

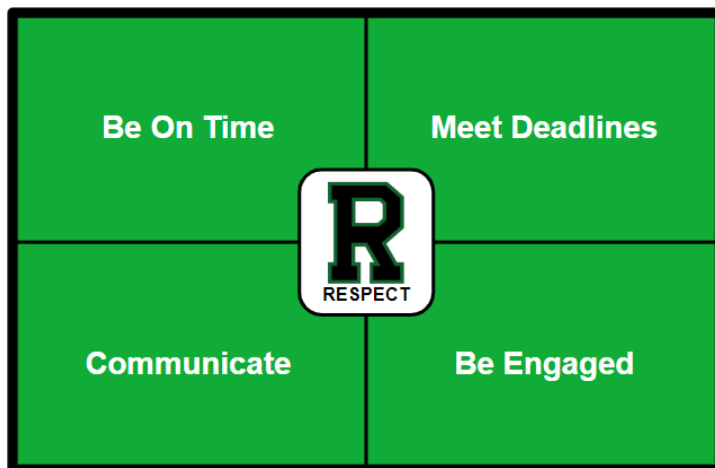


Dear Ridgewood Families,

Fall is upon us! School is in full swing, the leaves are starting to change colors, and the holidays are right around the corner. We invite you to come out and see some of our amazing fall sports taking place this month- soccer games, cross country races, and football games are scheduled throughout September and October. Spectators are always welcome!

Please take a look at our [RHS Athletic Team & Schedules Page](#) for more information about our home and away contests.

As a reminder, 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. Please help us by reinforcing these expectations at home.

As promised, here is what is happening at Ridgewood High School in the next few weeks:

Dates to Remember:

September 26th- HOMECOMING WEEK!

October 1st- Homecoming Dance

October 12th -PSAT NMSQT Testing

October 15th- Deadline to submit freshmen physicals & senior meningitis vaccinations

Get Involved! 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.

PSAT NMSQT Testing

On Wednesday, October 12th, Ridgewood High School will administer the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) to all juniors and the top 10% of sophomores. By offering students an opportunity to participate in the PSAT administration, Ridgewood High School will provide students with valuable college readiness feedback and tools to help them reach their post-secondary goals.

Benefits of the PSAT:

- Juniors can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship – By taking the PSAT/NMSQT students may be eligible to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program and other academic scholarship and recognition programs.
- Students have a better chance at scoring higher on the SAT – Historically, students who take the PSAT have scored significantly higher on the SAT than students who do not. Since the PSAT evaluates the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, taking the PSAT means students will have an opportunity to address their areas of improvement long before they take their official college entrance exam.
- Students will receive feedback on their aptitude for success in AP courses – student score reports will show recommendations for AP courses that might be good matches.
- A personalized study plan – the PSAT will provide students with a custom SAT study plan that can be accessed online, anytime through Khan Academy.

Important Test Day Information:

- Testing will begin promptly at 8:45am. Students should arrive in the field house at least 15 minutes prior to testing.
- No backpacks or cell phones will be allowed in the field house.
- Students will need to bring their Student ID, no. 2 pencils, and a calculator.
- Standard testing time will conclude around 12:50 pm.
- Students will have lunch from 12:55pm - 1:24pm.
- Students will be required to attend period 10 from 1:40pm - 3:00pm.

Your child has received a PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide which includes important information about the test, study tips, and practice questions. More resources about this test can be found at collegeboard.org. If you have questions, please contact me at 708-697-5548 or jtan@ridgenet.org.

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, August 26th in a communication letter. Here is a [link](#) to that letter.

Competency Courses - Grading Reminders

As a reminder, many of our courses use competency grading to show a student's level of proficiency in skills. This means that these courses show an average level of proficiency, shown by a numeric value, rather than a traditional letter grade, to show student's progress in learning. Teachers will enter letter grades at the end of each semester for a student's transcript. During the semester, please click on the student's FG score in order to see your student's overall percentage in the course out of 100. For more detailed information, please take a look at our [Competency Grading Overview](#).

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.

Student and Building Safety

Every year, all students are trained how to respond to an active shooter scenario using the Run, Hide, Fight model during Advisory on B days. Training is currently underway provided by the Dean of Students and will conclude mid-October, culminating with a scheduled, announced Law Enforcement Drill. No actors, fake weapons, or simunitions of any kind will be used during the drill. More information will be shared as we near the drill date.

Part of students' Run, Hide, Fight training includes our **See Something, Say Something** campaign. We need our students' help in keeping our school community safe, and they play a vital role. All students are encouraged to immediately report any suspicious or concerning behavior to a trusted adult, or through our anonymous [Safety Concern / Bullying Report](#). Reporters always remain anonymous and will not face any type of disciplinary action.

Student Attendance

This year, we are playing music for students during our 5-minute passing periods between classes. 30 seconds before the next period is scheduled to begin, music stops and a countdown begins on all hallway

clocks. Our expectation for students is that when clocks reach zero, they are in their seats and ready to learn.

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.

Student Lockers

If your student is planning on using their school locker but has not picked up their lock yet, please have them do so as soon as possible. Freshmen and new transfer students can pick up a lock from Assistant Principal Lasky's office, and returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors can receive a lock from the Dean's Office.

Starting today, our Building and Grounds crew will begin bolting shut all unused lockers as an added measure to ensure safety.

Questions regarding student lockers can be directed towards David Hawk, Dean of Students.

Reminder! Building closes at 3:30

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.

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](#).

Happy Fall!

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.