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Winter Wonderland

Written By Camila Labarca,
Angiolina Guisto, and
Valerie Marin

Plan, plan, and plan is what many did in preparation for this spectacular event. Having a dance isn't as easy as it seems. It takes much effort and planning from many people. It all started with Mrs. Herrmann and Ridgeview's very own student government. We asked Mrs. Herrmann, "How did this dance come about?" and she answered with, "Well, a lot of the students were asking for a dance, and when we started the student government, one of the first things that came about was that we needed to have one. It was what all the students wanted and needed." With that meeting they came up with the theme of Winter Wonderland. They came up with this theme because Mr. Frier always does an amazing job decorating the cafeteria every December.

When we asked what goes into planning a dance, Mrs. Herrmann answered with, "At first, we wanted to think of a vision and decided it was formal. Then, we had to plan the different areas like the food, music, and decorations, which was quite a lot."

Mrs. Helms and her amazing cooking team catered the dance with the delicious foods such as bacon pinwheels, meatballs, little Smokey's, spicy chicken and regular chicken sliders, fruit kabobs, an assortment of mini cupcakes, mini cheese cakes, chocolate covered strawberries, lemonade, sweet tea, and water. Mmm, sounds so yummy.

As the date got closer, students and staff arranged the music and put up beautiful decorations in our cafeteria. It really did look like a Winter Wonderland.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS, WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY STUDENTS.



High school students are happy to help prepare food for their dance.



Students and staff joining on the fun for spirit week!



In the meantime, with Ridgeview's first dance right around the corner, the high school students had a phenomenal time preparing for it with crazy themed outfits each day of the week! The students started off with showing their crazy side with their favorite memes! Everything from Dora to Waldo! Two worlds came together. The next day, the students went twinning with their BFFs. On Wednesday, they all went wacky tacky mode and wore whatever they could find. Thursday was decades day where some of our students traveled back in time with their rad outfits. Finally, on Friday our students showed off their cultures with their flags on their outfits! Even some staff members joined in! The students and staff showed their diversity and crazy side here at Ridgeview!



Continued on page 10

Cooking with our Culinary

Written By
Adrialisse Figueroa and Savannah Remp

"Where is that delicious aroma coming from?"
"Oh, it's coming from a classroom down this hall."
We followed our noses and our growling stomachs to the source of it all, Room 209, the Culinary Arts elective led by Mrs. Helms.

Mrs. Helms:
What inspired you to be a culinary teacher?
"I loved Home Ec classes when I was in middle school and high school, and I wanted to go back and teach it to other students."
What's the most excited part about teaching these students?
"Watching how excited the kids get when they finish a product."
Britney Florexil:
Why did you join the culinary elective?
"Since I watch my mom cook, I always wanted to cook by myself."
Out of all the dishes you've made so far, which one is your favorite?
"Salted fish and rice because it's so good, and I love food in general."

Jazilyn Washington:
Why did you join the culinary elective?
"I chose to take culinary for my own benefit but as well for my family. I was personally not a big fan of cooking and that's because I never got to do so at home. The past two years, I've voluntarily helped out with cooking, so it peaked my interest. When my brother entered the 7th grade, he took culinary. After that he would always come home and would tell me stories. He would talk about his experiences and what he would cook. Another reason is that every time I would walk down the hallway, I could smell very delicious food and that would give me a nostalgic feeling because of how I mentioned I would always help with baking, gathering resources, and reading out the recipes with my parents. I have a little bit of experience, so I thought why not fully invest interest in cooking. I want to be dependent and be able to cook for myself at a young age and as well help out with the cooking."
What's the best part about culinary?
"Well first of all, the cooking, that's all we do."

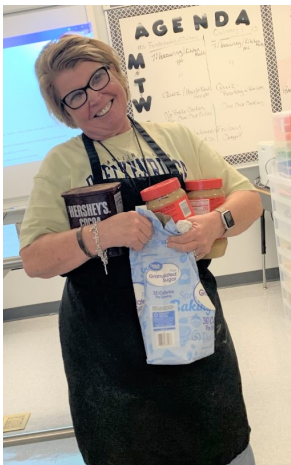
Genesis Cruz Vasquez:
Why did you join the culinary elective?
"I actually wanted to learn how to cook, since my mom never taught me how to. At a young age, even now, I just wanted to learn how to cook especially in this specific class. At first, I didn't want to, but now I do, and I want to stay in this class for as long as possible."
What is the most difficult thing in culinary?
"I think the most difficult thing is trying to measure the liquid ingredients because you have to do a specific process of how to do it like measuring water. For instance, you put it on a flat surface, and then measure it."

