



Dear Ridgewood Families,

The 2022-23 school year has officially started! We are excited to welcome students and support them as they begin, continue, or near the end of their educational journey with us. We remain steadfast in our continued commitment to the well being of *all* students. We are committed to kindness and respect and welcome each and every one of you to Ridgewood High School!

As promised, we will be in constant communication throughout the year with updates and news regarding your student's time at RHS. Here is what is happening in the next few weeks:

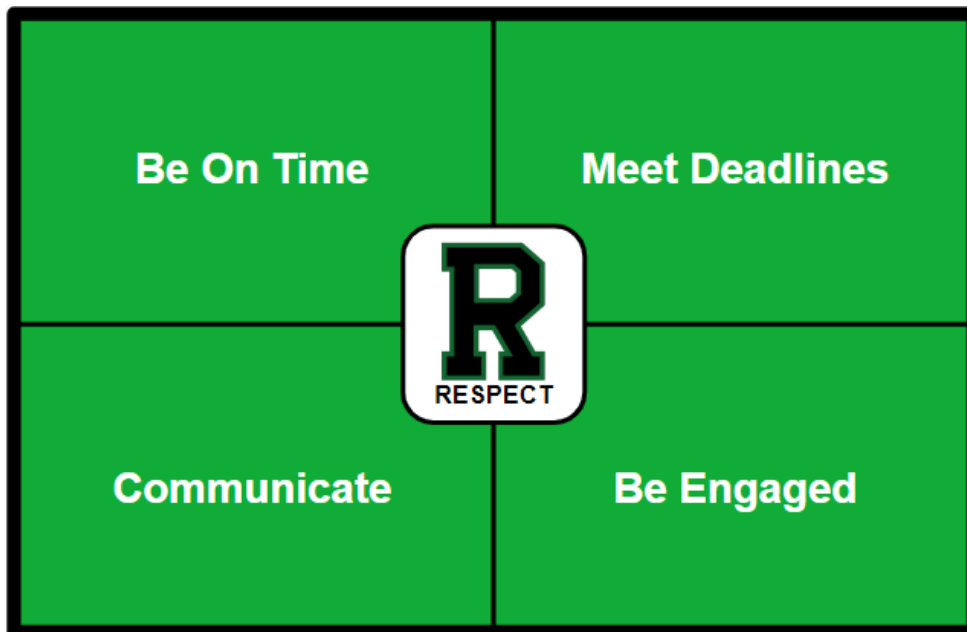
Dates to Remember:

Thursday, September 1st- Freshman Family Night at 6:15 p.m. in the Auditorium (ZOOM also available); more info below!

Monday, September 5th- NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)

2022-23 Student Expectations

Our goal, for *every* student, is for them to gain the skills necessary to leave Ridgewood High School college and career ready. In order for students to attain success both at RHS and beyond, our staff will focus on the following expectations for every student at RHS:



Meeting deadlines, being on time, communicating, and being engaged are critical to success both in school and in life. Ridgewood is dedicated to helping our students be workforce ready. Focusing on these skills will give our students the tools necessary to succeed in college and career.

As parents/ guardians, we need your help. You play a vital role in your student's educational experience. Here is how you can help your student be successful:

- **Get your student(s) to school every day.**
- **Get your student(s) to school on-time.**
- **Check that your student(s) is ready to learn.**
- **Encourage your student(s) to come ready to learn.**
- **Ask questions**
- **Stay informed with what is happening at Ridgewood High School and their school experience.**
- **Attend important events at Ridgewood High School.**
- **Check Skyward Family Access regularly to stay updated on your student(s)'s progress.**

Deadlines and Retake Opportunities

In an effort to ensure students are college and career ready, it is imperative that all students understand the importance of deadlines. All due dates will be communicated, and students will be given an ample and appropriate amount of time to complete assignments. Students are expected to complete all assignments by the assigned due date.

We sent out our revised Deadline and Retake grading procedure on Friday in a communication letter. Here is a [link](#) to that letter.

Class of 2026 Freshman Family Night!

We are excited to welcome our Class of 2026 students and families to Ridgewood High School. We would like to introduce you to our team, present essential technology, share programs that will help your child succeed, explain our approach to learning, and answer any of your concerns or questions. Additionally, we are going to provide information on how students and families can save money on college by completing dual credit courses that will transfer to most universities.

Join us on **Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 6:15pm in the Auditorium**. We encourage everyone to attend in-person but will also offer a Zoom option for those unable to physically attend.

What: Freshman Family Night
Date: Thursday, September 1, 2021
Time: 6:15pm
Where: RHS Auditorium

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Principal Dr. Eric Lasky: 708-697-5545 or email elasky@ridgenet.org.

Zoom link to join: <https://zoom.us/j/94045423433>

Student Attendance

Your student's attendance record can be viewed in real-time via Skyward Family Access. Multiple attendance codes are used to indicate whether students are tardy (late) or absent from class. Please use the following key to understand their attendance patterns:

- T = **Tardy** (1-9 minutes late to class)
- C = **Cut** (10-79 minutes late to class)
- A = **Absent** (Did not attend class)

We encourage you to regularly monitor your students' attendance record. If you see any of the above codes, please have a conversation with them to understand why.

