



# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Chris Uhle, Principal - Winter Edition 2016-2017

## Important Upcoming Dates

### February

08 Parent's Club Meeting  
15 Principal Advisory Council  
17 Institute Day - No School  
20 President's Day - No School  
24 Variety Show  
25 Winter Formal Dance  
27 School Board Meeting

### March

07 Rebel Pledge Night  
08 Parent's Club Meeting  
10 Spring Sports Pictures  
15 Spring Concert  
20 School Board Meeting  
21 NHS Induction

### Spring Break

Mar 27 - Apr 02

### April

05 SAT for Juniors  
12 Parent's Club Meeting  
14 No School  
17 No School  
19 Coffee House/Ridge Expo  
24 School Board Meeting  
25 SAT Makeups  
27, 28, 29 Spring Play

## Inside this Issue Update

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## *College and Career Readiness*

What does it mean to be college and career ready? That definition has changed over the last few years from relying on strictly academic indicators to now combining the latter with career indicators. Our school vision (*The Ridgewood High School Community creates a stimulating and respectful learning environment which ensures individual students become autonomous leaders in their pursuit of a well-rounded, multi-faceted education grounded in innovation, aspiration, and imagination.*) was designed by our school community to incorporate more than just academic standards. The following document (see page 2) is a proposal to the Illinois State Board of Education. We are both excited and supportive of the research-based work done to create these academic and career indicators. Our focus, along with a significant amount of work from the district level to the classroom level, is to equip our students with the skill set needed to thrive in the next phase (whatever that may be) of their life. We will continue to send updates on the powerful and impactful work being done by our teachers, administrators, and staff.



If you would like to discuss this topic more or have any questions, please contact me at [cuhle@ridgenet.org](mailto:cuhle@ridgenet.org).

In Partnership,  
Chris Uhle

## Parents Corner/Miscellaneous Links/Important Information

### ★ Attendance Article (see Page 3 for complete article and link is below)

- We need your help! Did you know missing more than 2 days a month (excused or unexcused) is considered chronic absenteeism!?
- Increased seat time = increased GPA
- <http://www.attendanceworks.org/whats-the-difference-between-chronic-absence-and-truancy/>

### Family Access Attendance Option - Skyward (Page 4)

- Start using Skyward to report student absences.

