

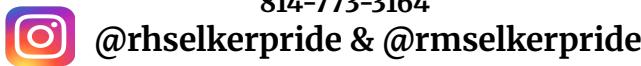


A Note from David Fordoski

Ridgway Area School District

Ridgway Area Middle/High School Principal

814-773-3164



Monday, September 22nd, 2025

Student Handbook: Our student handbook is online at RASD.us

Water Bottles: Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, students will no longer be permitted to carry water bottles or open liquid containers during the school day. To ensure continued access to drinking water, cup dispensers have been installed at all water fountains and bottle-filling stations throughout the school.

- Students may use these dispensers to access water as needed during the day. Unopened beverages will be permitted only in the cafeteria and may not be carried into classrooms or other areas of the building.
- This policy is designed to maintain a safe, clean learning environment while ensuring all students have access to water throughout the day.
- **Students with a doctor's note** ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A CLEAR WATER BOTTLE IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE USED IN SCHOOL.

Hydration and Water Bottles

NO

Water Bottle With Doctor's Note

1. Bottle Needs to be Clear
2. Bottle Needs to Be Empty and Can Be Filled in Cafeteria Upon Entry into School

YES

Water Bottle With Doctor's Note

1. Bottle Needs to be Clear
2. Bottle Needs to Be Empty and Can Be Filled in Cafeteria Upon Entry into School

Cell Phone use: often these can be a huge distraction for students in the classroom. I encourage parents to please review cell phone use as outlined in the student handbook.

SAT AND PSAT INFORMATION: SAT is a standardized college entrance test that many colleges and universities use to determine admission. Many have gone test optional, which means that they do not require college entrance exams. However, we will be administering these tests for anyone who signs up. The PSAT is a practice version of the SAT. The digital readiness check Oct. 20. Here is the pertinent information and it was also emailed out:

The SAT school day will be held on October 28th this year first thing in the morning. Sign up in the guidance office or email P. Schaut to get on the list. The cost is \$60 and will be cash only please (this is because you will likely get some money back later) . MONEY IS DUE OCTOBER 3rd. If payment is not received by then, no test will be ordered for you! There will be another SAT held in the spring if you cannot make the fall one.

The digital readiness for the PSAT will be on October 14th. The PSAT will be held on October 22nd for Juniors and October 16th for Sophomores. Sign up in the guidance office or email P. Schaut to get on the list. The cost is \$18 and will be cash only please (this is because you will likely get some money back later) . MONEY IS DUE SEPTEMBER 26TH. If payment is not received by then, no test will be ordered for you!

ASVAB Tests - These will be administered to all Juniors and some Seniors on October 16th in the morning. More details to come.

College and Career Fair & Financial Aid Night - October 2nd at the St. Marys Area High School cafeteria from 5 - 7. See your email for more details

Safe2Say Something: The Safe2Say Something program was established in 2018 by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program was mandated by the Pennsylvania General Assembly's Act 44, which required all school districts in Pennsylvania to implement the program by January 14, 2019.

Safe2Say Something is an anonymous reporting system that allows students, parents, and teachers to report unsafe, dangerous, or criminal activities in schools. The program aims to prevent violence and tragedies by teaching people to recognize warning signs and to "say something" before it's too late.

Each year we are mandated to provide an information refresher to our students. This will be happening in the near future with the help of our SRO. In the email sending this newsletter I have attached additional parent information about Safe2Say.

Here is a link to the FAQs for Safe2Say: <https://www.safe2saypa.org/faq/>

Progress Reports: It is hard to believe we are almost to the middle of the first quarter. Student progress reports will be sent home on Monday, September 22nd for students that are struggling with their school work.

Homecoming Activities: Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th. The football game is Friday, October 3rd.

- Spirit Week (Sept. 29 - Oct. 3rd)
 - Monday-Y2K Outage Monday - Wear dark colors
 - Tuesday-Band vs Fan Tee - Wear your favorite 2000's band, show, or icon
 - Wednesday-Wear Pink Wednesday - That's so fetch
 - Thursday-Throwback Thursday- Wear your best 2000's trends
 - Friday-Retro Ridgway Friday - Show your School Spirit

- Wednesday, October 1st - The Snake Walk & bonfire: Meet at 6:30, the walk moves at 6:45 from the Ace Hardware lot.
- Friday, October 3rd - Pep assembly at 1:15 in the gym & Announcement of the Queen During halftime of the football game
- Y2K- Homecoming Dance is scheduled for October 4th in the gym

Future Ready Expo: October 2nd, from 5:00 - 7:00 St. Marys High School Cafeteria

[FLYER](#) and [Informational Flyer](#)

FREE FAFSA Event - CEC building October 6th at various times [FLYER](#)

Lockdown Drill: As with everything in life, practice helps to develop a skill. On October 3, we will have our first lockdown drill at the school. I am letting parents know in case students come home with questions. Our teachers work hard to process this experience with them after the fact, but often they will have questions that they may voice to parents. Please talk to your child if they have concerns and remind them that we have this type of drill to keep them safe.

Student Handbook: Our student handbook is online at [RASD.us](#)

Cell Phone use: often these can be a huge distraction for students in the classroom. I encourage parents to please review cell phone use as outlined in the student handbook on page 9.

Middle school yearbook pictures: Please share any pictures related to school sports/activities to Mrs. LaBenne for the middle school yearbook. labennejamie@rasd.us

Senior Lunch Downtown: These will continue this year. This will take place on the third or fourth Friday of each month. To participate, students must return the permission form sent home.

Fan Etiquette for Parents and Students- As we enter another exciting season of Ridgway athletics and activities, we ask all students, parents, and community members to remember the importance of showing positive support for our teams. Please keep the following in mind when attending events:

- **Show Respect:** Cheer for our athletes, not against the opposing team or officials.
- **Be Positive:** Encourage good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the field.
- **Set the Example:** Parents and guardians, your behavior sets the tone for our students—please model the respect and composure we expect from them.
- **Stay Supportive:** Celebrate effort, growth, and teamwork just as much as wins.
- **Represent Ridgway:** Remember that when we attend events, we represent our school and community. Let's display pride with class.

Thank you for helping create a welcoming and respectful environment for all participants and fans!

Follow us on Facebook at “Ridgway Elker” and on Instagram at [rmselkerpride](#) and [rheselkerpride](#)

NEW TIKTOK ACCOUNT COMING SOON!