



June 1, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

Over the past several months, we, as a nation, have been under immense pressure to work together to fight COVID-19, and for the most part, we did a great job. The need for vigilance continues as our society begins to reopen. It will be slow. It will be inconvenient. It will not please anyone, but it will be necessary for all of us to be smart and understand that our lives have changed indefinitely. As one of the hardest-hit states in the country, it is important to recognize the limitations of opening up for New Jersey. Graduations are one specific example. To say we can have traditional graduations outdoors, but have them limited to 25 people including graduates, audience and staff, is not a traditional graduation.

This has been a common theme in the post-COVID-19 school opening announcements. It is frustrating for parents and especially administrators who are attempting to plan celebrations, end of the year procedures and a blueprint for the next school year. When you factor in sports, camps, daycare, summer school, and extended school year without concrete, achievable direction and frequent changes to guidance, it leads to confusion, lack of trust and disappointment. Please understand that we are attempting to work with the state and NJDOE to determine what is permissible. I ask for your continued patience, as we figure out our next steps regarding a host of issues we are facing as a school district and community. To give you a sense of the breadth and depth of what we must consider when establishing school plans, I am sharing a link to a list of questions developed by a colleague, Dr. David Aderhold, who happens to be a Ridgewood graduate. I have been privileged to be a part of these discussions, and this list continues to grow based on input from our colleagues. To view the document, click [here](#).

Unfortunately, as we mourn the loss of those who died due to COVID-19 and those who died due to not seeking medical help, we must now also mourn those who died in the horrific, tragic killing in Minnesota and the violent protests that occurred this past weekend in cities across the country. The anger that has ensued has brought about another standstill in our society at a time when we should all be reflecting on why a killing, like the one in Minnesota, can even take place in our society. We all know people who live in those cities. My daughter goes to school in Center City in Philadelphia and is only home due to the pandemic. This tragedy and ugly time in our national history is not about one person. This is about continued racism and violence that still permeates our society and needs to be eradicated with the same expediency as putting an end to COVID-19 or any threat to civil society.

We just received a wake-up call and hopefully, a mandate that, not to belittle those lost to COVID-19, we have an even greater burden of real eradication of racism and unnecessary violence. Change is hard and painful, but it is critical. Are we up to the task? If we are, it will be extremely difficult and take immense self-reflection, and everyone must play a part.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

Below is a link for Bergen County Mental Health and Community Support Resources accessible during COVID-19.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z4-ESuSCQqVPdSW97Jc0jhXG3Xv0g9d/view>



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH INTERVIEW SERIES

Our RHS Wellness Department and School-Based Mental Health Team have collaborated on the development of a Mental Health Awareness Month video series. The following are the topics of the first three episodes, and there is more to come.

- Episode 1 = Importance of Establishing a Routine
- Episode 2 = Importance of Helping Others
- Episode 3 = Growth Mindset - Resilience - Motivation

To view all episodes of the interview series, go to the link below and subscribe to the RHS Wellness YouTube channel.

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQGUBDhjkAeVppI8PaMRFuw>

## VIDEOS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

The Ridgewood High School Maroon & White Recital Series will conclude its 57<sup>th</sup> consecutive season with a virtual music and dance recital broadcast on YouTube. Links to the recorded performances of all musicians and dancers can be found in the interactive Maroon & White Recital Program at the link below.

- <https://tinyurl.com/RHSMaroon-White>

## RIDGEWOOD NEEDS YOUR HELP

While we can't get out and host a traditional fundraiser, we can still support our community. Below are links to help during this time of crisis. Please note these are community-based people or organizations who are working to help.

**Blood Donations:** The **Red Cross** is alerting everyone to blood and platelet shortage. Please donate if you can. <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. If you are having difficulty finding a Red Cross site to donate, look at <http://vitalant.org/>. They have a local office for donations.

**Ridgewood Social Services Association:** The Social Services Association of Ridgewood (SSA) continues to serve our community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. While their physical pantry is closed due to the shelter-in-place, SSA is still providing food security via grocery store vouchers and door-step deliveries. They serve over 400 individuals who are already financially devastated prior to COVID-19. See the link below for donations. <https://ssaridgewood.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=532aceffb616cd716abce83de&id=4421d27480&e=fd87ce9123>

### A message from SSA:

**Even though the SSA Pantry is closed for donation drop-offs and client visits, we are still very active in creatively collecting donations in other ways, packing up bags of food, and delivering them to our clients.**

**We are asking our friends and neighbors to help out in a small way that is meaningful.**

**Whenever you go to the grocery store, pick up an item (or more) from the list in the red box below, and drop it at:**

- Barb Crowe – 738 Hillcrest Rd. (bin on side porch)
- Ann Levitan – 256 Ivy Place (bin on the front porch)
- Martha Fickinger – 385 Beechwood Rd. (bin on the front porch)
- Mary Barnes – 413 Meadowbrook Rd. (bin outside the front door)

Items requested: Canned Tomatoes/Tomato Puree, Pasta Sauce, Canned Meats, Tuna, Rice, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Snacks, Canned Fruit, Boxed Milk, Coffee, Juice

### **Ridgewood Helps - Senior Citizen Help**

Right now, our senior citizens need our help. Below is a link to opportunities to help our senior citizens in Ridgewood. Please take a look at it and help in any way you can. If you have a neighbor who is a senior citizen, please check in with them. We must continue to look out for each other. Thank you in advance for all of your assistance.

