

RIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RIDING HIGH TO EXCELLENCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ridgeway family encourages community involvement, values learning, and promotes character.

VISION STATEMENT VALUES

Every student at Ridgeway will be productive members of our world by displaying:

- ❖ *Competence* toward rigorous standards assessed through ongoing state and school-based assessments.
- ❖ *Compassion* as students develop values and demonstrate a caring affect.
- ❖ *Confidence* as they develop and demonstrate the ability to persevere through complex tasks and to accept challenges.

Principal's Message

Happy December! It is going to feel like a really short but busy month. The first week will be super full: PTA meets on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm. The chorus will have their in-school concert at 2:15 on Wednesday, December 4th with the evening concert at 7:00 pm. There will be a 2-hour early dismissal on Thursday, December 5th in order for staff to participate in a district wide professional development. There will be no Chessie on Thursday, December 5th due to early morning professional development as well.

The second week of December will also be filled with musical delight. On Tuesday, December 10th, the band and strings will have their in-school concert at 9:15 am. The strings will have their evening concert on Tuesday at 7:00 pm and the band will have their evening concert on Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 pm. Again, there will be no Chessie on December 19th as our media center will be in use for in-house staff development.

Friday, December 20th will be the last day of school for students for winter break. Students will return to us on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020. It will be the start of a happy New Year and we wish all the best to each of our Ridgeway families in the new decade!



THE SHARING FOUNDATION

Once again, this holiday season, Ridgeway Elementary School is sponsoring a donation barrel for The Sharing Foundation. The Sharing Foundation is a local organization designed to help families who work but need some extra help. Students may fill up the barrel that we have located in the main lobby with unwrapped gifts as they enter the building in the morning. The collection will continue through Friday, December 14th. Please contact our School Counselor, Melissa Stup, at 410-222-6524 if you have any questions. We greatly appreciate your support!



With cold weather quickly approaching, we ask that you remind students to bring/ wear their coats, hats, and gloves. While the morning may start off reasonably warm, changes may occur during the day. On behalf of the entire staff, we wish you a month filled with family and fun.



Entrance into the School and School Security

Ridgeway Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

Anne Arundel County Policy requires **all parents and visitors to enter through the main entrance (the entrance with Ridgeway Elementary School signage) at all times** and check in at the Main Office. You will need to ring the bell located at the left side/front door and present your photo ID. A school staff member will signal for you to enter the building. You **MUST** report to the Main Office.



Background Checks

*Before you volunteer, **you must** watch the *Anne Arundel County Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse* PowerPoint and complete the form for us to keep on file (not required if we have your form on file).

*Background checks can now be done online and are required for all school field trips but are not required to volunteer at the school. To begin the background check process, please go to the following link: <http://www.aacps.org/chaperone/>.



Event Parking at Ridgeway

We would like to remind all parents and visitors to Ridgeway Elementary **to please respect the property of our neighbors and do not park in any driveway, in front of any driveway or mailbox.** Our neighbors have been instructed by the Anne Arundel County Police Department to contact them and they will ticket and/or tow vehicles who are in violation.



Food items are not allowed to be brought into the school. If parents would like to give all students in their child's classroom a special "treat," it is recommended that the "treat" be something small. Students can always use a fresh pencil, eraser or bookmark

School Meal Prices for the 2019-2020 School Year

Breakfast (Full Price) \$1.50
Breakfast (Reduced-Price) **FREE**
Lunch (Full Price) \$2.75
Lunch (Reduced-Price) \$.40
Milk – ½ pint (A la Carte) \$.55
Adult meal prices:
Breakfast \$1.90
Lunch \$3.65

All students may apply to receive free or reduced-price meals at AACPS. Instructions to apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Apply online any time during the school year. Go to: <http://aacpschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>



What's Happening at Ridgeway in December.....

ACC 1 & ACC 2

Our theme this month revolves around holiday traditions. Our students explore different cultures and customs through pen pals. The core content stories are: *Writing to Pen Pals*, *Holiday Pen Pals Around the World*, *What is a Pen Pal?* and *Using a Map*. For written expression, we will be working on using high frequency words and our themed vocabulary. Students will learn how to form/build/read sentences addressing who, what, and where while retaining comprehension of these new vocabulary words.