From what we have heard from all the students, and from what we experienced ourselves while in the room, the culinary elective has its challenging but fun times. So far, the dishes we have witnessed being created shows us that they could possibly become well experienced chefs one day.

Below- Students prepare pumpkin cupcake batter in muffin tin liners before baking.



Below-Mrs. Helms models the technique of using a pastry bag to fill the center of the cupcakes.



Left- A smiling Mrs. Helms shares her love of cooking with her students.

Below- Two students are preparing the center of their cupcakes to be filled with cream cheese frosting.



Left- Check out the delicious results of the pumpkin cupcake assignment.



Above- Culinary students begin to construct the lasagna with meat sauce.



Above- The students start the layering process of: sauce, pasta, sauce, cheese, pasta, sauce, and lastly cheese.

Bottom right- Admire the culinary students lasagna before it was put in the oven to bake.



Team Sports at R.G.S.A.

Girls' Basketball Team

Written By Riley Roberts and Darlenis Nunez

She shoots, she scores, and the crowd goes wild! The girls' basketball team is hardworking and a great team. Their first game was in December and they did great! We interviewed some of the players and the coach. Here's how it's going. Let's shoot it off with Coach Colleen.

Q1: This is your first year as RGSA's school nurse. What inspired you to be the basketball coach?

A1: "I have coached before, and basketball is one of my favorite sports. So, when they needed a coach, I figured I could combine my two loves. I decided I could just try it out.

Q2: How long have you been playing basketball?

A2: "I have been playing basketball from around age five to college, so maybe sixteen years."

Q3: What do you think the team needs to work on in general?

A3: "I think communication, getting to know each other, and moving the ball."

Now let's talk to some players and get their point of view.

Q1: What motivates you to play basketball?

A1: Ashley VanGilder- "Growing up, I played basketball a lot. My dad was there, and my uncle was there. My uncle is in the hospital now, so to keep playing basketball, I guess he's my motivation."

Xarianna Munoz- "I just love the sport and LeBron James is one of my favorite players in the NBA, so he motivates me."

Carmen Araujo- "I just feel like it's a really fun sport and I like being active during the school year. When I play sports, it helps me keep in shape."

Q2: Who inspires you to play basketball?

A2: Ashley VanGilder- "My mom would most likely be my inspiration when it comes to basketball."

Xarianna Munoz- "My mother, she's my inspiration."

Carmen Araujo- "I don't really know, like my best friend Rylee, I always watched her play and thought she was really good. I don't really know a lot of star players."

Q3: What is your favorite move in basketball?

A3: Ashley VanGilder- "I like three pointers the most."

Xarianna Munoz- "Three pointers are one of my favorites."

Carmen Araujo- "I kind of like three pointers because I think its really cool on how far you can shoot, and because it's kind of hard to shoot from that area."

Q4: How long have you been playing basketball?

A4: Ashley VanGilder- "I have been playing for about four years."

Xarianna Munoz- "I've been playing basketball since preschool."

Carmen Araujo- "I've actually only been playing for this year."

As you can see, these girls are so passionate about basketball. Their love really shines through as you could tell in the interviews. Let's wish these beautiful young women good luck on their basketball journey and season.



Girls' Basketball 2019-2020:
Back row from left: Coach Colleen, Norah Laurore, Ashley VanGilder, Riley Graves-Niell, Solie Williams.
Middle row from left: Julie Awad, Xarianna Munoz, Nicole Parada.
Front row from left: Carmen Araujo, Rylee Frascona, Victoria Mejia Nieves.
Not pictured: Auriannie Rivera, Mikeyla Hill, Jayla Ayala.

Boys' Basketball Team

Written By Crystal Montero, Ana Paz, and Monica Clermont

Let's make the ball into the hoop before our 2019-20 season ends, with our talented boys basketball team. Coming out onto the court are three of our basketball players Stan Rice, Jordan Williamson, and Luis Gonzalez. Here are their personal perspectives for this season.

When our first player, Stan Rice, was asked, "What basketball player inspired you to play basketball?" He responded, "My brother did. We are four years apart, and I'm sitting on the sideline just watching him play. I was like, that looks cool. I want to do that, and plus I can be better than him on the court." Wanting to know what some of his strategies are, Stan didn't hesitate to say, "I use having a good IQ, and I like using my teammates. I like getting them involved in the game and passing them the ball. I think I'm probably better at more offense than defense too." He finally went on to explain why he enjoys playing basketball. "Well, basketball is like my girlfriend. I like basketball a lot. I play nearly everyday, and I'm in a lot of leagues. I play for the Rec Center, our school team, and now I'm trying out for the AU team. I really enjoy basketball, it's fun to play, and it's probably my favorite sport."