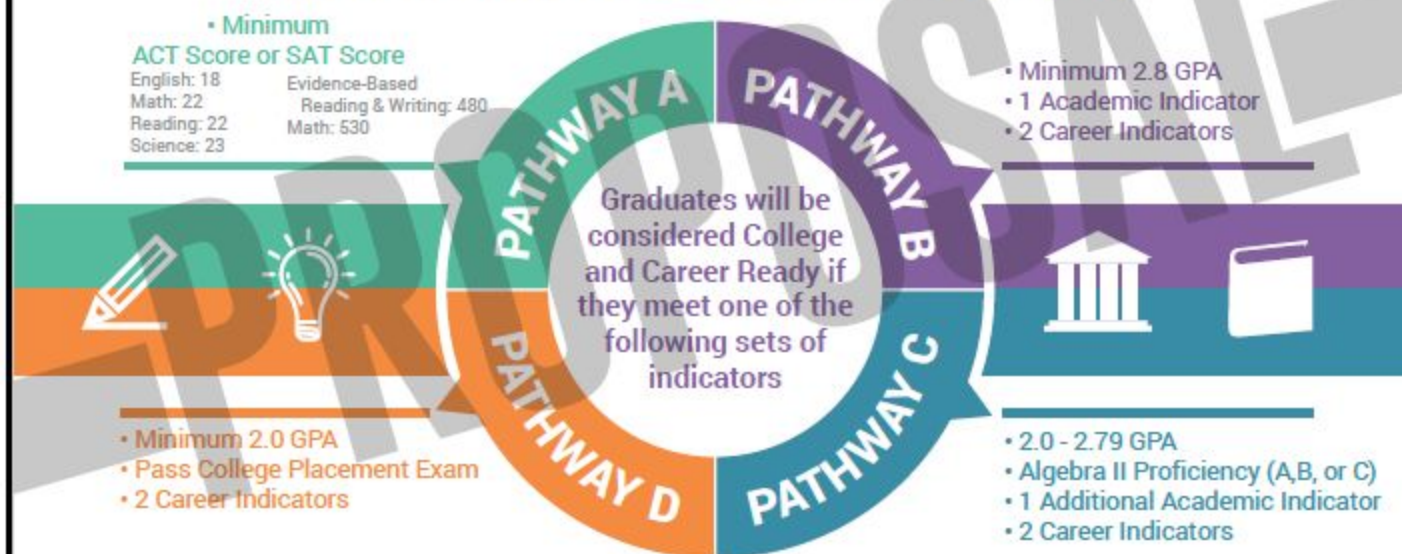


# ISBE COLLEGE & CAREER READY FRAMEWORK

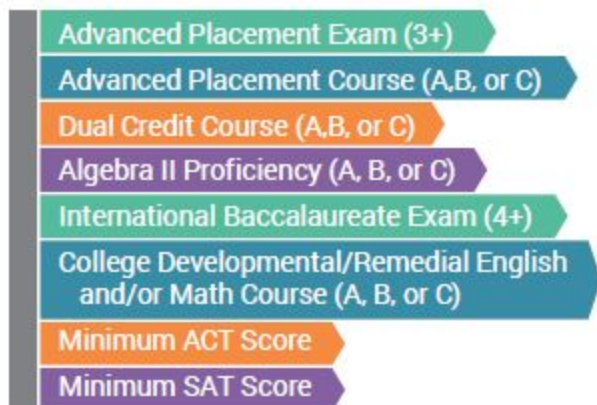
## DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR DESIGNATION



## COLLEGE & CAREER READY DESIGNATION



## ACADEMIC INDICATORS



## CAREER INDICATORS



Each school district has the flexibility to offer an academic program within this framework that meets the needs of their students and community.

# Parents Corner Article

*Below information is from [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)*

## **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY?**

As the concept of chronic absenteeism gains traction across the country, some people are under the mistaken impression that it's just a politically correct way of saying truancy. Educators, policymakers and journalists often use the words interchangeably, describing the same, old problem with the same, old solution.

In fact, the two terms describe different aspects of our absenteeism problem and require different approaches to bringing students back to school every day.

First, let's take truancy, a term that generally refers to unexcused absences. In the past, federal law required states to track truancy but left it to states to come up with the definition. California schools have tracked the number of students who are truant which is defined as missing three days without a valid excuse or are late three times to class by 30 minutes. In contrast, in Maryland, schools have monitored habitual truancy, defined as missing 20% of the school year (which is 38 days in a 180 day school year).