Dolch/Fry Words- are, can, her, do, about, like, dear, family, learn, live, tell, too, letter, write, your, ask, them, their

Vocabulary- celebrate, country, culture, different, family, friend, holiday, letter, location, map, pen pal, tradition

In math, we will be taking survey data about what our favorite holiday activities around the world. Students will analyze their graph to answer questions related to the survey answers. Students will also continue to work on individualized skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, measuring, rounding, telling time, counting coins, and solving word problems related to our holiday theme.

During our Science and S.S block students will be using the scientific method to conduct an experiment using glow sticks. We will practice measurement/ sequencing skills to create delicious winter themed recipes. We will also cover unit 4 literature based social skills lessons revolving around basic interactions such sharing, personal space, and being yourself.

Literature Based Stories Include: Llama Llama Time to Share, Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun, I Like Myself, and No Means No.

Supplemental Social Stories & Activities Include: Howie Helps Himself, Uniquely Wired, and My Friend Isabelle

Kindergarten

Our upcoming unit is all about how things move. In Math, we will be exploring shapes and their attributes and nonstandard measurement. In Language Arts, we will continue to work on sight words, letters/sounds, blending to read words and reading strategies. Before break, we will explore how winter holidays are celebrated around the world. We look forward to activities that will bring this calendar year to a close. Due to the change of weather, please send in a temperature appropriate change of clothes to store in your child's locker and make sure they are bringing a coat.

First

We hope that your child has been enjoying Chessie! Please encourage your child to read and participate to earn their prizes. Your child should read every night, even if they are not participating in Chessie. There are always strategies and skills to practice, from sounding out new words to using an expressive voice.

Please encourage your child to practice addition and subtraction facts at home, as

well as take time to practice writing complete sentences.

Weather reminder: We will be going outside for recess as long as it is above freezing temperatures. Please send your child to school with a jacket or coat. 😊

Thank you for all of your support and Happy Holidays!

Second

In Language Arts, we will be using information gained from illustrations and words to show understanding of characters, setting, and plot; describing how characters respond to major events and challenges in a story; and determining the meaning of words. We will be learning how to write informational text such as a lab report. Additionally, students will learn and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

In Math, we are learning how to represent three-digit numbers in word form and expanded form. We will also be comparing numbers using place value and skip counting.

In Science and Social Studies, we are learning what it means to be a digital native. We will also be learning about scientists and what scientists do, including how to use the scientific method.

Please have your child wear his or her coat to school in case we can have outdoor recess. We hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break, and we look forward to having lots of fun educational experiences for the rest of 2019!

Third

In Language Arts, students will be practicing comprehension skills such as author's purpose, point of view, main idea and details and making inferences. Our math will cover multiplication, division, measurement and fractions. Please keep practicing multiplication facts with your child each day to help them become fluent in their basic facts. In Social Studies, students are studying communities and culture. In Science, students will learn about the life cycle of living things.

Fourth

In Language Arts, students will be practicing comprehension skills such as author's purpose, point of view, main idea and details and making inferences. Our math will cover multiplication, division, measurement and fractions. Please keep practicing multiplication facts with your child each day to help them become fluent in their basic facts. In Social Studies, students are studying communities and culture. In science, students will learn about the life cycle of living things.

Fifth

In Language Arts, students are finishing their unit on Communication. Our next unit will be Collaboration. In Writing, students are working on writing narrative text from someone else's point of view. We will also touch on poetry and figurative language. Throughout the next marking period, we will be covering operations with fractions and volume in Math. Stars will be the focus for Science in the second quarter. Social Studies will be focusing on the events leading to the American Revolution.

Cultural Arts

Fifth grade will create a poster design using the elements and principles of art. Their poster will have a positive message to help bring about change in our world. Fourth grade will design a zentangle inspired coral reef sea creature. In groups, they will write a play about saving the coral reefs and perform it for the class. Third grade will use construction paper to create sea animal totem poles. They will also make a clay seahorse. Second grade will look at the various ways that artists show weather in their art. They will create two different artworks inspired by what they learn. First grade will work together to create a game inspired by baby shark and the shark family. They will have to problem solve and use only the materials that they are given. Kindergarten will learn about houses and architecture and create a neighborhood of houses around a lake.

