RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL
the light of learning

Fall 2026
Ridgewood Times

A NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

Graduation and Passing of Classes 2026



The Class of 2026

Even rain couldn't dampen spirits at Ridgewood's 2026 graduation ceremony. Following the day of rain, everyone attending was pleased that Mrs. Ranginwala, Ridgewood's Head of School, had moved graduation and the passing of classes into the dry, air-conditioned Cole Carpentieri Commons. There, they could comfortably focus on this significant passage in the students' lives.

Following the procession of Ridgewood students into the commons, the ceremony opened with an invocation offered by eighth graders Lina Ameur, Derreon Miller, and Julia Doss. Next, Vivian Guest, Arhem Rizvi, and Hassan Bilal welcomed everyone. Following their welcome each of the fourteen eighth graders presented his or her graduation speech. Together their speeches developed a saga of a reunion in Rome years from now. It was filled with wonderful descriptive images and humor. It was an expression of their heart-felt memories of Ridgewood and their friends, as well as their dreams for the future.



Class of 2026 singing the alma mater

Mrs. Ranginwala introduced the class and with Mrs. Marta Wojcik, Ridgewood School Association president, presented the students their diplomas. In her remarks, Mrs. Wojcik recalled a Peppa Pig cartoon in which the characters looked forward to growing up and being able to tell others what to do. Mrs. Wojcik urged the students to work hard so that, if they are ever in a position that calls for them to tell others what to do, they are well- prepared to do so. She also pointed out that perhaps the most important thing though is not telling others what to do, but simply to serve others. The class gift of gym equipment was then presented to Mrs. Ranginwala and Mrs. Wojcik by graduates Edith Swingle, Violet Barnes, Lujain Bilal, and Donte Portis. Following the presentation of the class gift, Mrs. Ranginwala moved to the Ridgewood tradition of the passing of the classes in which each student is asked to stand and is introduced as a member of the class they will enter in the next school year.

Mr. Dan Metzger, faculty member and Dean of Students, began the next portion of the program in which the graduates were recognized for their accomplishments. He presented Arhem Rizvi, who had been an exemplary president of the student council, with a memorial gavel. Arhem also received the Ann Barrett-King Service Award for having provided 272 hours of community service. Mrs. Ranginwala recognized Arhem as a Gold Presidential Award recipient and Vivian Guest, Derreon Miller, and Edith Swingle as Silver Presidential Award recipients. Tim Bode, Ph.D., president of the George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented the chapter's citizenship award to Lillianne Dobbins.



Mr. Metzger presents memorial gavel to Arhem Rizvi, Student Council President

The K-7th Grade Choir celebrated the graduates with two songs, "Children Together," that featured a solo by first-grader Ezra Tanksley, and "I'll Always Remember You," under the direction of Ms. Lori Whitaker. Following their performance everyone joined in singing Ridgewood's alma mater. As the program ended, graduates Lillianne Dobbins, Avalyn Sellman, Jacob Gomez, and Devyn Cardinal presented the class challenge and Mrs. Ranginwala reminded the students that there is power in dreaming, if you believe in your dreams and work hard. She asked the graduates to remember that failure is a part of the journey and that the thing most to be feared is not failing, but not trying.



K-8 Choir sings "I'll Always Remember You"



RAP: Making Ridgewood a Special Place

RAP is Ridgewood's parent organization that works with our teachers and staff to provide outstanding educational and social experiences for students and their families. Fall Fest, Multicultural Night, classroom parties, Trunk or Treat, the annual auction, and field trips are just some of RAP's activities that create fond memories for students and build a sense of community among Ridgewood families. RAP invites you to join it and help make Ridgewood a special place.

RAP meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 2:30-3:30 p.m. RAP's first 2026-27 meeting will be held at the school on September 9 at 2:30 p.m. If you have any questions about RAP, please contact Michelle Dutton, Receptionist, at **mdutton@ridgewoodschool.org or at 937.399.8900**.

Our Ignite Campaign is Coming!

Actually, it's already on its way. During the past few months, a committee created by our board of trustees has been quietly gathering support from Ridgewood families, friends and alumni to establish a million-dollar endowment that will be used solely for the purpose of supporting teacher salaries and benefits.

Our Centennial Campaign in 2019 allowed us to invest in our physical plant; it is now time to invest in our human resources, our teachers, those we rely on to educate our students. Currently there is a national and state teacher shortage, a factor that makes this campaign even more important. Ridgewood must be able to compete with public and other private schools to employ and retain outstanding teachers. It is for these reasons we are creating this endowment.

Early in 2027, we will reach out to the families, friends, and alumni whom we haven't yet contacted and ask them to contribute to our Ignite Campaign. At that time, we will also recognize those who have already committed to this effort. If you want to be included as a part of this foundational group of donors, those who have already contributed to our Ignite Campaign, please contact Aliya Ranginwala at **aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org**, or by phone,937-399-8900, before November 15, 2026.



Thank you to Park National Bank, one of the first Ignite Campaign donors

Thank You, SGO-Panther Scholarship Donors of 2025-2026!

The word is getting around! This past year we saw a significant increase in the number of our SGO-Panther Scholarship donors. (See p.12) Their thoughtful generosity increased Ridgewood's ability to provide scholarships to qualifying students.

What is an SGO-Panther Scholarship Donor? First, a Panther Scholarship is a form of financial aid that Ridgewood provides worthy students. Second, an SGO donor is an individual or couple that contributes to Ridgewood's Panther Scholarship Fund at the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS) which is a scholarship granting organization (SGO).

The contributions that SGO donors made to Ridgewood via OAIS offset a portion of what the donors owed in state income tax. Ohio law allows each taxpayer to deduct the amount they contribute to an SGO scholarship fund, up to $750, from what they owe in state income tax. If an individual contributes $250 dollars to our SGO-Panthers Scholarship Fund and owes Ohio a total of $400 in income tax, the donor only pays Ohio $150.

Our SGO-Panthers Scholarship donors contributed a total of $43,075 in 2025-2026 which partially covered the total of $82,000 of financial aid Ridgewood provided last year. Thank you, SGO-Panther Scholarship Donors!

Please consider contributing to our SGO-Panther Scholarship Fund 2026-2027. Your donation is simply a re-allocation of money you will pay in state income tax for 2026 and not an additional expense for you. It will greatly benefit Ridgewood and its families. For more information about contributing to our Panther Scholarship Fund, go to "Giving" at ridgewoodschool.org, or contact Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, at **aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org** or phone her at 937.399.8900.

Ridgewood School Honored!

