

The 2021 Graduates Reflect on Their Ridgewood Education

Have you ever wondered what memories our graduates have of their school days and the influence Ridgewood has had on their development? A week before graduation, I asked the eighth graders to reflect on and write about their Ridgewood experiences and the significance of our school in their lives. Prompts for their writing about Ridgewood included: what they had learned about themselves and other people, their goals for the future, how they had changed during their Ridgewood years, their favorite Ridgewood activity or memory, what did they most enjoy at Ridgewood, and the most important thing they learned as a Ridgewood student.

The Class of 2021 wrote most about how they had grown during their Ridgewood tenure. Although they were not asked to write about Ridgewood's mission, vision, or values, their incisive comments clearly reveal Ridgewood's values, as well as the graduates' personalities. In the section that follows, our school's values provided an easy method for organizing and sharing some of the Class of 2021's reflections.

Ridgewood Value: Inspire the Joy of Learning and Discovery

"Before I came here I would have never thought I would ever enjoy math or writing, but the amazing teachers here have truly had an impact on how I feel regarding my education." – Brayden Herron



Our 2021 graduates: Front row l to r, Maggie Jacks, Zoe Bisdorf, Brendan Russell, Rear row l to r, Brayden Herron, Aaron Harris, Gary Iddings

"I have learned that I love to perform on stage or anywhere ... I also learned I love to write." – Zoe Bisdorf.

Ridgewood Value: Encourage Academic Excellence

"I have a few goals for the next four years. I plan on being on student council every year for high school. I also plan on being in the top ten in my class. I would like to take all honors and AP classes in high school. I also plan on taking some college

courses. I will try to be as involved as I can." – Brendan Russell

Ridgewood Values: Celebrate Diversity and Foster Respect

"The most important thing I have learned at Ridgewood is to treat everyone with respect and to find the good in everyone."

– Gary Iddings

continued on next page »

Graduates Reflect continued

Ridgewood Value: Expect Integrity

“The most important thing I’ve learned at Ridgewood is to be myself and to reflect on who I really am. This school taught me to be passionate about the things that interest me.” – *Aaron Harris*

Ridgewood Values: Promote Leadership and Embrace Responsibility

“...I wanted to be on the student council. We have done so many things to help the community: Food Bank, the Alzheimer’s Walk and gathering donations. It’s such a great feeling being president of the Student Council. I have learned a lot about myself and other people.”

– *Zoe Bisdorf*

Ridgewood Value: Instill Citizenship

“I really want to try and change our society when I’m older.” – *Maggie Jacks*

“I’ve learned that I love doing community service and other small things to help my community prosper.” – *Brayden Herron*

Ridgewood Value: Engage the Whole Child

“...people may think that I haven’t really changed since I have only been here since the beginning of the eighth grade, but that’s not completely true. I have changed. Most of my life I was in public schools that were sort of harsh and I could never be myself. Here at Ridgewood I have been able to express myself a lot more, maybe that’s because of the smaller classes and the fact that it’s a smaller school (which is great), but I have indeed changed. I’m more outgoing with my classmates (or at least try to be). So overall, I have become more outgoing, and I have been able to express myself more here at Ridgewood.” – *Maggie Jacks*

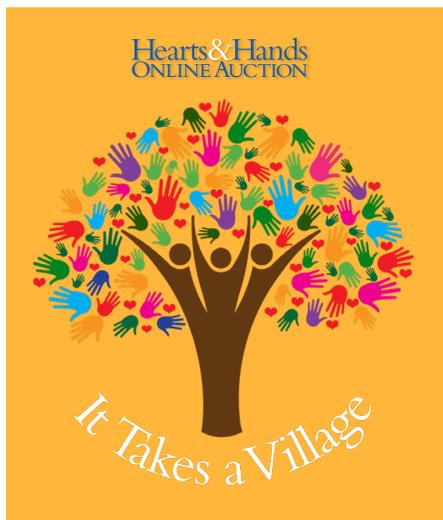
“I will always remember all the friends I have made here... They have taught me a lot and helped me along my middle school years.” – *Brendan Russell*

Thanks to the Class of 2021 for sharing their memories and letting us know the influence Ridgewood has had on their lives. The members of the Class of 2021 are a source of pride for Ridgewood School. Their maturity and thoughtfulness as reflected in their writings are impressive and confirm that Ridgewood School’s values become a part of the lives of its students. We congratulate and send best wishes to each of the Class of 2021 for their continued success and growth! We will miss them! 🌟

Thank You, “Villagers!” Hearts & Hands Online Auction

Our 2021 Hearts & Hands Online Auction, “It Takes a Village,” was a great success thanks to the efforts of the auction committee, auction sponsors and donors, Ridgewood students, staff, teachers, those who provided items for auction packages, and those who purchased the seventy outstanding auction items. It was this “village” of individuals who together made this event a highlight of our 2020-21 school year.

