

## Ridgewood High School Celebrates Diversity

Our students proudly represent 50 countries from all over the world.  
Below is the list of countries:

United States of America	India	Peru
Albania	Iran	Philippines
Austria	Iraq	Poland
Belarus	Ireland	Puerto Rico
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Israel	Romania
Bulgaria	Italy	Russia
Canada	Jamaica	Saudi Arabia
China	Jordan	Serbia
Columbia	Kazakhstan	Slovakia
Croatia	Kuwait	South Korea
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Spain
Ecuador	Mexico	Sweden
El Salvador	Mongolia	Turkey
England	Morocco	Ukraine
Germany	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Greece	Pakistan	Vietnam
Honduras	Palestine	

The Illinois State Board of Education issues the Seal of Biliteracy to students who successfully demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the intermediate high level or better in English and a second language and the Commendation towards Biliteracy at the intermediate low level or better. There are 41 students, nearly 19% of the Class of 2022, who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation towards Biliteracy. Seal of Biliteracy students are wearing double white cords and Commendation students are wearing a single white cord in recognition of this achievement.

### **The Mission of Ridgewood High School**

*The mission of Ridgewood High School focuses on learning. Students will become adaptable life-long learners and responsible, ethical citizens, with the ability to make informed decisions in a changing global society. Students will demonstrate learning in multiple settings and in multiple ways.*

*Members of the Ridgewood High School community will collaborate to ensure that every student learns.*

# COMMENCEMENT



**RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**  
**May 31, 2022**

## PROGRAM

Introduction	Dr. Jennifer Kelsall Superintendent
Processional	"Pomp and Circumstance March #1" Sir Edward Elgar
Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Paul Draniczarek Board President
Welcome	Mr. Paul Draniczarek Board President
Teacher Address	Mr. Justin Gates
Senior Address	Martina Vitale
Presentation of the Class of 2022	Ms. Gina Castellano Principal
Introduction of Candidates & Awarding Diplomas	Mr. Robert St. John Athletic Director
Recessional	"Pomp and Circumstance March #4" Sir Edward Elgar

### SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

President - Katarina Krivokapic  
Vice President - Alana Manrique  
Treasurer - Michelle Rivadeneira Wandember  
Secretary - Julia Klusek  
Senior Class Advisor - Mr. Bill Lehotsky

### Processional Marshals

Emilia Bielska Sofia Roman

## To the Graduating Class of 2022,

Did you realize that your class has a very unique designation? I couldn't tell you another class that experienced what you all had to endure over a high school career. You all started freshman year in person, began sophomore year the same, and then were told on March 13, 2020 that you would be e-learning for the rest of the year. Now, I'm sure many of you were fine with this novelty, especially when Governor Pritzker announced that no one would fail. A message every teacher I'm sure appreciated (insert every teacher's deep sigh). Junior year started remotely as well, but steps towards normal were made in the spring as some of you even came back to school — albeit masked up and practicing "social distancing"...kinda. Senior year is the closest comparison to your freshman year, and we were even able to attend school with masks being optional!

Your high school experience might not have been what you thought, but there is something to learn here. The educator in me must remind you of an undeniable lesson which is ... you all proved that you can be flexible when life changes your plans. All of you know the meaning of the word "flexible", but you may not necessarily know its importance going forward. You will continue to make plans and budget your time, life, and money to obtain a goal. And just when you think this goal will become a reality, life happens. John Lennon has a great quote my parents taught me when I was young that has stayed with me, and I feel applies to you all: "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans". Nothing is permanent, and just when you think you have it all figured out, you will have to make a new plan. That's okay though. There is nothing wrong with consistent inconsistency. That is when those flexibility skills will really come into play.

I have had conversations with many of you over these 4 years and am in awe of the growth I have seen. My favorite type of conversation is when a senior has been proud to share with me some accomplishment they've achieved. Even as I write this letter, I still get chills reflecting on those conversations because there is nothing better than proving to yourself that you can do something. Not to your parent, teacher, friend, or significant other, but proving to yourself what you can accomplish is an unparalleled feeling.