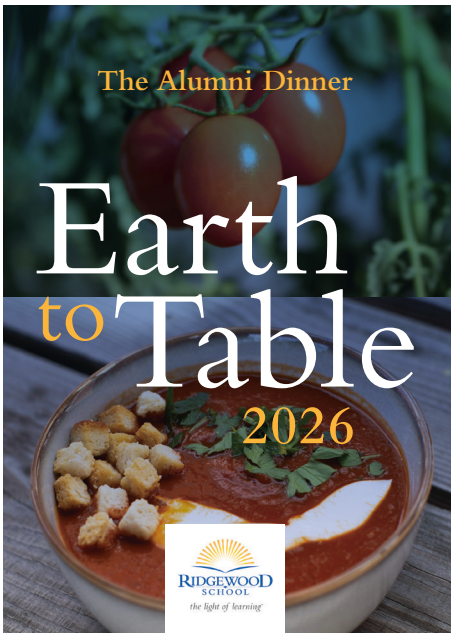
We are incredibly proud to share that Ridgewood School has been named a BusinessRate Best of 2026 Award Winner for private educational institutions in Springfield! This recognition is based on outstanding online reviews and community feedback, making it especially meaningful because it reflects the experiences of the families, students, alumni, and community members we serve every day. At Ridgewood, we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience where every student is challenged, supported, and inspired to grow academically, socially, and personally. This award belongs to our dedicated faculty and staff, our amazing students, and the families who place their trust in us. Here's to another year of excellence, innovation, and making a difference!

National Junior Honor Society Induction

Upper-level students joined the families of Ridgewood students who were being inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) in the Cole Carpentieri Commons on March 18, 2026. Mr. Dan Metzger, Ridgewood's NJHS advisor, along with faculty members Ms. Rachel McLaughlin, Mr. Paul Sauter, Mrs. Megan Miller, and NJHS members Arhem Rizvi and Cameron Mowers conducted the induction ceremony in which eleven upper-level students became NJHS members.

NJHS membership is based on a students' exceptional demonstration of five qualities-scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. It is the expectation that those awarded membership will continue to demonstrate these qualities. Members are selected annually by the faculty. This year, Iris Mohler from the sixth grade; Umer Bilal, Matthew Comer, Devyn Crawford, Claudia Lauricella, and Easton Routzahn from the seventh grade; and Hassan Bilal, Lujain Bilal, Devyn Crawford, Julia Doss, and Vivian Guest from the eighth grade were selected for this honor. Congratulations, to our new NJHS members and their families!





Scan QR code to make reservations

You Are Invited to the 2026 Earth to Table Alumni Dinner

Please join us for Ridgewood School's Earth to Table Alumni Dinner on September 25. The dinner is a happily anticipated annual fall gathering of the Ridgewood family that celebrates the opening of the school year, the harvest from our Learning Garden and the "harvest" that results from the seeds sown by our teachers over the years, our outstanding alumni. The dinner provides the opportunity for current families to meet Ridgewood alumni and for all to share tales of "then-and-now" about this special school.

The program for the evening will include Mrs. Ranginwala providing remarks about Ridgewood today followed by the presentation of Ridgewood's Distinguished Alumni Award, Honorary Alumni Award, and Distinguished Teacher Award. The Ridgewood School Association will honor local business leader and alumnus Chris Bosca and Washington, D.C. attorney Jacob Bennett '08 as *distinguished alumni*, Dr. Amrit and Mrs. Shashi Chadha as *honorary alumni*, and posthumously recognize Sue Constanzo James as recipient of its Distinguished Teacher Award. The anniversary classes of 2001, 1976, and 1951 will be celebrated.

This year's dinner is being catered by Kohler Catering of Dayton and will be held in the Cole Carpentieri Commons at Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike. The evening will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Reservations ($55) may be made at **EarthToTable.givesmart.com**, or by phoning Michelle Dutton, Receptionist, at 937-399-8900, or by scanning the QR code.

Hearts & Hands Dinner & Auction 2026: Ridgewood 90's Rewind



The 2026 Hearts & Hands Dinner & Auction was held in the Cole Carpentieri Commons on the evening of April 24, 2026. The auction developed the theme "Ridgewood 90's Rewind: Enriching Education Then & Now." Ridgewood trustee Randall Comer served as emcee and entertained everyone with his 1990's trivia contest and its prizes. Prior to dinner, guests inspected and bid on the sixty-five silent auction items that seemed to include something for everyone. Participants then sat down to dinner catered by Rich Taste Catering. Following dinner and dessert, the live auction, conducted by Jeff Harvey of Harvey Auction Company, LLC., began. The eleven live auction items included a week stay in a Los Cabos condo, an evening cruise, a handcrafted sterling floral bracelet created by Ridgewood alumnus Howard Zitsman '68, a week stay in Belize, a private evening at Hi-Hat Social, UD Flyers tickets, a television, and other items.

The annual dinner/auction is a major fundraiser and social event for Ridgewood School. Its revenue supports Ridgewood's students by helping cover the school's operating expenses. On behalf of Ridgewood students and the school, thank you to everyone who worked on the event, those who generously donated items for the auction, everyone who attended this "community building" evening, and especially Co-chairs Sarah Delong, Mia Grimes, and Bridget Houston along with Development Director Dan Funk.



(I to r) Emcee Randall Comer, Co-Chairs Bridget Houston, Mia Grimes, and Sarah DeLong



Dr. Alam and Zara Bilal inspect auction items

Creating Memories in Washington, D.C.



At the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Ridgewood's eighth graders always look forward to their class trip. This year's class was no exception. Throughout the year they raised money to help defray the cost of the trip and when it was time, they anxiously boarded the Ridgewood van with their luggage and chaperones and headed off to the airport to fly to Washington D.C., where they would spend four days. Accompanying the students were six Ridgewood parents Dr. Alam, Mrs. Traci Cardinal, Mrs. Felicia Miller, Mr. Joe Doss, Dr. Tariq Rizvi, Mr. Jamon Sellman, and Mrs. Ranginwala, Ridgewood's head of school.

After their tightly scheduled trip and back at school, the students were asked about their favorite sites. Their responses included almost every site they visited. One student was impressed by the Library of Congress, another the Jefferson Memorial, another the Capitol building, and so on with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Four students ranked the Lincoln Memorial at the top of their lists, two chose the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and two thought the highlight of the trip was visiting Ford's Theatre, the site of the Lincoln assassination. One of the students shared that he was really interested in Ford's Theatre because he had read James Swanson's *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* in Mr. Metzger's social studies class.

When asked what they thought they would remember most about the trip, the majority focused on being with their classmates. And when asked what they had learned, several shared that they had learned it was important to travel because you learn about history, our country, its geography and cultures.



Chaperones in front of the National World War II Memorial



At the National Zoological Park

Frozen Jr.

Thunderous applause greeted the cast and crew of Ridgewood's production of *Frozen, Jr.* during their curtain calls on February 27 and 28. During the performance, children in the audience, who were familiar with the musical from its animated incarnation, sat on the edge of their seats or parents' laps and sang along with the performers onstage. Parents and grandparents focused their cell phones on the stage and proudly captured their children and grandchildren in action.



Onstage, principals and supporting players had wonderful moments that conveyed the script's humorous and serious emotions. The chorus was focused and demonstrated great discipline that contributed significantly to the ensemble quality of the production. It was exciting to see how the theatre skills of the performers who appeared in last year's musical have developed since last year, as well as to see the talent of students who were making their theatre debuts.