Media

Chessie reading club is in full swing in our Media Center. Thank you to our students and volunteers for participating! Computer Science Education Week occurs in December and our students are participating in the Hour of Code. We are also working on other STEM and literacy projects in Media. Thank you for continuing to make reading a priority for our children!

Physical Education

As we finish up Fitness testing the students will be finishing out the calendar year playing a couple staples here at Ridgeway. The focus will be on hand eye control, balance, and throwing accuracy in our first game of "Santa's little helpers" as we try to gather toys for the holidays. Next, we will be working on muscular endurance and teamwork as they play an all-time favorite in "The Grinch." This game was created from Dr Seuss's book of How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Music

Mr. Bosch, Ms. Westermeyer, Mrs. Lopata, Mr. Wertz and Mr. Fisher would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and spectacular 2020!

General Music students are continuing their work with the steady beat, rhythm, notation, singing, and form among many other things.

Band, Chorus, and Strings students are finishing up preparations for their Winter Concerts. Concert dates are as follows. Please note the Spring concert dates are also listed. Please, mark your calendars. Plan on coming and hearing these students! They have worked very hard getting ready for these performances!

- Chorus Winter Concert - 12/4/19 at 7:00 p.m.
- Strings Winter Concert - 12/10/19 at 7:00 p.m.
- Band Winter Concert - 12/12/19 at 7:00 p.m.

- Chorus Spring Concert - 5/8/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Strings Spring Concert - 5/12/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Band Spring Concert - 5/14/20 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note students must dress in concert dress. This includes and is the same for all three groups:

- white shirt or blouse
- black pants, slacks, or skirt
- black dress shoes

Girls may also choose to wear a solid black dress

Speech

If you have concerns about your child's language or articulation skills please contact one of us at school or speak to your child's teacher. jtetty@aacps.org

DECEMBER WORDS OF THE WEEK: Chill, Chimney, Cold Snap, Dreary, Flurries, Frostbite, Gust, Icy

WORD PRACTICE: Take a look outside, how would you describe the weather? Use your words for this month to talk about how it feels and looks outside!

HOLIDAY CHATS! Use the holidays to your advantage this year! Make a prediction about the gifts you'll receive. Then, see how close you are after you open them. "Review" your gifts after you open them, comparing and contrasting each item to one another!

STRATEGY OF THE MONTH: Whole Body Listening This month we are continuing to listen from the top of our heads to the tips of our toes. Good listening takes our whole body! When we are a whole-body listener we have: Hearing ears Looking eyes Quiet mouths Caring hearts Still hands Quiet feet Try this at home! Set the stage for good listening by "quieting" your body and mind before a task or even before sitting down to chat at the dinner table.

IDIOMS OF THE MONTH

We know these sayings have a literal and a figurative meaning. Discuss the meaning with your child!

SNOWBALL EFFECT

ON THIN ICE

DON'T BREAK THE ICE

Guidance

We have so much to be thankful here at Ridgeway Elementary School! We collected over 30 boxes for Harvest For the Hungry! I'm especially proud of Ms. Tran and Mrs. Sweitzer's classes for collecting over 100 items each! Those classes both won a special game time!

Let's spread the joy as we yet again host a toy collection bin for The Sharing Foundation! Please consider donating a new, unwrapped item, such as a toy, sports equipment, game, book, and/or craft kit. The items collected are going directly to the children (ages 1-14) of working families here in Anne Arundel County. The collection bin is located in the main lobby. Thank you for your support in helping this great organization and so many families. Last year, The Sharing Foundation helped over 500 families in need because of the generosity of others. If you are in need this holiday season, please contact Mrs. Stup.

Be on the lookout for our Giving Tree! We will be helping some families this holiday season! If you take an ornament off the tree, please wrap the gift and attach the ornament. Bring any and all gifts to Mrs. Stup by December 13. We appreciate the generous families we have here at Ridgeway.



Counselor's Corner

Congratulations to the following students for earning Student of the Month by showing **Courtesy** throughout the school.