As you leave this place behind, I want you to do something. I want you to hold yourself accountable when others won't. Set your standards to obtainable levels, and once you obtain them, move the bar higher and don't settle. Continue to impress yourself with what you can do because in the end, proving to yourself that you are competent will blaze a beautiful path for you to travel. A special thank you to these special seniors who did so much behind-the-scenes work for your class: Kat, Alana, Janna, Michelle, Julia, Stef, Sofia, Victoria, and Alvarez. You guys made this club successful, and I appreciate you! I have truly cherished these 4 years as your advisor, and I am extremely proud of what you have done and more excited to see where you will go. And if you lose your way, need some advice, or a shoulder to lean on, never forget the people of Ridgewood will always be here for you.

Sincerely,  
Bill Lehotsky

2  
0  
2  
2  
  
G  
R  
A  
D  
U  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N

## RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL – DISTRICT 234

Members of the faculty appear in academic gowns.  
The various colors of the hoods delineate the schools from which their highest degrees were bestowed, as well as the fields of study which they individually pursued.

### THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Paul Draniczarek, President

**Michael Straughn, Vice President**  
**Jamie Richardson, Secretary**  
**Frank DiPiero**

**Lisa Malicki**  
**Christopher O'Leary**  
**Fiona Tanny**

### Academic Fields of Study and their Colors

Arts, Letters, Humanities.....	White
Business Administration.....	Drab
Economics.....	Copper
Education.....	Light Blue
Fine Arts, Architecture.....	Brown
Library Science.....	Lemon
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Philosophy (PhD).....	Dark Blue
Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Public Administration.....	Peacock Blue
Science.....	Golden Yellow
Social Work.....	Citron
Speech.....	Silver Gray

Many students in the Graduating Class are wearing honor cords, medallions, stoles, or collars. The various colors delineate what Honors Society those students belong to.

National Honors Society.....	Double Gold Cords
Società Onoraria Italiana.....	Double Red Cords
Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica.....	Red & Gold Double Braided Cord
Thespian – Over 100 hours of work in the theatre.....	Double Blue Cords
Honor Thespian – Over 600 hours of work in the theatre....	Blue Cord & Gold Cord
Thespian Scholar with over a 3.0 GPA.....	White Stole
Thespian Scholar with over a 3.5 GPA.....	White Ribbon Medallion
Thespian Scholar with over a 4.0 GPA.....	White Collar
Seal of Biliteracy.....	Double White Cords
Commendation towards Biliteracy.....	Single White Cord
Top 10% of the Class.....	Gold Ribbon Medallion
Career Pathway Endorsement-Education or METT.....	Single Royal Blue Cord

### FACULTY – RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

**Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Kelsall**  
**Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Thomas Parrillo**  
**Principal, Ms. Gina Castellano**  
**Assistant Principal, Dr. Eric Lasky**  
**Dean of Students, Mr. David Hawk**  
**Athletic Director, Mr. Robert St. John**

Andrew Anastasiades	M.Ed.	Kathleen Leynes	M.S.W.
Lisa Balata	M.A./M.Ed.	Mark Lippstreu	M.A.
Claudia Barlea	M.A.	Nadia Luna	B.A.
Matthew Bennett	M.A.	Sarah Machaj	M.A.
Danielle Brucci	M.A.	Michael Maiorano	Ph.D.
Katarzyna Butryn	M.S.	Jared McCabe	M.A.
Megan Cantos	M.Ed.	Kristy McCabe	M.A.
Derek Cappaert	B.A.	Kristi Meade	M.A.
Gina Chowela	M.A.	Dolores Pigoni-Miller	M.A./(A.B.D.)
Brian Collier	B.S.	Margaret Molnar	B.A.
Katherine Connelly	M.A.	Bernard Moore	M.A.
Katie Davis	M.A.	Carolyn Moore	B.A.
Benjamin DeBruin	M.A.	Haley Morelli	M.S.W
Krystal England	B.S.	Jennifer Morse	B.A.
Katie Falcone	M.S.	Chris Mroz	M.Ed.
Carl Falicetti	M.Ed.	Pam Mundy	M.A./M.Ed.
Amanda Fiotti	M.A.	Amanda Nolan	M.A.
Cari Franz	M.Ed.	Amanda Patano	B.A.
Justin Gates	J.D.	Zachary Paus	B.A
Don Gelsomino	M.A.	Toni Pemberton	M.Ed.
Giovanna Gianfortone	M.A.	Elizabeth Romano	M.A.
Jennette Gonzalez	M.L.I.S.	Daniel Rosenberg	M.A.
Adam Guzy	M.A.	Renee Rudnicki	M.A.
James Gyori	M.A.	LeeAnn Rutherford	B.A.
Monica Hansen	M.A.	Scott Schau	M.Ed.
Amanda Hattar	M.A.	James Smith	M.Ed.
Andrew Hebert	M.A.	Stephanie Sneath	M.A.
Maria Jellissen	M.A.	Jennifer Snyder	M.S.W./M.Ed.
Eileen Kelly	M.S.	Steven Svetlik	M.A.
Kristina Keyes	M.A.	Julia Wicklund	M.Ed.
Kevin Konsler	M.A. / M.Ed	David Wlodarczyk	M.A.
Tristian Kumor	Ph.D	Samuel Yeates	M.A.
Jill Laubenstein	M.Ed.	Christopher Zack	M.Ed.
Bill Lehotsky	M.A.	Cristina Zajac	M.A.