Next, Jordan Williamson expressed which basketball player inspired him to play basketball. "Lebron James because I grew up watching him, and he was born in my hometown, Akron, Ohio." Jordan's favorite position on the basketball court is offense and shooting. "This is because I need to be able to shoot when I'm open." A skill he would like to improve on is ball handling because he says he's slow at it.

Finally, Luis Gonzalez agrees that Lebron James has also inspired him to play basketball. "Lebron James is a very inspirational and influential person." Luis also explains that running is the hardest aspect of basketball . "Running up and down the court is the hardest thing because it's very physical." Luis wrapped up with what his favorite exercise is during practice. "Suicides. You have to run a lot."

The star players made it in the hoop and scored! They are having a good and strong season. With victories and losses, the coaches are proud of all their efforts. They came up victorious with their skills and good sportsmanship.



Boys' Basketball 2019-2020:
Back row from left: Ivan Perez, Justin Wilson, Ardi Latifi, Yohannes Faye, Stan Rice, Alex Morales, Jordan Williamson.
Front row from left: Ben Andre, Geriel Vega, Oscar Hanson, Samuel Awad, Luis Gonzalez.
Not pictured: Anthony Arcscott

Team Sports at R.G.S.A. (continued)

Cheerleading Team

Written By Camila Labarca, Angiolina Guisto, and Valerie Marin

Blue! White! Come on! Blue! White! Yell it! Let's go, Ridgeview! Let's give it up for the cheerleaders! Yes, it is that time of the year! It's competition time for the cheerleaders! They have been working hard and had late practices in order to shine on the stage. Their first competition was on November 23rd where they showed their routine to the world. The ladies did a fabulous job! They got third place out of seven in their category. A great start! Afterwards, on December 14th at Bishop Moore High School, our girls got first place in their division. Not only that, but Ridgeview donated over 500 toys to the toy drive for the Arnold Palmer Hospital. Our cheerleaders got first place in the toy drive, too! That just shows our school's kindness to everyone. Here is what a few of our fellow cheerleaders thought about what's taken place so far this cheer season.

When we asked three of our cheerleaders, Liann Santos, Isabella Cartwright, and Ramilesh Mejia Nieves, what they have been doing to prepare to give the best of their ability, they responded with:

- "I keep practicing at my house over and over again until I get it."
- Isabella Cartwright
- "I go over the routine, and I'll call some of my friends on the team to go over the dance. I also go over the counts in my head and act out the routine."
- Ramilesh Mejia Nieves
- "What I have been doing to prepare to the best of my ability would probably be stretching and practicing over and over again until I have perfected the skill. Also, I practice staying tight and balancing on my foot in a liberty."
- Liann Santos

The next question we asked them was, "What was the most difficult thing to learn and why?"

"My backhand spring because it was just hard to mark down, do it by myself, and the flip for the pyramid because it's just hard."

- Isabella Cartwright

"The tick-tock because of the changing styles and counts."

- Ramilesh Mejia Nieves

For the third inquiry, we asked the girls each individual questions. We asked Isabella, "This year you are learning to do a backhand spring. What has been the greatest challenge in mastering this?"

"The hardest part is that I am nervous about it. I have the skill, but I'm just afraid to do it."

Afterwards, we asked Liann, "How do you feel about being a flyer this year?"

"It feels good, I guess. I mean it's fun being thrown in the air and doing complicated things."

Finally, we asked Ramilesh, "Why did you choose to start cheering this year?"

"I wanted to do cheer because it was my last year in middle school, so I wanted to try something new."

It's going to be a beautiful season with this group of cheerleaders this year. Let's hear it for Ridgeview one more time. Let's go, Ridgeview!



Angiolina Giusto, Sofia Perez, Hannah Bibby, Savannah Moore, Liann Santos, Mackenzie Connole, Camila Labarca, Ainhua Aguiar, Mallory Frese, Jalissa Duvivier, Ramilesh Mejia. (Top, left to right) Mackenzie Dech, Callie Ludwig, Isabella Cartwright, Leeani Arroyo, Kiara Rene, Brihanna Ahmetaj, Norah Laureore, Briana Velez, Valerie Marin. (Bottom, left to right) Not pictured: Liesel Tinoco, Aminah Ortiz.



After their first competition, the girls went for a delicious lunch at Chick-fil-A!