Auction Chairperson Kary Iddings reports that the event, including its online auction of seventy packages, the “Donate for a Cause” that raised funds to build a Zen playground on campus, and the auction raffle, netted more than \$26,000. Bonita Heeg, Ridgewood Development Director and Afshan Syed ’83, Board Development Committee Chair, thank everyone for their participation in this major, annual fundraiser that provides scholarships for worthy students.



Auction committee members included: Kary Iddings, chair; Afsheen Ansari; Ashra Ashraf; Saba Bathija; Jonathan Bisdorf; Melanie Bisdorf; Corwin Georges; Bonita Heeg; Kathie Hellmuth; Mary Lou Loftis; Aliya Ranganwala; Christine Reynolds; Mindy Skinner; and Afshan Syed ’83.

Thanks to all! 🌟

H. S. Kissell Legacy Society

We are privileged to have visionary alumni and families generously choosing to become members of the Ridgewood School H.S. Kissell Legacy Society by placing Ridgewood School in their wills.

To discuss including Ridgewood in your estate plans, please contact Bonita Heeg, Director of Development, at bonita@ridgewoodschool.org or 937.399.8900, Ext. 102. 🌟



Find us on Facebook
and Instagram!

Graduations 2021!

Ridgewood Class of 2021

On June 9, 2021, the Ridgewood School graduation and passing of classes were held in the Cole Carpentieri Commons at 7 p.m. Those attending were welcomed by eighth-graders Brayden Herron and Zoe Bisdorf. Adam Russell, president-elect of the Ridgewood School Association, spoke about the significance of this milestone in the graduates and their families' lives. A highlight of the evening was the graduates' collective speech in which they imagine running into each other later in life. Following the graduates' speech, Head of School Aliya Ranginwala and President-elect Russell presented the students their diplomas. Aaron Harris then presented the class gift, a "garden" of metal flowers located near the school's main entrance. Following the presentation of the class gift, the students in Grades 5-7 participated in the passing of classes.

Under the direction of Ms. Dawn Nail, the school orchestra preformed "Midnight Mission" and "Ode to Joy" and students from Grades 5-7 sang "I Lived" and "I Just Wanna Shine."

Head of School Ranginwala presented the President's Award for Educational Excellence to Brendan Russell and Brayden Herron and the President's Award for Academic Achievement to Zoe Bisdorf and Maggie Jacks. Mr. Metzger presented the Sons of the American Revolution Award to Aaron Harris and the Service Award to Brayden Herron. He also presented Zoe Bisdorf, Student Council president, a gavel in recognition of her presidency.



Brayden Herron '21 welcomes faculty, families, and friends to the 2021 graduation and passing of classes.

Before Mrs. Ranginwala offered her closing remarks, Maggie Jacks shared the Class Challenge. Following the ceremony, families, staff, faculty and friends celebrated our new alumni: Zoe Bisdorf, Aaron Harris, Brayden Herron, Gary Iddings, Maggie Jacks, and Brendan Russell. Congratulations to our 2021 graduates and their families! 🌟

Alumni Graduations

In addition to celebrating the recent graduation of the Class of 2021, we applaud the members of our Class of 2017 graduating from high school and the members of the Class of 2013 graduating from college!

Class of 2017

Thomas Edwards graduated from Springfield High School having completed the International Baccalaureate Program and will begin film studies at Columbia University in the fall.

Audrey Hallmark, having graduated from Springfield High School, will enter The Ohio State University in August. She, too, completed the International Baccalaureate Program at Springfield High School.

John Koveleski plans to study engineering at the University of Cincinnati having graduated this spring from Springfield High School.

Dakotah Pollard-Kern who graduated from Yellow Springs High School will begin studies at Clark State College in the fall.

Morgan Reynolds graduated from Springfield High School having completed the International Baccalaureate Program. She will begin studies at Wittenberg University this fall.

Aadil Umerani who graduated from the Miami Valley School will enroll at The Ohio State University in August.

Class of 2013

Anuj Devatha completed his bachelor's degree with a double major in science management (biotechnology) and French at Claremont McKenna College and is now employed as an incoming finance associate at Apple in Cupertino, California.

Tiffany Robinson completed her bachelor's degree with a major in international relations with a concentration in East Asian studies at Miami University in May. Last fall semester she was included in the President's List, a list of students who are ranked in the top three percent of the undergraduate studies within each academic division.

Best wishes for continued success to all! 🌟

Academic Accolades Spring Semester 2021

Spelling Bee

Ridgewood School has a rich tradition of outstanding spellers, including Anna Varghese '93 and Mini Chadha '83 who went on to national competitions in Washington, D.C. In this year's Ridgewood School Spelling Bee, Brendan Russell won first place; Mylo Frazier, second place; and Mason McGuire, third place.



L to r, Brendan Russell, Mylo Frazier, Mason McGuire

DAR Essay Contest



Zoe Bisdorf is the most recent Ridgewood student to win the annual, eighth-grade essay contest sponsored by

the Lagonda Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She received a medal and cash award at the chapter's March luncheon where she read her essay about the Boston Massacre.

Power of the Pen

Ridgewood seventh-graders Mary Cunningham and Charlie Grisson and eighth-grader Aaron Harris moved from the district to the regional Power of the Pen competition.



