



Ridgeview Middle School

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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

August 13, 2021

Dear Ridgeview Families:

I hope that you are all well and staying safe. This year at Ridgeview (RMS) we are “**All In**”! All students will be returning back to the building **five days a week**. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to the building full time. In an effort to keep everyone safe, all students will still be expected to wear their masks on their respective buses and in the building **at all times**, regardless of their vaccination status, unless they are eating. We will also engage in 3ft of social distancing, when practical. Additionally, handwashing and hand sanitizer protocols will continue to be followed.

Our theme this year at Ridgeview is “**Building a Pathway for Student Success**”. The Ridgeview staff will be focused on providing the tools that your child will need to grow academically, socially and emotionally. With this in mind, as a school, we will continue to focus on the principles of the **Growth Mindset** and engage in **Mindfulness** practices. The growth mindset fosters a belief that “with practice, perseverance and effort people have limitless potential to learn and grow”. Mindfulness means “being fully in the present moment” which assists in helping our students to learn how to “manage their emotions, make good choices and balance their busy lives”. Additionally, we will be introducing students to the concept of **self-efficacy**. Self-efficacy is “a person’s belief in their ability to succeed in a particular situation”. It is my hope that students who embody the growth mindset, engage in mindfulness practices and self-efficacy will be well prepared to successfully navigate middle school and beyond!

At Ridgeview, high expectations continue to be a top priority. We expect each student to “**Be Responsible, Be a Member and Be Safe**” (i.e. **Be RMS**) as a member of the school community. These standardized expectations have helped us to create and maintain an award winning, positive environment that is focused on learning and is at the core of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Specific descriptions of each behavioral expectation can be found in our Ridgeview Middle School Student Handbook. Each student will receive a copy of the handbook **and** a copy is also available on our website. Additionally, each RMS family should review in detail with their child each expectation and other rules and regulations contained within the pages of the handbook.

Having good attendance is also a top priority at Ridgeview. Every student will be expected to attend school every day **on time**. **Irregular attendance is a major impediment to academic success**. Parents/guardians are expected to ensure that their child will attend school on a daily basis.

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

The first day of school for students is **Thursday, August 26, 2021**. Attached to this letter you will find our drop off and pick up procedures. It is imperative that each parent/guardian follows these procedures on a daily basis to eliminate unsafe conditions for our students. *This includes entering and exiting appropriately from the parking lot.* Please adhere to the posted signs. Also, pay close attention to students who are *crossing the streets* and *riding their bikes* to and from the building. Student safety continues to be our first priority and this requires everyone's adherence to our procedures. Additionally, please note that the **first few days of school will create a back log in the parking lot** as each parent becomes familiar with our procedures. Your understanding and patience is greatly appreciated!

Additionally, on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021**, we will have a **Virtual RMS Back to School Family Meeting**. This event will take place at **6:00 p.m.** on Zoom. During the meeting we will cover: our school focus, student & parent/guardian expectations, Title 1 Funding and more! I hope that you will join me to kick off the school year in a positive way! **The Zoom link was sent via email to all families.**

Below are items that need your immediate attention.

- ✓ **PROJECT CONNECT-** Please review the information regarding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the services that are available to those who are in need within the district.
- ✓ **RIDGEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY-** Please review the Ridgeview Middle School Parent Involvement Policy. Parent involvement is encouraged and expected at Ridgeview.
- ✓ **PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW-** As a Title 1 School we must meet certain federal regulations related to professional qualifications of teachers. The enclosed information addresses your rights as a parent in requesting this information.
- ✓ **PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) -** Please take the time to join the Ridgeview PTA. You can reach out to me directly at njames7586@columbus.k12.oh.us if you are interested in working with our PTA.
- ✓ **PARENT PORTAL-** Please make sure you update your information in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The most updated contact information for your child is needed for the District and our school to communicate with your family via phone, text and email. **If you have yet to activate your account please email our secretary, Ms. Andrea Evans at aevans1@columbus.k12.oh.us and she will provide you with your activation code.**
- ✓ **STAYING CONNECTED-** Please utilize our school website (www.ccsok.us/RidgeviewMS) and our social media platforms- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (RidgeviewProud and @Ridgeviewproud-handles) to stay up to date with what is happening at Ridgeview as well as to locate school related resources and documents (i.e. on our website).
- ✓ **GUIDE TO STUDENT SUCCESS-** An orderly and safe learning environment must have clear expectations for positive student behavior. A copy of the guide is available on the CCS website under the "Families" tab. Please review the guide with your child including the **CCS DRESS CODE**. Students at Ridgeview are expected to follow the CCS Dress Code and additional rules pertaining to student attire can be found in our Ridgeview Middle School Student Handbook. Students who fail to follow our established dress code will receive disciplinary consequences. Parents/guardians will be expected to **complete and sign the last four pages of the Guide to**

Student Success acknowledging you have read and understand what is being requested and return to school with their child.

- ✓ **PERMISSION SLIP TO CONSUME FOOD AND/OR SNACKS FOR SPECIAL OCCASSIONS AT RIDGEVIEW- A copy should be completed and returned with your child to school.**
- ✓ **ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT RIDGEVIEW-** Students are only allowed to utilize electronic devices at Ridgeview with the permission of a staff member. Without such permission all electronics should be ***off and put away***. This policy includes **cell phones**. Parents please make sure that you are doing your part to reinforce this rule. Please do not call or text your child during the school day on their cell phone. If you need to reach your child, please call the office and the office staff will assist you. ***Students who do not adhere to this rule are subject to disciplinary action.***

Parents/guardians, teachers, support staff, students and administrators must continue to work together to make sure that *each child reaches their fullest potential*. The Ridgeview staff is looking forward to a productive and mindful year!

Sincerely,

Natalie M. James
Principal