



## A Note from Mr. Fordoski

Ridgway Area School District

Ridgway Area Middle/High School Principal

814-773-3164

@rheselkerpride & @ Ridgway Elker



### From the Desk of Principal David Fordoski

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well as we move through another productive and engaging stretch of the school year. Our students and staff have been working hard, and I'm excited to share several updates, reminders, and upcoming events with you.

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### Academic Updates

- **Quarter Progress:** Teachers are wrapping up unit assessments and projects as we head toward the midpoint of the quarter. Please continue to check Schoology for updated grades and reach out to teachers with any questions or concerns.
- **Tutoring & Support:** After-school help sessions are available Monday–Thursday. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

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### Attendance Reminder

Consistent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. Please remind your child that being present—and being on time—matters. If your student will be absent, remember to send an excuse (written, email, or phone call) within three days.

### 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.**

## **School Climate & Expectations**

We continue reinforcing positive behavior, respectful interactions, and responsible use of school spaces. Thank you for partnering with us to support these expectations at home.

## **Athletics & Extracurricular Highlights**

Our student-athletes and clubs have been active and achieving great things! From outstanding fall sports performances to student participation in new extracurricular opportunities, we're proud of their commitment and teamwork. We are very excited about the start of the winter sports season. Remember to represent our school with the utmost class while attending the events. Be sure to root on your team in a respectful manner.

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Senior Retakes and Winter Sports Pictures:** These will be happening Tuesday December 9th.
- **Keystones:** Are scheduled in December. Encourage your child to do their absolute best work possible.
- **Winter Concerts:** We look forward to showcasing our students' musical talents. Winter Choir Concert December 3 at 6:30pm and Winter Band Concert December 10 at 6:30pm
- **Early Dismissal:** Friday December 19th we will be having another 1 hour early dismissal. Students will be dismissed at 1:15.

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### **Friendly reminder from the Middle High School Nurse:**

Our school partnered with the Smile Program to offer dental services at the school. To register your child use the appropriate link below:

Students in grades 6-8: [https://www.myschooldentist.com/36617\\_schsrn](https://www.myschooldentist.com/36617_schsrn)

Students in grades 9-12: [https://www.myschooldentist.com/36616\\_schsrn](https://www.myschooldentist.com/36616_schsrn)

You can also request a registration form from your school nurse as well.

They are scheduled to come to the school on January 23, 2026.

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## **Virtual Instruction Days Information**

### **STUDENTS WILL NEED TO BE LOGGED INTO THEIR SCHOOL GOOGLE ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES**

On the day of cancellation and implementation of a Virtual Instruction day, the student will also receive an email reminder about the expectations. Their Schoology accounts will also be used to do all of their work and there is also a link there for them to do attendance for the day.

### **Attendance**

- Students will learn from home
- Student daily attendance will be accomplished by the student completing a [Google form for](#) attendance by **10:00 AM** that has been emailed to each student and is also posted in the period 1 Schoology course.
- If you do not have Internet access, you must call the school to confirm student attendance (814) 773-3164.
- Student class period attendance will be entered in Schoology by the classroom teacher based on assignment completion.

### **Student Expectations**

- Virtual Instruction Days will be **asynchronous**. This means students will not be expected to login during scheduled class time, but they are expected to complete the work at their own pace. Teachers will be available by email if you need assistance.
- The teacher will publish a VID assignment folder for students to complete in each Schoology class.
- Students should access their classes in Schoology based on their MAROON/WHITE day schedule for the day. In other words, if a VID day falls on a MAROON day, students will complete work for classes they would normally have on a MAROON day.
- Student work is expected to be completed on this day or based on the teacher-identified timeline. If the work is not completed for any reason, the completion date will follow the teacher's classroom policy for absent work.
- If a student experiences difficulty on an assignment or lacks accessibility to Schoology due to technical issues, they are to reach out to their teacher during the scheduled teacher time via email.

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## **Communication & Community Engagement**

Please follow our official school social media pages (Facebook - Ridgway Elker and Instagram - rheselkerpride) for timely updates, photos, and announcements. Your engagement helps strengthen our connection with the community and celebrates the great things happening at RMHS.

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### **As Always — Thank You**

We appreciate your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. I could not be more proud of being your child's Principal. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at [fordoskidavid@rasd.us](mailto:fordoskidavid@rasd.us).

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This will be my last newsletter of the year 😊.

Take care,

**David Fordoski**

Principal, Ridgway Middle–High School