



Ridgeway Elementary School

October 2020



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

September was certainly a different kind of busy this year. Our first weeks back to school were filled with a virtual Back to School Night, troubleshooting technology glitches, and getting used to a level of new that none of us expected a year ago. However, together-families and staff- we made September count! Now we look forward to what October may bring- while we won't get to celebrate National Walk to School Day this year- we are still encouraging our families to get outside for some fresh air and walk with your family.

Our wonderful PTA is looking forward to their continued service to our school and community. If you have not visited their new page and/or joined please do so. As our new PTA President Ms. Martin shared "Teachers, staff, and parents can join the website and purchase PTA memberships." The website will provide updates for PTA information and shared school information. The link is as follows:

<https://ridgeway.memberhub.com/join/90tv18>

Interims for students will be available on October 9th. Remember because we are in virtual world, interims can be accessed through Parent Portal.

An email was sent with directions on how to set up an account if you have not already done so.

Parent Teacher Conferences are virtual at this time and will be conducted via a Google Meet. The conferences will occur on October 12th and 13th. Teachers may have already been reaching out to schedule a time with each student's family. We encourage each family to schedule this meeting to discuss the progress that students are making and how, as team, the family and teacher can work together to ensure student growth and wellness.

Please know that Mrs. Stalker and I will always try to be available to speak with parents if needs arise. We enjoy an open-door policy that we hope makes you feel a part of the team here at Ridgeway Elementary. For now, we may have to keep that door open through phone calls and Google Meets, but just know we are still there for you and one day we will all be truly together again.

Happy Fall Y'all!

Dr. Tracy S. Prater-Principal
Heather Stalker-Asst. Principal



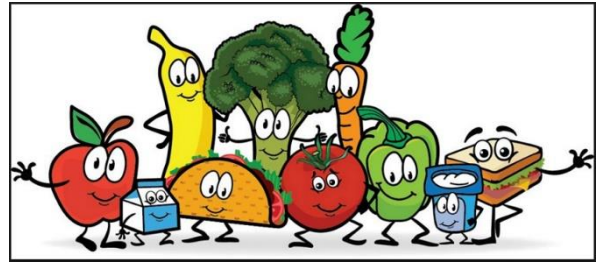
PARENT PORTAL

PowerSchool Parent Portal PowerSchool Parent Portal is a powerful, easy-to-use, secure communication tool that connects parents/guardians and schools. Online access to class grades, attendance information and student schedules are available to parents with students in grades 1 through 12. For complete instructions on accessing Parent Portal go to <https://www.aacps.org>.



AACPS FAMILY INFO LINE 410-222-5001

**Call with questions about eLearning
or other issues during the shutdown.**



RIDGEWAY/AACPS MEAL DISTRIBUTION

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is providing a free breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack to children, ages 2–18, Monday through Friday. There are no income requirements. **Meal service is available at Ridgeway Elementary from 12-12:30 pm.** Children and families can go to any meal site – not necessarily their own school site – to receive meals. Families can pick up meals without their children present, but must register their name, the names, and ages of their children for whom they will pick up meals, and the meal site location by calling 410-222-5900. Parent and guardians can only request to pick up meals for their children. For more information, including the entire list of meal sites and their hours, please see www.aacps.org or call Food & Nutrition Services at 410-222-5900. A complete list of meal sites and service times as well as menus can be found at www.aacps.org/mealpickup.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



October 6	Newsletter is available online
Oct 9	Interims to be distributed via Parent Portal
October 12	Schools closed for students Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 13	Schools closed for students Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 3	Election Day- All Schools & Central Office Closed
November 13	End of the first marking period
November 16	Beginning of the 2nd marking period
Nov 16-20	American Education Week
November 24	Report Card Distribution for students
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday-All Schools & Central Office Closed



FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE.... KEEPING THE HEALTH ROOM INFORMED

1. Be sure to inform your school nurse about your child's health conditions or other special health needs to plan for safe management at school. Chronic health conditions may include asthma, seizures, diabetes, or life-threatening allergies, etc.
2. Remember to provide the school with current emergency contact information.
3. Tell your school nurse if your child's health condition interferes with school attendance.
4. Make sure to tell your school nurse about medications and medical treatments your child requires during the school day. All medication requires a doctor's order and must be brought to the Health Room by an adult.
5. Tell your school nurse about any changes in your child's health or mobility status, or about any infectious disease.
6. Speak to the school nurse if you need to obtain information about health insurance for your child.