So often when we think about a performance, we focus on the actors and overlook the contribution made by everyone who works backstage, on a crew, or in a supporting position. Congratulations to the stage crew that made the scene changes. Nothing can break the pace and rhythm of a production as much as a scene change that takes too long. Scene changes were quietly executed and kept the show moving. The production's stage manager's careful coordination of cast and



crew efforts was also vital to maintaining the production's pace. And there were others whose work contributed significantly to the production, individuals we probably don't think about. We can start with Ridgewood staff members Mr. John Linardos and Ms. Jessica Yoakem who were responsible for the conversion of the commons into a theatre space; Mrs. Molly Loftis, Ridgewood's art teacher, who with students painted the show's scenery; Mrs. Megan Miller who set up our ticket reservation system; Ms. Kelly Biers who greeted guests and verified they had tickets for the production; Mr. Dan Metzger who set up and operated our concession stand; parents who provided make-up and hair supervision; and parents who hosted the cast and crew party. Congratulations to these people for jobs well done!

Frozen, Jr. reminds us of the importance of familial love, self-acceptance, and overcoming fear. Ridgewood's production also taught students the importance of teamwork, being responsible, committing to a project, and provided them the opportunity to develop their communication skills and self-confidence.

The production team for *Frozen, Jr.* consisted of Abbie Hawke as director and choreographer, Bailey Compston as music director as well as lighting and sound designer, and Ryan Ramirez as costume designer.



Preschool End of Year Celebration

Congratulations to our preschool performers! Their "Celebration of Music and Dance" was a joyous close to the school year. The program began with a "grand entrance" in which they marched and skipped into the Cole Carpentieri Commons. Once in place, the program continued with a variety of songs and dances. Every student was featured as a lead singer or in a duet; eight served as percussionists for the song "Hi Yo Witzi;" and everyone danced! The evening concluded with a "Mexican Hat Dance" in which every child danced with a parent or grandparent. Thanks to Mrs. Gail Suzel who created a wonderful program for our students and their families.



Student Council Report

January and February saw the Student Council continuing its traditions of holding Gals and Gamers, a mother and son gathering, and its annual paper products drive for the Homeless Shelter. The 11th Annual Service Day in February saw twenty-five students and staff volunteer more than 125 hours at six local charities. Students had earlier in February completed the valentine project by delivering more than 1,000 handmade valentines to residents at nine nursing homes and two shelters and contributed two boxes of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank.



Delivering Valentine treats

In March, the school's ever-popular Pi(e) Day raised money for Project Woman. Spirit Week that month included both a read-in that featured crafts, activities, and story time and the annual father-daughter dance, Ties and Tiaras, that raised funds for the Fatherhood Initiative.



Dancing at "Ties and Tiaras"

Council members arranged gym games for both upper and lower-level classes and set themes for each day of Spirit Week.



Preschoolers enjoying Spirit Week's "Pajama Day"

Unplugged Day encouraged students to forgo using electronic devices during the day and focus on other options. In conjunction with Unplugged Day, a presentation was made to parents about the impact of screen time on children and the importance of alternatives like spending more time outside. Students filled and hid over 700 eggs, including seven golden eggs, for our spring egg hunt for students in our preschool and lower-level classes.

April was another busy month for the Student Council. Featuring ceramic bowls that the seventh graders had thrown at Hatch Studios and homemade soup prepared by our school's chef, John Linardos, Ridgewood's Empty Bowls event raised over $900 for the Second Harvest Food Bank.



Presenting Empty Bowls check

Student Council's Earth Day activities included planting trees and flowers, picking up trash around campus, and working in the school's garden. The students presented their "Outside is the Best Side" campaign, healthy recipe cookbooks, "Choose Water" materials, and seed packets to those attending Community Health Foundation's Minority Health Fair to which they made a financial contribution.



Participating at Minority Health Fair

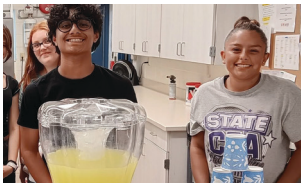
The month ended with the seventh and eighth-grade students serving dinner at our Hearts & Hands Dinner and Auction.

In May the Student Council hosted a movie night for lower-level students. Council members also volunteered for the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger event and collected spare change for Blood Cancer United. In school they oversaw gym games for lower and upper-level students, collected in-kind donations, and raised money for numerous charities.



Presenting check to Project Woman

The Student Council's summer service included operating a lemonade stand at Ridgewood to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand, an organization that supports research for childhood cancer.



Serving lemonade

The Student Council also operated the Zero Waste Store to raise funds for the WaterStep program that provides clean water to areas in need throughout the world. Produce from the Learning Garden was used in baking goods sold at the Farmer's Market where students also sold student-made items including garden stepping-stones, ceramic bowls, and bracelets.



Waiting for customers at the Farmers Market

The money raised at the Farmer's Market was designated for summer and fall charity projects. Council members volunteered at the Arts Council's Summer Arts Festival, Free Store pantry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Project Woman, and other service organizations.



Passing the cans at Summer Arts Festival

Academic Accolades

Ridgewood Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the students who competed in our annual spelling bee! This year's top spellers were: 7th-grader Matthew Comer, 1st place ; 5th-grader Evangeline Dobbins, 2nd ; and 6th-grader Anis Ameur, 3rd. The word that Matthew correctly spelled to win first place was *stucco.*



Ridgewood Geography Bee

In our geography bee, Matthew Dean, 7th grade, placed first, Matthew Comer, 7th grade, placed second, and Blaze Skinner, 5th grade, placed third. The tie-breaking question that determined first and second places was "Santa Ana is a major coffee-producing city that shares its name with a nearby volcanic peak in which Central American country?" For the answer to the final question, see the end of this article.



Ridgewood News Bowl Tournament

Congratulations to the seventh-grade team of Matthew Comer, Jaxon Avery, Lorelei Nevius, and Claudia Laurciella on their victory in this year's News Bowl Tournament. Having won the student tournament, they then competed against our faculty team and became the first student team to beat a faculty team in a Ridgewood News Bowl Tournament.

State Science Day

Eight Ridgewood students participated in the State Science Day program in which their science projects were assessed by teams of Ohio scientists and educators. Participating in the State Science Day requires that a student first qualifies in her or his school, region, and district competitions. The projects of sixth-graders Cai Jones, Oliver Taylor, and Veera Patel were rated as *excellent*.

Seventh-grader Devyn Crawford's project was rated *excellent* and placed third in the behavioral science category. Eighth-grade student projects of Arhem Rizvi, Julia Doss, and Vivian Guest were rated *excellent* and Lina Ameur's project, "Magnetic Microplastic Removal," was rated *superior.* Congratulations to our young scientists and Ms. McLaughlin!



Students who participated in State Competition

Power of the Pen

Ridgewood's seventh-grade Power of the Pen team included Matthew Comer, Devyn Crawford, Claudia Lauricella, Lorelei Nevius, Easton Routzahn, and Kang Zheng. The eighth-grade team included Devyn Cardinal, Julia Doss, Vivian Guest, Arhem Rizvi, Avalyn Sellman, and Edith Swingle.

