



## A Note from Mr. Fordoski

Ridgway Area School District

Ridgway Area Middle/High School Principal

814-773-3164

@rheselkerpride & @ Ridgway Elker



December 16th, 2025

### From the Desk of Principal David Fordoski

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we continue through the school year and look ahead to the second semester, I want to thank you for your continued partnership and support. Our staff remains focused on academic growth, student well-being, and maintaining a positive and productive school environment. Below are several important updates and reminders.

### Instruction & Academic Focus

Teachers are continuing instruction aligned to grade-level standards while preparing students for upcoming assessments and end-of-year expectations. We encourage students to stay organized, complete assignments on time, and seek assistance when needed. Extra help and support opportunities remain available throughout the school day and after school.

### 7th and 8th Grade Math Support – Second Semester

During the second semester, some **7th and 8th grade students may see a Math Success/Remediation period added to their schedule**. This course is designed to provide **targeted instruction, skill reinforcement, and additional practice** in key math concepts. The goal of this support is to help students strengthen foundational skills, build confidence, and be better prepared for classroom and state assessments.

This Math Success/Remediation class is **specifically intended to support student success on the PSSA mathematics assessment**, which will be administered in **April/May**. Student placement is based on multiple data points, including classroom performance and teacher recommendations, to ensure support is provided where it will be most beneficial. This additional instructional time is meant to complement regular math instruction and promote long-term academic success.

## Student-Athlete Expectations & Eligibility

Today, we met with our **student-athletes** to review expectations and reinforce the important role they play within our school community. Student-athletes were reminded that they are **role models** and representatives of Ridgway Middle–High School, both during the school day and at athletic events. As such, they are expected to hold themselves to a **higher standard of behavior, effort, and accountability**.

We also discussed the importance of being **respectful fans** when attending sporting events, demonstrating positive sportsmanship, and representing our school with pride. Additionally, student-athletes were reminded that they must follow all **school procedures**, including being **in school on time** each day. Students arriving after **8:30 AM** are considered tardy in accordance with school policy.

To support academic accountability, **grade reports for athletic eligibility are reviewed every Friday**. Maintaining eligibility is a critical responsibility, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

## Attendance & School Expectations

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for student success. We appreciate your help in reinforcing the importance of being present and on time each day. If your child is absent, please remember to submit an excuse within three days.

We also continue to emphasize respectful behavior, responsible decision-making, and adherence to school policies to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

### New directives from the state of Pennsylvania:

**When a family is calling their student off from school to please report the reason as to why they are off. For example if it is due to respiratory illness diagnosis such as COVID, RSV, or Influenza and/or symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, and feeling very tired.**

## Important Dates to Remember (subject to change)

### December 2025

- **December 19:** Holiday Assembly at **9:00 AM**  
*Early Dismissal at 1:15 PM*

- **December 21:** Elk County Jazz Band Concert at **3:00 PM**  
*St. Marys High School*

## **January 2026**

- **January 7–9:** PMEA District 2 Choir Festival
- **January 12:** ASVAB Testing
- **January 16** - End Q2
- **January 19:** no school for students
- **January 23:** Mobile Dentist (Library)
- **January 23:** Senior Lunch Downtown

## **February 2026**

- **February 5–7:** PMEA District 2 Band Festival
- **February 12–13:** PMEA District 2 Jazz Festival
- **February 13:** No School Vacation Day
- **February 16:** No school for students
- **February 19–21:** PMEA Region II Choir Festival
- **February 20:** Hoodie Hoo Day
- **February 20:** Senior Lunch Downtown
- **February 25:** Career Cruise Q3 careers students

Thank you for your continued support of Ridgway Middle–High School. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or me directly at [fordoskidavid@rasd.us](mailto:fordoskidavid@rasd.us).

Sincerely,  
**David Fordoski**  
Principal, Ridgway Middle–High School