

Maureen Forsythe

From: Gina Castellano <gcastellano@ridgenet.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 8:00 AM
To: Maureen Forsythe
Subject: Updates from RHS



Dear Ridgewood Families,

Here is what is happening at Ridgewood High School in the next few weeks:

Dates to Remember:

March 6th- NO SCHOOL (Pulaski Day)
March 16th- Parent Teacher Conference
March 20th -Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) for all Juniors
March 31st- 5Essentials Survey closes!

5Essentials Survey for Parents

As part of its state-led school improvement efforts, the Illinois State Board of Education mandates that all schools administer the Illinois 5 Essentials survey. I am asking you to take approximately 5-10 minutes to respond to this survey before March 31, 2023.

To complete the parent survey, please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/login/>.

Your feedback is absolutely essential to our continual improvement process at Ridgewood High School. Your survey responses will highlight our strengths and the areas that need support. I'd like to thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy day to assist us with this very important initiative. Should you have questions, please contact Jennifer Tan at jtan@ridgenet.org.

Reminder from the Attendance Office

Whenever your student is arriving late to school, needs to leave early, or is absent from school, please remember to call the Attendance Office as soon as practical at 708-697-1258. Calls are accepted 24 hours a day. Please leave a message with your student's full name and details of the absence. If there are questions regarding your student's absence, the Attendance Clerk may contact you for further information.

Parent Teacher Conferences

It is time for 2023 Spring Conferences! Due to the positive feedback we heard from families and the increased number in attendance since offering virtual conferences, we will continue to **offer conferences remotely via ZOOM again this year**. RHS families will have the opportunity to meet with students' teachers, counselors, and social workers. Families will log into Skyward Family Access, click on their student's schedule, and choose the teachers, counselors, and social workers they would like to meet with. Step-by-step instructions are at the end of this letter. Here is the date and time of conferences:

Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Registration will open February 21st and will close at 8:00 A.M. on March 15th. Once registration closes, you must contact the teacher directly to schedule an appointment. Our staff will email the conference Zoom link directly to families scheduled for conferences on March 15th.

Current student grades will be accessible via our online student information system, Skyward. Please log into Skyward in advance of your conference to review and/or print your student's grades.

Students are welcome and encouraged to participate in the conferences with their parents/guardians and to be an active part of the discussion about their academic progress. If, for any reason, you cannot make an appointment during these times, *please reach out directly to our staff.* Our teachers, counselors, and social workers would be happy to meet with you at a time that works for you. We look forward to talking with you and your student(s) at conferences.

Questions regarding Spring Conferences can be directed to the Division Head of Student Services, Katie Davis, at kdavis@ridenet.org, or the Assistant Principal, Eric Lasky, at elasky@ridgenet.org.

***Directions of how to sign up for conferences are attached in a separate email home.**

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

On Monday, March 20th, Ridgewood High School will administer the ISBE-sponsored Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) to all Juniors. This assessment helps families understand how well students are performing academically and see whether they are on track to succeed in college. The ISA represents Illinois' commitment to preparing all students for college and careers, including in the high-demand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The assessment also satisfies federal accountability requirements.

Important Test Day Information:

- Students will be using their RHS issued iPad for testing, so please make sure to bring your fully charged iPad
- Testing will begin promptly at 8AM and end approximately around 11:30AM in the Field House
- Students are expected to attend classes after testing is completed

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Tan at 708-697-5548 or jt@ridgenet.org.

Quest Bridge Scholarship

Attention Juniors! Quest Bridge Scholars **is looking for high school juniors who have shown outstanding academic ability despite financial challenges.** They take a holistic approach to reviewing applications, and they do not have absolute criteria or cut-offs for GPA, standardized test scores, income, or other factors. To learn more, please visit their website at <https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/college-prep-scholars/who-should-apply#eligible> Applications are due by March 22, 2023. Please see your counselor as soon as possible for more information.

Triton Associate Degree Program Informational Session

During this school year, Ridgewood has four students participating in the Triton Associate Degree Cohort. This program allows students to earn their Associate Degree while enrolled in high school, earning both high school and college credit. Next year we are excited to invite current sophomores (2023-24 11th-grade students) to participate in the second cohort. If you would like to learn more about this program, please attend an informational session on **Tuesday, February 21st.** We will be running both an in-person session (2:00-2:45 P.M. at RHS) and one on Zoom (6:00-6:45 P.M. <https://zoom.us/j/98069524127>) We will discuss the following topics: Requirements for the Associate Degree Program, Placement into the cohorts, Student schedule for the 23-24 school year, and Information for sign up.

