

Your unwavering support has meant the world to me, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you've placed in me to help guide and nurture your wonderful children.

As A.A. Milne once said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I carry this sentiment with me & will hold VP close to my heart always.

With gratitude,  
Mike Fraioli



### ***3. VP Two Weeks in Review!***

***Walking Bus - Despite the misty weather!***























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## 4. Curriculum Corner

### VP C.A.R.E.S Matrix

At RPS, we strive to help our elementary students become thoughtful, caring, kind, and responsible members of our community. We prioritize facilitating an inclusive school community where all students and staff feel valued, respected, connected, and supported. Our programs, curriculum, and behavioral interventions support a whole-child approach.

Our goal is to provide all children with consistent school-wide expectations and to utilize proactive strategies before misbehavior occurs. These proactive strategies include:

- Using teacher language that reinforces and reminds expected behaviors
- Establishing classroom rules and expectations
- Daily morning meetings and closing circles in each classroom



# Social and Emotional Learning



VP C.A.R.E.S.

**Cooperation**  
**Assertion**  
**Responsibility**  
**Empathy**  
**Self-Control**



	Classrooms	Hallways	Cafeteria	Bathrooms	Bus	Recess
<b>Cooperation</b> "I can work with others."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I follow the teacher's directions.</li> <li>I listen immediately when I hear the chime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I walk on the right side of the hallway.</li> <li>I listen for and follow adult directions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I follow adult directions.</li> <li>I stay safely in my seat.</li> <li>I help others at my table when needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I only use the bathroom when necessary.</li> <li>I wait my turn if the bathroom is full.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I follow the bus driver's directions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I follow adult directions.</li> <li>I take turns.</li> <li>I show good sportsmanship.</li> </ul>
<b>Assertion</b> "I can speak up for myself and others."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I speak clearly and confidently.</li> <li>I am an active member of my classroom community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I wave silently to anyone I pass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I speak clearly when ordering my lunch.</li> <li>I raise my hand when I need help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I let an adult know if I need to use the bathroom.</li> <li>If I see a problem in the bathroom, I tell an adult.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I say hello to the bus driver.</li> <li>I chat quietly with my friends.</li> <li>I get help from my bus driver when needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I stand up for myself and others.</li> <li>I get help from an adult when needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsibility</b> "I can make smart choices."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I take care of my materials and the classroom materials.</li> <li>I try new things and work hard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I respect the materials on the wall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I treat my tablemates with respect.</li> <li>I clean up my area after I finish eating.</li> <li>I place all trash in the bins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I wash my hands before returning to learning.</li> <li>I keep the bathroom clean by flushing the toilet and throwing away paper towels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I stay in my seat.</li> <li>I use appropriate words.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use the playground equipment safely and appropriately.</li> <li>I check the buddy bench and invite new friends to play.</li> </ul>
<b>Empathy</b> "I can understand others' feelings."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am kind and considerate of my classmates.</li> <li>I offer to help others in need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I respect other's personal space.</li> <li>I am respectful of the learning in the classroom I pass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am kind and polite.</li> <li>I respect other's space.</li> <li>I am considerate of allergies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I knock gently on the bathroom door/stall door before entering.</li> <li>I respect other's personal space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am respectful of others seated around me.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I include everyone who wants to play.</li> <li>I offer help to those in need.</li> </ul>
<b>Self-Control</b> "I can think before I speak and act."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I take turns listening and speaking.</li> <li>I use an indoor voice.</li> <li>I use a safe body.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I walk safely and silently in a line.</li> <li>I keep my hands by my side and look forward.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I remain seated until given permission to get up.</li> <li>I use an indoor voice.</li> <li>When I hear the chime, I am silent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use an indoor voice.</li> <li>I return to learning in the classroom as quickly as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I stay in my seat.</li> <li>I use an indoor voice.</li> <li>I keep my hands, feet, and belongings to myself.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I use a safe body.</li> <li>I follow the rules of playground games.</li> </ul>

## World Language Update from Sra. Quattrocchi

We are having a blast being "all in" Spanish in grades 3-5! During class, we are working hard to only use Spanish. Students are becoming more comfortable watching, listening, and practicing words in Spanish! We are beginning to explore the culture of Puerto Rico, using two native animals, Coqui and Iguaca. Ask your student if they can greet you, say goodbye, share their name or say how they feel all in Spanish! ¡Gracias!