Power of the Pen, l to r, Aaron Harris, Mary Cunningham, Charles Grisson

Young Authors

Ridgewood School applauds its Young Author competition winners: Annia Ameur, fourth grade; Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, fifth grade; Mya Khasib, sixth grade; Mary Cunningham, seventh grade; and Maggie Jacks, eighth grade. Mary Cunningham was selected as Ridgewood School's overall winner.



L to r, Maggie Jacks, Mary Cunningham, Mya Khasib, Annia Ameur, Ms. Hembree. Not shown is Nicoletta Gianakopoulos.

Geography Bee

The top winners of the Ridgewood School 2021 Geography Bee were: Brendan Russell, first place; Emerson Babian, second place; and Aaron Harris, third place.



L to r, Brendan Russell, Emerson Babian, Aaron Harris

District and State Science Days

Fifth-grader Drake Lensman received an Outstanding Achievement award at the Central State District Science Day. Receiving Superior ratings at the District Science Day and advancing to the State Science Day were seventh-graders Mahed Rizvi, Mary Cunningham, and Landon Hunter. Both Mary and Mahed received Superior ratings on their projects at the



L to r, Drake Lensman, Mahed Rizvi, Mary Cunningham, Landon Hunter

State Science Day. Mahed's project focused on how temperature affects the speed of enzymatic reactions. Mary's project, "Soil Secrets," received a Geological Award Honorable Mention and a \$50 prize, first prize in the Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research and \$100, first prize in the Ohio Environmental Health Association Awards and \$100, and eligibility to participate in Broadcast MASTERS event.

History Bee

Jude Earlywine, fifth grade, won Ridgewood School's 2021 History Bee. Second-place winner was Seth Wiles, seventh grade, and third-place winner was Usayd Ashraf, sixth grade. Other students who qualified to participate in the bee included eighth-graders Brendan Russell and Maggie Jacks and seventh-grader Mahed Rizvi. ☀️



L to r, Jude Earlywine, Seth Wiles, Usayd Ashraf

Spring Semester Student Council Report

Ridgewood students—with the help of staff, parents, and alumni—continued to work diligently to provide activities at school and make an impact in the community. They began in January by collecting hats and gloves for Rocking Horse Center as well as paper products for the IHN Homeless Shelter.



Students with desks they built for community children

On Service Day in February, students volunteered on their day off from school to build desks for children in the community in need of a work-space at home, make valentines for local nursing homes, assemble treat bags for kids at IHN and Project Woman, and bake cookies and write thank-you cards for medical personnel in the community. The day wrapped up with students delivering these items to the local organizations along with a \$175 donation to IHN.



Students return to Food Bank in June

The 6th–8th graders also participated in a snowman-building contest at school in February and built snowmen for residents at Wooded Glen Health Campus.

March was a busy month with Spirit Week, the 9th annual Pi(e) Day, the return of the egg hunt for lower-level students, the first lower-level movie night of the year, and a Spring Bash for 5th–8th graders. Students made Easter baskets to deliver to three local nursing homes and treat bags for kids. Pi(e) Day coincidentally raised \$314 for Project Woman that went towards our donation of \$500 to the organization.



Arriving to present check at Project Woman

In conjunction with Earth Day in April, the Student Council hosted a variety of Earth Day themed events including a poster contest on recycling, students reading stories about conservation to younger students, Earth Day stickers for everyone, and picking up trash around campus and in the land lab. An upper-level movie night was also held in April.



Students competing in the Snowman Contest



Ready to present check to Second Harvest Food Bank

We worked in May with the Second Harvest Food Bank as part of their Empty Bowls event and raised \$600 for the Food Bank. We also collected books for Rocking Horse Center, did sidewalk chalk art at a local health fair, and collected hygiene products for the Homeless Shelter. During the second half of the year, we were able to complete numerous sports leagues including: volleyball, ping-pong, corn hole, football, and basketball.

In June, Student Council collected spare change for the Pennies for Patients project for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (raising \$650), hosted Freerice.com Week, and raised \$200 for the Free Store. Students also had their first opportunity in over a year to return to the Food Bank where they filled boxes with food for seniors and the homeless.

We look forward to more service projects over the summer and to begin planning next year's events.

Finally, thank you to Zoe Bisdorf who served as Student Council president this year and to its members who helped make such a challenging year a success at school and in the community. 🌟

2021 Retirements

Three valued members of the Ridgewood family retired this spring. Each contributed uniquely to our students and will be genuinely missed.



With thirty-one years of previous teaching experience, **Teresa Foreman** joined us in 2000 as our second-grade teacher and quickly proved to be a master teacher. When you walked into her classroom, it was apparent that there were clear expectations for students and that her students understood them. Mrs. Foreman's great gift was knowing what her students needed to learn and what they needed to do to learn. It was this expertise that allowed her to work calmly, confidently, and successfully with students.



