

December 2019

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 Second Annual Turkey Trot. The winners earned turkeys and we raised \$3,000 for Ridgely Middle School. I want to recognize Mr. Popielski, Mrs. Freeburger, and the fundraising team for doing a fantastic job coordinating this event which was a monumental task.

Our students continue to achieve and amaze me every day. The first quarter honor roll included 774 students (70%). Additionally, we had 170 outstanding students who earned Straight A's. This is 15% of our total school population. I am so proud of our students for attaining this academic accomplishment. Students who earned Straight A's will be recognized with certificates, an ice cream, and a ticket to the Wizards game. All students who earned honor roll will have their names displayed outside of our guidance office. Additionally, students who had perfect attendance were recognized with a certificate and pencil for this accomplishment.

I had the opportunity to meet with our new members of my student advisory group. The students were selected by teachers, counselors, and administrators from each grade level. I will meet with my student advisory group quarterly. The purpose of the advisory group is to 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 429 family members visit us during American Education Week. 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 more than 30 clubs.

I would like to continue to encourage all of our parents to join the PTA and support all PTA activities. We have an outstanding PTA and this organization contributes considerable time, effort, and financial support to our educational programs. Our students and staff members benefit from their hard work. If you have not joined the PTA, please consider joining as soon as possible.

December looks very exciting as we will have our winter concerts. Our eighth grade concerts will take place on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The seventh grade concert will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> and the sixth grade concert will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Additionally,

this week we are having our book fair and on Thursday, December 12 we are excited to have our hour of coding for students.

Happy holidays to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Seth Barish  
Principal