

THE LATEST
EDITION OF ...

The Ridgely Reader

VOLUME 2, EDITION 1



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Welcome to RMS, Ms. Truesdell!

Ms. Truesdell is the new principal at Ridgely Middle School. This is her first year here and she has loved it so far. We asked her a few questions about her life and her teaching career. She has been an ESOL teacher, a high school English teacher, an assistant principal, an assistant to two Assistant Superintendents, and a principal. She has worked at Prettyboy Elementary School and many other familiar places. She has always wanted to go to middle school and was overjoyed that Ridgely was going to be a lighthouse school. Ms. Truesdell has enjoyed Ridgely so far, from the “excellent teachers” to the hardworking students that are “all about learning”.

As for the transition, she has not had any trouble changing and has really liked the new environment. Everyone has been very nice and the teachers are very welcoming.

Ms. Truesdell has fond memories of her experiences in school. When she was in elementary school, she preferred math and getting into small groups to solve problems because of her introvert personality. In middle school she loved music and theater because her reading and Spanish teachers were in charge of the drama club. She felt comfortable and confident performing in front of people and fellow students. When she was in high school she enjoyed English and theater.

She loves coming to school and seeing our 1,200 students learning new and exciting things that will help them in their future.



Middle school provides students with the independence that they have always wanted. In elementary school, she says, students stay with one teacher and do not get to experience different learning types that multiple teachers provide. She loved being a teacher but chose to become a principal because she gets to not only work with all the students but also all the staff. Ms. Truesdell loves all the responsibility that she has, all the problem solving that she gets to do, and how she gets to help so many different teachers and students. Although there are always a few bad aspects of life, she thinks it's mostly made up of good things. She loves that the sixth graders have devices and she says that “as long as the devices are used to enhance learning [Ms. Truesdell is] a total fan.”

Ms. Truesdell is a very interesting and important person to the whole school. She is helped students and even teachers learn and that's pretty cool!

*By Sarah Stevens, Courtney May,
Lindsay Noonan, & Charlotte Bott*

**“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing”
~Benjamin Franklin**

In addition...

The Ridgely Reader would also like to welcome Ms. Kambic, Ms. Freedburger, Ms. Gates, Ms. Galczynski, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Kreutzer to Ridgely Middle School! We are looking forward to featuring interviews with those new teachers in our next edition. Meanwhile, be sure to say hello when you see these new faces in the hallway!



RIDGELY READER

Welcome, Mr. Durham!

One of the newest additions to the Ridgely staff is Mr. Durham. He's an 8th grade American history teacher who just transferred from Loch Raven High School to try something new. He's been teaching a whopping 26 years! He says Ridgely is definitely a big change. "Middle schoolers are more enthusiastic and open minded. The school is very diverse and accepting."

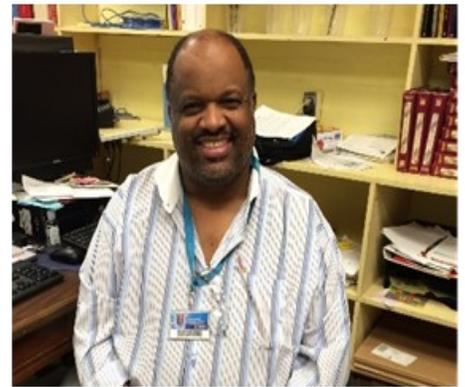
Mr. Durham has also taught World History, Economics, African American History, Holocaust History, and Facing History. His favorite was Facing History, even though it's a harsh topic. He finds it very interesting because history is constantly changing.

What Mr. Durham enjoys most about teaching is interacting with the students and exchanging ideas. His most memorable moment as a teacher was when he realized that he taught a 7th grader *and* that 7th grader's mother!

His favorite moment so far at Ridgely was the field trip to Philadelphia with the 8th graders. He says he loves the positive energy of Ridgely students.

His advice for 7th graders he will be teaching next year: Talk to 8th graders about oral history and get excited to be my students!

By Claire Gartner and Ami Makadia



Getting to Know Mr. Ayers

*By Claire McGinnity and
Laura Hennawi*

One of the newest faces around the building is Mr. Ayres, the new American History teacher. He taught for 10 years at Perry Hall Middle, until he noticed an opening for the Social Studies Department Chairman at Ridgely Middle School. The position was a good step in advancing his career and it was closer to his home in Pennsylvania. Driving to school and back home is a "... nice drive especially in the fall..." but can get old quickly. With two younger daughters and a "jug" (a

mix between a Jack Russell terrier and a pug) waiting at home, the ride seems even longer.

In his free time, Mr. Ayres enjoys watching baseball and football. However, he prefers baseball for its strategy and longer season.

When he's here at Ridgely, Mr. Ayres works hard to help perfect the social studies department, so he doesn't currently have much time to be a part of any club. However he is interested in creating or helping one in the future. "Ridgely is a great school with great kids," shares Mr. Ayres. Wave hello next time you see him around the school!

Flu Shot or Spray?

Flu medication is a barrier against common strains of the flu. The question is, flu shot or nasal spray?