The teams participated on February 14th at the district competition at Kenton Ridge School. Seventh-grade team members qualifying there for the regional competition were Devyn Crawford, Matthew Comer, and Lorelei Nevius. Eighth-grade team members selected to participate in the regional competition were Avalyn Sellman, Arhem Rizvi, Julia Doss, and Devyn Cardinal. Avalyn placed 4th, Matthew placed 5th, and our 7th and 8th grade teams placed third in the district competition. The regional competition was held on March 14th at Shawnee High School where Matthew Comer from our seventh grade and Arhem Rizvi from our eighth grade qualified to participate in the state competition on May 13 at Ashland University.

(Ridgewood Geography Bee Answer: El Salvador)



Fall Semester Schedule 2026-2027

August 21, 24 & 25
Teacher Workdays

August 24
Open House 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

August 26
First Day of School

September 4
*Early Release 2 p.m.

September 7
Labor Day, No School

September 25
Interim Reports

October 1
Parent-Teacher Conferences
3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

October 2
Conference Make-up Day, No School

October 15
Multicultural Night

October 23
End of 1st Grading Period

November 6
*Early Release 2 p.m.

November 25-27
Thanksgiving Break

December 4
*Early Release 2 p.m.
Interim Reports

December 8 & 10
Winter Concerts

December 21- January 1
Winter Break

January 4
Return to School

January 8
End of 2nd Grading Period

RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL
the light of learning

Beyond the Schoolyard

Ridgewood students participate in a variety of local activities and enjoy exploring our community and all it offers. Sometimes, guests come from the community and share their knowledge and expertise with the students.

Participating in Community Activities.

2026 Junior Theatre Festival - Atlanta

Eighth-grader Devyn Cardinal, along with Ridgewood alumni Mylo Frazier '25 and Alyse Linardos '25 participated as part of Springfield Arts Council Youth Arts Ambassadors in the 2026 Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta. The SAC Youth Arts Ambassadors received the Excellence in Ensemble Award. Mylo was named a Junior Theatre Festival All-Star and Alyse was called back for a special project promoting musical theater in schools.

Community Health Foundation Healthy Smiles Video and Poster Contest

Ms. Faith Bogland of the Community Health Foundation (CHF) is pictured with Ridgewood students who won CHF's Healthy Smiles Video and Poster Contest. The video winners were Vivian Guest and Lujain Bilal who placed first and Avalyn Sellman, Lily Dobbins, Edith Swingle and Devyn Cardinal who placed second. Easton Routzhan and Umer Bilal's videos received honorable mention. The winners of the poster contest were Derreon Miller and Devyn Crawford. Congratulations, Ridgewood students!



(l to r) Devyn Crawford, Derreon Miller, Ms. Bogland



(l to r) Avalyn Sellman, Edith Swingle, Lily Dobbins, Devyn Cardinal, Ms. Bogland



(l to r) Easton Routzahn, Umer Bilal, Ms. Bogland



(l to r) Vivian Guest, Lujain Bilal, Ms. Bogland

Exploring Our Community

During the semester Ridgewood Students visited local sites where they learned about the world around them, tried new activities, and enjoyed learning outside their classrooms.



Grades K-1 at Boonshoft Museum



Preschool at Springfield Museum of Art



Seventh graders throwing pots at Hatch Studio



Seventh-grade Spanish class Mexican dinner



Ridgewood at NTPRD Chiller



Kindergarten at Snyder Park

Learning from Our Ridgewood Neighbors

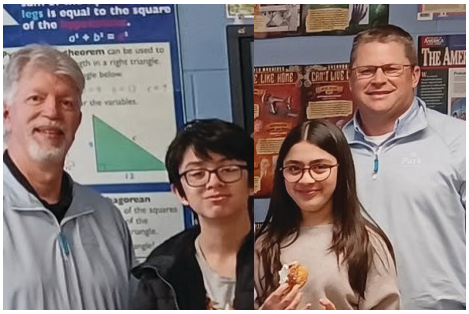
The days that brought guests to Ridgewood's classrooms were special days, especially when the guests shared their talent and knowledge with our students.



Tyler Barron from Invenergy taught our science students about renewable energy



Ridgewood Trustee Jonathon Johnson was one of the first grade's "mystery readers"



Park National Bank's Jim Kreckman (l) and Ken Magoteaux (r) taught a multi-week finance class to our eighth graders



Award-winning paper sculptor Cheong-ah Hwang introduced students to her art form



Beth Dixon entertained the preschoolers with her marionettes

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Please send your email address to either cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org or to chreynolds@ridgewoodschool.org. Thank you!

Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Summer Enrichment 2026

Ridgewood School's Summer Enrichment program has become a popular choice for parents and grandparents who want to provide their children or grandchildren with interesting, educational, and fun activities during their summer vacations. Again, this summer the enrollment in our Summer Enrichment classes was amazing and the school and schoolyard were filled with excited students learning about subjects they may not study in their school's regular curriculum.

Early each morning during the first week of the program, the Ridgewood van pulled out of the school parking lot filled with students from grades 6-9 who were enrolled in our "Thinking Outside the School" class. They would spend six and a half hours together each day that week exploring Springfield, enjoying activities such as kayaking, bowling, campfire cooking, rock climbing, and skating while becoming familiar with Springfield and its history. Inside the school, in "Checkmate Champs," students from grades 3-5 sat quietly in deep concentration plotting their next moves. While down the hall, students in the art room transformed recycled tin cans into a colorful garden of flowers. And in the hall, the Pre-K students returned from their exploration of the land lab ecstatic that they had discovered a ladybug. And that was just part of what happened that first week.

The Summer Enrichment program is open to the public as well as Ridgewood families and each week a selection of 90-minute sessions is offered for Pre-K students, K-2 students, students in grades 3-5, and students in grades 6-9. Faculty includes Ridgewood teachers as well as guest faculty. Classes this year included art, tennis, music, Spanish, American Sign Language, dance and movement, architecture, jewelry making, chess, sewing and quilting, papercraft, computer programming, creative writing, golf, gardening, soccer, comic book creation, filmmaking, 3D printing, lego building and more!



Thinking Outside School



Discovering Owls



Crazy About Creating Comics



Sewing and Quilting

2026 Ridgewood School Awards

The close of the school year brings with it the recognition of our second semester's Honor Roll Students and Head of School Honor Roll Students, and our 2025-2026 Perfect Attendance Students. We congratulate these students for their outstanding records!

Honor Roll Students Second Semester

Our *Honor Roll* includes the following students who earned a 3.5 GPA with no grades lower than a B.