## 5. Upcoming Events!

Mon. 10/7	Tues. 10/8	Wed.10/9	Thurs. 10/10	Fri. 10/11
Author Visit - Laugh A Loud Poetry - Sponsored by the PTA	Kaleidoscope Garden (G 3-5)	Please Vote - 7:30 p.m. at SRMS		Early Release 12:15 pm Dismissal
Mon. 10/14	Tues. 10/15	Wed.10/16	Thurs. 10/17	Fri. 10/18
No School				

## 6. Important Information

**Town Vote on 66 Grove Street - Please Vote on October 9th!**

# VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON  
66 GROVE ST LEASE FOR ALTERNATIVE HIGH  
SCHOOL AND RIDGEFIELD TRANSITION PROGRAM**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024  
7:30 P.M.  
750 N SALEM RD  
(SCOTTS RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL)**

**TERMS OF THE LEASE AND MORE CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN WEBSITE  
MORE INFO ABOUT THE PROGRAM ON THIS TIGER TALK PODCAST**

## ***Thank you to Jessica Rowe and Jenn Grabowski***

Jessica and Jenn decorated our central office bulletin board before the return of school. Their creativity was truly inspiring as they based the board on the book *All the Ways to Be Smart* by Davina Bell. Thank you, Jessica and Jenn.



## ***Thank you to Sue Safianoff and Julia Cockerill***

Sue and Julia created a bulletin board for our students to remind everyone that *WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE* which is such an important message for inclusion and belonging at Veterans Park.





## Halloween at Veterans Park

This year, we are inviting all elementary students to celebrate Halloween at school by dressing up in a costume on October 31st.

Please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure a fun, safe, and festive day for all:

### **Guidelines:**

- Students need to arrive in costumes that they are comfortable wearing all day (this may mean simplifying the costume as there will be no changing).
- Costumes need to be comfortable (walking, sitting) for a full-day of learning activities - no inflatable costumes please. Shoes must be conducive to easy walking.
- The theme for the day is **fun and non-scary celebrating ie. costumes must be appropriate for school (no gore, no blood)**.
- No costume masks, no props, no weapons, and no inflatable costumes.
- Any makeup should be minimal.



Hello from the  
**ART**  
Room

Dear Veterans Park Families,

We have been busy having fun and getting creative in the art room! All students enjoy a wide variety of media, and yes at times it will get messy! On art days, We suggest wearing an old oversized shirt or smock to help protect clothing. Please label it with your child's name and class and have them bring it in a ziploc bag to store in their classroom.

Warmly,

Jen Zeyer & Alison Anderon  
Art Teachers

Art Room Donations:  
Baby Wipes are truly appreciated throughout the school year for easy clean up



## PTA Sponsored - Grades K - 5 Spirit Run



### 2024 Spirit Run: The countdown has begun!

Dear VP Families,

The Veterans Park PTA is thrilled to announce this year's SPIRIT RUN on Thursday, October 24th (rain date 10/25). The Spirit Run is one of our biggest fundraisers and makes much of our programming plans possible.

With this year's goal of \$13,000, we hope to bring in at least two enrichment programs per class by tried-and-true vendors such as Playful Engineers and High Touch High Tech. We also hope to continue our traditions (big and small!) like Kaleidoscope classes in the VP Garden, Oreos and hot cocoa during the holiday movie, texts for "One Book One School," and costumes/sets/props for our fall production of *Shrek Jr.*

And the piece de resistance? We'd like to take every K-5 student on a journey through the universe with Mobile Ed's floor-to-ceiling inflatable SkyDome Planetarium! Right in our very own VPES gymnasium!

In order to make these hopes a reality, students are encouraged to work as a team to raise funds for the PTA, while also earning individual and school-wide prizes. We'll track the school's progress on the bulletin board by the main office. When the big day arrives, registered students will descend upon Veterans Park Field during their recess periods to run relays, cheer each other on, and come together in a way that will set them up for an unforgettable year at VP. Each class will be supervised by teachers and pre-assigned parent volunteers.

#### What do I need to do?

##### Step 1: Register your student(s)

- All students must have a completed registration in order to participate. Give your student permission using the QR code at right or by visiting the link below. **All students must register by Monday, October 7th.**

*Please note: While Fundraising Campaigns may appear above Information Forms on the PTA website, please register your child first.*

[https://vppta.membershiptoolkit.com/Open\\_Forms](https://vppta.membershiptoolkit.com/Open_Forms)



##### Step 2: Raise money for VP

- Follow the same link above and look for your student's Fundraising Campaign. Once in their profile, you may upload a photo (optional), set fundraising goals, etc. Donate and share your unique page with friends and family so they can donate as well — increasing your child's contribution and opportunity to earn prizes (see next page). Funds can be raised all the way through the day of the Spirit Run.

