

October 2018

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students and Families,

Due to the outstanding efforts of our students and teachers, the school year is off to a great start at Ridgely Middle School. It is a rewarding experience to visit classrooms and observe our students working hard each day. Excellent teaching and learning in a positive and safe environment continues to be our top priority at RMS. Our sixth graders are adjusting well to middle school and they are gaining self-confidence every day. I am proud that the seventh and eighth graders are becoming leaders in our building. Our staff members are making a special effort to welcome our new students to Ridgely Middle School.

Our teachers are updating grades and assignments on Schoology. This system allows parents to access student grades, calendar information, and homework assignments on a regular basis. If you have any questions regarding Schoology, please email [jayres@bcps.org](mailto:jayres@bcps.org). This is an excellent opportunity to review your child's academic progress. Please consider following us on Twitter @TeamRidgely and @BarishSeth. Between both twitter handles we already have close to 700 followers. Communication between school and home is vital to ensure a strong partnership as Team Ridgely.

There is a strong relationship between school attendance and academic success. Our attendance rate is 98% to date. This is a fantastic start and we will continue strive for excellent attendance. The research indicates that test scores and student achievement increase when students attend school on a consistent basis. This is how we will continue to be the top middle school in BCPS.

Our PTA continues to conduct their membership drive. We have an outstanding PTSA 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 and volunteering as soon as possible.

Our teachers are sponsoring many after school programs between Tuesday and Friday including: Clay Club, National Junior Art Honor Society, Art Portfolio Club, Yearbook, Inkling, Ridgely Stag Social Club, Green School Club, Student Government Association (SGA), Honors Orchestra, Honors Chorus, Chamber Singers, Brass Ensemble, Honor Band, All County/State Audition Help -BAND, All County/State Audition Preparation Sessions – CHORUS, Electronic Dance Music Club, Drama Club, Library Media Club, Quiz Bowl, Chess Club, 24 Math Club, Math Counts, Educators Rising, RMS Robotics Team, Spanish Club, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), Ridgely Student Mentoring, Sixth Grade MWCI (mid-week check in), Seventh Grade MWCI (mid-week check in) Eighth Grade MWCI (mid-week check in), Intramural Sports, RMS Badminton, RMS Cross Country, RMS Basketball, RMS Spring Tennis Team, RMS Track & Field Team, RMS Allied Softball, and more sponsored through LTRC. Please encourage your child to get involved in our after-school programs.

Seth Barish  
Principal