From: Gina Castellano
To: Maureen Forsythe
Subject: Updates from RHS
Date: Monday, January 9, 2023 8:00:28 AM

Dear Ridgewood Families,

Happy New Year!

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

Dates to Remember:
January 11th -ACCESS Testing begins
January 13th- Semester 1 ends
January 16th- NO SCHOOL (MLK Day)
January 17th -NO SCHOOL
January 18th- 2nd Semester begins ("A" Day)

District 234 Board Waives Fees for Next School Year - 2023-2024 School Year
High School District 234's Board of Education will waive select fees for all students for the 2023-2024 school year. Board members voted on December 12th to place a one-year moratorium on school fees for next school year in response to continuing uncertainties in the community linked to the pandemic. District 234 has identified cost savings elsewhere and has applied for temporary federal funding for technology needs to offset revenue typically generated by fees. Student fees that will be waived next year include, technology, registration, digital learning, instructional materials, course fees, and locks (for freshmen and new students). Fees that will not be waived include, but are not limited to replacement locks, yearbooks, summer driver's education, late fees, summer school, charges for damage to school-issued iPads & peripherals, and student parking passes.

Families will still be responsible for paying all fees for the current school year, 2022-2023.

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.

Grading Reminders for Deadlines
As Semester 1 comes to a close, we would like to remind you of our deadline policy. It is imperative that all students understand the importance of deadlines to ensure college and career success. Semester 1

ends on January 13. When looking at Skyward, if students are missing assignments, you will see a “M” (Missing - Still Eligible to Submit) or “DNA” (Did Not Attempt - No Longer Able to Submit) attached to the assignment. Each course has a “Sunset Window” in which students are able to submit missing work, and teachers have been communicating these deadlines to students and families through Canvas and Skyward. If a student has missed the Sunset Window, they will not be eligible to turn in that assignment.

We sent out our revised Deadline and Retake grading procedure in a communication letter in August as well as continuous reminders in these communication letters. Here is a link to that letter for your review.

If your student needs to be enrolled in Summer School, counselors will communicate with you once grades are finalized on January 17th. Summer School is from June 12-July 20.

Official report cards and unofficial transcripts will be posted to Skyward for parents and students by Thursday, January 19th.

5Essentials Survey

We are writing to inform you about a student survey that will be administered at your child's school called the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. The 5Essentials is an evidence-based system designed to drive improvement in schools nationwide—it reliably measures changes in a school organization through the 5Essentials Survey and provides individualized, actionable Reports for each school. This survey is based on 20 years of research at the University of Chicago. It asks students about their experiences in school, giving school leaders critical student input to help develop school improvement plans.

Under recent legislation (Public Act 100-1046), the State Board is now mandated, on an annual basis, to implement a learning conditions survey. Student participants will be required to log-in using their student state ID and birth date in order to complete the survey. Students' identities will be completely confidential. Teachers or administrators will never see individual responses to survey questions and will only receive aggregated information, such as the total percentage of students who agree homework assignments help them learn the course material.

If you have any questions and/or do NOT want your child to participate, please email Jennifer Tan at jtan@ridgenet.org by January 20th. If we do not hear from you, we will assume your child has permission to participate in this program.

Before/After School Tutoring- FREE!

RHS offers FREE tutoring for all students. Tutoring is available in the Collaboration Center before school on B Days from 8:00 - 8:40 am and after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:15 pm. This is an opportunity for all students to receive extra time and support from a teacher to complete their assignments and make up any missing work prior to the Sunset Deadline. Questions about tutoring can be directed to Katie Davis at kdavis@ridgenet.org

ACCESS Testing

The ACCESS test is the annual assessment for all K-12 English Learners (ELs) in the State of Illinois. ACCESS scores are used to assess student progress and proficiency in English as well as to help determine placement in the EL program the following school year. The test will measure their listening & reading in one session and speaking & writing in another session. The scores monitor student progress in acquiring English and to determine if a student is eligible to exit an English language support program. If your child must test, a letter and email will be sent home in mid-December. Questions about ACCESS testing can be directed to Jennifer Tan at jtan@ridgenet.org.

Senior Cap & Gown Orders

In September, all Seniors completed a google form to order their cap & gown unit from Herff Jones. Herff Jones will be billing families sometime in January. Students will be able to pick up their cap/gown unit during lunch periods in mid-April. Specific dates will be relayed as we get closer to April. Questions about graduation can be directed to Jennifer Tan at jtan@ridgenet.org.