- [http://mods.ridgewoodnj.net/pdf/covidinfo/RidgewoodHelpsV3.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2xLK5-VLkT7qz68jgdu8AcnQ50lNnTWuY9-Efoe\\_2v83AGtshg2p8m8sc](http://mods.ridgewoodnj.net/pdf/covidinfo/RidgewoodHelpsV3.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2xLK5-VLkT7qz68jgdu8AcnQ50lNnTWuY9-Efoe_2v83AGtshg2p8m8sc)

### **Feed the Frontlines Initiative**

*Feed the Frontlines Initiative* is a call-to-action to provide meals prepared by local Ridgewood restaurants to first responders and community groups during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is an organized way for people to help feed local healthcare workers and first responders while supporting local restaurants who have been hit hard economically. *Feeding the Frontlines* is made up of The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce, HealthBarn Foundation 501(c)(3), and many resident volunteers under the leadership of Mayor Hache. It is a creative solution to help where help is needed.

- To donate: <http://www.healthbarnfoundation.org/donations/feed-the-frontlines/>
- To help deliver: [feedthefrontlinesvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:feedthefrontlinesvolunteer@gmail.com)

### **RIDGEWOOD BACKYARD BLOOMS**

Two RHS students, Patrick De Meulder and Sofia Lee, have started Ridgewood Backyard Blooms. They are making small flower arrangements to sell for \$10 each. With the money made, they will buy the supplies for a local facility, the Ridgecrest Apartments, for their “Garden of HOPE” Project. With this, they are working to beautify their outdoor spaces for the residents to enjoy while they cannot gather inside. Once an order is placed, a confirmation will be sent, and arrangements will be made for a time for safe delivery and payment. More information can be found at [rwoodbackyardblooms.com](http://rwoodbackyardblooms.com)

### **GET INFORMATION FROM THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD AND THE RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Use the links below for important information from the Village and the district.

- 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](#).

### **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS**

- **Go for a walk:** Attached is a flyer describing a program sponsored by the RPS Art and Design Department titled Art Unites Us! Neighborhood Art Walk. This special art show is open to all K-12 students during the week of June 1-5.
- Remember the Ridgewood Public Library has online resources. <https://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org>

- Book Club Book 11 - *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglas* by Fredrick Douglas. Read in our English 10H classes. Here are some book group questions.  
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/295409/narrative-of-the-life-of-frederick-douglass-by-frederick-douglass/9780451529947/readers-guide/>
- **REMINDER: Fathers turn away. Father's Day is June 21st. 20 days away.**

**Support our local businesses. As all our local businesses start to open up, please consider making your purchases from a local small business instead of going to your favorite online store.**

I wish you good health, both physically and mentally! Most importantly, I wish you the strength to continue proper social distancing and the use of PPE as our community opens up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Fishbein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line at the end.

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



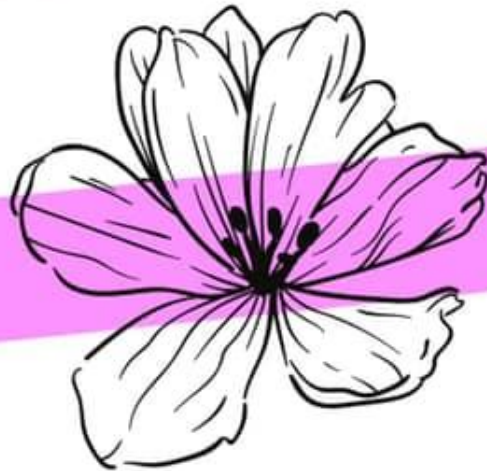
**We are asking students to proudly display artwork of their choosing on windows, doors, front porches or yards during the week of June 1-5.**

**As you enjoy your Neighborhood Art Walk,  
please remember to stay a safe distance from others.**

*We miss you, and we are so proud of you!*

**Ridgewood Public Schools Art & Design Department**

**By participating, families understand that visitors and members of the press may photograph artwork that is displayed for public consumption.**



# RIDGEWOOD BACKYARD BLOOMS

PURCHASE A \$10 FLOWER ARRANGEMENT TO SUPPORT  
***RIDGECREST SENIOR HOUSING***

PLEASE VISIT **[WWW.RWOODBACKYARDBLOOMS](http://WWW.RWOODBACKYARDBLOOMS)**  
TO COMPLETE AN ORDER FORM

EMAIL **[RWOODBACKYARDBLOOMS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RWOODBACKYARDBLOOMS@GMAIL.COM)**  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR CONCERNS

**INSTAGRAM: @RWOODBACKYARDBLOOMS**