Honor Roll - 3rd Grading Period

2nd Grade
Lucas Blair
Lincoln Cremeans
Dahlia Davis
Tre Kelley
Jack Llado
Maren Mattox
Dahlia O'Neil-Jones
Gabriel Rojas
Theo Schmidt
Lanaya Williams

3rd Grade
Abdullah Edhi
Charlie Guest
Grayson Harnly
Lucas Harrison
Leo Hopkins
Carter Kerazes
Kathalia Zima

4th Grade
Kavya Kathuria
Nathan Krogg
Kaylee Pursley

5th Grade
Meredith Blair
Helen Cunningham
Lena Dobbins

6th Grade
Harper Donahue
Kabir Kathuria
Iris Mohler
Oliver Taylor

7th Grade
Claudia Lauricella
Rishi Mohindroo
Kang Zheng

8th Grade
Lina Ameur
Hassan Bilal
Devyn Cardinal
Lily Dobbins
Julia Doss
Avalyn Sellman

Honor Roll - 4th Grading Period

2nd Grade
Lucas Blair
Lincoln Cremeans
Tre Kelley
Jack Llado
Maren Mattox
Gabriel Rojas
Theo Schmidt
Lanaya Williams

3rd Grade
Charlie Guest
Grayson Harnly
Lucas Harrison

4th Grade
Nathan Krogg

5th Grade
Helen Cunningham
Evan Maynard
Evelyn Schmidt
Lillian Shaffer

6th Grade
Iris Mohler

8th Grade
Devyn Cardinal
Lily Dobbins
Julia Doss

Head of School Honor Roll Students Second Semester

Our *Head of School Honor Roll* includes the following students who maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Head of School Honor Roll - 3rd Grading Period

2nd Grade
Patrick Brady

3rd Grade
Zayn Ashraf
Weston Beck
Eva Reyes
Zosia Rose

4th Grade
Ryder Picklesimon
Arlo Prince
Natalie Thompson

5th Grade
Kinley Cardinal
Morgan Detraz
Emery Groth
Evan Maynard
Jacek Rose
Evelyn Schmidt
Lillian Shaffer
Blaze Skinner

6th Grade
Anis Ameur

7th Grade
Matthew Comer

8th Grade
Vivian Guest
Derreon Miller
Arhem Rizvi
Edith Swingle

Head of School Honor Roll - 4th Grading Period

2nd Grade
Patrick Brady

3rd Grade
Weston Beck
Zosia Rose

4th Grade
Ryder Picklesimon
Arlo Prince

5th Grade
Morgan Detraz
Emery Groth
Jacek Rose
Blaze Skinner

7th Grade
Matthew Comer

8th Grade
Vivian Guest
Derreon Miller
Edith Swingle

Perfect Attendance for 2025-2026

Brynnley Lias
Evelyn Schmidt
George Lehmann
Ollie Penwell
Veera Patel
Iris Mohler
Kang Zheng
Derreon Miller

Congratulations, Citizens of the Month!

Each month, Ridgewood students focus on developing a specific positive behavior. Teachers then select a student from their class who best exemplified this quality during the month, and they are recognized as the class's Citizen of the Month.

December: Generosity

Kindergarten: Everly Maendel; 1st Grade: J. J. Johnson; 2nd Grade: Dahlia Davis; 3rd Grade: JoJo Cuy-Castellanos; 4th Grade: Ryder Picklesimon; 5th Grade: Evelyn Schmidt; 6th Grade: MyLynn Terry; 7th Grade: Claudia Lauricella; 8th Grade: Arhem Rizvi

January: Grit-1

Kindergarten: Jackson Summers; 1st Grade: Charlotte DeLong; 2nd Grade: Maren Mattox; 3rd Grade: Charlie Guest; 4th Grade: Kaylee Pursley; 5th Grade: Blaze Skinner; 6th Grade: Cai Jones; 7th Grade: Rishi Mohindroo; 8th Grade: Vivian Guest

February: Grit-2

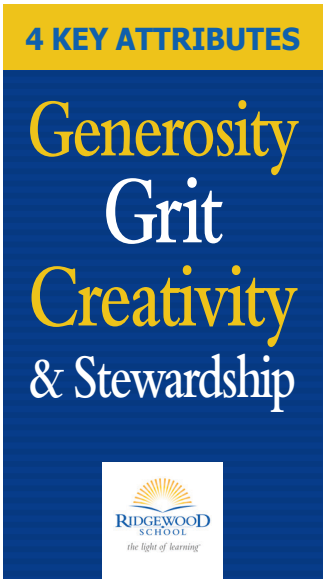
Kindergarten: Ira Prince; 1st Grade: Bea Marous; 2nd Grade: Asher Sharp, Tre Kelley; 3rd Grade: Charlie Guest; 4th Grade: Caiden Londergan; 5th Grade: Evangeline Dobbins; 6th Grade: Lindy Radlowski; 7th Grade: Matthew Dean; 8th Grade: Derreon Miller

March: Creativity

Kindergarten: Calvin Mackert, Brynnley Lias, George Lehmann; 1st Grade: Rosie Frantz, Ellis Prince; 2nd Grade: Ariela Currie; 3rd Grade: Weston Beck; 4th Grade: Marie Frantz; 5th Grade: Kinley Cardinal; 6th Grade: MyLynn Terry; 7th Grade: Claudia Lauricella; 8th Grade: Edith Swingle

April: Stewardship

Kindergarten: Victoria Kelley; 1st Grade: Ellie Osborne, Connor Keriazes; 2nd Grade: Lucas Blair; 3rd Grade: Abdullah Edhi, Lucas Harrison; 4th Grade: Caiden Londergan, Natalie Thompson; 5th Grade: Morgan Detraz; 6th Grade: Iris Mohler; 7th Grade: Ali Smith; 8th Grade: Lily Dobbins



Please Welcome to Ridgewood



Will Mattox is joining the Ridgewood faculty as our lower-level music teacher. Will earned a Bachelor of Science degree in economics at Vanderbilt University, then a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance at Wittenberg University, and most recently a Master of Music in vocal performance at Texas Christian University. He is married to Ridgewood Distinguished Alumna Margaret McGregor Mattox and is the father of Ridgewood students Marin and Sybil Will has taught in the music programs at Wright State University and Wittenberg University and has performed professionally here and abroad. Welcome, Will!



Maci Pierson is Ridgewood's new upper-level science teacher. She is a recent graduate of Wittenberg University and looks forward to meeting Ridgewood's students and their families. Please welcome her to Ridgewood.



Creating the Next 100 Years!

Ridgewood Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society provides you an opportunity to ensure Ridgewood School's future and allows us to thank you at the time you plan for ours. Planned gifts or estate gifts are designated in many different ways.