To participate in the run and receive a Spirit Run T-shirt, the suggested donation amount is \$30. Every child will receive a shirt regardless of the amount of funds raised so that they can show their VP Spirit. Not raising funds? Register your child to give them permission to join the fun. #WEAREVP

*Scholarships are available. Please email [vpespta@gmail.com](mailto:vpespta@gmail.com) for information on receiving or providing them.*

**Registration Deadline is Monday, October 7th for ALL STUDENTS**  
QUESTIONS? EMAIL [VPESPTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VPESPTA@GMAIL.COM)

**In addition to funding all the fun, enriching, unforgettable programs mentioned above, students can earn individual prizes based on their total amount raised:**

- **Raising \$30** gets you a redesigned 2024 VP Spirit Run T-Shirt.
- **Raising \$60** gets you one entry into a raffle featuring assorted prizes donated by local businesses such as Planet Pizza, the Toy Chest, Queen Bee, Books on the Common, and more. There will be at least 10 winners! (Students earn one entry per \$60 raised.)
- **Raising \$100** enters you into a raffle to get four seats, with a VIP concessions bucket, to VP's production of "Shrek Jr." on either November 13th or 14th. One winner. Plus the opportunities above. (One entry per \$100 raised.)
- **Raising \$150** enters you into a raffle to lead the morning announcements with Dr. Prendergast. There will be five lucky winners! Plus the opportunities above. (One entry per \$150 raised)
- **Raising \$200** allows you to put your name on your favorite school lunch, as it appears on the screens and boards in the school. For example, Willa's Wonderful Waffles. Everyone who raises \$200 will earn this, plus opportunities above.

### **Grand School-Wide Prize if we meet our fundraising goal:**

A school-wide VP SPIRIT DAY with wacky hair, crazy socks, and lots of BLUE AND GOLD.  
PLUS MONTHLY themed Spirit Days (including pajama days!) for the rest of the year!

The more you raise, the more prizes you and your classmates can win. And the more the PTA can spend on fun events and educational programs for Veterans Park!!

## **Attendance**

The State Board of Education has defined two levels of criteria for an absence to be considered an excused absence.

"Level 1" includes the first nine absences and these days are considered excused absences for any reason that the student's parent or guardian approves. The parent or guardian must submit either written or oral documentation within ten school days of the student's return to school.

Excused "Level 2" absences are the days beginning at the tenth absence and meet one or more of the State's acceptable reasons. For more information regarding the acceptable reasons, please visit the [Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines for Absences](#).

If your child reaches the thresholds below, you will receive a notification. The notifications will lag the actual absences. For example, your child may reach their 6th absence on a Wednesday and you may not be notified until the following Monday.

Typical attendance notification thresholds.

- At 6 absences a notification is emailed.
- At 9 absences a notification is emailed.
- At 9 absences and 6 unexcused, a notification is emailed.
- At 9 excused absences and 10 unexcused absences, a truancy notification is emailed.

## **RPS Special Services Parent Guidance Series**

Come join us for the first of our RPS Special Services' Parent Guidance Series: Preparing for and Participating in PPT Meetings on October 22nd at 10:30 am. [See this flyer for information on this virtual event, and a link to RSVP.](#) Our goal is to provide parents and caregivers with useful information so they can approach these conversations with confidence. This session is open to any RPS parent or guardian. We'll be recording the presentation component of the event and posting for parents who can't attend, and then opening up to a Q&A session (non-recorded!) after.

**RPS Special Services Department  
presents:  
Parent Guidance Series**

**Session 1: Preparing for and  
participating in Planning and  
Placement Team/504 Meetings**

This session will include advice for...

- How to prepare for upcoming PPT/504 meetings
- How to optimize your participation in PPT/504 meetings
- Following up and after action items once the meeting is over

**Tuesday, October 22nd, at 10:30 am**

This session will be virtual via Google Meet, please RSVP [here](#) and you'll receive the link to join

**all in**  
• BES • BMES • ERMS • FES • RES • RPS • SRMS • SRMS • VPES • SES

Have questions? Email us at [ehannaway@ridgefieldps.net](mailto:ehannaway@ridgefieldps.net)  
Follow us on Instagram @rpspecialservices

***Please see the letter from our Elementary Health teacher, Kristin DiMarino***



# RIDGEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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**NANCY CARON**  
Farmingville Elementary

**KEITH MARGOLUS**  
Branchville Elementary

**MARY SCALISE**  
Ridgebury Elementary

**BECKY LAUS**  
Barlow Mountain Elementary

**JILL KATKOCIN**  
Scotland Elementary

**SHERI PRENDERGAST**  
Veterans Park Elementary

September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Kristin DiMarino, and I am a health education teacher in the Ridgefield Public Schools. This year, I will be visiting your child's classroom to teach one or two health education lessons tailored to their grade level. Depending on their grade, students will be learning about germs and the immune system or substance awareness in an age-appropriate manner.

