

THE RIDGEWAY DICTIONARY

Adventure Club: Before and after school daycare at Ridgeway contracted by the College of Education, University of Missouri. Contact the Adventure Club office @ 884-2582 and on the web at <http://adventureclub.missouri.edu>

All School Picnic: A Ridgeway tradition at the end of the school year during the last week of school. The whole school goes to a park for a daylong picnic. All students pay regular school lunch prices (or use meal ticket) for a hot dog lunch grilled and served by the faculty. All faculty members attend. Parents do not attend this event.

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.

B-bucks: Unit B has a classroom economic system. Students are paid in “B-bucks” which they can redeem for certain items or rewards.

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

Belief Statements: We believe that

Successful learning experiences build successful learners.

Parent involvement encourages and nurtures student learning.

Children learn best in environments that utilize multi-age and flexible grouping.

Children benefit from being part of a learning community and developing relationships with a variety of teachers.

Teachers need to have opportunities to learn and collaborate.

Box tops for Education: General Mills and Betty Crocker products have coupons we collect and send in for reimbursement. Everyone is encouraged to cut and bring box tops to the office.

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.

Bus: First Student Transportation provides bus service to our district. Their phone number is 474-9473.

It is very important that parents send a note with the child if they are to ride home with another child or get off at a different spot than usual or parents must call school by 2:00 PM that day.

No advance note or prior phone call from the parent will result in the student leaving the routine way.

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Camera Day: A date will be set each year for students to bring cameras to school to take pictures of friends and school activities. Disposable 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.

Cafeteria Menu: The CPS food service office prepares monthly menus that are made available on line at <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/>. Sack lunch is always a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with dessert, chips, fruit, and milk. Cold lunch is lunch brought from home. The salad bar is available daily with or without main entrée.

Channel 16: Educational access TV channel that advertises upcoming school events, school closings, shows a weekly program about Columbia Public Schools, and airs school board meetings.

Chess Club: Parent sponsored after school club meets once a week, only if there is an adult volunteer.

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.

Conference Day: Parent-teacher-student conferences are held twice a year, once at the end of the first and second trimesters. Progress reports are sent home at the end of the third trimester. Our goal is 100% participation with parent and students meeting with the teacher for both conferences in fall and spring.

CPS Alert: Parents may sign up to receive emergency, closing, and cancellation notifications from Columbia Public Schools via text message. You can sign up for text alert at <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/>

Demerits: The Ridgeway Behavior plan uses a system of demerits to distinguish between major behavior problems and minor problems. A copy of the misconduct report and discipline information is in the Ridgeway School Handbook.

Directory: A directory of Ridgeway family phone numbers and addresses is produced each year and handed out at the first conference day. On the school emergency card there is a place to check yes or no as to whether or not you want your name and contact information listed in the family directory.

Early Dismissal: At pre-scheduled times, Columbia Public Schools dismiss at 1:15 p.m. so teachers can participate in curriculum development. See yearly calendar.

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Occasionally we dismiss for heat at 12:15. Please check the CPS website, local TV or radio channels for heat announcements.

Expectations: Ridgeway students are safe, kind, responsible, respectful learners.

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.

Family Math: A series of two math workshops for parents and Unit A students to learn activities to extend mathematical thinking using everyday items that you can find at home. Watch the RAP for times and dates and sign up form in the fall.

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.

Friday Folder: Every other week each homeroom teacher sends home a Friday Folder. This folder has a mini report checklist for work completion, behavior, etc. The folders also contain student work samples and a space for parent comments. Parents need to sign the folders and return each time.

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.

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.

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Heat Related School Closure: In the event of excessive heat/humidity, school may close at 12:15 p.m.

Buses will operate normal route beginning at 12:15 p.m. Students may bring water bottles during hot weather, label with student's name.

Heat Related Lunch Schedule –

Unit A – 10:30

Unit B – 10:50

Unit C - 11:10

Dismissal at 12:15

There will be no recess on heat related dismissal days.

