

January 2019

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students and Families,

I hope you and your family members had a joyous holiday season and your child has returned to school ready and eager to learn. The second half of the school year is a very important portion of the year. The second quarter ends on January 25 and during the months ahead 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 the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) in March. Fifty of our Grade 8 students will be 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.

Last month, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released the STAR rating for every public school in Maryland based on the performance from the 2017-2018 school year. The rating is comprised of academic achievement and growth in mathematics and reading, and school quality/student success indicators which includes Chronic Absenteeism/Attendance, Climate Survey, and opportunities and access to a well-rounded curriculum. The Maryland Report Card displays data by measure for each indicator, provides a star rating for each school based on the percent of points earned, and reports achievement proficiency by aggregate and subgroup. Ridgely Middle School received a 4 star rating out of a possible 5 stars. Although there were no middle schools in BCPS that earned a 5 star rating, we are going to work very hard and continue to strive for academic excellence by closing gaps for students who are not achieving academic success and raising the bar for students to reach their academic potential. As Team RMS, students, staff, and RMS families will work collaboratively to ensure that all of our students attain academic achievement and Ridgely earns a 5 star rating.

In December, we began a new program to recognize our fantastic staff at Ridgely Middle School. Staff members selected a member of our team who continually goes above and beyond for the students and staff. The staff member with the most votes and best rationale is selected. We are excited to announce that Mr. Sparenberg, Grade 7 science teacher and technology liaison, received the RMS Staff Member of the Month award. He will be able to park in the principal's parking spot for a week. Mr. Sparenberg is an invaluable member of Team RMS.

On January 10, RMS is going to participate in Team BCPS day. To show unity for our school system, we are encouraging all students and staff to wear blue. This is a great way to showcase our pride in Baltimore County Public Schools.

Our boys and girls basketball team continue to work hard and demonstrate excellent sportsmanship. I would like to thank Coach Brown and Coach Kunz, and all the players on the team for the outstanding way they are representing Ridgely Middle School. Our home games are scheduled for January 3, January 10, January 17, January 22, and January 29. I hope you are able to attend one of the games.

Sincerely,



Seth Barish
Principal