



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 into March, Ridgway Middle–High School continues to be a busy place filled with academic activities, student events, performances, and preparation for spring assessments. This time of year brings many opportunities for students to showcase their talents while also focusing on their academic responsibilities. We appreciate your continued support as we work together to help students stay engaged and successful during the final months of the school year.

8th Grade Orientation - Scheduled for March 12th at 6:00 PM in the High School Cafeteria. (See the attached documents below)

Potential Schedule Change for Next Year - 9 period schedule with 42 minute classes is being discussed. Final approval will be done at the school board meeting. Schedule will be shared once approved.

Class Selections - HS class selections will be coming soon. We will be having an informational meeting with the students on Wed. March 11th.

Blood Drive - This happened Thursday March 5th. Under the direction of Mrs. Grubbs, our students helped to save the lives of 75 people with the amount of blood that was donated.

Academic Focus

Teachers continue to emphasize strong instructional practices and preparation for upcoming state assessments. April will include the administration of the **PSSA**

assessments, and May will include **Keystone Exams** for high school students. It is important that students are present, well-rested, and ready to perform their best during these testing windows.

Student Activities and School Events

March and the upcoming spring months offer a variety of opportunities for students to participate in school events, performances, and service activities. We encourage students to get involved and show school pride through these experiences. Our music students will continue representing Ridgway through regional festivals, and our theater students will showcase their hard work during the high school play later this month.

Preparing for the End of the School Year

As we look ahead to April and May, students will begin preparing for state testing, final exams, and several important senior events. We encourage students to stay organized, maintain consistent attendance, and continue putting forth their best effort in their classes. Please make sure you are getting your community service hours completed as well.

Important Dates to Remember

March 2026

- March 5: Blood Drive (Auditorium)
- March 5–6: MS Stand Tall Altoona Curve Sign-Ups
- March 12: 8th Grade Orientation – 6:00 PM
- March 19–21: PMEA Region II Band Festival
- **March 19–22: High School Play**
- March 20: Senior Lunch Downtown
- March 26: High School Assembly – 10:15–11:45 AM
- March 26: Junior/Senior Volleyball Game – 6:30 PM (Gym)

April 2026

- April 8: Envirothon Practice Day
- April 16: Senior Presentations
- April 16: Senior Lunch Downtown
- April 21–23: PSSA ELA Testing
- April 22: National Honor Society Ceremony – 7:00 PM
- April 23–25: Senior Class Trip
- April 28–29: PSSA Math Testing
- April 29: Envirothon Competition Day

- April 30: PSSA Science Testing

May 2026

- May 2: Prom
- May 4: AP Biology Exam
- May 6: AP Literature & Composition Exam / 5th Grade Orientation
- May 7: Fall Sports Sign-Ups
- May 11–12: Algebra Keystone Exams
- May 13–14: Biology Keystone Exams
- May 13: MS Stand Tall Altoona Curve Game
- May 13: Principal's Awards – 7:00 PM
- May 15 & 18: Literature Keystone Exams
- May 15: Senior Lunch Downtown
- May 20: Finals – M 1 & 3
- May 21: Finals – W 1 & 3
- May 22: Finals – M 2 & 5
- May 26: Finals – W 2 & 5 / Seniors' Final Day / Senior Walk at FSG
- May 27: Senior Grades Due at 8:00 AM / Senior Pinning, Baccalaureate, and Banquet
- May 28: Senior Breakfast / Mandatory Graduation Practice / Last Day of School
- May 29: Graduation – 7:00 PM

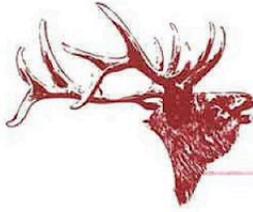
As always, thank you for your continued support of Ridgway Middle–High School. If you have any questions about upcoming events or academic expectations, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

David Fordoski

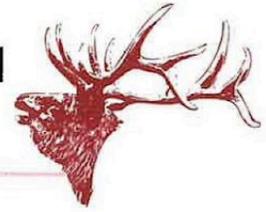
Principal

Ridgway Middle–High School



Ridgway Area Middle-High School

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Mar 4, 2026

Dear Parents and Students in grade 8,

In the spring of each school year, the Ridgway Area High School invites the 8th graders and their parents to a scheduled orientation meeting, this year's meeting has been set for March 12 at 6:00 PM in the HS cafeteria, more information will be coming home with your student before this night. The purpose of this meeting is to share information with you and your child about their performance up to that point in time and explain what courses your child can take as a 9th grader. There are specific prerequisites for taking academic courses as a 9th-grade student.