## Graduates 2022

Amin Abu Al Shaikh  
 Mark Muhlenbruch  
 Elyssa Ruiz  
 Patricia Adamczyk \*  
 Cristian Adrian Aguilar  
 Simrah Ahmad  
 Andrew Charles Akers  
 Bailasan Jafar Al-Ajjo  
 Isabella Marie Alvarez  
 Yuliya Andrusyak  
 Ciana Sam Arnone  
 Kevin Bani  
 Alix Chyanne Beilke  
 Daniela Belibov  
 Kaniya Alizabeth Bell  
 Christian Beltran Rybak †  
 Danny Steve Bernal Paucar  
 Ahmad Mahebus Bhaije  
 Michael Biancorosso  
 Spencer Jan Bigus  
 Caylynn Marie Bingham † \*  
 Joseph Lorenzo Biondo  
 Emma Faye Blevins  
 Cristian Angel Bordabeheres  
 Angela Borek † \*  
 Asmaa Bouabdallaoui  
 Joseph Robert Browne  
 Victoria Veronica Buch  
 Bartomiej Kacper Bury  
 Isabel Eliza Cabrera \*  
 Leonardo Domenico Cataldo  
 David Chudzik  
 Talia Marie Ciccone  
 Monica Alejandra Constanza  
 Juliana Nicole Correa  
 Michael Giovanni Cozzone  
 Valentina Carmela Cozzone  
 Nicola DAMato  
 Mirza Daudbasic  
 Reeziah Ocal De Guzman \*  
 Sofia Anna Didenko \*  
 Lev Gabriel Dignos  
 Bojan Djuricic  
 Raymond Doan  
 Ailyn Panelo Domalanta \*  
 Julian Andres Donoso  
 Victoria Maria Duszynski † \*  
 Patrycja Anna Dziechciowska  
 Caroline Gumabao Fajardo  
 Nicole Bianca Ferdinando  
 Alexander Nicholas Firlej  
 Adrian Eduardo Flores  
 Eman Gamra  
 Armando Gabriel Garcia  
 Victoria Galina Gatyoh

Ioannis Giannopoulos  
 Victoria Helena Gora  
 Kenneth Gordon  
 Vedrana Gotovac  
 Justyna Teresa Gromny \*  
 Ulyana Grytshyn  
 Derick Jareth Guallpa  
 Nikolas Wilson Guijosa  
 Aydin Hajrush  
 Mia Rose Halihan  
 Isabella Marie Hernandez  
 Vanessa Hernandez  
 Hadeel Hussein \*  
 Philip Anthony Iskra  
 Ajdin Jakupovic  
 Martyna Rita Jarzyna  
 Daniel Alex Jovica  
 Vitaliy Kaminsky  
 Shaima Rami Kanan  
 Joshua Anthony Kapechuk  
 Matthew Henry Karkoszka  
 Jenna Paige Keith  
 Ameer Ashraf Khrawish  
 Emily Ann Kinel \*  
 Sylwia Klemensiewicz  
 Julia Klusek † \*  
 Mateusz Peter Komperda  
 Krystian Michal Kosowski  
 Samuel Ronald Kovalenko  
 Martha Magdalena Kozik  
 Megki Kreka  
 Alexis Leann Kremidas  
 Michael William Kremidas  
 Katarina Krivokapic \*  
 Alex Jan Krzos  
 Marek Michael Krzysztofczyk  
 David Wojciech Kubik  
 Konstancya Kushyna  
 Gabriela Julia Kuta  
 Stefanie Ann Lauria  
 Janna Elyssa Ventigan Laxamana † \*  
 Long An Le  
 Vincent Anthony Lopez  
 Francesca Danielle LoRusso  
 Michael Anthony LoRusso  
 Jakob Dylan Lozano  
 Lazar Lucic  
 Rose Marie Lydon \*  
 Bartosz Malicki  
 Alana Ann Manrique \*  
 Laila William Marcia  
 Maksymilian Franciszek Marek  
 Andy Martinez  
 Rosalia Kathleen Maurello \*  
 Brisild Metellari

