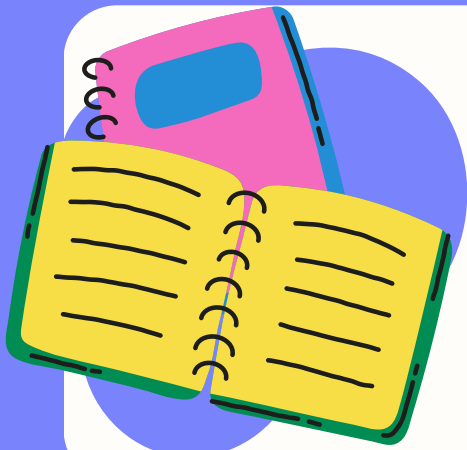
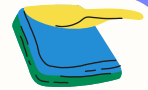


August/September 2023



Ridgeview Reporter



Important Dates:

- Sept 1 No School
- Sept 4 Labor Day No School
- Sept 29 Homecoming
- Sept 29 Spirit Walk
- Oct 4 Picture Day

Quick Facts:

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:00pm

Student Drop Off:

8:45am - 9:00am

Breakfast:

8:45am - 9:05am

Bell Rings:

8:55am

Tardies Begin:

9:00am

***commitment**

***community**

***collaboration**



A Note From The Principals

Dear Ridgeview Families,

We are thrilled to have successfully completed our first week of school with our fantastic students! The energy and enthusiasm they bring to the school and classrooms is truly heartwarming. As we embark on this new academic year together, we look forward to fostering a nurturing and engaging learning environment for our students. This year promises to be one of exploration, creativity, and achievement. Our team is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for all our students.

We have added many new staff members to our team this year. Jen Peck and Stephanie Dickerson have joined Melissa Owens to support our students. These ladies are all behavioral interventionists in our building and are here to support and care for our students on the playground, in the lunchroom, and in the classroom. These ladies will work alongside the classroom teachers and our support staff to ensure that all students are successful behaviorally, socially, and academically during their school day.

We're excited about the upcoming school year and the fantastic opportunities it holds. From engaging lessons to special events, each day will be filled with learning and growth. Thank you for being an essential part of the Ridgeview Elementary family. Let's work together to make this year remarkable and inspiring!

Just a reminder that if you are dropping off your child in the morning, your child will walk to their classroom on their own starting on Monday. If your child is struggling getting to class on their own, please contact the office so that we can help support with that transition.

Sincerely,

Mike Birely, Principal
Kelley VanVliet, Assistant Principal



Attendance Reminders

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please be sure that you are communicating with the office. While we appreciate that most of our families also reach out to the teachers, the office does need that information for accurate attendance reporting to the state. (616) 887-2090





P.E. Happenings ~ Mr. Wagner
887-8218 ext. 3404
andy.wagner@spartaschools.org



Welcome to Physical Education!! My name is Andy Wagner, and I am your student's P.E. teacher at Ridgeview. In our PE class, we will learn how to be active by playing games that will make our brains and our bodies healthier.

We will learn how to throw and catch, kick, tumble, bowl, balance, jump rope, dribble and shoot a basketball, and move in different ways. But more importantly, we will learn how to be a team player, how to try and not give up (even if you don't know how to do it), how to be kind to others and solve problems, and how to take care of our bodies.

I plan to have everyone participate during their PE time. Families, please send me a note if your child cannot participate due to an injury or sickness. Please include when your child will be able to resume participation.

Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. You can reach me via email, phone, or through the Remind app. More information will be coming from your child's teacher regarding the Remind app. Have a great beginning of the school year!!

smART, August/September- 2023

*Visit and like the Ridgeview Art Smart Facebook Page

DK/K/MOCI/1st Grade & 2nd Grade: ...will be celebrating International Dot Day, with a variety of art projects that start with just a dot! In the video: Ready, Set, Draw-ish, the students meet Peter H. Reynolds and are free to creatively express and explore in art class! Master Artists: Kusama, Britto & Murakami are inspiring us to have fun creating, making while building confidence that we are artists!



Donations Needed: *Clean and Label Art Studio- Room #3318
*Sticks/Branches (1/4inch thick and 1 ft. long), Paper (any kind), Cardboard, Sticker Name Tags, Post-its, Ziploc Gallon Bags (new), Styrofoam Meat Trays, Stickers (of any kind), Labels, Fabric, Yarn, Wiggle Eyes (any size), Craft Sticks (any size & color), Small Wood Pieces, Cardboard, Old Costume Jewelry, Beads, Gems, Buttons, Plastic Milk Jug Rings, Ribbon, Raffi, Cord, Pipe Cleaners, Old Calendars, Magazines, Newspapers, Storage Bins, Feathers, Straws...

*Note: If you think I could use it, donate it!