Jo Pollard, our chief cook since 2016, was quickly dubbed by students as "Grandma Jo." Like many of their own grandmothers, "Grandma Jo" was a great cook who liked to see them eat and enjoy what she prepared. It was not only the students who enjoyed her meals, but also teachers, staff, and the occasional visitor whom she would ask if they were hungry and invite to lunch. When some students were home during the pandemic, parents requested we post "Grandma Jo's" lasagna recipe on Facebook.



Marsha LeValley, our auxiliary clerk since 2010, was responsible for purchasing, cataloging, and maintaining inventories of books, equipment, and supplies. In a job that demands attention to detail and punctuality, Mrs. LeValley, who is never without a smile and kind words, always saw that teachers, students, and staff had what they needed when it was needed. ✨

2021 Business Partners in Education

Visionary Leaders in Our Community

It is an honor to have the following 2021 *Business Partners in Education* a part of Ridgewood School! Their support is vital to the success of our students who come from a four-county area (Clark, Champaign, Greene and Madison counties). The names of the levels reflect Ridgewood School's core values. We encourage you to please patronize these remarkable and visionary businesses and individual professionals!

Leadership Level

Mujeeb A. Ranginwala, MD,
Rheumatology

Citizenship Level

Hometown DDS
Littleton & Rue
Funeral Home and Crematory

Academic Excellence Level

Kettering Health Network
Sinclair Community College

Critical Thinking Level

Advanced Nephrology & Hypertension
Anderson's Mobile Pressure &
Soft Wash Services
C&N Contractors, Inc.
The Champion Companies
Clark State College
Comprehensive Vein Care
Dye & Doss Insurance
Ferncliff
Hackett Wealth Management
Heart House Research Foundation
KAPP Construction
McGregor Metalworking Companies
Mercy Health
NewView Property Maintenance &
Hardscapes LLC & Garden Center
Palmer Manufacturing & Supply Inc.
Park National Bank
Roger Storer & Son Plumbing
Springfield Cardiology
Springfield Foundation
Wallace & Turner
Whitacre Pharmacy
Zima Automotive

Student Engagement Level

Bryce Hill, Inc.
Business Equipment Company
Dependable Roofing
Greater Springfield Partnership
Daniel C. Harkins, Attorney at Law
Home City Tent & Awning Co.
KB&P Financial Partners
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken & Strips
Martin Browne
NCF Savings Bank
North Spring Dental & Orthodontics
Orthodontic Specialists of Ohio
Richards, Raff & Dunbar
Memorial Home
Springfield Health & Fitness
Springfield Masonic Community
Sheehan Brothers Vending
Williams Hardware
Wittenberg University

Discovery Level

Boldman Printing
Clark Schaefer Hackett
Community Health Foundation
Conroy Funeral Home &
Cremation Services
The Guarantee Insurance Agency
Hauck Bros. Inc.
Jackson Lytle & Lewis
Life Celebration Center
Marsh & McLennan Agency
New Carlisle Family Practice
The Peanut Shoppe
Springfield Museum of Art
The Yost Superior Co. ✨



Celebrating Our 2020 and 2021 Distinguished Alumni, Honorary Alumni, and Anniversary Classes

Ridgewood School Association's Board of Trustees invites the Ridgewood family to join it for dinner on September 24 when it presents its 2021 *Distinguished Alumni Awards* and *Honorary Alumni Awards* and celebrates its anniversary classes of 1946, 1951, 1961, 1971, and 1996.

Recipients of the 2021 *Distinguished Alumni Award* are Afshan Ahmed Syed '83 who is being recognized for her years of dedicated support to Ridgewood School and the active role she plays in the Springfield community. Ashfaq T. Ahmed, MD '84, Afshan's brother, is being honored for the visionary guidance he provided Ridgewood as a two-term board president. Amer F Ahmed, EdD '92, their brother, is being celebrated for his significant work in the area of intercultural diversity. Alumna Catherine Corry Blakemore '45 is being recognized for her work as a researcher for the United States Congress, a publishing executive and author of seven books. Tim Noonan '66 is being celebrated as a nationally respected public relations strategist and author or ghost author of numerous institutional histories and memoirs.*

During the dinner, the Board of Trustees will also confer the status of *Honorary Alumni* on four individuals who have served Ridgewood School with distinction by making a significant contribution of time, effort, and/or resources to the school's welfare, reputation, or prestige and by serving as

role models for Ridgewood's students. This honor is being awarded to Tajuddin Ahmed, MD, Shahana Ahmed, Alexandra Gianakopoulos, and Aristides "Art" Gianakopoulos.

In addition to the 2021 awards presentations, we will recognize the 2020 awards recipients whom we were unable to celebrate last fall due to COVID restrictions. Included in this group are: 2020 *Alumni of Distinction* Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69 and Scott A. Thacker '69; and 2020 *Honorary Alumni* Ruth Kunkel Bayley, Pauline N. Chakeres, Patrick E. Field, Thalia C. Pavlatos, Sally Abbott Pomputius, MD and J.M. Pomputius, MD.