Yaileen Michel \*  
 Marissa Skye Mikrut  
 Robert Gerald Miller  
 Kristina Milosevic †  
 Emilija Mladenovic  
 Wilson Alexander Mojica  
 Yareliz Nicole Mojica  
 Hailey Morales  
 Osama Husam Mousa  
 Patrick Konrad Mozdzynski  
 Julkan Mroz  
 Jerry Mufid Mufarreh  
 Phillip Van Nguyen  
 Haley Ann Nowak  
 Yevhen Okhvat  
 Christopher Joseph OLeary  
 Andrei Gabriel Olteanu  
 Vladyslav Opatsky  
 Kiera Marie OShea † \*  
 Jazmyl Eveycha Pagnanelli  
 William Santell Palese  
 Jude Rivero Panlilio †  
 Christopher Anthony Paoletti  
 Dhruv Viralkumar Patel  
 Divya Mahendra Patel  
 Keemi Rajesh Patel  
 Shivani Sunilkumar Patel  
 Sneha Yogeshkumar Patel  
 Alexander Tyler Pedd  
 Nicole Katarzyna Pekala  
 Lucely Yanitza Perez  
 Maya Zetta Petryszak  
 Jasmine Marie Plaud † \*  
 Kyle Hayden Plesha  
 Kristjan Popovich  
 Tanja Popovic  
 Gina Maria Poulos  
 Arianna Pauline Pucillo  
 Joanna Marie Quintana  
 Duphaney Gale Torres Quinto  
 Olivia Radziszewski \*  
 Dayannara Ramos  
 Katarzyna Rapciak  
 Michael Steven Rasic  
 Isabella Ann Reina  
 Adrian Dmytro Reptak †  
 Clare Bailey Rhode  
 Imelda Michelle Rivadeneira  
 Wandember † \*  
 Liliann Elizabeth Rojek  
 Pablo Joel Rosales  
 Luis Fernando Rosario  
 Matthew Greg Roszko  
 Joseph Paul Rybak  
 Jenna Saadeh

Anthony Justin Sabbini  
 Deema Muhammed Salamah  
 Azem Basheer Salameh  
 Isaiah Hector Sanchez  
 Janalise Anally Santiago  
 Michael Anthony Santucci  
 Strahinja Savic †  
 Aaliyah Precious Schein  
 Jordan Malik Shukair  
 Camilla Sienko  
 Christian Silva  
 Konrad Kamil Smagacz  
 Wafa Micheal Smairat \*  
 Nathan Joseph Smyl  
 Simone Annette Smyl  
 Jelena Stankovic  
 Ivana Stanojevic  
 Nicolas Swiac  
 Alex Swierzbinski  
 Jakub Dudek Szynalik  
 Klaudia Tac  
 Jenny Tran  
 Marta Tsap  
 Tanish Upadhyay  
 Maranda Ava Valadez  
 Ethan Daniel Van  
 Antonio Jovani Vega  
 Aljhon Rones Villanueva  
 Martina Marie Vitale \*  
 Julia Joanna Wachowski †  
 Justin Alexander Wellington  
 Jacob Jonathan Wheeler  
 Stefanie Alyssa Witkowski  
 Allyson Jean Zalewski  
 Jacob Christopher Zoladz † \*

† indicates this student is an Illinois State Scholar

\* indicates this student is a Member of National Honor Society