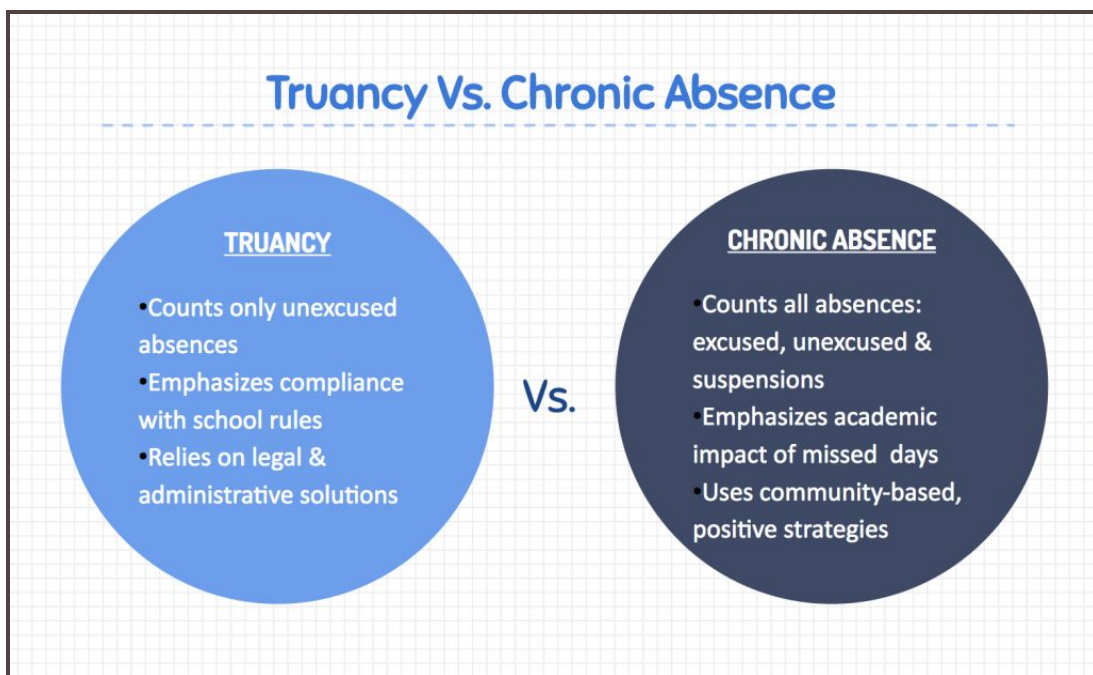
With its focus on unexcused absences, truancy naturally leads to a focus on compliance with the rules. Students are missing school without an excuse, skipping school and violating mandatory attendance requirements. Fixing the problem becomes a question of ensuring compliance, often left to front-office administrators, and in the most severe cases, to the legal system. Policymakers often recommend punitive consequences for truancy – such as suspensions, jail time and fines – for children and parents. Some communities and courts have devised effective approaches to reducing truancy, but in other places, punitive efforts are pushing students out of school.

Chronic absenteeism, on the other hand, incorporates all absences: excused, unexcused and suspensions. The focus is on the academic consequences of this lost instructional time and on preventing absences before students miss so much school that they fall behind. It recognizes that students miss school for many understandable issues such as asthma or homelessness or unreliable transportation, for which a punitive response is not appropriate. But what helps is working with families to share the importance of attendance and to fix the underlying problems that lead to absenteeism.

Given this broader focus, addressing chronic absenteeism becomes an issue for the entire community. Medical providers can help address health challenges; transit and housing agencies can resolve other barriers to attendance; volunteers from businesses and faith communities can mentor students and support families. These approaches can also reduce truancy.

Like truancy, chronic absence has no common definition, though many researchers and schools monitor how many students are missing 10 percent or more of the school year. That's about two days a month, or 18 days in most school districts. The U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights this spring will release data showing how many students miss 15 or more days.

This data represents the first time that many schools and districts will know how many students are missing so much school that they are falling behind academically. What's the right response to this new information? Rather than launching a punitive crackdown, educators and community partners should use the opportunity to dig deep into their numbers to determine who is missing too much school and why. Taking a data informed, non-punitive approach that draws upon insights from students, families, teachers and community partners is what leads to strategies that can improve attendance and achievement.