Scholarships

Attention seniors! 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/>

Financial Aid Offer Presentation

Attention Juniors and your family! Join us for this webinar offered by ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) to explain how to

evaluate financial aid offers from colleges. For more information, please see the below flyer. It is a one hour presentation on Wednesday, March 15th at 6:00 P.M. Please sign up via this link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r0b73d67ed40d1e6e372afe542519e932>

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's counselor.

-Last Name A-G: Mr. Gyori at jgyori@ridgenet.org

-Last Name H-O: Ms. Jellissen at mjellissen@ridgenet.org

-Last Name P-Z: Ms. Young at tyoung@ridgenet.org



Make College Happen! ( ISAC can help)

Financial Aid Offer Presentation

JOIN US FOR A FREE Financial Aid Offer Presentation

This event is designed to help seniors and parents evaluate financial aid offers from colleges. It includes a brief presentation on financial aid and how to read and evaluate financial aid offers. As well as, assistance from an ISACopr member in comparing financial aid offers. This event is best for those students who have received their financial aid offer from the college(s) to which they have been admitted.

JOIN US:
VIRTUAL EVENT

March 15th 6:00pm-7:00pm

Register here --> <https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r0b73d67ed40d1e6e372afe542519e932>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact your (students) High School Counselor at RHS

See you there!

www.isac.org

[@isacfindaid](https://www.instagram.com/isacfindaid) [@ILStudentAssistance](https://www.facebook.com/ILStudentAssistance) [@isacfindaid](https://www.tiktok.com/@isacfindaid)

Helping to
make college
accessible and
affordable for
Illinois students



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](#).

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](#).

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>.

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 Spring Sports:

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:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>HEAD COACH</u>
Boys Track	January 30, 2023 (It is not too late to join!)	Tony Guagenti (aguagenti@ridgenet.org)
Girls Track	January 30, 2023 (It is not too late to join!)	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

Academic Summer Opportunities 2023



ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS:

Ridgewood High School is pleased to announce our opportunities for the summer of 2023. These opportunities will only be offered in-person and include: summer school, driver education and 9th grade summer programs. Information about each opportunity can be found below.

Driver Education

Driver Education - CLASSROOM

The dates for Driver Education are June 12-July 26, 2023; Monday-Thursday.
No school June 19 and July 3-4, 2023. The fee for the program is \$60.

Driver Education – BEHIND THE WHEEL

The dates for Driver Education are June 12-July 26, 2023; Monday-Thursday. No school June 19 and July 3-4, 2023. The fee for the program is \$240.

Incoming 9th Grade Programs

Incoming 9th grade students who wish to partake in RHS summer school in the areas of reading and/or math may do so free of charge. These courses could be for acceleration or remediation, whichever is necessary for the individual student.

The dates for this freshman program are:

- June 20-July 20, 2023: Monday-Thursday from 8:00-11:00 A.M.

Summer School

Students that have not met course requirements and have earned Not Mets for the 2022-23 school year will be enrolled in Summer School to retake the course in order to stay on track for graduation. Summer School runs June 12-July 20 from 8:00-11:00 A.M. on Monday through Thursday. There is no Summer School on June 19, July 3, and July 4. By attending the dates and times of summer school provided by Ridgewood High School, students can make-up 1.0 credit over Summer School. If there is an extenuating circumstance where a student needs to make up more than 1.0 credit, it must be approved by Katie Davis, Division Head of Student Services and Career Pathways.

*If students would like to make-up courses outside of Ridgewood High School, RHS counselors will provide them with resources such as Triton night classes, American School, Penn Foster, or another local high school.

The following courses are recommended for the 2023 Summer School **credit recovery** offerings:

- Math
- English
- Physical Education
- Health
- PLTW
- US History
- Career Exploration (1/2 credit)
- Computer Science (1/2 credit)



*2022-23 seniors will have an exception to the courses listed above.

Fees for the 2022 Summer School Program:

- \$350 in district, \$400 out of district for 1.0 credit
- \$200 in district, \$250 out of district for 0.5 credits

To sign up for Summer School, please click this [link](#) or scan the QR code.

STEM Camp

Students entering 5th through 9th grade are invited to participate in this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) camp at Ridgewood High School. The camp will be June 20, 21 and 22, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

To sign up for STEM Camp, please click this link [STEM Camp](#) or scan the QR code.



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.