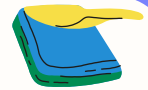


October 2023



Ridgeview Reporter



Important Dates:

- Oct 3 - DK Field Trip - Schwalliers
Ash and Willemin
- Oct 4 - Fall Count Day
- Oct 4 - Picture Day
- Oct 5 - Kindergarten Field Trip (Dunneback's)
Burns, May, and Steinbacher
- Oct 9 - 13 Fire Safety Week
- Oct 10 - Kindergarten Field Trip (Dunneback's)
Bufton, Cosby, and Nielsen
- Oct 11 - 2nd Grade Big Ideas Assembly
- Oct 20 - 1/2 Day All Students
- Oct 27 - Blue Ticket Store
- Oct 30 - Nov 3 Hearing and Vision Screening
- Oct 31 - Halloween Parties
10:15am 1st Grade
2:15pm - 3:15pm DK/K/2nd Grade

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,

What a great start to the school year we have had so far. We are 6 weeks in and there have been many exciting events happening in our school. This week we celebrated Homecoming with Dress Up Days and our Spirit Walk. Thank you for your generous donations that help provide our students with enriching activities throughout the school year including assemblies and field trips. Thank you to our PTC for putting on a fun event and to all of the volunteers. The students have been earning blue tickets for showing positive behavior. They were able to visit the Blue Ticket Store last week to shop for prizes. This is a monthly celebration for all of our students. During September we celebrated School Coordinators week, and we have an amazing one at Ridgeview. Jodi West is our KSSN Coordinator for our building. She helps provide resources to families, students, and teachers. She has wonderful connections within our community that provide support to our school. We are very thankful for Jodi and want to recognize all of her hard work. October is packed with exciting events and opportunities for our Ridgeview students, and we can't wait to engage, inspire, and educate them through the month. We have school pictures, Fire Safety week, field trips, and our Halloween parties.

As we continue through the school year, we want you to know that your partnership with us is invaluable. Together, we create an environment where every student can thrive, learn, and grow.

Thanks,

Mike Birely and Kelley VanVliet



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



We have had a great start to our year. The kids are quickly learning our physical education routines and expectations. For the month of September, we have been focusing on our locomotor skills like running, jumping, leaping, skipping, and galloping.



The kids have been engaged in various games and activities to hone these important skills. We finished our locomotor unit with a culminating activity that allowed the students to pick stations to review the locomotor skills. We called it "Locomotor City," complete with some parks, a frog pond, a car wash, and a locomotor highway.

Visiting "Locomotor City" was a big hit. For the month of October, the students will be exploring, dribbling, and kicking with their feet as we dive into our soccer unit.



60

Physical education doesn't only have to happen at school. In fact, it is recommended that kids get at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. I will be sending the next calendar of activities home soon for the whole family to enjoy. Be on the lookout for it in your student's Friday Folder.

smART

*Visit and like the Ridgeview Art Smart Facebook Page
smART, October 2023

DK/K: Only One You, creative fish drawings!

First Grade: Romero Britto Inspired drawings of a cat, heart with wings or self-portrait!

Second Grade: Murakami cute and roaring creature drawings!

Art to Remember Fundraiser: Your children will be participating in the fundraiser for the Ridgeview Visual Arts Program again this year. Your child's personalized order form will be coming home so you can place your orders online and the products will be delivered to the school, then sent home with your child.

Donations Needed *Clean and Label Art Studio-Room #3318

*Sticks/ Branches (1/4 in ch thick and 1 ft. long), Paper (any kind), Cardboard, Sticker Name Tags, Post-its, Ziplock 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)
Fall is here! What an exciting time to get outside and explore!

We are in a groove here in the STEM room. We have jumped right into all the components of STEM as well as learning about TEAMWORK!



DK/KINDERGARTEN: Teamwork has been a big part of these first few weeks. We have learned about the basics of engineering and how to build certain structures. We are finishing this month with a unit on force and motion. It has been so much fun engineering ramps and using just enough force to roll apples!

1st GRADE: Students have learned about the 'engineering design process'. They engineered bridges to go over a pond or lake. It was fun to see which materials each student chose. They also learned a lot about weight and balance! This was a great time to also learn that things do not always go as planned and that failure is OK!!



2nd GRADE: Coding and robotics has been the focus these first few weeks. Coding is the language of computers. We have used OZOBOT robots to begin this unit of study. Ozobots are a little robot that follows lines that the student draws as well as color codes that can be drawn as well.



I love this quote:

"All sorts of things can happen when you're open to new ideas and playing around with things." - Stephanie Kwolek, Chemist & Inventor

Music Notes



During the month of October, all Ridgeview Students will be working on their melodic skills. Melody is the part of the music that "gets stuck in your head". Melody is the part of music that you sing.

In 2nd grade, students will be building on the melodic skills they learned last year. Students are continuing to match what they hear to what they see (musical notation). Students are composing, reading and singing!