In Kindergarten, second grade, and fifth grade, these lessons will also fulfill the state requirement for HIV/AIDS education, which is taught in a planned, systematic, and ongoing program by certified health educators. Please note that HIV/AIDS will not be mentioned until fifth grade. Below, you will find a brief outline of the lessons for each grade:

### **Kindergarten (Two 30-minute lessons)**

**Main Focus:** Handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes with their elbow, and not sharing items that have been in their mouths.

- Students will learn how germs are spread and identify ways to prevent them from spreading.
- They will practice health-enhancing skills, such as proper handwashing and coughing or sneezing into their elbow.

### **1st Grade (One 30-minute lesson)**

**Main Focus:** Medicine

- Students will define what medicine is and recognize the importance of following medicine safety rules.
- They will learn how to access health information, such as identifying trusted adults they can go to if they need help.

### **2nd Grade (Two 30-minute lessons)**

**Main Focus:** How germs are spread.

- Students will learn how germs enter the body and how to prevent this, including age-appropriate discussions about avoiding contact with bodily fluids.
- They will practice health-enhancing and decision-making skills to prevent illness.

### **3rd Grade (One 40-minute lesson)**

**Main Focus:** The effects of nicotine on the body and analyzing influences.

- Students will learn about the effects of nicotine on the body.
- They will develop the skill of analyzing influences to better understand what affects their choices.

#### **4th Grade (One 40-minute lesson)**

**Main Focus:** Helpful and harmful drugs, and refusal skills.

- Students will learn to differentiate between helpful and harmful drugs.
- They will practice refusal skills to effectively respond to peer pressure.

#### **5th Grade (Two 40-minute lessons)**

**Main Focus of Lesson 1:** How the body's natural barriers prevent germs from causing illness.

- Students will identify the body's natural barriers against germs and learn how to care for them to maintain a strong immune system.
- They will set a personal health goal using goal-setting skills.

*\*A separate letter will be sent out to 5th-grade parents and guardians in the spring regarding the second lesson on HIV/AIDS.*

For a comprehensive overview, the health curriculum is available on the Ridgefield Public Schools website. If you have any questions regarding the health lessons, please feel free to reach out to me directly at [kdimarino@ridgefieldps.net](mailto:kdimarino@ridgefieldps.net).

Sincerely,

*Kristin DiMarino*

Health Education Teacher  
Ridgefield Public Schools

***A link to the letter is located below:***

**<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18GEPZYmRCDLe0r-C0902ZRUt5CaxeZztOvJFaa1VSNI/edit?usp=sharing>**

[docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

***Updates from Mrs. Canavan, School Nurse***

# The Nurse's Office

## Hearing and Vision Screenings

The health office will be doing CT State mandated hearing and vision screenings for grades 1,3,4 and 5 students over the next several months. If there are any concerns observed during the screenings, parents/guardians will be notified via a referral letter. Please reach out if you have questions.

## **24-25 RPS Student Handbook**



[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zjhwShPh-LvU2FS3RY\\_iVvRSNn0s2b0dPtGp2bhJ1ZI/edit#heading=h.t407x\\_xvh3jg](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zjhwShPh-LvU2FS3RY_iVvRSNn0s2b0dPtGp2bhJ1ZI/edit#heading=h.t407x_xvh3jg)

**K-5  
Student-Parent  
Handbook**

2024-2025



## 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.*

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.

## **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.



- 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
	Kinder	Bender	LIB	PE	LIB	MUS	PE
Dunphy		MUS	LIB	PE	LIB	ART	PE
Grade 1	Guernsey	ART	PE	MUS	LIB	PE	MUS
	Tibbits	MUS	ART	PE	MUS	LIB	PE
Grade 2	Cummins	PE	MUS	LIB	PE	MUS	ART
	Gero	MUS	LIB	PE	MUS	ART	PE
Grade 3	Craig	ART	PE	LIB	MUS	PE	MUS
	Flynn	PE	ART	MUS	PE	MUS	LIB
Grade 4	Faloon	LIB	PE	LIB	MUS	PE	ART
	Funk	MUS	LIB	PE	LIB	ART	PE
Grade 5	Hoey	ART	PE	MUS	LIB	PE	LIB
	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

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

### 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](https://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...

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:cmelagrano@ridgefieldps.net). Thank you!



### **About Us**

For more information, please use the following information.

**Email:** [sprendergast@ridgefieldps.net](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/TBD)



**Sheri Prendergast**

Sheri is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

