

THE RIDGE SCHOOL  
RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
325 WEST RIDGEWOOD AVENUE  
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August 25, 2015

Dear Ridge Families,

Believe it or not it is time for my annual welcome back letter! Ridge School will be sparkling and ready to greet our students on September 2. We have new students and families to welcome to the Ridge community, and the staff and I are looking forward to the start of the school year. Based on the postcards and summer reading photos we received, it looks like our students had some wonderful and relaxing experiences this summer. We look forward to hearing all about them! (And it's not too late to send post cards and photos!)

If you have driven by Ridge School in the past couple of weeks, you have seen that the Ridge Beautification Project is well underway. What an effort this has been and continues to be for co-chairs Jennifer Blodgett and Martha Goldberg! For years that area has been full of weeds, mud, and rocks due to erosion. Not only was it unsightly, but the dirt and rocks would continually wash onto the sidewalk along the driveway. Now we will have a beautiful and functional area right in front of our school. It should be ready by the first day of school!

As you know, the first day of school is **Wednesday, September 2** with **dismissal at 12:45pm for Grades 1-5**. Teachers suggest that students bring a healthy snack (fruit, vegetables, protein) on the first day of school, as lunch will not be served. Beginning on Thursday, September 3 we will have a full day of school including the lunch period. Our lunch schedule this year will continue to be

- Monday – Thursday: Grades 1-2, 11:15-12:00 and Grades 3-5, 12:00 – 12:45
- Fridays – The entire school will have the same lunch period: 12:00-12:45

On Friday, September 4, however, we will have the double lunch-period since it's an easier way to get the students acclimated to lunch in the cafeteria the first week of school. If you choose to have your child go home for lunch on any given day, an adult must come into the office to sign him/her out and sign back in again at the end of lunch.

Kindergarten will follow the regular schedule beginning with the first day of school. The morning session meets from 8:35-11:20 and the afternoon session is from 12:15-3:00. Kindergarten students enter and exit the building via the front entrance at the top of the ramp.

Arrival to school will work the same way it has in the past. K-2 students will be asked to line up on the front patio each day. Students in Grades 3-5 will gather on the blacktop playground on nice days and on the front patio in the event of inclement weather. Just as last year, all students need to arrive at approximately 8:30am every day. **The school day begins at 8:35am.** Please do not drop your children off early unless they are part of early extra help/support classes or they are reporting for a before-school activity.

As many of you know, it has been a longstanding tradition at Ridge School on the first day of school only that many parents choose to walk their students into their classrooms and then leave after a few minutes. While this is a tradition, the side effects are often confusion and fear for some of our students due to the large crowd. With that in mind, we will be having special meeting spots for new students, kindergarten students, and RISE students up on our patio. Parents of those students can join them on the patio. All other students and their parents will be asked to wait down below the steps. This helps to create a better first-day environment for everyone.

Regarding dismissal, classroom teachers will again walk all students to the front of the school at 3:00pm whereby, according to the dismissal form you will complete on the first day of school, they will be dismissed by the teacher or released to you. It is important that all parents who are waiting to meet their children wait by the wall in the front of the school in order to ease the congestion that occurs. **Please do not wait up on the patio, on the steps, or just below the steps.** As always, the safety committee and I ask that you respect the “red zone” rules in order to create the safest possible environment for all of the children. You will receive a specific notice reminding you of the red zone and parking rules.

We have a wonderful school year ahead of us and I look forward to seeing all of the children on Wednesday, September 2! Please remember that they should bring their summer reading logs with them on the first day. I also look forward to the Family Picnic on September 11, where we’ll celebrate the start of this school year and welcome everyone back.

Enjoy these last days of summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Jean Schoenlank  
Principal