Any questions or health related concerns?

Please contact your school nurse:

Krista Martin at 410-672-3346

*--Working Together for a Safe & Healthy School
Year/Anne Arundel County Department of Health
School Health Services*

What's Happening at Ridgeway?

ACC I and II-

October's unit is about Forces in Motion. Students will learn about the changing or position or location and the push/pull forces that are needed to make things move. This is introduced in our book "Push and Pull on the Playground". In this story the main character explores how push and pull forces apply to familiar settings and activities. We will also be learning about speed this month. Speed is the measure of how fast something moves. Students will explore speed in terms of fast and slow. This concept is introduced in the book "How Does it Go?". This story shows how different types of balls move at different speeds. Finally, we will be learning about Bodies in Motion. Students will explore how people move and how they need to fuel their bodies with energy in order to make them move.

Kindergarten- The Kindergarten students are doing an amazing job! We are so very proud of all their hard work. Virtual learning is so new and different for all of us and we really appreciate all your support. We have been discussing the important skills of listening and following directions in Second Step. In Literacy we have been working on letters and sounds/characteristics of fiction and non-fiction stories. The students have also enjoyed sharing healthy habits and what qualities make a good friend in Social Studies. In math, we are counting and identifying numbering. We have discussed trees during Environmental Literacy. So next time you are outside have your child identify the parts of the tree. They have all done such a great job getting to their independent assignments. Please check your child's Google Classroom Stream for updates and information. Graded assignments have started for the students and will be labeled GRADEBOOK. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Monday, October 12th and Tuesday, October 13th. Please be on the lookout for an email from Sign Up Genius to sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher. Again, thank you for all the support through virtual learning.

First- The first graders have done a great job getting back into the school routine, using our new virtual learning platform. We thank you for all the support you have given your child (and teachers) while learning how to navigate through the technology. The children enjoyed learning about the Monarch caterpillars and butterflies. We are anxiously awaiting the butterflies to emerge from their chrysalis'. In Science, the children will learn about how our natural world changes. They will describe the seasons and how the seasons affect how they live. In Math, we will continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies. Please encourage your child to practice math facts on First in Math. In Reading, we will be working on comprehension strategies and understanding the text/story. The children have completed taking the i-Ready diagnostic. As soon as we receive the results, we will share them with you. The i-Ready diagnostic will create a pathway using your child's strengths and weaknesses. Once the pathway is created the children can assess i-Ready on their own time. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Monday, October 12th and Tuesday, October 13th. Please be sure to sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher. Again, thank you for all the support you have given during this first month of school.

Second- The school year is off to a great start in second grade! In math, we are hard at work learning how to solve addition and subtraction problems (within 20) using a variety of math tools and strategies. In writing, we are studying mentor texts, and writing "small moment" personal narratives. During our literacy block, we continue to apply grade-level word analysis skills to decode words and read fluently. We are also exploring elements of fiction, including characters, setting, problem, and solution. Last, in Science & Social Studies, second graders continue to observe trees in our first Primary Talent Development module, Tremendous Trees. We are so proud of our second graders for their hard work, enthusiasm, and persistence!

Third- We're off to a great start in our virtual third grade classroom! Students are working really hard on third grade learning! They are showing great progress in following rules and routines. In Reading we are learning about fiction and non-fiction elements as well as discussing characters and their actions. Soon we will be identifying main idea and details. In math, we are working on multiplication and division. Please help your child practice their basic multiplication facts at home for quickness and accuracy. Students will continue their study of map skills and begin a study of Anne Arundel County. In Science, students will be studying forces of motion.