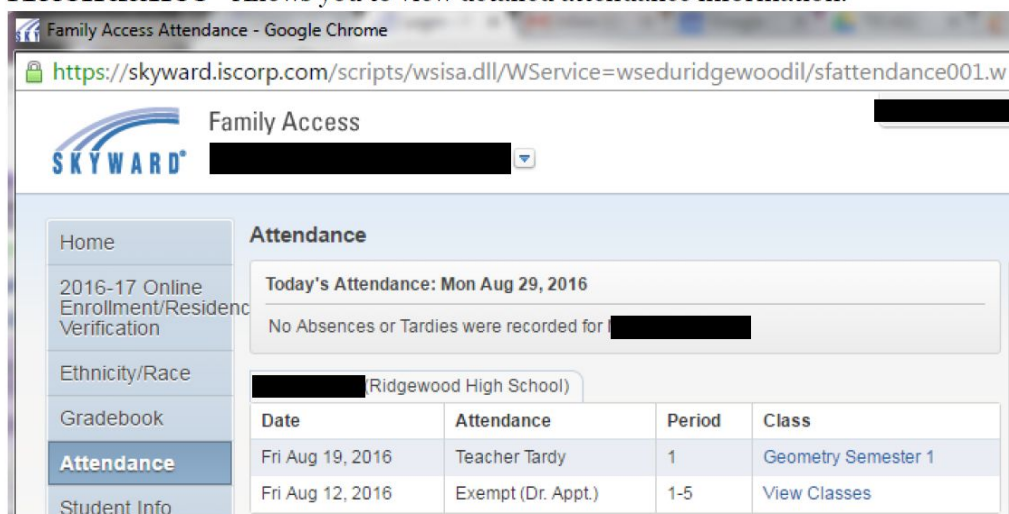




# Parents Corner ~ Family Access to Skyward Attendance

## ★ Family Access Attendance Option (picture from Skyward)

**Attendance** –Allows you to view detailed attendance information.



Date	Attendance	Period	Class
Fri Aug 19, 2016	Teacher Tardy	1	Geometry Semester 1
Fri Aug 12, 2016	Exempt (Dr. Appt.)	1-5	<a href="#">View Classes</a>

### Entering Absence Request

This allows you to notify your student's school when your student will be absent.

1. Click Enter Absent Request.
2. Select Add Request.
3. Enter the Start Date and Time and the End Date and Time.
4. Click the drop-down list to select a Reason why your student will be absent.
5. If desired, enter a Comment.
6. Click Save. Note that the Status is pending and awaiting approval from the attendance office.

You also have the capability to Edit the record, as well as to Delete the request.

## SAT/Khan Academy

The April 5th SAT administration date is right around the corner. All juniors have access to personalized test prep through Khan Academy, which has also been implemented into our Math and English curriculum. Students must have both a College Board and Khan Academy account to access the personalized program. All students should have created and linked both accounts during their English classes. Please send all students with questions to the Principal's Office.

Ridgewood will offer a comprehensive two day test prep program (at a cost) through ZAPS, a company specializing in teaching the strengths and weaknesses of the SAT. Details will be provided in the coming weeks.

## Upcoming Spring Break Trips

1. **Band** - 55 RHS band students will be traveling to Orlando, FL over spring break to perform at the Walt Disney World complex. The band was accepted by audition for the honor of performing for the international audience in attendance at Disney Springs on Sunday March 26. The band will also participate in a 3-hour clinic session with some of the professional musicians who work for Disney. Students will learn how the professional musicians on staff prepare music quickly and carefully for performance and will also get to hear themselves playing along with a Disney animated feature. Good Luck Band!
2. **Baseball** - Travels to Arizona to participate in the Coach Bob Invitational Tournament. The Rebels are slated to play four games against teams from Arizona and Colorado. The team will also attend a top tier Division I baseball game between Arizona State and UCLA. Good luck to Coach Fanelli and the team!

# Athletic Update

## **Dance/Poms**

Coach Daniela Briguglio and the Poms squad recently completed their IHSA Competitive Dance season. They competed on Saturday, January 21 at Huntley High School for the IHSA Sectional Championship and finished 7<sup>th</sup> Place (out of 16 teams). Unfortunately for our girls only the top six teams advance to the IHSA State Championships. The weekend prior, the team competed in the Metro Suburban Conference Dance/Cheer Competition at Elmwood Park High School and earned 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. While their competitive season is over, they will still perform at home basketball games and plan to have their Senior-Parent Night on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the last home boys basketball game of the season.

## **Cheer**

First year Head Coach Barbara Carabio and the Cheer team recently competed in the IHSA Sectionals at Conant High School on January 28, 2017. The team wrapped up a successful competitive season placing 9<sup>th</sup> overall in the Sectional. The team also had back to back competitions, placing 4<sup>th</sup> place at the Niles West Invitational and the next day the girls earned 5<sup>th</sup> place at the Metro Suburban Conference Dance/Cheer Competition. The Cheer Team will continue their sideline spirit at the boys and girls basketball games. The Cheerleaders are also having a "Kiddie Clinic" on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 pm. The participants of the camp will perform at halftime of the Boys Basketball game on February 17<sup>th</sup> against Chicago Christian. Their Senior-Parent Night on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the last home boys' basketball game of the season.

