

# Ridgely Middle School

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October 2019

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. Students have begun taking their Measures Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The MAP assessment helps teachers identify students' strengths and needs in order to provide a strong and responsive instructional program. Our sixth graders have had an amazing start and are adjusting well to middle school while 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.

As we approach the mid-way point of the first quarter, I wanted to remind all students, families, and staff that last week was the deadline for all missing and late minor assignments to be turned in for full credit. For the second half of the first quarter which begins next week, we will begin our cycle for all minor assignments that must be turned in by the last day of week nine of the quarter-Friday, November 1. The last day of the first quarter is November 8. Students are eligible for two redo minor assignments at teacher discretion that are turned in on time for the first four weeks of the quarter and students are eligible for two redo minor assignments beginning Week 6 through Week 9 of the first quarter.

I would like to thank all parents and guardians for their support with our new traffic pattern in the morning drop off main entrance parking lot. I would like to encourage families to drop their child on Lynncrest Road prior to entering the main entrance. Having only buses use our parking lot on Charmuth in the afternoon has improved the safety for our students at dismissal. Thanks to all parents and guardians for ensuring the safety of our students is a top priority at 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 Mr. Ayres at [jayres@bcps.org](mailto:jayres@bcps.org) or Mr. Sparenberg at [jsparenberg@bcps.org](mailto:jsparenberg@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 800 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 97% to date. This is a fantastic start and we will continue strive for excellent attendance. We will recognize students with outstanding attendance every quarter. 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 PTA 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, Jazz Ensemble, Honor Band, All County/State Audition Help -BAND, All County/State Audition Preparation Sessions – CHORUS, Electronic Dance Music Club, Library Media Club, Quiz Bowl, Chess Club, 24 Math Club, Math Counts, Educators Rising, RMS Robotics Team, Spanish Club, Stock Market Game, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Barish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Seth Barish  
Principal