Cheerleaders posing before their performance.



The cheerleaders proud of their performance.

Random Facts That You Won't Believe Are True

One of the ingredients needed to make dynamite is peanuts.

Kangaroos cannot walk backwards.

Hippopotamus milk is pink.

Applesauce was the first food eaten in space by astronauts.

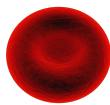
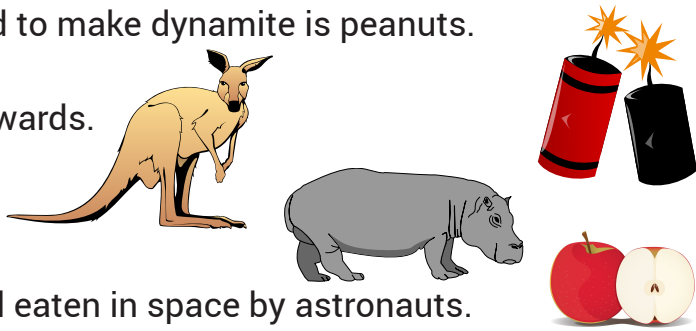
A typical cough is 60 mph, a sneeze is often faster than 100 mph.

On Venus, the planet, it rains metal.

When you look at a bright sky and you see white dots, you are looking at your blood. Those are white blood cells.

On an average day, your feet produce a pint of sweat every single day.

Cans of diet soda will float in water, regular soda cans will sink.



Read, Look, and Learn Scavenger Hunt



Let the scavenger hunt begin! Read, look, and learn about all of the great things taking place at our school.

1. Who is featured in the Student Spotlight for this issue?
2. How many years has Ms. Kendrick been employed at Ridgeview?
3. Ms. Smith and Riley Roberts both have on what color shirt in the *Wacky Tacky* photograph?
4. What foods are featured in the Culinary Arts article?
5. Who is the girls' basketball coach this year?
6. What is Red Ribbon Week?
7. How do the boys' basketball coaches feel about their team this year?
8. Where is basketball player, Jordan Williamson's, hometown?
9. Name two countries mentioned that are being studied during early release days?
10. Who helped prepare the food for the Winter Wonderland dance?
11. What type of food was served at the dance?
12. Where did the cheer team eat after their very first competition?
13. Who is building gliders on campus?
14. What is Math Nation?
15. Name a service project mentioned that NJHS students partake in.

Student Spotlights



Adriana Ramos

Congratulations to Adriana Ramos. She has been selected by Mrs. Parsons for this month's student spotlight. Adriana explained she likes the teachers and the people that go here. When asked what her favorite subject is and why, she responded, "Reading because I like books." Mrs. Parsons couldn't say enough great things about Adriana. "Adriana Ramos started middle school in a wheelchair and has overcome some huge obstacles, but always kept a smiling face, a positive attitude, and maintaining good grades the whole way through."



Savannah Remp

Congratulations to Savannah Remp. She has been selected by Mr. Simmons for this month's second student spotlight. Savannah explained that she enjoys the teachers, her friends, and most of the subjects she learns here at Ridgeview. When she got asked which was her favorite subject and why she replied with, "I enjoy history, math, and PE because they peak my interest, and PE keeps me active." Mr. Simmons enjoys Savannah in his 6th period U.S History class. "In her class, she is a ray of sunshine."