To be eligible to take academic courses in 9th grade a student must earn a 90% average or higher in the subject area that they intend on taking academic courses. If a student does not meet this criteria and would like to be considered for this coursework they can schedule a meeting with the counselor to discuss the possibility.

For a student to double in math as a 9th grader (Algebra II and Geometry) they must earn a 90% or higher in Algebra I as an 8th grader and pass the Algebra I Keystone Exam with a score of at least proficient.

As we are finishing the third quarter of this school year, keeping students focused on academic success is our goal. I am encouraging you to reach out to Nikki Smoker if you have any concerns about the academic progress of your child. I look forward to seeing you at the HS orientation meeting.

In addition to considering academic items for the rest of this school year, I also want to share some changes for students as they move through RASD, this is our graduation pathway. In 2018, the PA Department of Education passed Act 158 which outlined five different pathways that a student may follow to graduate from high school, one of these being the passing of the three Keystone Assessments. The other four pathways are defined for you in the attachments that are included with this letter. All graduates from Ridgway Area High School will still be required to complete local requirements which include completion of 24 academic credits, 50 hours of community service, two job shadow experiences, and the senior project in addition to the specific pathway requirements.

I have included the information with this letter, I know it seems far away, but it is necessary information as students continue to plan for the future.

Thank you for all you do in keeping student education as a priority,

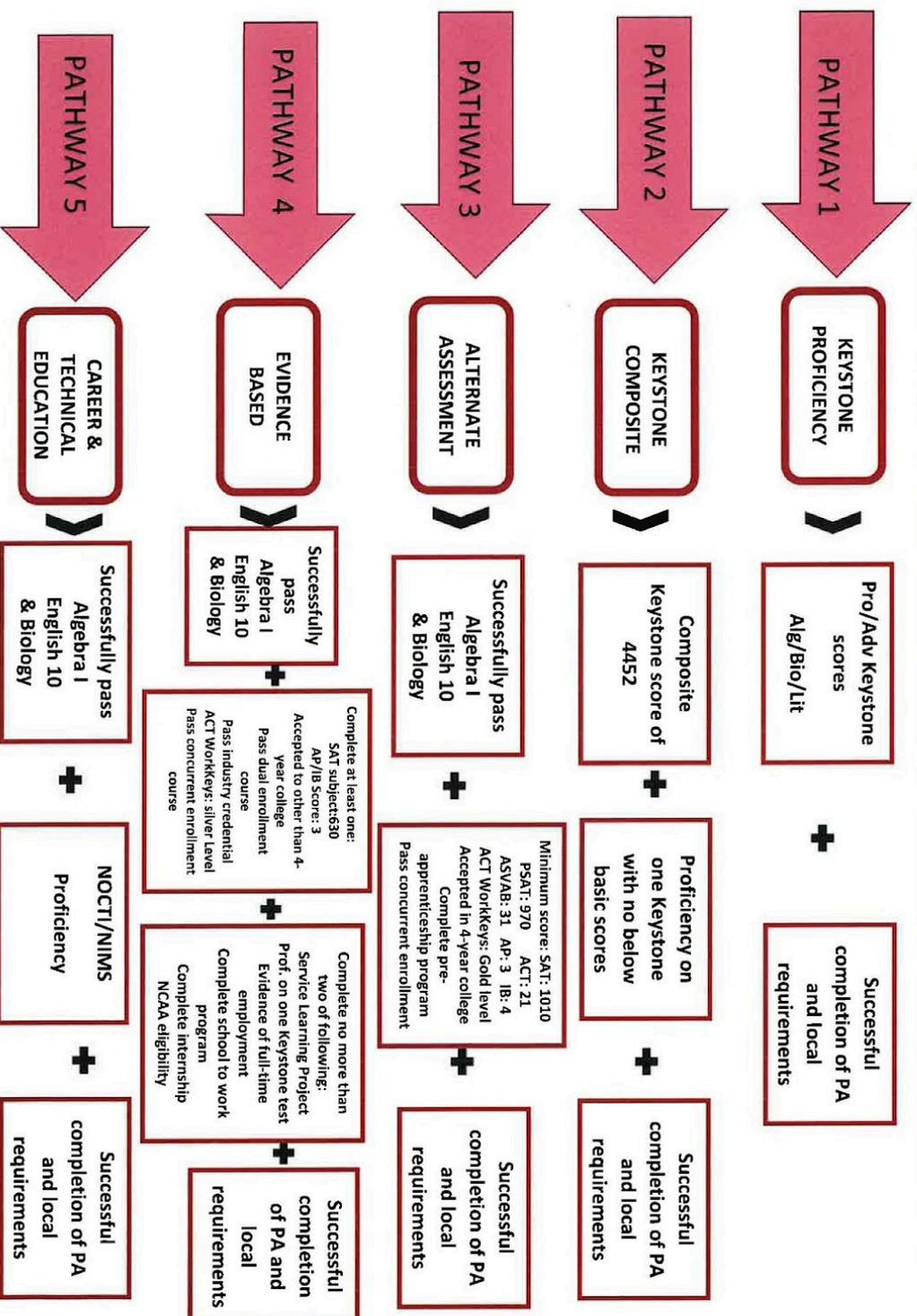
Sincerely,

Patricia Schaut, High School Counselor

"Achievement Through Learning"

Ridgway Area School District is an Equal Rights and Opportunities District and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and section 504.
For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures contact the EOE/ADA Director of the Ridgway Area School District.

PDE & RHS PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION



RHS Graduation Pathway Completion

LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