The most common is a bequest designating Ridgewood School in a donor's will. Other legacy donors choose to create a living trust, donate a gift of stock, purchase a life insurance policy that names the school as a beneficiary, or donate retirement assets. If you want to help create Ridgewood School's future or would like more information about our legacy society, **please contact Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School at aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org or 937-399-8900.**

Ridgewood Staff and Faculty 2026-2027

Head of School: Aliya Ranginwala
Dean of Students: Dan Metzger
Alumni Director: Corwin Georges
Administrative Assistant: Christine Reynolds
Bookkeeper: MaiLin Johnson
Secretary: Michelle Dutton
IT Manager: George Berkhofer
Social Media Manager & Summer Enrichment Coordinator: Kristyn Keriazes
Auxiliary Clerk: Mary Jane Rumpke
School Nurse: Lisa Reynolds, RN
Preschool Lead Teacher: Christina Crose
Preschool Teacher: Maginta Grim
Preschool Assistant: Deanna McDonald
Preschool Assistant Aftercare: Kristine Dillard
Kindergarten Teacher: Anna Kiehn
First Grade Teacher: Jenna Carter
Second Grade Teacher: Rebecca Jones
Third Grade Teacher: Kelly Biers
Fourth Grade Teacher: Tera Mohler
Fifth Grade Teacher: Megan Miller
Upper-Level Social Studies and Math: Dan Metzger
Upper-Level Science: Maci Pierson
Upper-Level Language Arts: Paul Sauter
Spanish: Sylvia Phillips
Visual Arts: Molly Loftis
Lower-Level Music: Will Mattox
Upper-Level Music: Lisa Grove
Physical Education and Lower-Level Computer: Suzanne Metzger
Librarian/Media Specialist: Beth Dixon
Upper- Level Computer and Math Enrichment Tutor: Amy Fischer
Lower-Level Computer and Tutor: Suzanne Metzger
Interventional Specialist in Reading: Gail Suzel
Tutor-Language Arts: Stephanie Clark
Tutor: Teresa Foreman
Tutor: Pat Russell
Tutor: Tricia Yeager
Aftercare: Deanna McDonald
Auxiliary Clerk: Mary Jane Rumpke
Chef and Kitchen Manager: John Linardos
Environmental Services: Jessica Yoakem

Ridgewood Alumni Graduations

Congratulations to our alumni who completed another step in their educations this year!

Class of 2022

Mary Cunningham graduated from the Miami Valley School in Dayton and will attend Washington University in St. Louis this fall.

Elliott Farr graduated from Springfield High School where he has been a student completing classes in the College Credit Plus Program.

Charlie Grisson graduated from Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center's business and administrative services program where he was an honor roll student. He will enroll this fall in Clark State College's new media program.

Landon Hunter graduated from Lee's Summit Academy in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He will enter the University of Central Missouri this fall and plans to major in biology.

Claire Lensman graduated from Graham High School and will enter the OSU Agricultural Technical Institute's pre-veterinarian program.

Mason McGuire will enter Clark State College this fall having graduated from Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center's applied science and engineering program.

Aiden Richardson graduated from Northwestern High School.

Mahed Rizvi graduated from the Miami Valley School and will now study at Indiana University's Kelly School of Business.

Class of 2018

Isabella Fissel completed her BSN at the University of Cincinnati and is employed at Springfield Regional Hospital.

Elisabeth McGregor graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in public health.

Dylan Patel completed his BA in business operations and finance at the University of Cincinnati's Carl Lindner College of Business and is now enrolled there as a master's candidate.

Khushi Patel graduated *magna cum laude* with a BS in health and rehabilitation services from The Ohio State University.

Ibrahim Ranginwala graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Cincinnati with a BS degree in medical sciences. He is now employed as a clinical assistant at Springfield's Rocking Horse Clinic.

Mahum Rauf graduated with a BA degree in biology and a minor in global public health from The Ohio State University in December 2025.

Raaidh Rizvi was awarded his BS degree in the spring commencement at the University of Cincinnati.

A'Dymond Sammons completed her BS in electrical and electronics engineering and graduated from Miami University of Ohio.

Class of 2017

Morgan Reynolds was awarded a master's degree in biodiversity and ecology at the University of Connecticut on May 11, 2026.

Alumni Spotlights



Marolin Griffin '67, completed a B.A. in psychology at Otterbein College and later an M.Ed. in special education and teaching at Wright State University. For the next twenty years she worked in the Reynoldsburg City Schools in Ohio. In 1999, having fallen in love with the state of Washington, she moved to Arlington, Washington, where she taught until her retirement in 2025. During her forty-two-year career in education, Marlie held a variety of positions including education specialist, program manager of special education programs, Autism support teacher, and resource teacher.



Connie Waln Miyajima '68 and her husband Melvin, pictured here on a recent trip to Patagonia, live in Hudson, Ohio. They are the parents of a son, Rick, and a daughter, Elizabeth.



Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69, Ridgewood Distinguished Alumna, (third from left) was awarded Clark County Commission's Luminary Award in January 2026. When recognized, Jeanne was praised for being a person who does whatever it takes to accomplish a goal and for being a "wonderful human being" who is "deeply rooted in the community." Congratulations, Jeanne, your recognition is well-deserved!



Richard Ebert '85 is completing his fifth year as the executive director of the Champaign Economic Partnership in Urbana, Ohio. He is also the owner of Ebert Entertainment that provides various services for corporate events, community organizations, and private clients. Richard completed his BS in business management and human services leadership at Urbana University.



Alumnus **Andrew Racevskis** is a senior software engineer at Cigna and lives in Columbus, Ohio. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in computer and information science and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy at The Ohio State University.



Amos Lieberman '92 lives in Seattle, Washington where he is a senior front-end engineer for Walmart. Prior to working for Walmart, Amos worked for Amazon Web Services, the Missouri Historical Society, and the American Library Association. Amos earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish language and literature, economics and computer science at Washington University in St. Louis and a master's degree in Spanish language and literature at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

continued>>

Alumni Spotlights *(cont.)*



Katie West Bumgarner '95 completed her BS degree in recreation, parks, and tourism at the University of Florida. Today she is the digital marketing manager at Concord Hospitality Enterprises in Columbus.

Since 2008, **Lingda Yang '98** has worked at Price WaterhouseCoopers in Los Angeles where today she is a director. Lingda earned her BS degree in psychology and Chinese at The College of William and Mary and a Master of Public Health in health policy and management at Emory University.



Nick Guyton '02 is the head brewer at Gemut Biergarten, a German-style biergarten and brewery in Olde Towne East in Columbus, Ohio. From 2017-2019, Nick was the lead brewer at Four String Brewing Company. Nick attended Sinclair College and The Ohio State University.



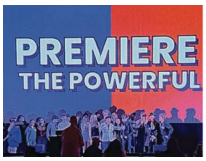
Krishna Vellanki '04, DO, has relocated from Prisma Health in Greer, South Carolina where he was Chief Psychiatry Resident to Columbus, Ohio, where he practices as a sports psychiatrist.