## **Wrestling**

Head Coach Jordan Lima is in his first year as head coach of the wrestling team at Ridgewood High School. He has a very young team, with no seniors on the squad. Despite being young, the team has shown tremendous growth over their long season. Over the course of the season, the team participated in the Vernon Hills Invite, Leyden Invite, and several quads and duals against non-conference and conference opponents. Most recently, Ridgewood hosted a quad on January 19, 2017 and a dual on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Sandwiched in between these events was the Metro Suburban Conference Wrestling Championship, hosted by Elmwood Park. The team finished 7<sup>th</sup> Place overall, out of the 11 schools in our conference that have wrestling teams. Next on the horizon is the IHSA Regional, hosted by Fenton High School on February 4, 2017.

## **Boys Basketball**

Coach Chris Mroz and the boys' basketball program started off the season as Champions of The "Battle at the Ridge" Tournament and went 5-0 in their first five games. Over Winter Break the team traveled out to DeKalb High School where they earned Third Place at the competitive Chuck Dayton Holiday Tournament. The boys recently wrapped up a very tough week against some of the strongest talent in the area - Loyola Academy, Notre Dame and Glenbard South. Unfortunately, the team suffered three losses during that stretch. The team rebounded nicely with conference victories over Walther Christian Guerin Prep. Their Senior-Parent Night on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the last home boys' basketball game of the season (against MSC rival Elmwood Park High School).

## **Girls Basketball**

Head Coach Amanda Timothy and the Girls Basketball team started the season earning a 4<sup>th</sup> Place finish in the Second Annual RHS Thanksgiving Tournament. The team also played terrific basketball in the Guerin Prep "Yuletide Classic" Tournament over Winter Break, where they earned 3<sup>rd</sup> Place honors. The girls have a few more regular season games before they look to start the IHSA Regionals (site and opponent is yet to be determined).

## Athletic Update (Continued)

### IHSA - CPR Training

In August 2013, Public Act 098-0305 took effect. This act requires the IHSA to be given a CPR training video to post on its website so that staff at IHSA-member schools can watch it. The act also indicates school districts shall notify parents and encourage them to view the video.

The following is a link to the CPR Training video on the IHSA website: [CPR Training Video](#)

