



A Note from Mr. Fordoski

Ridgway Area School District

Ridgway Area Middle/High School Principal

814-773-3164

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Ridgway Middle–High School Parent Newsletter

From the Desk of Principal David Fordoski

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move into a new semester, I want to thank you for your continued partnership and support. Our focus remains on academic growth, student accountability, and maintaining a safe and positive school environment. Please review the important updates and reminders below.

Instruction & Academic Focus

Teachers continue to provide instruction aligned to grade-level standards while preparing students for upcoming assessments and end-of-year expectations. We encourage students to remain organized, complete assignments on time, and take advantage of available academic support during the school day and after school.

8th Grade Math Support – Second Semester

During the second semester, some **8th grade students may see a Math Help/Remediation period added to their schedule**. This course provides **targeted instruction, skill reinforcement, and additional practice** in key math concepts to help students strengthen foundational skills and build confidence.

This Math Help/Remediation class is **designed to support student success on the PSSA mathematics assessment**, which will be administered in **May**. Placement is based on multiple data points, including academic performance and teacher recommendations, to ensure support is provided where it is most beneficial.

Student-Athlete Expectations & Eligibility

We recently 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** academically and behaviorally.

We also discussed:

- Demonstrating **respectful behavior as fans** while attending sporting events
- Representing the school positively at all times
- Following all **school procedures**, including being **in school on time**

Students arriving **after 7:30 a.m.** are considered tardy according to school policy. To maintain academic accountability, **grade reports for athletic eligibility are reviewed every Friday**. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

Start-of-Day Expectations

With the start of a new semester, we are implementing a **schoolwide approach to the beginning of the school day**. It is important that all students understand and follow these expectations:

- Students must be **in the building by 7:30 a.m.** to be considered **on time**.
- Any student arriving **after 7:30 a.m.** must be **buzzed in through the front office** and will be issued a **blue slip**.
- After **three tardies to school**, a student will be assigned a **30-minute after-school detention**.
- If an after-school detention is **not served**, the student will receive lunch **detention the following day** and must still serve the after-school detention on the next available day.

Being in the building on time is not the same as being in class on time.

- Students who arrive at school on time but are **not in their classroom by 7:30 a.m.** will be marked **late to class** by their teacher.
- After **three late-to-class warnings**, the student will be written up and receive a **lunch detention that same day**.
- This expectation applies to **all classes throughout the day**. Students must be in the classroom by the **late bell**. After **three instances of being late to class**, a lunch detention will be assigned.

All teachers will be **consistently enforcing these procedures**. Starting the day on time is an important part of being responsible, prepared, and successful.

Attendance & School Expectations

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for student success. Please ensure that absences are excused within three days. We continue to emphasize respectful behavior, responsibility, and adherence to school expectations throughout the building.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

January 2026

- **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
- **February 19–21:** PMEA Region II Choir Festival
- **February 19 & 20:** MS Stand Tall – Altoona Curve Sign-Ups
- **February 20:** Hoodie Hoo Day

February 20: Senior Lunch Downtown

- **February 27:** RHS Student/Staff Basketball Game
- **February 28:** Winter Fest

March 2026

- **March 5:** Blood Drive (Auditorium)
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- **March 13:** No School

March 20: Senior Lunch Downtown

- **March 19–21:** PMEA Region II Band Festival

March 19-21: HS Play

- **March 26:** High School Assembly (10:15–11:45)

Thank you for your continued support of Ridgway Middle–High School. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school office.

Sincerely,
David Fordoski
Principal, Ridgway Middle–High School

Please see information that Mrs. Petrosky sent out over an updated weapon policy



A Note from
Mrs. Noel Petrosky
Ridgway Area School District Superintendent
62 School Drive
Ridgway, PA 15853
814-773-3146



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The safety of our students and staff is always our highest priority. We want to take a moment to share information about **Act 44 of 2025**, a Pennsylvania law that supports school safety by improving communication when there are concerns involving weapons.

When does this begin?

The reporting and information-sharing requirements outlined in Act 44 of 2025 will **begin on January 6, 2026**.

What is Act 44 of 2025?

Act 44 of 2025 requires schools to **share limited, appropriate information** when there is a concern that a student may have access to or be involved with a weapon. For our families, this information will be shared only with people who it directly affects, specific schools, staff, sports teams, clubs, etc. This acts as a notification that it occurred; no specifics, such as the type of weapon, age of perpetrator, etc., will be shared.

What about student privacy?

Student privacy remains very important. All information sharing under Act 44 must follow **strict confidentiality guidelines** and existing student privacy laws. Information is shared responsibly and only when safety is involved.

How does this protect students and families?

Act 44 is designed to:

- Improve communication when there is a credible safety concern
- Help schools respond quickly and appropriately
- Prevent dangerous situations before they escalate
- Maintain a safe and supportive learning environment

What should families do?

We encourage families to:

- Talk with your children about the importance of reporting safety concerns
- Communicate with the school if you become aware of any situation that could impact student safety
- Reach out to the school administration with any questions or concerns

How will we share this information?

Along with this letter you will find an administrative regulation explaining how this information will be shared.

We are committed to partnering with families to ensure our schools remain safe, welcoming places for learning. If you have questions about Act 44 of 2025 or our safety procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,

Noel Petrosky, Superintendent

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