Holiday Parties: Unit parties are held three times a year: Halloween, Winter Holiday, and Valentines Day. Parents organize treats, games, crafts, and other activities.

IGE: Individually Guided Education. Our magnet school is based on this concept. See website, read page one of the Ridgeway School Handbook, call, or email for additional information.

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.

Inside Recess: Watch for a sign on the West Front Door on days when it is too cold or wet to go out before school. Unit A students go to a downstairs classroom and Unit B & C students go to the gymnasium for inside recess before school.

Kindergarten screening: This takes place one morning in August before the start of school. It provides time for each student to be with a Unit A teacher individually, who will converse and screen on basic readiness skills. It is a great get-acquainted time and another chance to feel comfortable here at school.

Learners: Ridgeway students are safe, kind, responsible, respectful learners.

Lost and Found Boxes: Items of clothing and articles left on playground and around the building are taken to the two boxes in the main entranceway. Parents and students are welcome to check there at any time. Twice a year we empty the boxes completely and display the items in the gym where each class walks through to claim their items. Several items are usually left after that and are taken to the Wardrobe or similar organization as donations. **Be sure to label all outer garments with the student's name.**

Math Superstars: Unit B only. A sheet of math problems is sent home once a week to stretch the mathematical thinking. Students who fully participate have a special pizza party at the end of the year.

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Motto: Success Teaches Success

Mission Statement: The Mission of Ridgeway Elementary IGE School is to help each student become a self-directed, self-motivated, lifelong learner, capable of meeting the challenges faced during a lifetime.

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 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.

Parking: The area in front of school is a drop-off and pick-up area only when buses are not loading and unloading. At dismissal, school buses line up and must have priority on Sexton. Parents are asked to park on side streets and walk to the school to pick up the children in the designated area. Students being picked up will be dismissed by teachers to the adults, at the southeast (Unit B) front entryway. Safety is the highest priority. It is our policy that students are not to be dropped off alone in the parking lot. Do not park by the curb on Grand Avenue in the 'no parking' area at the corner of Sexton and Grand.

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.

Philosophy: The Ridgeway philosophy is founded on the idea that "success teaches success" and that students are unique individuals.

Progress Reports: Official progress reports are completed three times a year. They are given to parents at first and second trimester conferences and sent home with students the final trimester.

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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.

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.

Snow days: District administrators make the decision to hold or cancel school on severe weather days. It is always the parent's prerogative to keep their student at home if they feel the roads are too bad. Listen to your local TV or radio station, watch Channel 16, or check the district website at www.columbia.k12.mo.us

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.

T- Shirts: PTSA generally sells Ridgeway T- shirts every other year. This is not a fundraiser but just an opportunity for our families to buy them if they wish. We especially enjoy wearing them on School Spirit Days, which will be announced in the RAP.

Teacher Appreciation Committee: A PTSA committee that organizes special treats for the teachers, teacher luncheons on Conference Days, and a whole week of special activities in May for Teacher Appreciation Week.

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.

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Unit: Ridgeway is organized into three multiage learning communities: Unit A is the Kindergarten/First Grade unit, Unit B is the Second/Third Grade unit, and Unit C is the Fourth/Fifth Grade. The teachers in each unit work as a team to collaborate and plan for the success of all students assigned to that unit.

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.

Website: Ridgeway has its own website at <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/rwe/>. You can find the registration forms, school calendar, Ridgeway history and I.G.E. information, PTSA calendar of events, copies of the Ridgeway Rap and much more at this site.

“With-it” parents: Parents who read the RAP and Friday folders regularly, and support the school through volunteering, and/or serving on PAC or PTSA committees. We believe parent involvement encourages and nurtures student learning.

Yearbook: Order forms are sent out in the spring for families to place an order in advance for the yearbook(s). Ridgeway yearbooks are traditionally handed out on the last day of school to those who have purchased it in advance. Time is given for students to autograph the books that day. This is a special closure for the students and teachers at the end of the school year and a great keepsake for families.