Staff Spotlight with our Dean, Mrs. Kendrick

Written By Allison Barrera and Julius Sanabia



Let's bring the spotlight to our magnificent Dean, Mrs. Kendrick. With a welcoming smile, she invited us into her office, so we could ask her a few questions about her role at Ridgeview. First, we wanted to know what it's like to be a Dean. "As a Dean, you are always meeting with a variety of people and dealing with situations." "How do you prepare for this?" Mrs. Kendrick began and explained, "Basically, I've had a lot of experience with discipline. I used to work in the juvenile system with kids, as well as I've taught for several years, so my experiences in the classroom. As with anything, you always have to study and make sure you're certified to be able to do the job. There's training, things to go to, and meetings to find out different strategies. I also reach out to some of my peers, who are also Deans of students, and we collaborate about how we handle things. Again, we are a Love and Logic school, so a lot of the practical things that I use for discipline come from our Love and Logic guidelines. We believe Mrs. Kendrick is a great Dean, but we wanted to know why she thinks she's a good Dean for Ridgeview. "I'm going to be honest with you. I know how some say I live and die Alabama or Haines City. I live, bleed, and dream Ridgeview. It's like my life. I've been here for about 17 years total. I've been with Mr. Frier prior to this from another school where I taught 9 years, so it's like family. It's home. I know a lot of the kids. I've had some of their older siblings, which means that most of the kids I come in contact with, I've already experienced their families and they know me pretty well, so it's like we're just one big family." It's obvious Mrs. Kendrick likes being a Dean, but then we got curious to know what other occupation or career path she would have taken if she didn't work at Ridgeview. "I'll be honest with you, I always tell students I don't know what I want to be when I grow up. They laugh when I say that because they're looking at me saying, "Well, Mrs. K, you're already an adult, and you're already in your career. Initially, I wanted to be a nurse when I was growing up. But that changed because I was afraid of needles, so I didn't see myself being able to properly take care of patients. There were so many sick people that are terminally ill, and my heart wouldn't let me do that, because I'd probably be crying worse than they were. In the end, my initial degree is in Business Administration with a minor in Economics. My ultimate goal then was to be the large CEO of a prominent business corporation." Now let's get to two fun facts about Mrs. K that many people are unaware of. Fun fact #1: "I've taken swimming lessons intermittently, and I don't know how to swim." Fun fact #2: "I'm afraid of scary movies." As you can see the spotlight shines bright on our exquisite, knowledgeable, and hardworking Dean, Mrs. Kendrick.



Our Dean, Mrs. Kendrick, rocking that sunset yellow color.



Allison Barrera, Julius Sanabia, and Mrs. Kendrick looking cute for her interview.

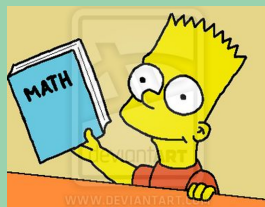
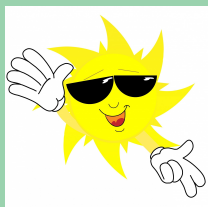
Laughter is the Best Medicine

It's fun to share a good laugh, but did you know it can actually improve your health?

What do you call a pig who knows karate?
Pork chop.



Why does the sun have to go to school?
To get brighter.



Why do porcupines always win the games?
They have the most points.



What did the science book say to the math book?
Wow, you've got problems.

Global Studies Projects on Early Release Days

Written By Niema Toki and Erona Shashivari

Early release days just got even better! Students of all grades are partaking in fun and entertaining activities. Every grade level is doing a variety of activities centered around different countries. We asked the students how they felt about the new and improved global studies project.

Q1: Why do you like the global studies project?

Q2: What project are you completing?



Q1: "I like the global studies project because we get to learn about interesting places with our friends. That's really cool because it's better to learn about other countries besides the ones you've been to and the ones you're from."

Q2: "We're doing a Minecraft project which is super fun." ~ Davidjana Lindor

Q1: "I like the global studies project because it gives me a chance to learn about a different country and their lifestyle."

Q2: "In the two classes I've been in so far, I've learned about Japan's education and how similar and different it is from ours." ~ Solie Williams

Q1: "I like the global studies project because it makes the day go by faster, and you get to hangout with the same people on that day. I enjoy cooperating with my partner."

Q2: "So far I'm doing a government project for Mr. Simmons. Part of this project is doing research on our country's government. My country is Italy, so in Ms. Helms class, we will be making macaroons in 110 minutes." ~ Max Randles



Q1: "I like the global studies project because we get to interact with other students. It let's us use websites that we haven't used, and we get to work with other students around the world."

~ Samuel Awad

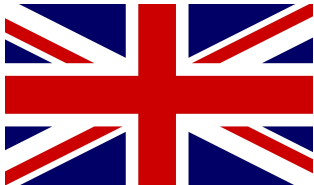


"We are Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, which means we focus on Global Studies. We infuse our curriculum with Global-based activities, where students are learning about different countries and cultures around the world and different aspects of them. We were doing them in pockets prior to this, and now this is a way that we are approaching it school wide. So on those early release days, every grade level is doing some project on a global studies topic." ~ Mr. Thacker



Q1: "I enjoy the Global Studies project because we get to learn about different places."

Q2: "We learned about the Brexit and it's about if Britain should separate from the European Union." ~ Lauriska Dulcine



Q1: "It gives me a better understanding of the interesting features of Japan, and it's a fun way to make the day go by faster."

Q2: "In Ms. Celani's, we are creating folktales about the unique myths that were generated in Japan."

~ Riley Niel Graves



Q1: "I like it because we can learn about other countries and how they live their lives, for example, how they get to school, do their homework, and their daily routines." ~ Kohen Dennis



Q1: "I like the global studies project because we get an opportunity to learn about other countries not just the United States and what other people have to deal with."