The flu shot can reduce more serious flu outcomes such as hospitalizations. But, the flu shot does not guarantee protection. There are many different types of flu, and you can't put seventeen medications into one tiny shot. So, every year, they have to guess which type of flu will be going around. Fourteen out of the seventeen times, they get it right. The other three times, they get it wrong. "As many strains (variations of a sickness) that you can do, the better it is," stated Deb Westwater,

Ridgely's School Nurse.

The other option is nasal spray. Most people choose nasal spray because they are afraid of needles. The other reason is medical problems. If you get the flu shot and have asthma, blood disorders, a disease, or disorder, there could be severe side effects.

Flu researchers predict the flu that will go around and put it in a shot. The thing is, nasal spray can't have as many types of flu in it as a flu shot. Flu shots have dead viruses in them and nasal sprays have live viruses in them. The

doctors put small amounts of the flu virus in the shot/spray. It's not enough to give you the flu, but it is enough to teach your immune system to fight the virus. If you have the nasal spray you can't be around elderly or sick people.



BCPS is offering a flu nasal spray. It can protect against four different strains. Right now, that is the most strains that can fit into one little nasal spray. If you want more details, you can ask Mrs. Westwater.

By Courtney May and Ryan Patterson

Ridgely Brings the Heat

By Alex Shaw

The basketball season is here and your Ridgely Stags basketball teams are preparing for another round of wins. But first, let's look at how both the girls and boys did last year. The Ridgely Boys went 7-2 last year also beating our rivals the Cockeysville Cougars 50-40. The Ridgely Girls team went 5-6 last year with 4 of the last 5 games being wins.

This year's Boys basketball team features Ben Boas, Shaun Brokington, Tshepho Mahlangu, Tucker Moore, Tripp Myers, Sean Powell, Cameron Smith, Henry Weir, Justin White, Jordan Wenzl, Kevin Doyle, Jack Felt, and Ben Smith.

This year's Girls basketball team features Summer Arzoni, Ally Carter, Courtney Coates, Haley Greten, Mackenzie Hoey, Mary Lige, Annie Lodge, Ava Papale, Lindsey Schlossenberg, Lexi Smith, Sophia Taffe, Tori Vidmar, and Sammy White.

The team managers are Brain Graziano, Lorenzo Sanz, Julia Liu, Cathy Levy, and Lauren Krimm. Help support our Ridgely basketball teams by coming to watch. Their next home games are Monday, February 8th, and Wednesday the 10th starting at 4:00 P.M. Admission is \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults. Please come support our Ridgely basketball team and show some spirit!



Mr. Brown strategizes with the Lady Stags.





Guess the Teacher!



Use these hints to guess the teacher. Put your name and answer on a piece of scrap paper and place it in the Guess the Teacher! box in the office. Good luck and happy guessing!

1. I have no pets but I want a hedgehog named Sonic.
2. My dad was a coach for the Orioles.
3. I am on the leader board for Rock Band.
4. My favorite drink is tea.
5. I've been to over a 100 concerts.

Who am I?

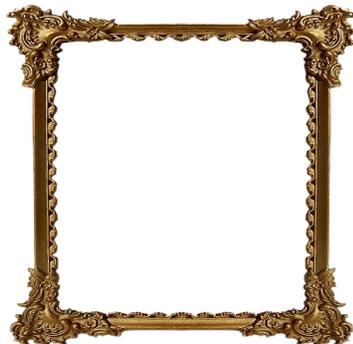
Check this Out!

Coming Soon!

by Ami Makadia

If you're an artist or writer stay tuned for the Ridgely Reader talent showcase. It's a new part of our newspaper. Anyone who wants artwork or a comic to be shown in these pages can submit their work to Mrs. Fanshaw. Every issue we will choose a couple pieces created by our own Ridgely students. Don't be shy, show us your talent!

Your work
could be
here! —>



The Ridgely Reader has created a survey that's just for you! If as many people as possible complete it, we'll know what you're interested in and report accordingly. Go ahead and take the survey and let us know what you think! You can access it at the hyperlink below!

[Ridgely Reader Interest Survey](#)



Stag Time

By Claire Gartner

Another new thing at Ridgely this year—Stag Time. It stands for Students Teachers Administrators Growing. Every Wednesday of the month Stag Time will occur in a different subject. The first Wednesday's STAG time will be in Reading/Language Arts and Foreign Language. The next week it's Math. The third Wednesday will be Science and the final one is Social Studies. STAG time is an opportunity to catch up on missing work or review any subjects you are unsure about. If you don't need to make up work, you can participate in enrichment activities to extend your learning. Stag Time ensures no students are left behind or are hurting their grade by not turning in work!

Meet the Staff

The Ridgely Reader staff for the 2015-2016 school year is excited to release our first edition! We would like to introduce ourselves. Our 8th graders include-Ariful Anwar, Claire Gartner, Laura Hennawi, Ami Makadia, Claire McGinnity, Robin Park, Emily Rosenbaum, and Irene Sung. Our one and only 7th grader is Julianna Bullis.



Our 6th graders include- Sarah Stevens, Charlotte Bott, Ryan Patterson, Courtney May, Alex Shaw, and Lindsay Noonan. We look forward to writing for you!



RMS
MARCH
MADNESS
#RED VS. BLACK

Coming to Ridgely Middle School March 11