If your student is absent from school and the Attendance Office does receive a call from a listed parent/guardian on the same day of the absence, you will receive an automated call from Ridgewood High School @4:30PM asking you to call the attendance office. Please ensure your phone and email contact information is correct in Skyward to receive these important messages.

Questions regarding your student's attendance can be directed to David Hawk, Dean of Students.

2022-23 Safety

As an added safety measure, **the building will close at 3:30 p.m.daily during the 2022-2023 school year. Only students who are involved in activities or athletics will be allowed to stay in the building after 3:30 p.m. These students will be supervised by their coaches or activity advisors.**

If you have any questions regarding building security or student safety, please contact David Hawk, Dean of Students.

Student Drop-Off Zones

In order to ease morning congestion, we offer two student drop-off zones. Students can be dropped off at the north end of the west staff parking lot next to the main entrance off of Montrose Ave. OR outside of Door #12 next to the cafeteria in the east student parking lot. Please keep in mind that Door #12 is locked at 8AM, and any students dropped off after that time must access the building through Door #2, the main entrance.

Lost and Found

At the end of each school year, our Building and Grounds team empties all student lockers. If your returning sophomore, junior, or senior believes that they left items in their locker, those items can be retrieved from the Dean's Office. **All items remaining after Friday 9/2/22 will be donated or disposed of.**

If your student loses property throughout the school year, the lost and found is located at the Front Desk.

Student Lockers

All students are assigned a school locker and their locker number can be found on their Skyward profile. All locks must be RHS school-issued green locks. To obtain a lock, students should see Assistant Principal Lasky in the Principal's Wing. Freshmen and new transfer students paid for their lock through registration, while returning sophomores through seniors requiring a new lock should report to the Business Office to obtain a lock.

2022-23 Academic Schedule

Using family, staff, and student feedback, we have adjusted last year's schedule to meet the needs of all learners. The 2022-23 schedule will maintain the same alternating A/B daily routine throughout the school year eliminating the need to run alternative schedules due to federal holidays, teacher institute days, etc.

Benefits of the 2022-23 schedule include:

- Daily consistency for students
- An A/B rotation to balance students' course load
- Opportunities for students to earn more than 6 credits per school year
- Increased instructional minutes per course (80 minutes) to allow for deeper learning and a variety of activities/ instruction during a single class period
- Flexibility for students to participate in internships or work-based learning outside of RHS
- A daily shortened Flex period for students to pursue things like resource labs, self-directed projects, career exploration, robust science labs, small group sessions with teachers, hands-on activities, and more

A			B		
P1: 8:00-9:20			Student Intervention/Tutoring: 8:00-8:40		
P2: 9:25-10:45			P6 - Advisory: 8:45-9:20		
P3 Flex: 10:50-11:25			P7: 9:25-10:45		
P3 Flex: 10:50-11:25			P8 Flex: 10:50-11:25		
LUNCH A 11:30-12:10	P4 (B): 11:30-12:10	P4 (C): 11:30-12:50	LUNCH A 11:30-12:10	P9 (B): 11:30-12:10	P9 (C): 11:30-12:50
P4 (A): 12:15-1:35	LUNCH B 12:10-12:50		P9 (A): 12:15-1:35	LUNCH B 12:10-12:50	
	P4 (B): 12:55-1:35	LUNCH C 12:55-1:35		P9 (B): 12:55-1:35	LUNCH C 12:55-1:35
P5: 1:40-3:00			P10: 1:40-3:00		

Health Protocols

Our main priority at Ridgewood High School continues to be everyone's health and safety. Per collective guidance from the IDPH and the CDC:

- Monitor your student(s) for any symptoms of illness, and please do not send them to school if they are sick (contact Candace Reid, School Nurse at 708-697-5568).
- RHS will continue to be mask-optional.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 will quarantine for a minimum of 5 days AND will be able to learn remotely.
- Optional, weekly, and free COVID-19 testing will again be made available for students and staff members - [REGISTER HERE.](#)
- Safety measures regarding ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette will still be in place.

Your partnership is important to keeping our school community safe and healthy. As guidance changes, we will adjust our practices accordingly. If you have any questions regarding health and safety measures, please contact David Hawk, Dean of Students, or Candace Reid, School Nurse. You can also view the 2022-23 Safety Plan here: [D234 Health & Safety Plan \(2022-23\)](#)

Freshman and Senior School Medical Information

The state of Illinois requires all freshmen students to have a physical exam on file in the Nurse's office. Similarly, all seniors are required to submit proof of one meningitis vaccination after the age of 16. **These documents are due by October 15th.**

Please submit these documents to Candace Reid, School Nurse, at fax #: 708-456-0342 or at nurse@ridgenet.org.

Parent University

In order to better serve our families in helping their students navigate the world of high school, we will be hosting a variety of Parent Universities (seminars) for RHS families. The Parent Universities will be based on your feedback and needs. Please take this brief survey below. This survey will help us determine topics you would like to hear more about and the times that would work best for you and your family.