## Student of the Quarter ~ (First and Second Quarters)

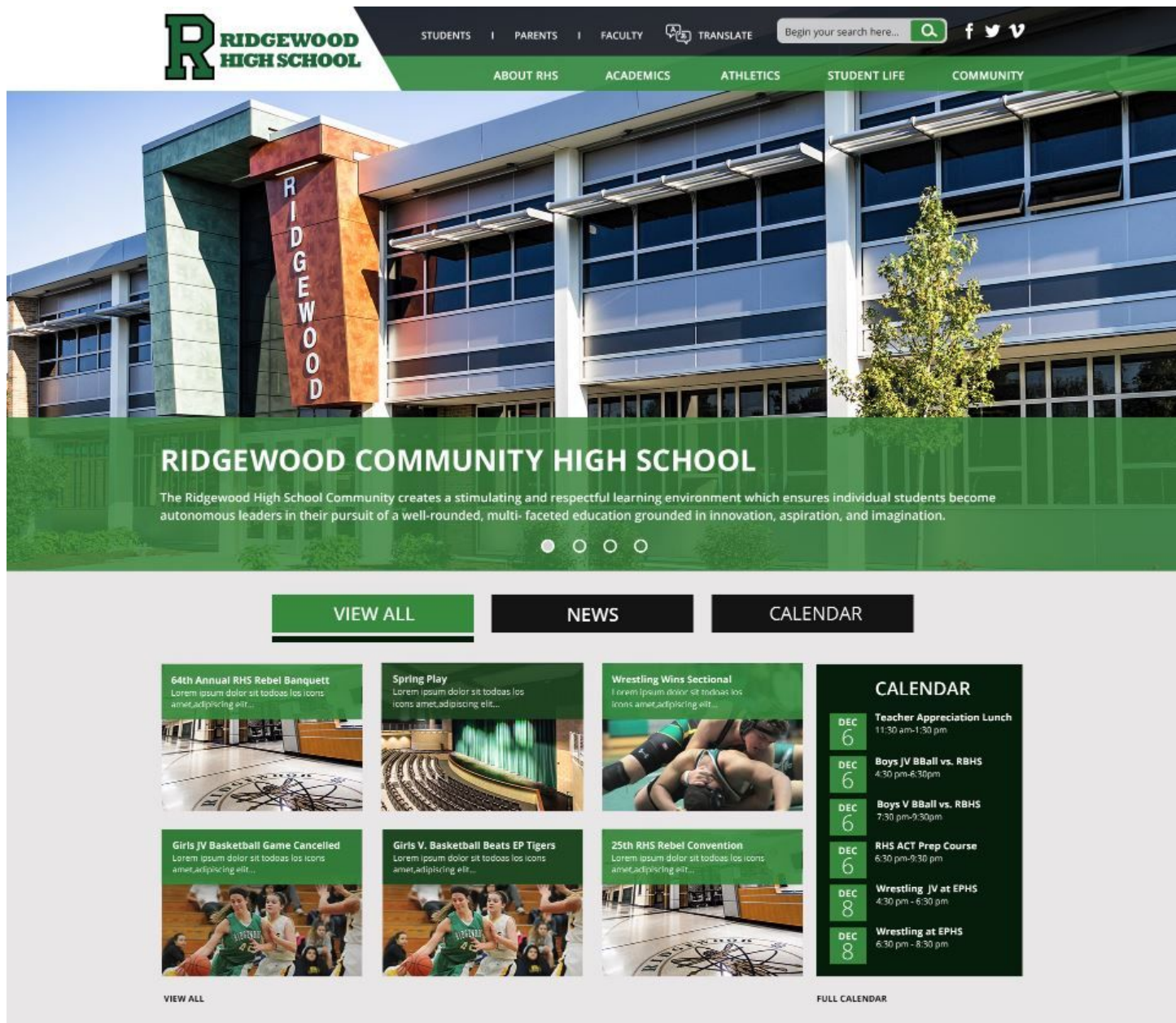
# RIDGEWOOD

## STUDENT OF THE QUARTER

Class	First Quarter	Second Quarter
PE/Health	Ristan Shynybek	Pat Owens
Music		Ethan Hardy
Math	Jose Luis	Anna Mola
Special Education	Pasquale Di Giulio	Paulina Gadek
Art	Grace Gonzalez	
Business	Stefania Bursuc	Brian Alton
Italian		Christina Sciuillo
Spanish	Joshua Bortis	
English	Heba Rubi	Aneta Zalinska
Social Studies	Taylor Peterman	Sabrina Tylka
ESL	Sarah Abdulameer	Victoria Stefaniv
Science	Sebastian Roman	Erik Flynn
Computer Science	Adam R Witusik	Dana Z Abdelhalim
Tech Ed	Joseph Ghuneim	Julie Clark

# New Website Coming Soon!

Here is a sneak peak of our redesigned home page!



# Principal Advisory Council

We had a very successful first three meetings and have since broken into teams to tackle our various needs as a community and district. Below is the list of teams and please feel free to join us at any of the upcoming monthly meetings!

1. **Website/Principal Newsletter** - *Filter and create content to be displayed on the school website, specifically targeting the "Parent" landing page. Also assist with the content of the quarterly Principal Newsletter.*
2. **Community Outreach** - *Create lasting and useful community relationships with local entities and businesses. A specific focus on the career clusters to create internship and shadow opportunities for our students.*
3. **Parent University** - *A support system for parents by parents. Create specific support groups and provide educational opportunities for parents.*
4. **Marketing** - *Time to put RHS on the map! The marketing campaign will focus on branding and getting our name out there on a "global" level.*
5. **Event Advisors** - *All RHS school events will be filtered through this group to ensure parent input on the organization and content of each event. Assist in the planning of future events.*

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 15th at 7 pm in the Library.



