

November 2019

Dear Ridgely Middle School Students, Staff, and Families,

The month of November offers parents and guardians opportunities to participate in their children's middle school experience. The first marking period ends on November 8 which will be a half-day for our students. Report cards will be distributed on November 21. This is an excellent time for parents and students to review grades and set goals for the second quarter. American Education Week begins on November 18<sup>th</sup> and I would like to encourage all parents and guardians to attend. We have a tremendous amount of parent and family involvement at Ridgely Middle School. Parental involvement is a critical factor in student achievement and the success of a school. The schedule for American Education Week includes the following: Grade 6 (A-M) visitation on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Grade 6 (N-Z) Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Grade 7 visitation on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and Grade 8 visitation will be held on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. We are going to request that our visitors during American Education Week share their thanks and feedback with our staff. We will provide all visitors a reflection form that we will share with our wonderful teachers.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank all of our parent and guardian guest speakers who participated in our Grade 8 Career Day. Our students gained valuable information related to various careers and industries. Some of the professionals who presented to 8<sup>th</sup> graders were a public historian, a veterinarian, an architect, a professional skateboarder, a voice actor and a restaurant owner. The presenters told students all about their job responsibilities and the qualities and skills needed to excel in the profession. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and interact with our guest speakers. The feedback from our students was very positive.

Our teachers are updating grade reports on BCPS One Schoology on a regular basis. This system allows parents to access student grades, calendar information, and homework assignments at any time. If you have any questions related to Schoology, please contact Mr. Ayres at [jayres@bcps.org](mailto:jayres@bcps.org). Also, important information can be accessed on our website <https://ridgelyms.bcps.org>. We encourage our RMS families to follow us on Twitter @TeamRidgely and @BarishSeth to view some of the amazing highlights of our community of learners.

We are continuing to celebrate student success at Ridgely Middle School. Two boys and two girls from each grade are selected by the grade level teachers and recognized as Student of the Month. Each month different students are selected based on the character trait of the month. The character trait for October was compassion.

Students are earning Ridgely Bucks for their outstanding behavior and positive participation in our school community. We are opening a school store in which students may use their Ridgely Bucks to purchase school items. The school store is located across from the cafeteria and will be open during lunch a couple of times a week. Students will be reminded during the morning announcements when the school store will be open.

We are going to have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Turkey Trot Fundraiser on Saturday, November 16. This is a great opportunity to promote our Ridgely pride in the community. Please have your child, friends, and family members register. We are hoping for a great turnout.

Our attendance rate for the first marking period is 97%. Our students who have perfect attendance for the first quarter will be recognized with a Perfect Attendance certificate. We will continue to celebrate our amazing students.

Ridgely Middle has been selected to field test the Google Chromebooks for the second half of the year as middle schools are going to transition to Chromebooks next year. Students will return their HP devices and receive a Chromebook before the third quarter. Students who are currently using their device as a day user will continue as a day user with the new device. There will be more information regarding Chromebooks in the upcoming months.

I would like to continue to encourage all of our parents to join the PTA and support all PTA activities. 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 as soon as possible.

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful. I am truly grateful for my Ridgely Middle School family and community. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends!

Sincerely,

Seth Barish  
Principal