Q2: "I'm doing France, and we have to write an essay about it." ~ Maylin Perez



Drama with Mr. Smith

FSA Rewards

Written by Ainhoa Aguiar and Briana Velez

Lights, camera, action! We're rolling! Introducing a few of the many talented RGSA drama kids and their teacher: Sydney Last, Mia Forman, Winnie Alfred, and Mr. Smith.

Do you hope one day to pursue acting and drama as a career?

"Yes. It's like my dream. I want to be a really good actress."

- Sydney Last

"No, I don't think so. I'm not sure that's something I would like to see myself doing." - Winnie Alfred

"Sure, why not! It's fun, and I get to express myself."

- Mia Forman

What do you wish to get out of this elective?

"To get better at my acting skills." -Sydney Last

"To learn how to act better." -Winnie Alfred

"At least know a little bit about how drama started and what it's about." - Mia Forman

With this class, do you want to improve your acting skills or just have fun?

"I want to improve my acting so I can be on Broadway and be in movies." - Sydney Last

"Both because I want to have fun and be able to act better too."

- Winnie Alfred

"Just have fun because I like to hang out with my friends."

- Mia Forman

Finally, we went to the leader of this elective, Mr. Smith.

What inspired you to teach drama?

What inspired me to teach drama is I liked it in high school. I had a lot of fun with it, and it was something that I wanted to pass along to students." - Mr. Smith

As you can see here at Ridgeview, we have some Broadway quality talent developing in our drama students. And as they say in show business, "That's a wrap!"

Written by Cole Abruzzese, Yasiel Carrero, & Maximillian Vasquez

The FSA, also known as the big test at the end of the school year, takes a lot of hard work and dedication on the part of all of the students across the state of Florida. Here at RGSA, this work can come with a huge reward. A few individuals from our school received a very rewarding prize for earning a perfect score on their FSA exam.

To start off, there were four students who rose to the occasion on a challenging feat of receiving perfect scores on the FSA. These students are Jonathan Neumann, Ryan Elkadri, Eric Volero, and Yasiel Carrero. We spoke to each one of them and asked a few questions. "How did you feel when our school principal, Mr. Johnson, announced your name on the intercom as receiving all fives on the FSA state tests from last year?" They all responded very similarly that they were all very ecstatic, privileged, and shocked! For our next question we go the opposite, with many different answers. "What did you do to study and practice for the FSA?" Jonathan responded, "I didn't per se study but listening to the teacher. They really helped a lot." "Mr. Erickson explained the subject very well," stated Rayan. Eric responded by saying, "I just knew the subjects well, and my teacher helped us understand the subject." "I just went to sleep early, listened to the teachers, and did my homework," Yasiel said. For the final question we asked, "What motivates you to be an excellent student?" Jonathan responded by saying, "A better future and having good intelligence Eric said, "The free college and really good job." Rayan stated, "I want free college and good life." Yasiel told us, "My parents and my future motivates me to do my best, and sometimes they give me rewards when i excel. I also just want to have a good life."

As you see hard work, perseverance, and dedication pay off in the end. In the wise words of Abigail Adams, "Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor (enthusiasm) and attended to with diligence."



Top left: Eric Volero
Middle: Rayan Elkadri
Top right: Yasiel Carrero
Bottom left: Jonathan Neumann

Congratulations



National Junior Honor Society

Chorus Elective

Written By Kalen McDermott & Nelyanis Melendez

Did you know NJHS was founded in 1929? How about the fact that it's an international student organization that consists of chapters in middle schools? So, it's not surprising that Ridgeview has their own National Junior Honor Society! Mrs. Townsend is one of the three facilitators that leads the NJHS club. "What is your favorite part about being a leader in NJHS?" "I like doing service projects with the kiddos. I also really like seeing the kids out of school, out of uniforms, and in their element." Mrs. Herrmann, another facilitator, explained that her go-to service project is the SPCA project in Lakeland." We get to help the animals, and the kids really like the animals." Ms. Celani, NJHS facilitator, stated that her favorite service project is Relay For Life. "We sell carnations to try to raise money for kids with sicknesses. NJHS also does car washes to raise money. Last year they raised \$1,800 and our goal this year is \$2,500."

The NJHS kids had a couple of thoughts on this organization. First, we asked Makayla Severson, "What are you most excited to do this year?" "The different activities because they are really fun, and we always help out someone during the service project." Maxwell Randals explained what his favorite service project is. "I like doing the car wash because I get to communicate with people, and it was fun to wash people's cars. You get to talk to parents, students, and families. Also, it was a great day to help out the community." We asked Mackenzie Connole also what her favorite service project is? "I really like Second Harvest Food Bank. We get to make food bags for families in need or struggling."