In 1st grade, students will be building on the skills they learned last year. In Kindergarten we learned the difference between high sounds and low sounds. This year, students are learning to match what they hear with what they see. Students are composing, reading and singing!

In Kindergarten, students are beginning to learn what a high sound looks like, and what a low sound looks like. Students are beginning to read simple melodic patterns that are made with High and Low. Students are composing, reading and singing!!

CONCERT INFORMATION:

2nd Grade Concert will be January 23, 2024

1st Grade Concert will be March 19, 2024

Kindergarten Concert will be April 30, 2024





School Nurse Notes

Flu Shot Clinic – Our annual flu shot clinic will be held Tuesday, October 10, from 2:30 pm-5:30 pm at the administration building. This clinic is open to students and families, staff and families, and the community. Children 4-17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The cost is \$46.99. It is free for staff and families with BCBS or Blue Care Network. Children with Medicaid must go to their doctor for the flu shot.

Immunization Policy – Getting your children immunized is an important way to protect their health. Make sure your child receives regular checkups at your doctor's office or local health clinic and is up to date on their immunizations. Keep a record of your child's vaccinations and please provide the school with a copy of your child's vaccinations. If you wish to waive your child's immunizations, a waiver form is available at the health department.

<http://spartaschools.org/other/nurseinformation/>



Counselor's Corner



Hello families, students, all.

The '23/'24 school year is off to a fabulous start! Beginning in October, Ashley Nowland, our school social worker, and I will be teaching classroom lessons. 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. I will also be incorporating MINDFULNESS practices in lessons. Mindfulness in elementary schools is proven to increase: academic achievement, focus, social skills and emotional regulation, self-esteem, sleep habits and Compassion. Here are some MINDFULNESS activities for you to try with your children. If you would like more information, please check out the link near the bottom of my article

The Zones of Regulation are designed to help students identify and manage emotions. I describe 'regulating' emotions as like dialing in a new radio station if we don't like the one that is playing. Students will use tools to 'dial in new emotions', including fidgets, taking deep breaths, counting to 10, getting a drink of water, 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

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.

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 me, Amy.Soumis@spartaschools.org or Ashley Nowland @Spartaschools.org mindfulness-in-schools

TITLE 1 Reading News

Mrs. Hartuniewicz & Mrs. Patin

Title I Reading News
From Mrs. Hartuniewicz & Mrs. Patin
October

Parent Tips

- * Read out loud to you child.
- *Listen to your child read.
- *Talk to your child about the story.
- *Ask your child to share what they remember.
- *Talk about your favorite parts.
- *Help connect the stories to your child's life.

Title I Open House

Letters will be coming home to let you know if your child has qualified for Title I services. If so, be looking for an invitation to our Title I Open House. You will be able to find out about our services and meet your child's Title I teacher. You will also have the opportunity to make and take reading games for your child and receive a free book!

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Title I program please feel free to contact us.

kathy.hartuniewicz@spartaschools.org
susan.patin@spartaschools.org

Ridgeview is a Community School, in partnership with Kent School Services Network (KSSN).

I am the full time Community School Coordinator, working to meet the needs of our students, families and staff. By partnering with various community partners, we can help bridge the gaps that sometime come between home, school, and academic/social success.

One of our partners is Mel Trotter Ministries. They generously donate gift cards to coordinators who can then distribute to families who could benefit from shopping their thrift store! With every donation made in the name of "Sparta Area Schools, KSSN", we accumulate points that will eventually transfer to gift cards. Please consider donating your gently used clothing and household items you no longer need and mention that you'd like the credit to go to us!

If you are in need of any gift cards or any other resources to help you and your family, please reach out to:

jodi.west@spartaschools.org
(616) 887-8218 x3402

Picture Day
Tuesday, October 4, 2023



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

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 Appleview 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.

Please join us for a celebration of our
Hispanic and Latin American
communities! We will have food,
music, community resources,
technology help, activities for the kids
and more!

Save the date: October 8, 2023 from
3:00pm - 6:00pm at Ridgeview
Elementary Playground

Library
Mrs. Cnossen
Ridgeview is excited
to get new books for
the library! Our new
books have plastic
covering to protect
them, please have
your child be
respectful to all
books as we want
them to last.

A couple things to
remember:
Please remember to
return your child's
library books on
library day.
Put the books back
in their backpack
when they are done
reading. If traveling
with a library book,
please be aware of
it so it does not get
lost.

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 10:45 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.

view!

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.



Scan Me!



Like us on Facebook



Pizza
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Slices For SEF Pizza Buffet at
Angela's Italian Restaurant and Bar
240 E Division St, Sparta, MI 49345
(616) 887-1913
4:30-7:30 p.m. Mention this fundraiser
when ordering and Angela's will donate a
portion of your purchase to SEF.



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