



March 31, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

Good afternoon! I hope this update finds you and your families doing well. Although we are not together in school, we are continuing to find creative ways to maintain some of our traditions. This week is Spirit Week! For me, I have celebrated our Elementary School Spirit Week as follows:

- **Maroon Monday:** Ridgewood gear! As Superintendent of the Ridgewood Public Schools, I have plenty. Back in the good old days when my wife, Sue (she asked me not to only refer to her as my wife.... done) and I cleaned out some closets, we found 17 Ridgewood sweatshirts, dozens of t-shirts, and much more. We did not donate any. My kids participated in sports at RHS, so we had plenty of gear to go around.
- **Team up Tuesday:** I am a Dallas Cowboys fan. Ok, stop rolling your eyes and muttering under your breath. For all of you Giants fans, Jason Garret is your problem now.

The link below is to the Ridgewood Schools COVID-19 PPE Project. We have district employees working with our 3D printers to help alleviate the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment. Take a look at this site to learn more about this effort.

<https://sites.google.com/ridgewood.k12.nj.us/ridgewood-schools-covid19-ppe/home>

Additionally, the Ridgewood Public Schools supplied Valley Hospital with hundreds of boxes of medical gloves, dozens of masks, hundreds of goggles, various protective aprons, and disposable food trays and containers. We have also donated any perishable items from our food service to a local shelter. These items could not be used for our lunch program that continues for those students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

FEEL YOU MAY HAVE SYMPTOMS: If you feel sick with COVID-19 symptoms, you should contact your physician. The physician will be able to assist you and provide the next steps. Additionally, the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) has set up the following to answer your questions:

- **Call: 2-1-1**
- **Call (24/7): 1-800-962-1253**
- **Text: NJCOVID to 898-211**
- **Visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/> or nj.gov/health for additional information**
- **Valley Hospital: 201-447-8000** If you feel you have symptoms, Valley Hospital has set up a system to answer your questions.

SOCIAL/PHYSICAL DISTANCING: Please start thinking about how you will handle social distancing during the spring break, which is the week of April 6-10.

VIRTUAL TOURS FOR OVER THE BREAK (DON'T DO THEM UNTIL THE BREAK):



- Arts, Culture and Recreation <https://westchester.beyondthenest.com/>
- Smithsonian <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/virtual-travel-180974440/>
- 12 Famous Museums From Around the World <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>
- Smithsonian Art, History and Culture Activities and Games <https://www.si.edu/kids>
- 25 Amazing Field Trips for Younger Kids <https://www.weareteachers.com/best-virtual-field-trips/>
- MORE WILL BE ADDED DURING THE WEEK.

REMINDER: Use the links below for important information from the Village and the district. If you have not received a phone call from Mayor Hache, you have not signed up for the Village alerts. Please do so.

- Sign up for Village E-Notice System - <http://www.ridgewoodnj.net/village-info/enotices-and-alerts-registration>.
- Twitter Accounts - [@RwdPub Schools](#) and [@RWDSupt](#)
- District Facebook Page - [@RidgewoodPublicSchools](#).

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION: The Annual School and Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, May 12. All registered voters will be receiving vote-by-mail ballots, and there will be no polling places in the May 12, 2020 elections. For more information, click [here](#) to visit the website of the Bergen County Clerk's Office. You can still register to vote if you have not already done so. Information can be found [here](#).

CENSUS 2020: It's time for a friendly competition. Once you complete the census, send your redacted "receipt" to your principal or just let your principal know it is complete. Let's see which school has the highest percentage of completed questionnaires. If you have multiple children in a school, each one counts. If you have children in multiple schools, send the receipt to each principal.

- Fill out the Census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>
- Or you can respond by phone at 844-330-2020.

Contest results as of 3.31.2020 (The contest is open until the Census 2020 closes.)

- 1st - Somerville
- 2nd - BF
- 3rd - RHS
- 4th - GW and Orchard
- 5th - Willard
- 6th - Travell
- 7th - Ridge
- 8th - Hawes

TODAY'S GAME SUGGESTIONS:

- Online game: Everyone Knows for older students and parents. Blank Slate for younger students.

Other things you can do:

- Keep moving! Family Yoga. For beginners, there are great free yoga sessions that can be found online. I did not include a link because there are so many out there. For the beginner adults in the room, be ready for your kids to have a full-body laugh at your expense.

- Movie/TV - Academy Award Winning: *First Man*. Historic and Heroic.
- Book Club Book 2 - ***Radium Girls*** by Kate Moore. Read in our RAHP program. This is an emotional read due to human suffering. Here is a link to some discussion questions: <https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/13-fiction/10968-radium-girls-moore?start=3>
- Baked goods: This one is simple - Apples and honey. Cut apples into sections and dip them into a small bowl of honey. Normally double-dipping is permitted, but no double-dipping at this time.
- Home Project: It is early spring, and it may be a good time to plant some seeds inside to transplant into a little garden this summer. Tomatoes, zucchini, etc. are pretty easy.
- Remember the Ridgewood Public Library has online resources. <https://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org>
- Call someone. They will appreciate it. If you can make a video call, that's even better for face-to-face connection.
- **REMINDER: 40 Days - This is for dads and students only.** Moms, look away! Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10th. If you are like me, you purchase gifts for your wife at the last minute because she sees every credit card transaction. Online banking! So, strategize now about how to pull Mother's Day off without a florist, restaurant, or last-minute shopping trip. You do not want to mess this up when you have no place to escape!

VALLEY HOSPITAL NEEDS OUR HELP: Please drop off the following items Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the main entrance on 223 North Van Dien Avenue in Ridgewood.

- N95 masks
- Surgical masks
- Face shields and goggles
- Fluid resistant isolation gowns
- Non-latex (nitrile) gloves
- NEW oral thermometers

The **Red Cross** is alerting everyone to blood and platelet shortage. Please donate if you can. <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

Keep supporting our local businesses. Many restaurants are offering curbside pickup and delivery. Here are some helpful tips (www.today.com) if you want something besides a home-cooked meal:

- Order from a restaurant you trust
- Order directly from the restaurant when possible
- Opt for contactless delivery or pick up
- Discard all packaging
- Don't share, and wash your hands before and after

I wish you good health!

Sincerely,



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools