

RIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RIDING HIGH TO EXCELLENCE

SEPTEMBER 15, 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

“Unity, relationships, teamwork are developed slowly, one day; one interaction; one moment; one loving, serving, and caring act at a time.”

~Jon Gordon

I hope it has been a wonderful first month of school for each and everyone. We have truly enjoyed seeing everyone return and are especially excited about the new families who have come to be in our great big, caring Ridgeway Family. The 2019-2020 school year is going to be postive year of possibilities!

In addition to our new families we have some new faces on our Ridgeway Staff. Please welcome:

Ms. Sharon Durkin } Long term sub Kindergarten

Ms. Shannon Shiffrin} First Grade

Ms. Laura Gaunt} Second Grade

Mr. Earl Fox} Fifth Grade

Ms. Alisha Kruszynski} Fifth Grade

Ms. Joanna Gardner} School Psychologist

Ms. Kim Perillo} PPW

Ms. Beth Weisman} ESOL

Ms. Paula Brackett } Literacy Teacher

Ms. Lisa Jones} Part time Speech

Ms. Christian Kellogg} Part time Art

Ms. Shannon Jones} Part time Media Aide

Mr. Gary Saylor} Part time PE

Mr. David Wertz} Part time Music

Ms. Amberly Westermeyer} Part time Band

Please take time to get to know the newest members of our school family- we know they will appreciate your kindness.

Looking throughout September

- September 19- Book fair previews begin.
- September 19- PTA sponsored Casa Della Nonna restaurant event
- September 27- Grandparents & Grand Friends Day-be on the look out for flyers and messages
- September 30- Schools and offices closed in honor of Rosh Hashana

Remember, our doors are always open whether you have a question or just want to say “Hi!” This will be a continuing practice, for both of us have always believed in the power of building, maintaining, and growing relationships. Let’s find all the wonderful possibilities that 2019-2020 has to offer!

Tracy Prater, Principal
Tamba Elliott, Assistant Principal



Expectation of Privacy Policy

The school system has an “Expectation of Privacy” policy. This policy covers the rights parents have to prevent the taking of photographs or videos of their child. When attending an event that is open to the public, such as a chorus or band concert, photographs/videos may be taken of everyone because it is a public event. However, when attending an event that you have been specifically invited, such as, but not limited to, a field trip, Grandparents Day, or lunch with your child, you may only photograph or video your child. Please adhere to this policy when attending all Ridgeway events. If you are unsure, please ask prior to taking the photograph or video.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports at Ridgeway

Ridgeway is committed to teaching and reinforcing expectation for student behavior. Students learn about appropriate behavior through morning meetings, class lessons and classroom buddy activities. Each month we will focus on a specific character trait. To help recognize our students for showing these character traits in school, we will recognize a student of the month for each classroom and a class of the month for the school. These awards will be given to students that are consistently demonstrating each of the following character traits throughout the year. Students of the month will be announced on the morning announcements and will have their names posted outside the classroom. Please help to reinforce these character traits at home.

September – Respect
October – Responsibility
November – Courtesy
December – Encouragement
January – Problem Solving
February – Kindness
March – Perseverance
April – Honesty
May – Ambition/ Goal Setting



Camera Notification

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.



2019-2020 Bus Routes

Bus route descriptions for the 2019-2020 school year are posted online for public view.



School Meal Prices for the 2019-2020 School Year

Breakfast (Full Price) \$1.50
Breakfast (Reduced-Price) \$.30
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://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>

We will continue to provide paper applications for parents without access to smart phones/computers. **Please note that the amount of paper applications is limited.**



Connect – Ed Phone Messages

As you are aware, the county has been using a computerized calling system to better communicate with parents. Ridgeway may also send a message out to you periodically. This is a voice activated message and it will have a slight delay after you answer the phone. Please do not hang up as the message will follow shortly.



Background Checks

Every volunteer/chaperone must have a background check on file with the board of education in order to volunteer in the school or chaperone field trips. Background investigations are performed by the Board of Education and are valid for two years. You may acquire a copy of the “Authorization & Release for the Procurement of a Consumer and/or Investigative Report for Chaperones, Student Teachers and Designated Volunteers” form by following this link: <http://www.aacps.org/chaperone/>



Celebration Policy

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.



Event Parking at Ridgeway

As we begin a new school year, 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.



Dress Code

Please follow the Anne Arundel County Dress Code Policy, which is found in the Student Handbook, Student Attire. It is important that parents review the dress code policy with their child and check to see that they are appropriately dressed for school.



Entrance into the School And School Security

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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.

Federal Impact Aid Survey Forms

On Monday, October 1, 2019, your child will bring home a Federal Impact Aid Survey form. Please assist us by filling out the information requested on the form and returning it to Ridgeway Elementary School.

The U.S. Department of Education is now allowing a multiple child form. Therefore, AACPS has designated a form that will allow two children's names for your convenience. Should you have more than two children, please utilize a second form that you can either obtain from the school or download from the AACPS website at www.aacps.org/students. Also, please note that the **complete address of the Parent/Guardian's Employer if they work on Federal Property**, the **complete address of the Federal Property on which they work**, and **each survey form must be signed and dated by the Parent/Guardian**. The Federal Impact Aid Survey form for 2019/20 will be available to download on September 28. We will also be using our Connect-Ed Automated Telephone Notification System to remind everyone about the significance of completing and returning this survey. The school system receives approximately \$2 million in funding from the Federal government in support of our children after the forms are processed.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please call 410-222-5200.