Kindergarten

Ms. Corso –Rafferty C.
Mrs. Pinckney-Nathaniel G.
Ms. Schiller – Braeden M.
Mrs. Sweitzer –Abbey C.
Ms. Webb – Ryleigh B.

First Grade

Ms. Choo-Samuel H.
Mrs. Clark –Finleigh L.
Ms. Ryan-Avery U.
Ms. Tran-Hailey C.
Ms. Shiffrin-Duke D.

Second Grade

Ms. D'Angelo-Bryanna M.
Ms. Gaunt- Orlando P.
Ms. Johnston- Claire M.
Mrs. Sym- Michael S.
Mrs. Ward- Amaya W.

Third Grade

Mrs. Brown-Ethan O.
Ms. Downie- Noah H.
Ms. Potts- Amelia W.
Mrs. Zak-Taylor S.

Fourth Grade

Mr. Birus-Whitley S.
Mrs. Carrigan-Patrick C.
Ms. Heisman-Payton G.
Ms. Stepien-Rhylee B.
Mrs. Quarantillo- Emelyn V.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Fox-Mariah W.
Mrs. Harper-Lippert- Caleigh S.
Mrs. Kruszynski- Jayda R.
Ms. Stanton-Deisy Melendez C.
Ms. Toth-Ameyah T.

ACC

Ms. Hallinin- Grace C.

Please remember that next month's focus is encouragement. Encourage your students to demonstrate encouraging behavior at home and at school. Here are some resources you may find helpful:

Books: **Have You Filled a Bucket Today? : A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids** by Carol McCloud, **Chrysanthemum** by Kevin Henkes, **The Dot** by Peter H. Reynolds

Websites: <http://www.parenting.com/article/raising-a-compassionate-child>
<http://www.pbs.org/wholechild/providers/getting.html>



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, December 2	December Newsletter available online
Monday, December 2	PTA Meeting – Cafeteria 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 4	Chorus Concert 2:15 pm (for the school) and 7:00 p.m.(community)
Thursday, December 5	Two-Hour Early Dismissal-1:20 pm Professional Development
Tuesday, December 10	Band and Strings Concert at 9:15 p.m. (school) Strings Concert at 7:00 p.m. (community)
Wednesday, December 11- Thursday, December 12	4 th Grade Arlington Echo Field Trip
Thursday, December 12	Band Concert 7:00 p.m
Tuesday, December 17	3rd Grade Field Trip to Arlington Echo
Monday, December 23 – Wednesday, January 1	Winter Break - School Closed
Thursday, January 2	School Reopens January Newsletter available online
Monday, January 6	PTA Meeting – Cafeteria 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Monday, January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday – Schools and offices closed
Tuesday, January 28/ Wednesday, January 29	Two-Hour Early Dismissal - 1:05 p.m.
Thursday, January 30	School Closed for Students
Friday, January 31	Beginning of 3 RD Marking Period



Head Lice

A Real Head Scratcher For Parents

Pediculosis, or head lice, is a condition that affects approximately 6-12 million children between the ages of 3 and 12 years of age, and about one in every 100 elementary students every year.

Head lice are parasites that are generally found on the scalp, around the ears, and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be a reddish brown color. Eggs, or nits, are smaller and silver in color.

Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not transmit disease. The most common symptom of head lice is head scratching, particularly at night. If you suspect your child has head lice, have them examined by your health care provider and follow their directions.

Anne Arundel county Public Schools has a No Live Lice Policy in keeping with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses.

When a student is found to have live lice or nits less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the scalp, the parent will be notified. The student can remain in school until the end of the day and must be treated by an over-the-counter or prescription insecticide shampoo before returning to school.

These shampoos should kill the live lice, but may not kill all the nits. You may need to treat again in 7-10 days.

How to get your child back to school:

- Your child must be free of live lice and all nits close to the scalp (within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from scalp).
- Your child must be checked by school health staff before returning to class.

For more information about the treatment and prevention of head lice, ask your school nurse or go on-line to:

www.aahealth.org/handouts/headlice_handout.htm

www.cdc.gov/lice/head/index.html

Anne Arundel County Department of Health
School Health Services