

February 2019

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students and Families,

It is hard to believe that we have just passed the midway point of this school year. The second marking period ended on January 25 and report cards will be distributed on February 7. Our students will begin to take the winter administration of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment beginning on February 5 to determine the students' achievement level and growth from last winter. This is a very important assessment to determine how much progress our students have made in mathematics and reading. We will continue to prepare for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in April. Additionally, our eighth graders will take Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) in March. Fifty of our grade 8 students have been randomly selected to take the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessment in March. The goal for all of our students is to demonstrate growth and achievement in math and reading.

I am excited to announce that Ms. Dress, art department coach, has been selected as our Teacher of the Year nominee. This is a great and well-deserved honor as Ms. Dress is an excellent teacher who goes above and beyond for her students, staff, and the art department. Ms. Dress is an invaluable member of Team Ridgely and we are excited for her to represent our school for the BCPS Teacher of the Year ceremony.

Ridgely Middle School has been selected to become an Advancement Via Individualized Determination (AVID) secondary expansion site for the 2019-2020 school year. The AVID program promotes college and career readiness skills to improve achievement for students at the secondary level, college, and beyond. Our teachers will be receiving professional development and we will identify an AVID Site Team of staff members who will be going to Philadelphia this summer for training. We will have one to two elective sections in eighth grade and there will be an application process for acceptance. Additional information regarding AVID will be shared in the upcoming months.

Our Staff Member of the Month for January is Ms. Ging, eighth grade math teacher. Ms. Ging is a wonderful math teacher who focuses on engaging all of her students. Additionally, she is a collaborative educator who supports her colleagues.

I want to share some exciting information with you regarding an assembly we are having at Ridgely Middle on February 6. Camden, the Channel 11 (WBAL TV) puppy with a purpose, is visiting with her handler, Deana Stone. From 9:15 until approximately 9:50, seventh graders will assemble in the gymnasium to hear how Camden is being trained as a service dog and Camden will show off what she can do. Camden will become a service dog for a United States veteran or first responder. Here's information on Camden in case you don't know about her. <https://www.wbal.com/article/vote-for-a-name-for-wbal-tvs-puppy-with-a-purpose/18703565>

Time to take the BCPS Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey

Taking the annual BCPS Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey is a quick way to let us know what you think about this school, demonstrate support for BCPS, and help the school system meet its goal of preparing and graduating globally competitive students.

Available online from January 18- February 24 at the BCPS Web site (www.bcps.org), the survey is confidential and available in several languages. The survey has also been customized so that there are different (but related) questions for school-based staff, parents, students, community members and central office staff.

The survey can be taken from anywhere using any device, but students and staff will be given opportunities to take the survey at school, and parents can also choose to come to the school to take the survey.