Please join us at the Alumni Dinner on September 24 when we will celebrate these individuals who represent what is best about our school. Dinner reservations may be made at <https://AlumniDinner.givesmart.com> or by contacting Christine Reynolds at 937.399.8900, Ext. 104 or chreynolds@ridgewoodschool.org. If you are unable to join us for dinner, please reach out and congratulate our Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni of 2020 and 2021.

* Tim has recently authored our centennial history, *Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100* and will be available to sign copies of the history prior to dinner.

It is with a sense of great loss that we report the death of 2020 Honorary Alumna Thalia Pavlatos who died on July 29, 2021. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Fall Semester Calendar

August 23, 2021-January 20, 2022

August 23-24

Teacher Work Days

August 24

Open House, 6-7:30 p.m.

August 25

First Day of School

September 6

Labor Day, No School

September 22-25

Book Fair!

September 24

Alumni Dinner, 6:15 p.m.

September 25

Student Council at Springfield Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-Noon

Fall Fest, Ridgewood School, 1-4 p.m.

September 30

Interim Reports

October 7

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7 p.m.

October 8

Parent-Teacher Conference Make-up Day, No School

October 21

Multicultural Night, 6:00 p.m.

October 22

End of 1st Grading Period

November 5

Electronic Report Cards-Gradelink

November 24-26

Thanksgiving Break

November 30

"Giving Tuesday"

December 2

Interim Reports

December 14

Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.

December 20-31

Winter Break

January 3

Return to school

January 13

End of 2nd Grading Period

January 14

Teacher Work Day, No School

January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, No School

January 20

Electronic Report Cards-Gradelink ✨

Fueling Our Mission

The Need is Real and Every Student Benefits from Your Generosity

The Ridgewood Fund Campaign 2021-22 has begun!

The *Ridgewood Fund* annual campaign gathers together caring and giving individuals who fuel our mission by providing every child of our diverse student body the full Ridgewood School college preparatory STEM Plus educational experience – opportunities that are part of our unique learning experience that are not covered by tuition

alone. Like annual funds of all other ISACS-accredited, private, independent day schools, *The Ridgewood Fund* is a vital part of our school's annual budget.

Our students need you! Please know 100% of our students will benefit from your gift, no matter the size. We ask you to participate at a level meaningful to you. Please go to <https://ridgewood-school.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund/> and charge your donation to your VISA,

MasterCard or AmEx, or mail your check, made payable to Ridgewood School Association, to the attention of Bonita Heeg, Director of Development, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504 or call her at 937.399.8900, Ext. 102. Be sure and ask your employer if your company has a matching-gift program!

Below is a complete listing of the amazing individuals who contributed to last year's *The Ridgewood Fund* ☀

Last Year's The Ridgewood Fund Donor Honor Roll

Drs. Ash & Afshan Ahmed
Mary Foster Allardyce '51 *In Memory of*
 Sylvia Beasley Snyder '51
Christian '54 & Phyllis Baldenhofer
Vijay & Saba Kassaye Bathija
Catherine Corry Blakemore '45
Katie Hoelfling Brant '97
Bill* & Deanna Brougher
Susan Brougher
Bryce Hill, Inc., *In Memory of*
 Ruth Ray
Ms. Vivian H. Carter
Ashley K. Catanzaro, *In Honor of*
 Claire Catanzaro and Christopher
 Knowlton '83 and *In Memory of*
 Mike Catanzaro
JoEtta Cooper
Brock & Jenni '92 Cox
Steve & Kris Culp
J. P. Dahdah '89, *In Memory of*
 Dr. Salim O. Dahdah
Jenny Lee Deer
Randolph H. Deer
Dr. Larry & Kim Fish
Mike* & Rachel Fissel
Peg Foley* & Wes Babian
Robert & Tami French
Anne & Corwin Georges, PhD*
Clare Georges '05
Matthew & Shelly Grisson
Michael Hackett
Jim & Bonita Heeg
Angel Howard

Calvin & Tiffany Hunter
Debra S. Jacks
Clayton O. Klein
Michael & Margery Koveleski
Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69*
Kyle Levine '92
Michael & Lisa Loftis
Thomas E. Lynch '77
Leandro Maloberti & Rachel Kutzby
Mel Marsh & Rick Rutan
Cameron & Jamie '90 McGregor
Dan '55 & Judy McGregor
McMann, Smoot, Riddle Insurance
 Agency, *In Memory of* Ruth Ray
Mary S. Miller '49
P.J. & Lisa Miller, *In Memory of*
 Barbara Dennerlein Miller '43
Justin & Tera Mohler
Asha Morgan Moran '84 &
 Marty Moran
Paul & Susan Nelson, *In Honor of*
 Corwin Georges, PhD
New Carlisle Family Practice
Stacy Owens '88
LeGertha Phillips, *In Honor of*
 Robert, Ada & Jennifer McQuire
Drs. J. M. & Sally Abbott Pomputius
Angela Portis
Thomas F. Prendergast
Angus M. C. Randolph
Melinda Reardon*
A Ridgewood School Friend (1)
A Ridgewood School Friend (2)