In essence, NJHS is not just a club, it is an organization that helps the whole community. Maxwell Randals, Mackenzie Connole, and Makayla Severson are just a few of the students in NJHS that are making their mark and are lucky to make a difference in the world.



Smiling and proud NJHS students: Makayla Severson, Maxwell Randals, and Mackenzie Connole

Written By Annette Odupoy, Bailie Bornemann, and Sarah Correira

Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do! Let's warm up with the chorus elective and see what it's like in the singing heart of Ridgeview. Let's see what these students and their teacher have to say about music.

Today we learned how important music is to the chorus teacher. We interviewed Mrs. Ramirez with a few questions and here are her remarks. The first question we asked was, "What's your favorite music genre?" She responded with, "Classical music, because it's relaxing." The second question was, "What's your favorite thing about teaching kids how to sing?" Her remark was, "I can reflect my skills in them." We then asked her if she liked being a nurse or chorus teacher better? Her answer was simple, "Chorus." Lastly, we wanted to know her favorite song that they were working on. She said, "I really like *Whisper*." Now that we have gotten to know the brain of chorus, let's move on to the heart and soul of chorus.

Next, we wanted some insight into who enjoys learning from Mrs. Ramirez in this elective.

Q1: "How do you feel when you're singing?"

Carolina Martinez: "I feel really happy."

Destiny Colon: "When I'm singing I'm never out of my comfort zone."

Gabrielle Goree: "I feel happy."

Q2: "What is your reason behind your choice of chorus?"

Carolina Martinez: "The reason is I really like to sing and be out there out of my comfort zone."

Destiny Colon: "I like to sing, and it's enjoyable."

Gabrielle Goree: "At my old school, I did chorus and drama, and that made me feel really happy."

Q3: "What is your favorite music genre?"

Carolina Martinez: "I like pop and rock."

Destiny Colon: "I mostly like pop music right now."

Gabrielle Goree: "I like Christmas and 80's."

Q4: "What is your favorite song you're working on?"

Carolina Martinez: "I like this Spanish song called *Decolores*."

Destiny Colon: "My favorite song is *Whisper*."

Gabrielle Goree: "I like *Whisper* and *Decolores*."

Clearly, music can make a difference in people's lives. As the famous philosopher Plato said, "Rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul." They say in the music world, as we take our final bow, there is no doubt these chorus students have a strong passion for what they do.



9th Grade Winter Wonderland Dance (Continued from Page 1)

A Magical Night to Remember

Finally it happened, the very first high school dance here at Ridgeview. Everyone was overjoyed and so excited for it. All the hard work of the students, staff, the student government, and everyone was definitely worth it. Our 9th graders dressed their best and danced the night away. They also had amazing foods that were made fresh from our culinary class. The high schoolers had a blast at the dance. Dancing, partying, laughing, eating, hanging out with friends, all described the fantastic unforgettable night that these high school students had. At the end of the night, our students nominated a Mr. and Miss Ridgeview, the very first in Ridgeview history! The winners were Darianys Maldonado and Enzo Zuniga.

We asked them a series of questions about how the night went. When we asked, "You were nominated as the very first Mr. and Miss Ridgeview, which is a very big honor. How did you feel when you got told that you won?"

"I was surprised that I won because I wasn't expecting it." - Darianys

"I was shocked, since I didn't think I would get enough votes." - Enzo

Then we asked, "Besides winning this title, what were some other highlights of the night?"

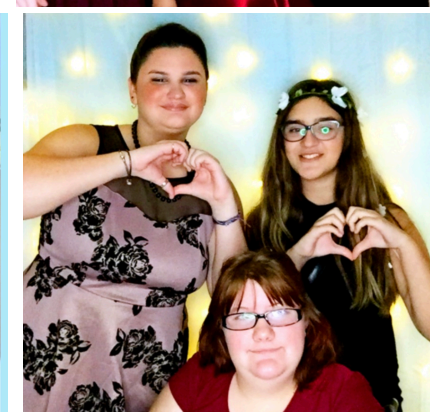
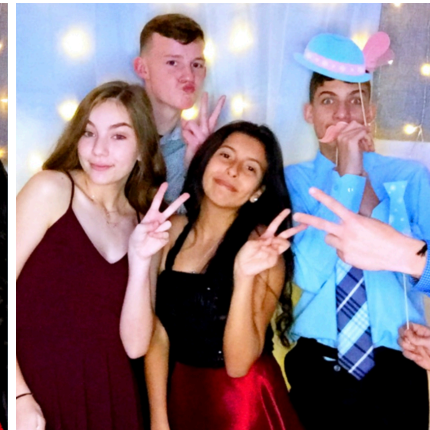
"The music and dancing were the highlights of that night." - Darianys

"I liked that I was able to hang out with my friends, take pictures, and dance." - Enzo

In the end, it was a night to remember. All of our RGSA students had a spectacular night that was filled with fun and exciting enthusiasm. It was truly a happily ever after kind of night.



