

December 2018

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students and Families,

The holiday season is approaching quickly and we have a lot to be thankful for at Ridgely Middle School. I was proud of our students, staff, parents, guardians, and community members who participated in the 1st Annual Turkey Trot. The winners earned turkey legs and we raised \$4,767 for Ridgely Middle School. I want to recognize Mrs. S. Wilson and the fundraising team for doing a fantastic job coordinating this event which was a monumental task.

We are excited to share that RMS was awarded an \$8,000 Innovative Learning fund from BCPS. We will use this money to enhance our instructional program and after school activities. The first quarter honor roll included 766 students (66%). Additionally, we had 203 outstanding students who earned Straight A's. This is 17% of our total school population. I am so proud of our students for attaining this academic accomplishment. We are going to have an ice cream party to recognize our Straight A students on December 10th. Students will receive their invitations this week.

I have created a student and principal advisory group that I will meet with quarterly. The students were selected by teachers, counselors, and administrators from each grade level. The purpose of the advisory group is provide a students' voice regarding our instructional program and the climate/culture at Ridgely Middle School. A student's voice is invaluable in contributing to the success of a school.

We had 481 family members visit us during American Education Week. Even though we had an unprecedented snow day on Thursday of that week in November and a delayed opening on Friday, our RMS families' commitment to their child and our school was fantastic. Parental support is a critical factor to promote academic excellence and we have the most supportive parents in Baltimore County Public Schools. The overall feedback we received was positive regarding our instructional program.

I have been very impressed with the number of students who are involved in after school activities and clubs. If your child is not currently involved in any of our afterschool programs, please encourage him/her to get involved. We have nearly 40 different clubs.

We have an exciting December as we will have our winter concerts. Our sixth grade concerts will take place on December 5th and 20th. The seventh grade concert will be held on December 12th and the eighth grade concert will be held on December 19th. Additionally, this week we are having our book fair and on Thursday our hour of coding for students.

This is a reminder for car drop off in the Lynncrest parking lot. For the safety of our students, drop off must occur in the right lane closest to the school. Additionally, to make the car drop off line more efficient, students should be dropped off after the car enters the main entrance as opposed to waiting to be the first car closest to the door.

Happy holidays to you and your family!

Seth Barish
Principal