Fourth- In fourth grade Language Arts, we are working on producing clear and coherent writing. We will be working on summarizing and identifying the theme of a piece of text. In Science, we are analyzing plant structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. In Social Studies, we are learning about specific explorers. We will identify their motivations for exploring, and the effects their explorations had. We will be learning to decompose, add, and subtract fractions in Math. We look forward to the cool fall weather.

Fifth- Welcome to fifth grade! Our fifth graders have been doing a wonderful job with virtual learning. We have been working on using Google Classroom tools and learning about all our applications. In math we have focused on multiplication and division skills. Social Studies topics included our Code of Student and early English settlements. We have been working on our personal narrative writing and elements of both fiction and nonfiction in our Literacy classes. Our research into ecosystems and food webs for Science is still ongoing. We have also started our virtual drownproofing lessons. We've had an exciting first month of school.

Media- Wow, what a great start to the school year! Media classes have been going wonderfully. We really appreciate everyone's enthusiasm while in our classes! So far this school year, we have learned about kindness, learned how to access MackinVia, and have learned how to be a good Digital Citizen. In the next few weeks, we will be learning how to access our databases and we will be using these databases for our upcoming assignments. Don't forget to take advantage of all the eBooks in MackinVia that we have purchased for our students to read!

Art- K-2 will be drawing a pumpkin with a variety of lines and shapes using markers. They will be inspired by several modern artists that will be presented to them. 3-5 will be creating a fall scene, showing a path with trees. They will use a variety of techniques with crayons to create texture and their finished art will show one-point perspective.

Physical Education- The students at Ridgeway have done nothing but impress us these past few weeks. The way they are getting familiar with technology is amazing. I want to let everyone know that I am happy to see the students up and moving as much as they can during these times in a safe way. The month of October we will be working on some flexibility and locomotor movements as well as some mindfulness in our classes. I want to thank everyone with working to make a moving area in their house so the students can move safely in during their PE classes.

Music- Virtual music learning is completely underway at Ridgeway! Mr. Fisher and Mr. Wertz are teaching General Music live with their classes and Mr. Bosch and Ms. Westermeyer have just finished the registration process for strings and band. Registration for chorus with Mr. Fisher is underway and instrumental classes should be beginning shortly as soon as schedules are finalized, and Google classrooms created. All of the music teachers at Ridgeway wish everyone a happy Autumn season and thank you all for your support in this unique learning experience for everyone!

Speech- Hello, from the virtual speech world. Speech pathologists work on communication needs in the areas of articulation, fluency, voice, expressive and receptive language, social skills, alternative communication, and assistive technology. Ridgeway has two speech pathology professionals providing services to over 60 students in our school. Linda Bruins, SLPA, has been working in the county for 15 years. Prior to this she worked in NJ. She lives in Davidsonville, MD. She is new to the Ridgeway Special Education Team this year. Jamie Tettey M.S. CCC-SLP has been a Speech Pathologist for 13 years and this is her third year in AACPS. She lives in Columbia, MD. We will both be working with your children this year. We have 2 Google classroom links so please check your email, and you child's Google classroom for the reminder about the time, date, and link for services. If you have concerns about your child's speech and language skills, please contact your child's teacher or contact one of us at the school. If you have concern about the current IEP, please reach out. We look forward to working with you this year!

Reading- At Home Reading Opportunities--Reading at home has so many benefits. Reading 15 minutes a night for PK – 2nd grade and 20 minutes a night for 3rd-5th grade lets kids practice the skills they have learned in class, increases their vocabulary, and improves writing.





Hello Ridgeway Families!

