



Ridgway Area Middle/High School

Purpose for Today and Passion for Tomorrow

A Note from Mr. Fordoski

Ridgway Area School District
Ridgway Area Middle/High School Principal
814-773-3164



@rhselkerpride & @Ridgway Elker 



****Ridgway Middle–High School Parent Newsletter****

From the Desk of Principal David Fordoski

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move through the late winter and into the spring months, Ridgway Middle–High School continues to be a busy and exciting place for our students. The upcoming months include academic assessments, music festivals, assemblies, senior events, service opportunities, and student activities. We appreciate your continued partnership as we support our students during this important time of the school year.

Academic Focus & Testing

The third quarter is well underway, and teachers are continuing to reinforce grade-level standards while preparing students for upcoming state assessments and end-of-year expectations. Please continue to monitor your child's grades online through Schoology. If you need help logging into your parent portal for this, please let me know.

April will include PSSA testing for eligible grade levels:

April 21–23: PSSA ELA

April 28–29: PSSA Math

April 30: PSSA Science

It is very important that students are present, on time, and well-rested during testing days. We appreciate your help in ensuring students are prepared and focused.

Fine Arts & Student Performances

Our music department continues to shine as students participate in several PMEA festivals:

February 5–7: PMEA District 2 Band Festival

February 12–13: PMEA District 2 Jazz Festival
February 19–21: PMEA Region II Choir Festival

March 2026

March 19–21: PMEA Region II Band Festival
March 19–22: High School Play

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and talent of our student musicians and performers.

Student Activities & School Events

Below are the winter blues week spirit days for February 23-27.

Monday-¼ zip vs crewnecks and hoodies: which trend will you represent

Tuesday- Timber Tuesday: get out that flannel

Wednesday- Beach Day: bring on summer with sandals and hawaiian shirts

Thursday- Jersey/Elker Day: get ready for the student/staff game by showing your team spirit

Friday- Winter gear day: warm up by wearing your coziest accessories

Winter sports are winding down and some of the sports are moving onto District, Regional and States competitions. Gymnastics qualified for the state tournament by winning a district championship. Wrestling is competing at districts this upcoming weekend. Bocce just finished in 4th and 5th places in their area tournament.

Spring sports are starting soon! Get involved and do your best to represent yourself and your school in the best light possible.

February and March bring a variety of engaging activities and events:

February 2026

February 19 & 20: MS Stand Tall – Altoona Curve Sign-Ups

February 20: Hoodie Hoo Day

February 20: Senior Lunch Downtown

February 25: Blood Drive Assembly – 11:25 AM

February 26: Staff/Student Basketball Game – 6:30 PM

February 26: AR Bowling Trip (6th Grade)

February 27: AR Bowling Trip (7th & 8th Grade)

March 2026

March 5: Blood Drive (Auditorium)

March 20: Senior Lunch Downtown

March 26: High School Assembly – 10:15–11:45 AM

Potential Schedule Change for 2026-2027 School Year

As we begin planning for the 2026–2027 school year, our administrative team is exploring a potential adjustment to the daily schedule at the Middle/High School. Over the past several years, we have gathered feedback from staff, students, and families while analyzing instructional time, course offerings, and overall student experience.

One option currently being considered is a move to a traditional 9-period school day, with approximately 42-minute periods meeting daily. This model would provide:

- **More consistent daily contact with teachers**
- **Increased instructional time across the school year**
- **Greater flexibility in course offerings**
- **Improved shared staffing between departments**
- **Clearer structure and predictability for students**

No final decisions have been made at this time. In the coming months, we will continue gathering input and reviewing data to determine what structure best supports student achievement, staff collaboration, and long-term scheduling stability.

We value transparency throughout this process and will provide updates as conversations continue. If implemented, any changes would begin in the 2026–2027 school year.

These events provide opportunities for school spirit, service, leadership, and community involvement.

Senior Events

The spring months are especially important for our senior class:

April 2026

April 16: Senior Presentations

April 16: Senior Lunch Downtown

April 22: National Honor Society Ceremony – 7:00 PM

April 23–25: Senior Class Trip

Attendance

As always, consistent attendance, punctuality, and positive behavior remain critical to student success—especially during this busy season of performances, testing, and academic milestones.

Thank you for your continued support of Ridgway Middle–High School. If you have any questions regarding upcoming events or academic expectations, 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

Email: petroskynoel@rasd.us

Phone: 814-773-3146