Mrs. Heidi Mitchell-heidi.mitchell@spartaschools.org



Mrs. Barber's
S.T.E.M. NEWS
(science, technology, engineering & math)



Mrs. Barber's
S.T.E.M. NEWS
(science, technology, engineering & math)

Welcome to the new year! I am so excited to be your child's STEM teacher. This is my 26th year teaching at Ridgeview. I have two daughters - Miah is a grad student at GVSU, Anna, a freshman at GVSU- and a husband, Randy. I love reading, being outdoors, yoga and staying active!



So what is STEM?

Simply put, STEM is the exploration of science, technology, engineering, and math. I like to teach the kids that 'math' just sneaks its way into the other three components. STEM is a culture and a mindset. A place to spark creativity, inquiry and most importantly...WONDER!! STEM isn't just a curriculum - STEM is all around us!

FUN FACT!!! The U.S. Education Department considers STEM literacy as the most important aspect of educational options. It states that the skills learned through STEM education are critical to addressing the challenges of the present-day complex world.



Looking forward to a great year!



Classroom S.T.E.M. = Students Thinking, Exploring & Making

Family S.T.E.M. = Stories, Trips, Exploring & Making

Music Notes



Welcome to the new school year! My name is Vanessa Ruffer and I have been teaching music to the amazing students of Sparta since 2005. I am looking forward to seeing all of the familiar faces from last year, and so excited to meet all of my new students! Throughout the school year the students will come to the music room once a week. We will be learning about rhythm, melody, dynamics, and how to perform. The students will have opportunities to play instruments, sing, work with others, compose, and have fun. I am honored to be able to spend this school year with your amazing children!

Important Dates:

- * Second Grade Concert will be January 23, 2024
- * First Grade Concert will be March 19, 2024
- * Kindergarten Concert will be April 30, 2024





Counselor's Corner

Hello families, students, all. The '23/'24 school year is off to a fabulous start!

My main goal at the beginning of the year is to help support children's transition into/back into school. Waking early, getting out the door, early car or bus rides, being away from you and home/with new adults and children, sitting, learning: it can all be difficult. I will partner with your child, you, your child's teachers, and our school staff to make sure he/she has the tools to succeed academically and socially.

Beginning in October, Ashley Nowland, our school social worker, and I will be visiting classrooms. In grades 1-2 we will be conducting our Universal Wellness Screener*. It serves as a feeling 'temperature gauge'. In all grades, we will be teaching the Zones of Regulation and social/emotional lessons from the Michigan Model for Health. Administering the wellness survey, teaching students how to regulate their emotions and behavior, and enriching students' social and emotional skills through lessons are part of our continued effort to prioritize social/emotional well-being in our District.

Students in all grades will learn about the Zones of Regulation; this will help them to identify and manage emotions. We have talked about 'regulating' emotions is like dialing in a new radio station if we don't like the one that is playing. I will teach students tools to 'dial in new emotions', including taking deep breaths, counting to 10, getting a drink of water, crunchy caterpillar, getting hugs, and more. Consider talking about more ways to manage emotions with your children. ♦♦

If you would like to learn more about the Zones of Regulation, see this link: [Zones of Regulation](#)

Last, we have a Career and College Readiness bulletin board in the hallway near the cafeteria. This features a different Career Pathway each month for 6 months. Studies reveal if children make connections between what they are learning and the world, they value education more readily, graduate at higher rates, and are able to set post-secondary goals ([Kent ISD Career Readiness](#)) Here is our readiness flyer including a link to the State's website: [Career and College Readiness Brochure](#)

I look forward to continuing to work with students and to teaming up with staff and families to support all of our students!
*If you do not want your child to complete the Wellness Screener, please send an email to your teacher, me, Amy.Soumis@spartaschools.org or Ashley Nowland @Spartaschools.org

School Nurse Notes

Medical Concerns – It is our goal here in Sparta to provide your children with a safe and healthy environment in which to learn. Please notify the school as soon as possible of any medical concerns that your child may have. This information will help us meet your child's medical needs here at school. Please understand that this information is kept confidential and shared on a need to know basis only.

Medication Policy – It is recommended that all medications be brought to the school by the student's parent/guardian at which time a medication administration permission form should be signed. All medication, both prescription and non-prescription (over-the-counter), must be in the original container and be kept in the nurse's office. Students are not to carry any medication on themselves. Exceptions can be made for emergency medications such as asthma inhalers and EpiPens for severe allergic reactions.

Animal Free District – Due to several severe allergies in our district, we would like to remind all of our students, families and friends that Sparta Area Schools is an animal-free district. Please do not bring animals into our buildings without prior approval from administration. Service dogs are always welcome. Thank you for helping us provide all of our students with a healthy and safe environment in which to learn.

Latex Free District – Due to several severe allergies in our district, we would like to remind all of our students, families and friends that Sparta Area Schools is a latex-free district. Please do not bring latex balloons into our buildings. Mylar balloons are welcome. Thank you for helping us provide all of our students with a healthy and safe environment in which to learn.

[Nurse Amy and Nurse Elaine](http://spartaschools.org/other/nurseinformation/)
<http://spartaschools.org/other/nurseinformation/>



TITLE 1 Reading News

Mrs. Hartuniewicz & Mrs. Patin
September

Universal Screening

In the next couple of weeks all students will be tested during our universal screening process.

