

Community Involvement

Art Fair: A PTSA event held in February. All students are invited to submit artwork to display (drawings, paintings, poetry, sculptures, weaving, etc.) Be sure to save special art projects for this occasion. Students who play instruments are invited to perform. This is a relaxed evening of viewing and listening for the whole family.

Back-to-School Night: Orientation for all Learning Communities in September.

Birthdays: We recognize student birthdays by having them come to the office to receive a pencil provided by the office. Students may bring a birthday treat to share. We encourage families to provide nutritious birthday snacks. In Units A & C, birthdays are celebrated by room; in Unit B, birthdays are celebrated by Unit. We ask that students do not bring invitations to school for birthday parties as it leads to many hurt feelings. The secretary will be happy to help you find addresses for mailing invitations from home.

Camera Day: A date will be set each year for students to bring cameras to school to take pictures of friends and school activities. Disposal cameras labeled with the student's name are good to use. Students may choose to save the pictures on a CD and bring to school for possible use in the yearbook. Some student pictures will be chosen to be electronically submitted for our school yearbook.

Choir: The Ridgeway Choir is composed of Unit C boys and girls and is under the direction of Mrs. Celestine Hayes. This group meets twice a week at lunch recess to practice for the Winter and Spring Concerts. They sometimes perform for other groups and for assemblies.

Evening Science: Parents and Unit B students participate in a series of science discovery activities. Watch the RAP for times and dates in the winter and for the sign-up form.

Family Game Night: Held on the third Tuesday of October. On this occasion families bring their favorite board games and the whole family. Children and adults have a great time sharing games with other families and learning about new games.

Field Trips: On occasion, units will plan a field trip that supports curriculum study. When you fill out the emergency card, there is a space on the back of the card to give blanket permission for field trips. For some field trips we require an extra signed note if there is some special information such as supplying food or money. Watch the RAP for information on field trips throughout the year.

Flag Patrol: Unit C fourth grade volunteers are trained to raise, lower, fold, and store the flag daily.

Funday: The main fundraiser of the year usually held the second Saturday in March at Ridgeway. A family event with games in every classroom, lunch is served, the Big Drawing in the gym, and lots of fun for everyone. Everyone contributes on this great occasion. Read the RAP for more details and please volunteer to help as this event nears.

Big Drawing: Parents and local businesses donate items for our drawing.

Community Involvement

Country Store: Families donate good used toys, games, books, and household items to sell.

Environmaze: A huge 2-room maze constructed of cardboard that families explore during Funday.

Sweet Shop: Baked goods for sale at Funday.

Teacher Raffle: Each teacher volunteers to do a special activity with the student whose name is drawn. Ten cent tickets are sold during the lunch hour the week prior to Funday.

IGE in Action Night: In May, parents are invited to come to school in the evening to view student projects and work samples. There are many great projects on display. Be sure to attend this special evening as the students love to explain and display their work.

Munch & Read: Another Ridgeway tradition – Students bring favorite books and a snack for a special reading time. In Unit A ONLY, parents come to read with their children. (This is a Big Deal in Unit A, so plan to attend.) In Units B and C, students read on their own. This is generally held in the afternoon once a month. Healthy snacks are encouraged.

Open Computer Lab Open computer lab is hosted after school on Tuesday's from 3:45 – 4:45. Open computer lab is dependent on volunteers to staff the lab.

Open House/Ice Cream Social: An open house is held for all students and parents one evening before the start of school. This is a good time to meet the teachers, see the rooms, find the bathrooms, get information, and put away supplies. You will receive a letter at the end of the summer notifying you of the date and the name of your child's homeroom teacher.

PAC: Parent Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of interested parents from all units who meet to find out what's going on at school, to bring questions, suggestions, and comments from other parents, and to find ways to support our school. This committee overlaps with the PTSA monthly meeting

And is usually held 30 minutes prior to the start of the 6:30 p.m. PTSA (Parents, Teachers, Students Assoc.)

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Partners-In-Education: Ridgeway has two partners-in-education, Ameren/UE and Columbia College. They help with career education and support us in many ways throughout the school year.

PTSA: Parent Teacher Student Association: This group meets once a month immediately following the PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meeting. We are affiliated with the National and Citywide PTA groups. This group plans activities, enhancement of programs and the fundraising for our school. Everyone is encouraged and is welcome to become a member and attend at any time.

Reading Under the Stars Reading Under the Stars is a community event held in early November. Families gather in the gym for a night of literacy and reading.

Community Involvement

Ridgeway RAP: Our parents look for this newsletter every Friday in their student's backpack. We work hard to keep open and ongoing communication with our families at all times. This will keep you informed as to what is going on at school and in the Units. There will be a monthly calendar and lunch menus at the beginning of each month. We post an Upcoming Events calendar & Principal's View from the Office in each Friday RAP. There will be information on field trips, school pictures, ways to volunteer, special events & opportunities, PTSA events, monthly calendars, academic resources, weekly attachments and more. The RAP is also posted each Friday on the Ridgeway web site at www.columbia.k12.mo.us/rwe
Be in the know! Read the RAP!

Safety Patrol: Open to fifth graders only. Students are trained as crossing guards for crossing families at Grand Avenue before and after school, and are trained as safety helpers for students at 3:45 daily dismissal.

Student Council: Each homeroom is represented by a student council representative. The student council meets once a month. We have a fall student council and a spring student council.

Track and Field Day (Units B & C) and Bubbles and Chalk (Unit A): Another Ridgeway tradition the last afternoon of the school year. Unit A students have parent planned activity stations in the front yard (drawing with chalk, blowing bubbles, games, etc.) For Units B & C, parents help organize a fun track and field day the last afternoon of school. Activities: Egg tosses, relays, break the balloon, water games, etc. Popsicles are served to everyone at the end provided by Partners in Education.

Volunteers: Ridgeway has a long history of using parent, grandparent, and community volunteers in our classrooms. Volunteers start after the first month of school when teachers have had time to establish the classroom routine. A volunteer orientation is held in September. There is a sign-in book on the counter of the main office where volunteers sign in and out each time to track all volunteer hours for our school.