# Department Highlights

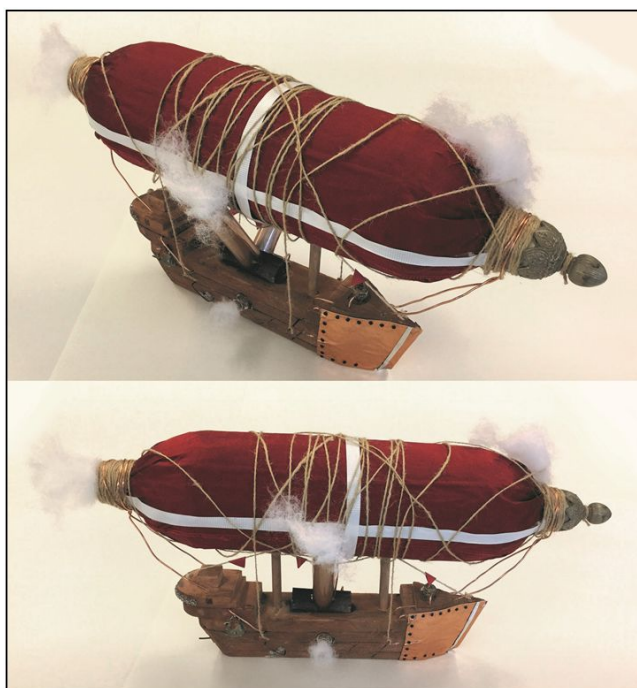
## **Art - Ridgewood Art Students Earn Awards at Triton Art Competition**

Ridgewood High School art students recently participated in the annual Triton College High School Art Competition. "The competition was strong, with eight local schools competing; Ridgewood, East Leyden, West Leyden, Proviso East, Guerin College Prep, Elmwood Park, St. Joseph, and PMSA. I am very proud of our students' artistic creativity and accomplishments!" remarked Mrs. Machaj, Ridgewood art teacher.

Congratulations to our Art students who earned the following awards:

### **Peter Diamond**

1st Place in Sculpture (See picture below), ***Best of Category in Sculpture, and Best of Show***



<b>Aalia Galati</b> , 1st place in Sculpture	<b>Aneta Zalinska</b> , 2nd place in Sculpture
<b>Wiktor Smolik</b> , 1st place in Painting	<b>Blake Majer</b> , 1st place in Painting
<b>Mercedes Lewicki</b> , 3rd place in Painting	<b>Alyanna Nolasco</b> , 1st place in Ceramics
<b>Gregory Rivera</b> , (two entries) Two (2) 2nd place in Photography	<b>Joseph Palmisano</b> (three entries) - second place in Photography, and Two (2)-3rd place in Photography
<b>Vinson Vlchek</b> , 1st place in Drawing	<b>Diana Hrushka</b> , 1st place in Design
<b>Keana Demitropoulos</b> , 3rd place in Design	<b>Elyse Pociecha</b> , 3rd place in Design
<b>Natalia Stopka</b> , 3rd place in Design	<b>Jailene Reyes</b> , 3rd place in Design
<b>Alexa Castaneda</b> , 3rd place in Design	

Triton College will be hosting a public reception for the students, their families, schools and the community on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. The reception will take place from 6:00pm to 8:30pm in the gallery of the Triton Fine Arts Building (J), located at Triton College, 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove, IL 60171.

## Department Highlights (Continued)

### **Business - North Suburban DECA's Regional Competition**

On Tuesday, January 24th, we had 47 students attend North Suburban DECA's Regional Competition. Students competed against just over 1,500 students from 18 schools on business/marketing concepts. Ridgewood had great success this year! Below is a list of students who won awards.