Universal screening is the administration of assessments to all students in the classroom. The purpose of this assessment is to determine which students might be struggling with reading skills. If your child qualifies for services you will be receiving a letter in their Friday folders.

Meet Our Ridgeview Team ! Title I TAs

- Mrs. Adams Mrs. Tanner
- Mrs. Cooper Mrs. Reister
- Mrs. Crystal Mrs. Tilli

Summer Reading Book Check Out

Thank you to everyone that attended our Book Check Out nights. We had 38 students that took advantage of the program. If you were unable to return your child's book bag please drop it off at our office.



Picture Day
Tuesday, October 4, 2023



[Click here for ordering link](#)
Order forms will come
home in Friday Folders

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL from the PTC!

THE SPARTA PARENT TEACHER COMMITTEE (PTC) IS BACK
AT IT AGAIN...

We have a year full of fun and exciting events for our
teachers and students.

Who Are We? What Do We Do?

We are a group of parent volunteers who strive to make sure that our
students and teachers are supported by the parents and families of our
schools and community. Without the help of all of you we cannot do what
we do. Our main goal is to come together as one to see that our students
and teachers feel appreciated by giving back to them throughout the
school year.

Through fundraising we can plan and offer events and educational
support to our students, teachers, and staff.

The students of Ridgeview and Applevue Elementary are given the
opportunity to enjoy field trips, assemblies, book fairs, RIF (free books),
and after school events like the Daddy/Daughter Dance and Mother Son
Event.

Our teachers and staff benefit from our fundraising with teacher
appreciation, meals, and classroom grants throughout the school year.

The Sparta PTC along with local business sponsors have one opportunity
to help raise money for the school year, and that time is NOW with the...

POWERSCHOOL

Please go to
www.spartaschools.org
and on the main page
click on PowerSchool
and login to update
your child's
information. Please do
this by October 31.

2023 SPARTAN SPIRIT WALK

Event Kick Off is this Friday, August 25th.

Online Registration and Envelopes are available this Friday to begin your
fundraising.

Look for the Spirit Walk Pledge Envelopes in your students' Friday Folder.

Students can earn Prizes, Classroom Pizza Parties and More.

Please register your students online for the Spartan Spirit Walk!



School Delays/Closing

If we have inclement weather and need to
cancel school, families will be notified through
our School Messenger program. School
closings will also be posted on local TV
stations and our Ridgeview Facebook page.

Ridgeview is looking to hire Lunch/Recess Aides or
Sub Lunch/Recess Aides. The schedule is 10:40 am -
1 pm. If you have ANY availability Monday-Friday
please reach out. Please call the Ridgeview Office
616-887-8218 or email
Kelley.VanVliet@spartaschools.org. Please share
this message with family and friends.

spartaschools.org/sef since 1997

Sparta Education Foundation

Providing Extras for Education

The Sparta Education Foundation's mission is to help to provide creative, progressive, and innovative educational opportunities for our students and staff, which are beyond the normal operating budget of the school district.

Please consider making a donation and give our students important enrichment opportunities that would not be available otherwise. Go to our [CONTRIBUTIONS](#) page or www.spartaschools.org/sef for details.

If you are interested in setting up planned giving, have general questions, or would be interested in sharing your talents on our SEF Board, please email us at sef@spartaschools.org.

THANK YOU for helping us provide "Extras for Education!" Inspiring, Learning, and Empowering Success. The classroom grants we provide benefit the entire Sparta Area Schools district.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FUNDRAISER
TACOS FOR TEACHERS
Fiesta on the Patio
Dine in or Dine out for Dinner
Live Music : 17 Degrees South - 5-8pm
10% of your total bill (dine-in or take-out) will be generously donated to the SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION to help provide classroom grants.
Meet & Greet with Teachers!
Please mention the SEF when ordering.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7 4-9pm | **DOWNTOWN TRINI'S MARGARITA JOE'S**
148 E Division St Sparta 616-887-2500

sparta-education-foundation.givecloud.co
Facebook: Sparta Education Foundation MI

spartaschools.org/sef since 1997
Sparta Education Foundation
Providing Extras for Education
Double your impact with our matching funds campaign!

The Sparta Education Foundation (SEF) is beyond thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity! Extra Extras for Education Campaign - a matching gifts campaign. This campaign is made possible through an incredibly generous gift given by anonymous donors who are long-time Sparta area residents and ardent supporters of Sparta Area Schools.

These donors have made available to SEF a gift of up to \$100,000 to be used as a matching grant. This gift will match donations dollar for dollar up to the end of the fiscal year of June 2025. For instance, a \$50 contribution will be matched with an additional \$50, thus making a total of \$100 available to help provide grants to Sparta Area Schools.



If you wish to donate, please reach out to our Executive Director, Matthew Hayes, at SEFExecDir@spartaschools.org or go to sparta-education-foundation@givecloud.co