It was so nice to see in passing as you picked up the backpacks, math manipulatives, and filled out the emergency cards! I hope virtual learning is going well. I'd like to point out that AACPS added some fabulous materials in the backpacks for our students. Hopefully, you noticed a visual picture schedule, a first/then chart, as well as a token board. These can be used to subdue a wide range of unexpected behaviors. Directions for each item are included as well! Furthermore, I am in the process of adding a "Counseling Corner" to your students Google Classrooms. This will allow the students to submit a request to speak with me. I will follow AACPS policy which states that I contact you to set up a time to speak with your child. Please note that Kindergarten Google Classrooms will have my contact information, as I don't think it's developmentally appropriate that they are filling out self-referrals. Also, I'm adding a virtual counseling office for the students to access resources to regroup themselves and refocus for learning. I understand that these times are particularly challenging! Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of help in any way! My email is mstup@aacps.org and my Google Voice number to call/text is 302-469-0216. I'm in the school building three days a week (Monday, Thursday, and Friday) so you also reach me there at 410-222-6524.

Congratulations to the following students for earning Student of the Month by demonstrating **RESPECT** throughout the school.

Kindergarten

Ms. Canelli – Alana S.
Ms. Corso-Logan H.
Ms. Evans-Mason B.
Mrs. Calma –Weston B.
Mrs. Sweitzer– Reilan H.
Ms. Webb-Harper K.

First Grade

Ms. Choo-Brielle B.
Mrs. Clark –Eliana R.
Mrs. Louvar- Natalie S.
Ms. Ryan- Maximillian B.
Ms. Shiffrin-Loevelle L.

Second Grade

Ms. D'Angelo- Grayson N.
Ms. Gaunt- Andrea B.S.
Ms. Johnston-Jacob H.T.
Mrs. Sym- Avery U.

ACC II-Tre V.

Third Grade

Mrs. Brown-Fizza A.
Ms. Downie- Claire C.
Ms. Potts- Noelle C.
Ms. Stanton-Brynna M.
Mrs. Zak-Shawn S.

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Carrigan- Jailynn D.
Ms. Heisman- Zain D.
Ms. Karamboulis-Koltan R.
Mrs. Quarantillo- Anthony O.
Ms. Stepien- Taylor S.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Fox- Ryan D.
Mrs. Harper-Lippert- Zoya N.
Kruszynski Johnson- Kaylee B.
Ms. Toth-Giovanni L.
Ms. Williams- Jackson C.

AACPS | Taking Care Of Your Chromebook

Students and parents/guardians are responsible for the general care of the device they have been issued. Anne Arundel County Public Schools has issued Chromebooks in order to support access to virtual learning. When a Chromebook becomes damaged, that learning is interrupted,

so please take care of your Chromebook as you would take care of your gaming station or cell phone. For resources and help using your Chromebook, please visit AACPS Virtual Learning Information www.aacps.org/virtuallearning.



Protect your password. Do not share your password or account information.



Keep all food and drinks away from your device.



Be careful when inserting and removing cords, cables, and external devices.



Do not place foreign objects into your Chromebook.

Transporting your Chromebook

Always carry and transport your Chromebook with care.

The screen is delicate and can crack easily. Always be sure the lid is completely closed and secured before moving your Chromebook.



Never move a device by lifting from the screen.



Be certain all objects are out of the way before closing the screen.



Be careful when carrying the device in a case or backpack. Notebooks, books, writing utensils, earbuds, etc. may put too much pressure and weight on the Chromebook screen. Small items may slip between the screen and keyboard.

Screen Care

Your Chromebook screen can easily be damaged! Excessive pressure can break the screen.



In Case of a Spill

If a liquid spills into the Chromebook, **unplug it immediately**. Do not plug back in until it is thoroughly dry.

If your Chromebook is not working, contact your school or email ChromebookIssues@aacps.org.



Do not lean or place anything on the top of the device that could put pressure on the screen.



Do not store the device with the screen in the open position.



Do not poke the screen with anything that will mark or scratch the screen surface. Only use your clean finger.



Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils, etc.).



Do not use any liquid to clean the screen—use a soft dry microfiber cloth or anti-static cloth.