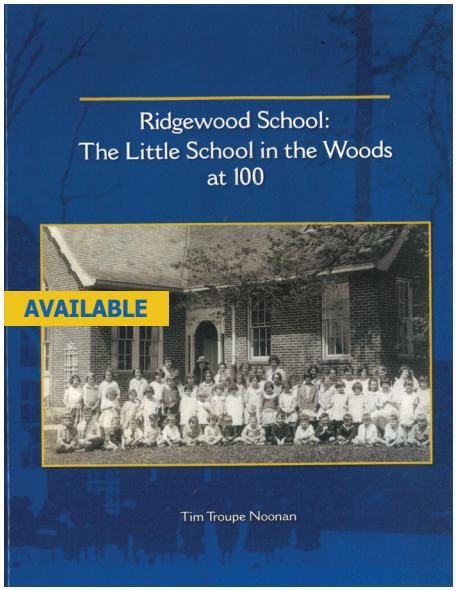
Ben Yu '04 was selected as one of Springfield City School District's 2026 Alumni of Distinction. Dr. Yu is an adult, child, and adolescent psychiatrist practicing in Portland, Oregon. He graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern University and completed his Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. His psychiatry residency was completed at Yale University where he received the Benjamin S. Bunney Award, the Yale Medical School Power Day Award, and the Outstanding Clinical Perceptor Award. Congratulations, Dr. Yu!



Having worked as a political reporter for Protocol (part of the Politico Media Group) and Business Insider where he covered federal antitrust legislation, social media content moderation, and trade policy, **Hirsh Chitkara '10** is now enrolled in the Columbia University School of Journalism's Ph.D. program. He is interested in the interaction between media and corporate power. Hirsh and his wife live in Brooklyn.



Young alumni **Mary Cunningham '22, Mylo Frazier '25, Annia Ameur '25, Gavin Crawford '25** and **Tom Edwards '17** participated in "Premiere the Powerful," a project of Bringing Awareness to Students (BATS). Tom, who is the social media accounts manager for the Empire State Building came from New York to serve as a judge for BATS' video competition. Mary and her teammates produced a video, "Not So Pretty in Pink," that received an award for Artistic Merit. Our other three alumni were members of a second team that produced "Petal to the Metal" that also received an award for Artistic Merit. More than 200 Springfield residents enjoyed the short-video festival that involved more than fifty students from local schools.



Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100

Take a look back at 100 years of Ridgewood School.

The centennial history of Ridgewood School authored by distinguished alumnus Tim Noonan '66 can be purchased by phoning Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant, at 937.399.8900, Ext. 104. Purchase and shipping cost, $45.

Business Partners in Education Campaign 2026

Ridgewood greatly appreciates the generous support of its 2026 Partners in Education! Thanks to our Partners, Ridgewood offers outstanding educational experiences to its students. We ask you to join us in thanking and promoting our Partners in Education.

Thank You to Our 2026 Business Partners in Education!

Citizenship Level

Invenergy

Academic Excellence Level

Grand Canyon University

HometownDDS Dr. Tanisha R. Moore

Littleton & Rue Funeral Home and Crematory

Mercy Health

The Turner Foundation

Rich Taste Catering Est. 2003

Sushi Hikari

PRINT WAVE

Critical Thinking Level

Business Equipment Company
The Comer Group at Coldwell Banker Heritage
Dye & Doss Insurance
Esterline and Sons Mfg.
Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum
Five Star Breaktime Solutions
The Heart House Research Foundation
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken
Link-Hellmuth Insurance
Martin, Browne, Hull & Harper PLL
The Miami Valley School
Nutrien
Park National Bank
Seasons Kitchen
The Solomon Group at Coldwell Banker Heritage
Springfield Arts Council
Springfield Foundation
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Ridgewood School *the light of learning*

The Ridgewood Fund 2025-26

What is the Ridgewood Fund? The Ridgewood Fund consists of our year-long fundraising efforts that include tribute and memorial gifts, contributions to our scholarship fund and Panther Scholarships Fund (SGO), and donations that are designated as annual gifts that are not restricted to one of the previously mentioned purposes. The Ridgewood Fund helps cover the difference between our tuition revenue and operating expenses and makes it possible for us to offer students an outstanding education.

Thank you, families, friends, and alumni who contributed to the Ridgewood Fund 2025-2026. This fund was launched July 1, 2025 and closed June 30, 2026. The Ridgewood Fund 2026-2027 is now underway. If you'd like to contribute to the 2026-2027 Ridgewood Fund, scan the QR code, or go to www.ridgewoodschool.org/giving, or mail your contribution to Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, OH 45504.

On behalf of every one of our students, we want to thank those who have contributed to the 2025-2026 Ridgewood Fund and those that have already contributed to the 2026-2027 fund.

Annual Gifts

Anonymous
Arbia & Mohamed Ameur
Susan '83 & Bill Ayres
Phyllis & Chris Baldenhofer '54
Jenna & Justin Beck, DDS
Danielle & Austin Blackshear
Bristol & Jacob Blair
Crystal & Mark Bollinger
Anthony Bosca '80
Jessica & Kyle Brady
Deanna ● & Bill Brougher
Kevin Brown
Nicholas (Tony) Bryan '79
Joyce Carr '76
Megan & Justin Cason
Emily & Gregory Cliff
Taylor Clingerman & Dustin Coffey
Ann Collier '54
Mar Leon Colon & Efrain Morales and Honeywell International PAC Charitable Gift Program
Tamara & Randall Comer
Heather & Chad Crawford
Ashante Shantell Currie
Diana & Oswaldo Cuy Castellanos
Allyson & Aaron Dean
Sarah & Matthew DeLong
Varun Devatha '11
Milam Dobbins
Sarah & Jason Donahue
Jane Bauer Emmons
Anne & Corwin Georges, PhD
Clare Georges '05 & Derek Roath
Daniel Gilmore
Michael Hackett
Morgan & Derek Harnly
Eleanor '49 & Donald Harris
Taja Harris
Stacey & Kevin Harrison
Bonita ● & Jim Heeg
Kathy & David Henry
Alicia Hiram & Darryl Tanksley
Christina & Bradley Hopkins
Bridget & Jake Houston
Angel Howard
Genesis Hunt & Evan Offenberger
Claudia James '67
Priya & Jonathan Johnson
Jessimi Jones & Graham Davis
Pierce Jones
Kristyn & Kyle Keriazes
Ashley Krupp
Jeanne Lampe '69 ● & Bill Ray
Theresa & Joe Lauricella
Rev. Eric Lindblade, Jr. '67 ●
Sarah & Chad Mackert
Mel Marsh ● & Rick Rutan
Nikki, DVM & William, DVM Maynard
Amanda McGraw
Deborah Ann McKenna '65
Hanna & Samuel McMahon
Elle Millender
Felicia Miller
Imam & Mutahher Mohammed, '01, MD
Tera & Justin Mohler
Namra Nasir & Muhammad Khan, MD

Desinique Parks & Tyren Thompson
Kajal & Kinjal Patel
Angela Portis
Thomas Prendergast
Emily & Benjamin Prince
David Pullins '97, DA ●
Aimee & Kyle Pursley
Aliya & Mujeeb Ranginwala, MD
Cassie & Esteban Reyes
Afsheen & Tariq Rizvi, MD
Margaret ● & Dennis Roark, OD
Kathryn & Greg Rogers
Meghan Monero Rojas & Niger Rojas Serrano
Jackie & Jeffery Rood
Anna Jean & Paul Sauter
Wendy & Zac Shaffer
The Siddiqi Family
Mindy & Michael Skinner
Cynthia Smith '47 ●
Tiffany & Bryce Summers
Jessica & David Swingle
Afshan '83 ● & Mubin Syed, MD
Scott Thacker '69 ● & Keeman Wong
Deanna T. Thompson
William F. Thornburg
Anna Varghese '93
Eliza Wise & Andrew Barnes
Marta Wojcik & Kevin Rose
Max Zima

