

January 2020

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students and Families,

I hope you and your family members had a happy holiday season. I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. I know your child has returned to school ready and eager to learn. The second half of the school year is a very important time of the year. The second quarter ends on January 24 and during the months ahead we will continue to prepare for the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in April and May. Our students will take the winter MAP assessment in the beginning of February. Additionally, our eighth graders will take Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) in March. Our students and staff will take the Maryland School Survey in March. The results from the survey are incorporated into our Maryland Report Card. 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 2018-2019 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 student group. 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. 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.

On January 9 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. On January 24 we are going to recognize our outstanding students who have consistently earned Ridgely Bucks with a Buck Bash. Students will be able to use their Ridgely Bucks to participate in our reward incentive day. Students who are not eligible or do not want to participate will have opportunities to complete make up work and enrichment activities.

Our boys and girls basketball teams continue to work hard and demonstrate excellent sportsmanship. I would like to thank Coach Brown and Coach Kunz and all the players on the teams for the outstanding way they are representing Ridgely Middle School. Our home games are scheduled for January 7, January 9, January 28, January 30, and February 4. I hope you are able to attend one of the games.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Seth Barish
Principal