Dr. Tariq* & Afsheen Ansari Rizvi
Dr. Dennis & Margaret Roark
Mark '67* & Cyndi Robertson
Nathan & Kayla Robinson
Rick & Joy Rogers
Jeffrey & Jackie Rood
Adam* & Tiffany Russell
A'Dymond Sammons '18
The Siddiqi Family, *In Memory of*
 Nadeem Siddiqi '92
Billy & Mendy* Simmons
Kathy Skinner, *In Memory of*
 Aric Thornburg
Michael & Mindy Skinner
Cynthia Durfey Smith '47
Dr. Mubin & Afshan '83* Syed
The Thacker Family
William & Mary Thornburg, *In Memory of*
 Aric Thornburg
Punky Turner
Anna M. Varghese '93
The Vandiford Family, *In Honor of*
 Christopher '07 & Chandler Vandiford
Angelique Walker-Smith '72, *In Memory of*
 Rev. Roosevelt V. Walker &
 Rev. Elder Geneva Willis Walker
Katherine "Kitty" Wildman, *In Memory of*
 Corrine Nolte Wetherbee '26
Marta Wojcik* & Kevin Rose
Rob* & Molly Young

* RSA Trustee 2020-21

2021 Summer Enrichment Experiences

A record-breaking number of local children in grades K-9 were enrolled in and thoroughly enjoyed being a part of Ridgewood's Summer Enrichment Program. The three weeks of week-long activities included experiences in science, art, music, manners, creative movement, golf, Spanish, archeology, tennis, creative writing, puppetry, gymnastics, chess, woodworking, acting, cooking, and computing. There seemed



"Tennis Time"



"Emily Post Meets 'That's rude, dude!'"



"Art in Nature"

to be something for everyone, for each of the ninety-three enthusiastic students who participated in our 2021 Summer Enrichment Program!

Congratulations to Head of School Ranginwala, teachers and staff for these outstanding summer experiences! ☀️



"Bridge Building"



"Let's Make Music"



"Creative Movement with Water"

Now Available!

Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100

This month saw the publication of the greatly anticipated *Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100*. For its author Tim Noonan '66, the immense task of researching and writing

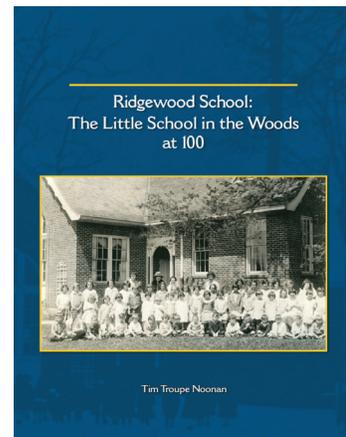
Ridgewood's history was a labor of love.

Tim, a Ridgewood alumnus, is the grandson of one of Ridgewood's founders, Harry S. Kissell and the son of one of its early alumnae, Mary Lu Kissell Noonan '27 and a former Ridgewood trustee, Howard Noonan. Tim, the writer of institutional histories and memoirs, brought both his skills as an author/historian and his familial love for "The Little School in the Woods," to telling the tale of the school created to serve families in Springfield's upscale neighborhood of "Ridgewood in the Country Club District," an area developed by his grandfather.

Tim's work recounts Ridgewood's first one hundred years and its struggles, growth, diversification, and success. The wonderfully illustrated book places the school within its local and national contexts, introduces board members, headmasters, teachers, and benefactors who were instrumental in seeing that the school survived, grew, changed with the times, and today thrives. ☀️

Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100 may be purchased at <https://HistoryBook.givesmart.com> or by phoning Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant at 937.399.8900, Ext. 104. Purchase price: \$35.

Tim will sign copies of the book on September 24 at our Alumni Dinner.



Alumni Spotlights



David Bodenberg '45 After his graduation from Yale University and studies at Princeton, David pursued a research career in international finance that saw him living and working around the world –

Cairo, Chicago, Moscow, London, Geneva, New York, Berlin, etc. In 1991, he and his wife Mary Ann settled in Victoria, British Columbia where they now live. David, now retired, and Mary Ann are the parents of two daughters, Amy who also resides in Canada and is pictured with David in the photo and Emily who lives in California.

Angelique Walker-Smith '72



Kent State alumna, Rev. Dr. Walker-Smith completed her Masters Degree at Yale University Divinity School in 1993. In 1995,

she became the first African American woman to graduate from the Doctor of Ministry Program at Princeton Theological Seminary. For nineteen years, Angelique served as the Executive Director of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. In 2014, Angelique became the Senior Associate for Pan African and Orthodox Church Engagement at Bread for the World and moved to Washington, D.C. In 2018, she was elected president of the Historic Black Church Family of Christian Churches Together (CCT). CCT seeks to foster unity among all the major Christian traditions. These traditions are grouped into five families: Historic Black, Catholic, Historic Protestant, Orthodox, and Evangelical-Pentecostal. She is the first female president of any of CCT's five families.