Panthers Scholarship (SGO) Gifts

Afshan, DDS & Ashfaq Ahmed '84, MD ●
Deanna ● & Bill Brougher
Kevin Brown
Nicholas (Tony) Bryan '79
Shehla Butt
Tamara & Randall Comer
Marilyn '60 & Tom Davison
Allyson & Aaron Dean
Jennifer Edwards & James Marous
Anne & Corwin Georges, PhD
Clare Georges '05 & Derek Roath
Deborah Hill
Bridget & Jake Houston
Priya & Jonathan Johnson
Jessimi Jones & Graham Davis
John Kearfott '09, MD
Elizabeth & Bruce Kelley
Mel Marsh ● & Rick Rutan
Nancy & Thales Pavlatos '68, MD ●
Antigone & Sam Petroff
John Potts
Emily & Benjamin Prince
Aliya & Mujeeb Ranginwala, MD
Moin Ranginwala, MD
Farhana & Abdur Rauf, MD
Margaret ● & Dennis Roark, OD
Emma Robinow '99 & Jacob Schmidt
Tiffiene & Jamon Sellman
Caitlin Smith & Brian Potts
Gail ● & Jim Suzel
Afshan '83 ● & Mubin Syed, MD
Humera & Ajaz Umerani, MD
Tasneem & Tanvir Zariwala

Scholarship Fund Gifts

The Della Selsor Trust
Cheryl & Paul Haupt '63, MD
J.M. Pomputius, MD
Aliya & Mujeeb Ranginwala, MD

Tribute & Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Tammy Wiseman:
Julie & Doug Addis
Deanna ● & Bill Brougher
Patricia & Matthew Cahill
Alecia Cresap-Simpson
Mary & Joseph Day
Alicia & Greg Hupp
Don Lynam
Lola & Gordon McArtor
Christa McGregor
Phillip Metzger
Richard Might
Aliya & Mujeeb Ranginwala, MD
John Sayers II
Molly, Hayley, & Doug Stoll
Gregory Wiseman
Lori & Robert Young
In Honor of Audree Speaks:
JoeEtta Cooper
In Honor of Bonita Heeg: ●
Jenny Lee Deer
In Honor of Todd Thacker:
Jeff Eissenstat
In Memory of Patricia Yannucci:
Phillip Metzger
In Memory of Nancy Turner Perks, Benjamin Winwood Perks, and Rachel Bosart Morris:
Sally & Benjamin Perks
In Honor of Sarah Rogers: ●
Larkin Rogers
In Honor of Paul Sauter:
Janet & David Sauter

● *Distinguished Alumni*
● *Honorary Alumni*

To contribute to the 2026-2027 Ridgewood Fund, scan the QR code, or go to www.ridgewoodschool.org/giving, or mail your contribution to Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, OH 45504.

I/We Support The Ridgewood Fund!

Name as it is to appear for recognition: _____

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☐ Check enclosed for $ _____ (Payable to Ridgewood School)

☐ Charge $_____ to my credit card:

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

☐ Please add credit card fee to my total to save additional expense to the school.

Name on Card _____ Card # _____

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Credit Card Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Questions? Please contact Aliya Ranginwala at aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org or 937-399-8900.

☐ Annual Fund Gift
- ☐ Scholarship
- ☐ Other Area (Arts, Science, Grade, Alumni, etc.)
- ☐ Specify: _____

☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory of

_____

☐ Legacy Gift: Please let us know if you have named Ridgewood School in your estate plans. If you haven't please consider doing so. Your generosity will play a significant role in creating Ridgewood's future. For more information about our Legacy Society, contact aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org

*SGO gifts are made by creating a gift account at *oais.gosgo.co/users/sign_in*. To learn more about SGO contributions, see article on page 2, or contact Aliya Ranginwala at aranginawa@ridgewoodschool.org

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the light of learning

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Ridgewood Times
Published for families, alumni, and friends of Ridgewood School.

Editor: Corwin Georges, PhD

Copywriters: Corwin Georges, Dan Metzger, Aliya Ranginwala, Kristyn Keriazes

Design: Hucklebuck Design Studio

Photos: Trina Jones, Kristyn Keriazes, Dan Metzger, Aliya Ranginwala, Joe Lauricella

Ridgewood School Association Officers and Trustees 2026-27

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Margaret Roark ●
Scott A. Thacker '69 ●
Kaitlyn Tyler
Aliya Ranginwala, *Ex Officio*

● Distinguished Alumni
● Honorary Alumni

Ridgewood School Association meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Ridgewood School. Anyone wishing 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, Administrative Assistant, at the school office.

From the Head of School



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

This past school year, as I was walking to my office, I passed a classroom that was in terrible condition—papers everywhere, markers and supplies scattered across the floor, desks out of place. The students had been working on a project, and the instructor hadn't watched the time. I was shocked and upset; this is not how we leave any classroom at the end of the day. I shut the door, planning to address it the next morning.

After assembly the following day, I returned to the room to find it completely cleaned and restored. To my amazement, a student who usually arrives early had seen the mess and spent her morning putting everything back in order. As she worked, other students arrived, noticed what she was doing, and joined in. Their initiative immediately pacified my frustration and made me proud of our young middle schoolers who took responsibility for a mess they had not created.

Beyond the classroom, I see "character" in action every week. Mr. Metzger pulls up in the school van as a group of middle schoolers runs out the door, eager to deliver cards and goody bags to a nursing home or fill food boxes at Second Harvest Food Bank. Other days they deliver donated pies or paper products to the homeless shelter or The Rocking Horse clinic. These community service projects, and Mr. Metzger's leadership are true examples of character in motion.

One of our most precious programs is Bigs and Littles, where each upper-level student is paired with a younger student. Through shared activities, our older students model care, patience, and kindness, showing their "little siblings" what it means to support others. In time, those younger students will step into the older role themselves.

Our student council also organizes several activities to entertain younger students while raising funds for a designated nonprofit. At movie nights, it isn't uncommon to see an upper-level student comforting a younger child who is anxious or scared. After the event, older students help faculty ensure that every child gets safely to their parents, and then they work together to clean up the spaces used.

The mission of Ridgewood School is to create a vibrant and personalized learning environment that cultivates the intellect, creativity, and character of our students. Though character is listed third, it is truly the most important takeaway our students acquire. Without character, intellect and creativity cannot fully benefit society—and at times can even harm it. That is why, in partnership with our parents, Ridgewood is committed to educating the whole child.

We welcome back all our students and families this year, and we thank our new families for choosing Ridgewood as the school to help educate your child. It is a privilege to partner in raising a Ridgewood student—something I look forward to each year.