[Parent University Feedback 2022-23](#)

Questions can be directed to Dr. Eric Lasky, Assistant Principal elasky@ridgenet.org

Athletic and Activity Information

Ridgewood High School is thrilled to offer 18 athletic programs and 32 clubs and activities. All of our extracurricular programs are led by knowledgeable, dedicated, personable, and passionate coaches and advisors. Our goal is, and always has been, to get the students at Ridgewood as involved in extracurricular activities as possible. The physical, social, and emotional benefits of participating in high school extracurriculars are numerous. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has published an informative guide illustrating the many benefits of extracurricular participation, you can give the guide a read here [NFHS - The Case For High School Activities](#).

Please take a look at our [RHS Athletic Offerings](#) and our [RHS Clubs and Activities](#) links where you can find more detailed information about all of the incredible opportunities Ridgewood has to offer. Additionally, all of our athletic contest schedules can be found at the Athletic Offerings link as well. We encourage everyone to come out and support our teams and athletes!

Please feel free to contact Athletic Director, Rob St. John at rstjohn@ridgenet.org or Activity Coordinator, Megan Cantos at mcantos@ridgenet.org with any questions, comments, or inquiries.

Senior Picture Retakes

Prestige Photography will be back on campus on September 7, 8, and 9 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm for Senior Picture Retakes. Please contact *Prestige Photography* at 800-736-4753 to confirm your appointment or if you have any questions.

Student Services

The Student Services Department encompasses the following areas: counseling, social work, student support services, college and career information, scholarships, and data systems assistance. The goal of RHS Student Services is to support all students in order to maximize their academic, social, and emotional growth throughout high school. The Student Services Department is broken up by alpha-split, so the students will be working with the same counselor and social worker pair. Here is the breakdown of our model:

Alpha Split	Counselor	Social Worker
A-G	Mr. Jim Gyori jgyori@ridgenet.org	TBD We will communicate this soon! *Please see Ms. Morelli or Ms. Snyder if you need assistance.
H-O	Ms. Maria Jellissen mjellissen@ridgenet.org	Ms. Haley Morelli hmorelli@ridgenet.org
P-Z	Ms. Tasha Young tyoung@ridgenet.org	Ms. Jennifer Snyder jsnyder@ridgenet.org

This year we welcome Ms. Tasha Young, who will be filling in for Ms. Franz for the 2022-23 school year. We also welcome three Social Work Interns: Ms. Brinne Carey, Ms. Gabriella Parravicini, and Ms. Magdalena Rozycki, who will be working with our students.

If you would like to make an appointment or speak with a counselor or social worker, please follow this link: <https://www.d234.org/student-life/schedule-appointments/> or go to the Student Services tab on our website www.d234.org.

Scholarships

Attention seniors! With college application season just around the corner, please make sure to schedule an appointment with your counselor to discuss your post-secondary plans. The counselors are here to help you with any questions, no matter your post-secondary plans. If you're looking for scholarships, please make sure to check out our scholarship bulletin: <https://www.d234.org/student-life/scholarship-and-job-bulletin/>

Year-Long Calendar

The link to the school-wide calendar can be found on the RHS website, under *About RHS / Yearly Calendar*: [CLICK HERE FOR YEAR-LONG CALENDAR](#).

Skyward Communication Home

When families enrolled at Ridgewood High School, parents/guardians had the option to mark their home language. This may not be the preferred language for us to communicate home to you when sending documents home. If you'd like to change your preference on the language of communication home, please follow the following steps:

1. In Skyward, click on the Student Info tab on the left hand side
2. In the upper right hand, click on "Request Changes for (your student's name)"

3. Click on "Family Information" from the dropdown box
4. Change the "Student's Home Language" to the desired language and click on the Save button.
5. Someone at the district will review the changes and approve/deny them.

Virtual College Fair presented by Midwest College Showcase

Midwest College invites all families to join 27 institutions for the **Midwest College Showcase** Virtual College Fair series taking place on the following two nights:

September 14, 6:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern Time

September 15, 7:00 - 9:00 PM Eastern Time

[Register for MCS!](#)

We will be with you LIVE, available to answer all your questions about college - how to apply, how to earn scholarships, and what makes our institutions right for you!

You will receive a registration confirmation immediately and another email one week before and the day of the Showcase with a website link to gain access to the event.

The following colleges and universities will be represented:

Albion College | Allegheny College | Antioch College | Beloit College | Carleton College | Coe College | Colorado College | Cornell College | Denison University | DePauw University | Earlham College | Grinnell College | Hope College | Kalamazoo College | Kenyon College |

Knox College | Lake Forest College | Lawrence University | Luther College | Macalester College | Monmouth College | Oberlin College |

Ohio Wesleyan University | Ripon College | St. Olaf College | Wabash College | The College of Wooster

If you have any questions, please email info@midwestcollegeshowcase.org

Have a wonderful day!
RHS Administration

Ridgewood Community High School District 234 would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Ridgewood Community High School District 234 directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our Skylert service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

Skylert is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