Elyssa's Mission Suicide Prevention Program

As the mental health crisis in teens continues to be a concern, Ridgewood High School will be offering depression awareness and a suicide prevention training as part of the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program to our Freshman students on February 2nd and February 16th. This program is funded by a nonprofit organization, Elyssa's Mission. The program aims to increase help-seeking behaviors among students concerned about themselves or a friend. Listed on SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, the SOS program showed a reduction in self-reported suicide attempts by 40-64% in randomized control studies (Aseltine et al., 2007 & Schilling et al., 2016).

Our goals in participating in this program are:

- To help our students understand that depression is a treatable illness
- To explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression
- To provide students with the training on how to identify serious depression and potential suicidality in themselves or a friend
- To impress upon youth that they can help themselves or a friend by taking the simple step of talking to a responsible adult about their concerns
- To help students know whom in the school they can turn to for help, if they need it

Information will be sent home to all Freshman parents outside of this communication. If you have any questions please call or email Haley Morelli, School Social Worker, (708) 697-5592 or hmorelli@ridgenet.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-/

FAFSA Reminder

Attention Seniors! This is a friendly reminder that FAFSA completion is a graduation requirement. If you have not completed the FAFSA, you must get that completed prior to being approved to graduate. If you need any assistance, please schedule an appointment with your counselor. If you need an evening appointment, please contact our ISAC representative, Elizabeth Barrera, at 630-689-7759 or https://calendly.com/elizabeth-barrera.

2023-24 Course Registration

During the month of January, Freshmen and Sophomores will be meeting with their counselors to finalize their course registration for the 2023-24 school year. Course registration will close on Friday, January 27th. If you have any questions about your student's course selection for next year, please

reach out to their counselor directly. If you are a current junior and you missed your meeting in December, please schedule an appointment with your counselor as soon as possible.

A-G	Mr. Gyori- jgyori@ridgenet.org
H-O	Ms. Jellissen- mjellissen@ridgenet.org
P-Z	Ms. Young- tyoung@ridgenet.org

This is also a friendly reminder that PE Exemption and SILC Applications are due by Friday, January 27th at 3:00 P.M. No applications will be accepted after this date and time.

Cyber

Interested in Cyber? RHS will be starting a new Cyber Program beginning the 2023-2024 school year. Please see your counselor for more information!

Ridgewood Spring Sports:

As we turn the calendar to 2023 the RHS Spring Athletic Season is just around the corner! Below is a

list of our Spring Sport offerings with start date and head coach:

SPORT	START DATE	HEAD COACH
Boys Track	January 30, 2023	Tony Guagenti (aguagenti@ridgenet.org)
Girls Track	January 30, 2023	Tony Guagenti (aguagenti@ridgenet.org)
Baseball	February 27, 2023	Vince Fanelli (vfanelli@ridgenet.org)
Softball	February 27, 2023	Haley Morelli (hmorelli@ridgenet.org)
Girls Soccer	February 27, 2023	Matt Bishop (mbishop@ridgenet.org)
Boys Volleyball	March 6, 2023	Dani Rzewnicki (drzewnicki@ridgenet.org)

To register for a Spring Sport, please go to the Registration Link. Additionally, all athletes will need a valid physical on file with the Ridgewood High School Athletic Department prior to participating. You can access the IHSA Physical Form here: IHSA Athletic Physical Please check our RHS Athletic Department Website for more information.

Ridgewood High School Parents Club:

Please consider joining the Ridgewood High School Parents Club!! The Mission of the RHS Parents' Club is to enhance the high school experience for the students. The RHS Parents' Club is a diverse group of committed adults who volunteer for this non-profit organization to support social activities and provide opportunities for our children to network and learn from each other. For more information check out the Ridgewood Parents Club Website Link.

Athletics, Activities, and Extracurricular Events:

Ridgewood Rewards are back!! Current Ridgewood students should locate the QR Code sheet at our home athletic and activity events and scan in to earn points for fantastic Ridgewood merchandise! Questions can be directed to Athletic Director, Rob St. John (rstjohn@ridgenet.org) or Public Relations Coordinator, Bree Sabin (bsabin@ridgenet.org). A schedule of all of our home and away athletic contests can be found Here. A full calendar of all of the events happening at Ridgewood can be found Here.

Ridgewood Clubs & Activities

Ridgewood is proud to offer 32 engaging Extracurricular Clubs and Activities. All of our Clubs and Activities are led by an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the RHS Staff. Please take a moment to browse our RHS Clubs and Activities Website for more information and details about the incredible opportunities we offer the students in the district. Feel free to reach out to Rob St. John (rstjohn@ridgenet.org) or Megan Cantos (mcantos@ridgenet.org) with any questions. Website link: https://www.d234.org/clubs/

After School Computer Science

SAT Prep is coming in January –free for all juniors:

Career Opportunities for Students

If students are interested in a career with the Illinois Department of Human Services, please attend a recruitment presentation below.

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.

Best,

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.