Lela Reichert-Klein '93

With the recent opening of Dayton's Gem City Market, Ms. Reichert-Klein achieved one of her goals as a leader in the Dayton co-op movement. Lela, who earned a BA from Cornell University and her JD from Harvard Law School, returned to Dayton in 2012 and in 2016 co-founded Greater Dayton Union Cooperative Initiative, now Co-op Dayton, a non-profit working to develop a network of cooperatives in the city. As co-executive director of Co-op Dayton, Lela worked tirelessly to make the Gem City Market a reality. A 2018 "Daytonian of the Week," Lela believes that Dayton's future relies on its residents working together for change and not relying on outsiders to develop the city.



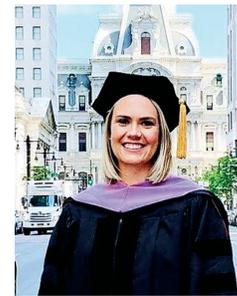
Lauren Fish '04

Lauren graduated from the University of Chicago in 2012 and in 2014 completed a master's degree in teaching at the

University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute. Having taught sixth-grade math and science in Chicago for a number of years, Lauren recently completed an MBA at the University of Chicago's Booth School. During her years in Chicago, Lauren has run a popular trivia night at a local bookstore. She will start working at Bain & Company, a leading management consulting firm, at the end of this summer.

David Fish '06 In 2014, David graduated from Emory University with a major in computer science and another in comparative literature. Since then he has been a software engineer in San Francisco, first at Dropbox and now at

Plaid Technologies. During his time in San Francisco, David has remained an avid tennis player and become a member of a salsa dance company that performs in the Bay Area. In the fall, David will move to NYC and enter Columbia University to pursue a master's degree in English literature.



Elizabeth Bailey '07

Elizabeth recently competed her DMD at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in Philadelphia and is now

in a yearlong residency at ProMedica Toledo Hospital. After graduating from Ridgewood, she graduated from Groton School in Massachusetts and then Denison University where she majored in English and biology. While completing her master's degree in biology at the University of Arizona she conducted genetic research.

Edward Bailey '09

Capt. Edward Bailey is a pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps and stationed in Oahu, Hawaii. He is currently deployed in the outback of Australia. After graduating from Ridgewood, Edward attended and graduated from Woodbury Forest in VA. He later earned a BA in economics, political science, and philosophy at Denison University. ☀



We'd like to include you in Alumni Spotlights. Please let us know where you are and what you're doing. Send your information and photo to cgeorges@ridgewoodsschool.org

Ridgewood Staff and Faculty 2021-2022

Head of School: Aliya Ranginwala

Dean of Students: Dan Metzger

Development Director: Bonita Heeg

Alumni Director: Corwin Georges, PhD

IT Manager: George Berkhofer

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Reynolds

Bookkeeper: MaiLin Johnson

Secretary: Michelle Dutton

Auxiliary Clerk: Patricia Adams

Preschool Director/Lead Teacher: Gail Suzel

Preschool Assistant Teacher: Megan Landry

Kindergarten Teacher: Anna Kiehn

First Grade Teacher: Jenna Carter

Second Grade Teacher: Kristine Reimers

Third Grade Teacher: Kelly Biers

Fourth Grade Teacher: Brandi Hembree

Fifth Grade Teacher: Megan Newell

Social Studies and Math: Dan Metzger

Math, Science, Learning Garden:

Rachel McLaughlin

Language Arts: Paul Sauter

Spanish: Sylvia Phillips

Visual Art: Molly Loftis

Music and Lower-Level Computer:

Dawn Naill

Upper-Level Computer: Kristyn Keriazes

Librarian/Media Specialist:

Jennifer Metz-Fischer

Physical Education, Title 1 Tutor:

Nicole Newman

Gifted Tutor: Rebecca Konecki

Tutor: Tera Mohler

Tutor: Laura Moon

Teachers' Aide: Pattie Fuschino

Nurse: Lisa Reynolds, RN

Chef & Kitchen Manager: John Linardos

Environmental Services: Jessica Yoakem

Please join us in greeting our returning faculty and staff and in extending a warm welcome to our new teachers. ✨

Introducing Our New Faculty



Kelly Biers (Third Grade) Our new third-grade teacher, Ms. Biers, was raised in Kettering and is a 2001 graduate of the University of Dayton where she earned a BA in communication with an emphasis in management. In 2006, she received her Ohio Early Childhood Education License with an emphasis in PreK-3. Since completing her licensure, she has taught in Ohio and Kentucky elementary schools and daycare centers. Kelly has also worked as a library assistant and tutor. She is a fan of Netflix and loves the ocean and the beach.

Kristyn Keriazes (Upper-Level Computer) Ms. Keriazes holds a BA degree with a major in education and a math minor from Wittenberg University. At the University of Cincinnati she completed a MEd in educational leadership. Kristyn holds an Ohio Middle Childhood Education License (math and science) and an Ohio Principal's License (PK-12). She is a certified PBL Curriculum Developer and a Google Educator Level 1. She comes to Ridgewood with more than ten years of teaching experience. Her computer skills include proficiency in: Adobe Illustrator, Canva, Google Suites, Microsoft Office, Weebly, and Word Press. She reports that she enjoys cooking, tennis, and taste-testing new ice cream flavors.