### **Mini Awards - Individual Sections**

<b>Jessica Lipski</b> 2nd Place - Marketing Exam - Apparel & Accessories 2nd Place - Marketing Role Play 1 - Apparel & Accessories 2nd Place - Marketing Role Play 2 - Apparel & Accessories	<b>Aulona Hyseni &amp; Daniela Campana</b> 3rd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Hospitality Services 1st Place Marketing Role Play 2 - Hospitality Services
<b>Amber Appelhans</b> 2nd Place - Marketing Role Play 2 - Food Marketing	<b>Kurt Delong</b> 2nd Place - Marketing Role Play 1 - Sports Marketing
<b>Jimmy Clark</b> 2nd Place Marketing Exam - Principles of Marketing 1st Place Role Play 1 - Principles of Marketing	<b>Alla Kos &amp; Kinga Sojka</b> 2nd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Hospitality Services 3rd Place Marketing Role Play 2 - Hospitality Services
<b>Taylor Peterman &amp; Ayleen Guardado</b> 2nd Place Marketing Role Play 2 - Hospitality Services	<b>Nijmeh Smairat &amp; Suzie Tomaison</b> 1st Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Hospitality Services
<b>Gintare Survilaite</b> 3rd Place Marketing Exam - Business Services Marketing	<b>Kinga Sojka</b> 3rd Place Marketing Exam - Hospitality Services
<b>Taylor Peterman</b> 1st Place Marketing Exam - Hospitality Services	<b>Caroline Lipski</b> 1st Place Marketing Exam - Marketing Management
<b>Caroline Lipski &amp; Mishel Habaci</b> 2nd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Marketing Management 1st Place Marketing Role Play 2 - Marketing Management	<b>Laura Vitiello &amp; Lia Tselepatiotis</b> 1st Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Marketing Management 2nd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Marketing Management
<b>Ann Marie Giuliano</b> 3rd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Marketing Management	<b>Dimitris Anastopoulos</b> 1st Place Marketing Exam - Sports Marketing
<b>Dimitris Anastopoulos &amp; Antonio Biondo</b> 2nd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Sports Marketing	<b>Ethan Hardy &amp; Scott Harbut</b> 3rd Place Marketing Role Play 2 - Sports Marketing
<b>Lina Hawari</b> 1st Place Marketing Exam - Sports Marketing	<b>Paulina Kozan</b> 2nd Place Marketing Exam - Sports Marketing
<b>Lina Hawari &amp; Paulina Kozan</b> 3rd Place Marketing Role Play 1 - Sports Marketing 1st Place Marketing Role Play 2 - Sports Marketing	<b>Viktoriya Salalova</b> 1st Place Marketing Exam - Travel and Tourism
<b>Idalia Zachara &amp; Viktoriya Salgalova</b> 2nd Place Role Play 1 - Travel and Tourism	

# Department Highlights (Continued)

## Business - North Suburban DECA's Regional Competition (Continued)



## Grand Awards - Overall Event Performance

<b>Jessica Lipski</b> 2nd Place Overall - Apparel and Accessories	<b>Jimmy Clark</b> 1st Place Overall - Principles of Marketing
<b>Taylor Peterman &amp; Ayleen Guardado</b> 1st Place Overall (Team) - Hospitality Services	<b>Suzie Tomasian &amp; Nijmeh Smairat</b> 2nd Place Overall (Team) - Hospitality Services
<b>Alla Kos &amp; Kinga Sojka</b> 3rd Place Overall (Team) - Hospitality Services	<b>Caroline Lipski &amp; Mishel Habaci</b> 1st Place Overall (Team) - Marketing Management
<b>Laura Vitiello &amp; Lia Tselepatiotis</b> 2nd Place Overall (Team) - Marketing Management	<b>Dimitris Anastopoulos &amp; Antonio Biondo</b> 2nd Place Overall (Team) - Sports Marketing
<b>Ethan Hardy &amp; Scott Harbut</b> 3rd Place Overall (Team) - Sports Marketing	<b>Lina Hawari &amp; Paulina Kozan</b> 1st Place Overall (Team) - Sports Marketing
<b>Idalia Zachara &amp; Viktoriya Salgalova</b> 1st Place Overall (Team) - Travel & Tourism	

## Spanish - Approval for the Spanish National Honor Society

Congratulations to Monica Hansen and Liz Romano for the approval of your charter of the Sonia Sotomayor Chapter of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica. Ridgewood High School will be inviting 30 students who have met the qualifying mark to an induction ceremony that will be taking place in the spring.