All students that graduate from Ridgway Area High School must meet the local requirements of 50 hours of community service, 2 job shadow experiences, completion of a senior capstone project, and 24 academic credits. The distribution of these credits is outlined in the table to the right. In addition to these credits, each student must complete the additional requirements in at least one of the pathways as outlined below.

RHS	COURSE	PDE
4	ENGLISH	4
3	SCIENCE	3
4	MATH	3
3	SOCIAL STUDIES	3
2	ARTS & HUMANITIES	2
2	PHYS. ED.	1.5
1	HEALTH	1
.5	PERSONAL FINANCE	.5
4.5	ELECTIVES	3
TOTALS		21
24+		

PATHWAY 1 & 2

Keystone Proficiency & Composite Score

To successfully complete this pathway a student will attain an advanced or proficient score on each of the Algebra, Biology, and Literature Keystone Assessments or will have a combined score of 4452 from all three with no below basic score. One of the three scores must be proficient.

PATHWAY 3

Alternate Assessment

To successfully complete this pathway a student must pass RHS courses: Algebra I, Biology and English 10. They also must complete one of the following: attain a minimum score on either the PSAT, SAT, ACT, ASVAB, an AP course, an International Baccalaureate Program, ACT Work Keys assessment OR complete a pre-apprenticeship program such as we have with Alpha Precision Group OR be accepted into a four-year college OR pass the following courses offered through the University of Pittsburgh: Chemistry, Physics, Literature, Composition, or Calculus.

PATHWAY 4

Evidence Based

To successfully complete this pathway a student must pass RHS courses: Algebra I, Biology and English 10. They must provide three other pieces of evidence: A minimum of one piece of evidence from the following: attain a minimum score on either the SAT, an AP course, an International Baccalaureate Program, or ACT Work Keys assessment, OR pass an industry credential, OR pass a dual enrollment credit class, OR be accepted into other than a four-year college OR pass the following courses offered through the University of Pittsburgh: Chemistry, Physics, Literature, Composition, Psychology, or Calculus. No more than two pieces of evidence can be chosen from the following: A service Learning Project OR Proficiency on one Keystone OR evidence of full-time employment OR completion of School to Work Program OR completion of an internship.

PATHWAY 5

Career & Technical Education

To successfully complete this pathway, a student will complete all coursework associated with a NOCTI or NIMS course and pass the assessment, OR provide evidence of being on track to complete the program and the assessment. At RHS, this would be any student involved in our Child Development Associate course.