Rachel McLaughlin (Science and Math) Having completed her BS in entomology at The Ohio State University in 2018, this summer Ms. McLaughlin received her MS in entomology from Pennsylvania State University where she has been a course instructor and studied teaching methods and course design. Her educational background also includes studies in ecology and other aspects of biology. In addition to maintaining her own insect zoo, Ms. McLaughlin enjoys spending time painting, jewelry making, baking and gardening.

Laura Moon (Tutor) Ms. Moon comes to Ridgewood with twenty-five years of teaching experience having taught in Springfield City Schools and at Catholic Central Elementary School. She received her BS degree from Miami University and has completed advanced coursework in reading and language arts. One of her professional objectives is "to give each child his or her own special set of tools to be successful in school."



Megan Newell (Fifth Grade) With more than twenty years of teaching experience in Ohio, Illinois, and Oregon, Ms. Newell comes to Ridgewood from Greenon Local School District in Clark County, where she was a reading teacher. Ms. Newell holds a BA in elementary education from Elmhurst College and a MA in teaching from Aurora University. Born and raised in Springfield, Megan returned to the community four years ago. She reports that her "home is constantly abuzz with the activities of six children, two dogs, and a pond full of fish."

Kristine Reimers (Second Grade) Kristine Reimers holds a BA in elementary education from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. She received her MEd in education assessment and curriculum from Jones International University, Denver, Colorado. She brings to our students almost twenty years of teaching experience. One of her professional objectives is "to create and nurture a lifelong love of knowledge in children." Kristine's children Sydney and Isaac will be new Ridgewood students this fall. ✨



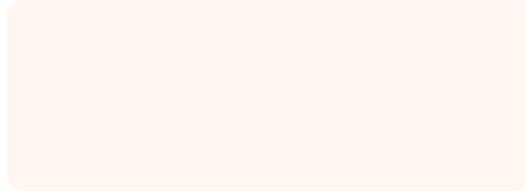


the light of learning

2420 Saint Paris Pike
Springfield, Ohio 45504

NonProfit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Springfield, OH
Permit No. 199

Return Service Requested



Ridgewood Times

is published for families, alumni and friends of Ridgewood School.

Editor: Corwin Georges, PhD

Copywriters: Corwin Georges, PhD; Bonita Heeg; Aliya Ranginwala; and Dan Metzger

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Photos: Dan Metzger, Kary Iddings, and Christine Reynolds

Ridgewood School Association Officers and Trustees 2021-22

President: Adam Russell

Vice President: Afshan Syed '83

Secretary: Christine Reynolds*

Treasurer: Rob Young

Past President: Mendy Simmons

Bill Brougher

Mike Fissel

Corwin Georges, PhD

Calvin Hunter

Jeanne Lampe '69

Melinda Reardon

Sayed Tariq Rizvi, MD

Margaret Roark

Mark Robertson '67

Marta Wojick

* Non-voting member

Ridgewood School Association meetings are open to the public and occur on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Ridgewood School. If you wish to speak to the Board at a meeting, please write the Board president at least one week prior to the meeting requesting that you be added to the agenda, and provide a brief statement of the subject you will address. Leave your request with Christine Reynolds at the school office.

From the Head of School

Moving Forward!



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

I am happy to say we are at a very different place this summer than we were last year at this time. The new school year brings hope of a return to normalcy, even if it is a new version of normalcy. There were new processes and procedures introduced this past year that helped us safely navigate through the year in person. Some of those are worth keeping while others we are thrilled to eliminate. We were very fortunate to add support staff last year and a full-time custodian, resulting in a finer learning environment for our students. We enhanced our air quality with a new filtration

system that will continue to provide healthier air for our children to breathe. Overall, I am so proud that we have made it through an experience not seen in the past hundred years while remaining strong as an educational institution.

As we look forward to our next school year, we have growing enrollment numbers, a very successful summer enrichment program behind us, and hope for a brighter school year ahead of us. Now we prepare for our 2021-22 school year. First on our agenda is to order the cafeteria tables that were the "Donate for a Cause" in the 2020 Hearts & Hands Auction. Ridgewood is thankful to all our families, alumni and friends that contributed to meeting this very important need. We are looking forward to having our Cole Carpentieri Commons used for morning assemblies, our lunches together, music classes and gym classes. Most of all, we longingly await having performances for our

families again.

This fall we'll begin with an Open House where we'll have sign-up sheets for families to volunteer for the many opportunities we offer them to be involved in our school. On September 25, "Fall Fest," one of the most enjoyable fall events, is scheduled on the Ridgewood grounds. Coming in late October will be our much-anticipated "Multicultural Night."

We have learned from our experience last year that if we work together and follow the guidelines set for us, we can make our school community a safe place that produces the best outcome for all. As we plan optimistically for our 2021-22 school year, we will continue to set guidelines for our school based on the recommendations and mandates set by the CDC, ODH, and CCCHD for the year ahead. We look forward to a wonderful new school year with the addition of many new families and staff! 🌟

