

May 2019 Principal Newsletter

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students and Families,

It is hard to believe the school year is almost over. The last day of school will be Monday, June 17 which is a half-day and Friday, June 14, 2019 will also be a half-day. This is the time where teachers are preparing students for the skills and challenges in the next grade. Success in May and June will promote a smooth transition for all students. Our students continue to work hard and are in the process of taking their PARCC/MCAP state mandated assessment. It is very important for students to get a good night's rest, eat a healthy and hearty breakfast, and come to school on time. Students must bring their computer devices charged to school every day for testing. This fourth quarter is equally as important as the first three. Parents should encourage their child to seek assistance and support from teachers when needed and review practice assignments, minor and major assessments on Schoology. Every skill and standard learned in the next seven weeks will pay great dividends in the fall.

I am excited to share that Ridgely Middle School has recertified as a Maryland Green School! Under the leadership of Ms. Valentine, Green School Coordinator, and the support of our green club members, staff, parents, and community, RMS has worked tirelessly to achieve this significant accomplishment. The Maryland Green School award represents a whole school commitment to environmental literacy for staff, students and the community. This year there are 614 Maryland Green Schools, 27% of all schools in the state. Maryland Green Schools are leading the change to create a more sustainable future. Our school is part of a national and international community of sustainable green schools.

Last month we recognized students who demonstrated outstanding behavior by having them cash in their Ridgely bucks for an ice cream incentive. We will have our Straight A ice cream social for the third quarter on May 16 in our cafeteria. Our students with perfect attendance for the third quarter were recognized with certificates. We had 63% of our students earn honor roll and 18% of our students earned straight A's. Congratulations to Mr. Brown, Mr. Houchens, and our chess team for winning the middle school championship in BCPS. Ms. O'Melia, Mr. Kallaur, and our amazing robotics team members are representing Team RMS in an exemplary manner at the World's competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. We have fantastic and dedicated teachers who build positive relationships with their students and provide an excellent instructional program. Please take a moment next week and thank a teacher for all they do. I know they greatly appreciate our parental support.

The eighth grade spring concert will be held on Monday, May 13, seventh grade will be held on Tuesday, May 14 and our sixth grade will be held on Wednesday, May 15 in the auditorium at Loch Raven High School. Our steel drum band will be performing an outdoor concert on Friday, May 17 at RMS beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will honor our students who will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on Wednesday, May 8 from 7:00-8:00 pm. Special eighth grade festivities to add to the calendar are the Eighth Grade Dance which will be held on Friday,

May 31 from 7:00-9:30 pm. In addition, Farewell Day is scheduled on Wednesday, June 12. A flyer with detailed information was recently sent home with students. If you need an additional copy, please contact the main office. Lastly, our annual Capturing Kids Hearts field day will take place on Friday, June 14, which is a half day for students. The rain date for this event is Monday, June 17.

Sincerely,
Seth Barish