Darianys Maldonado and Enzo Zuniga proudly represent RGSA's very first Mr. and Miss Ridgeview.



*Winter Wonderland
December 6, 2019*

Believe You Can and You're Halfway There. ~ Theodore Roosevelt

Red Ribbon Week, which is celebrated annually in schools, is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program. RGSA wears their red shirts in support of being drug-free.



Debate Elective

Written by Alejandra Duran

Ridgeview just added an AMAZING new elective, debate. Debate is attracting loads of students. Here are some questions I asked students George Monroy and Julie Awad. What made you want to be in debate? Julie - "Personally, I like to argue a lot. In my future, I know that I want to be an attorney, and I feel like the skills I'll learn in debate will help in my future job." George- "I find it really interesting, and the way that you are actually able to debate topics with other classmates is actually pretty fun. That's what inspired me to go into debate." How do you prepare for a debate? Julie- "To prepare for a debate you need to, first of all, be sure of what topic you're going to have sources on. You need to elaborate on your sources. You'll need to be able to use your own words and say things that aren't written down during your debate." George- "What you do is you start researching. Then, what you do is try to find facts that will downgrade your opponent's arguments. You need to have good sources to be credible."

I interviewed Mrs. Blanchard, and this is what she said. Why did you choose to take on this elective? "I did speech and debate when I was in school, and I have a little bit of experience with it. I think it's very useful to teach students how to be comfortable expressing their ideas in front of others." What is your goal for your students to learn while on the debate team? "I want them to feel more confident with themselves, be able to find good information, and to communicate their ideas."

In conclusion, debate is off to a strong start this year. The students are working very hard to succeed as they perfect their debating skills.



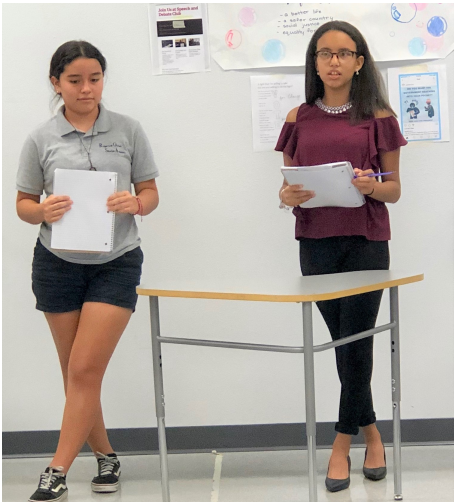
Mrs. Blanchard, the debate teacher, and a few of her students take a quick break from research and speech writing to smile for RGSA.

Julie Awad prepares for her future job as a lawyer in debate class.

Right- Ridgeview Global Studies School Public Forum Trophies



George Monroy works hard on his research to make sure his facts are credible before a debate.



Left to right- 8th graders Julie Awad, Brianna Baez, Faith Gouty, Presley Forant, Jacyra Ahmed, Sophia Merino, and Mehiel Charles dress up on debate day.



Left to right- 9th graders Crystal Lopera, Davidjana Lindor, Amira Melendez-Carrillo, and Lauriska Dulcine are ready for their debate day.

Students and Staff Participate in *Wacky Tacky Day*



Mr. Johnson, Mr. Thacker, and Mr. Frier enjoy some snacks in the culinary arts room on wacky tacky day.



Seventh graders show their wacky side.



Ms. Balgeman and Mr. Johnson pose with their wacky tacky outfits on.



Above: Eighth graders bring on their tacky wear.
Below: Mrs. Merck and her seventh graders get wacky.



Ms. Bell has fun with her wacky tacky ensemble.

More seventh graders get into the spirit of the day.



Ms. Smith and Riley Roberts smile and enjoy the day.



Ms. Kendrick gives her support for wacky tacky day.



The newspaper elective shows what wacky tacky looks like.

Right: The drama elective shows their personalities off on this wacky tacky school day.

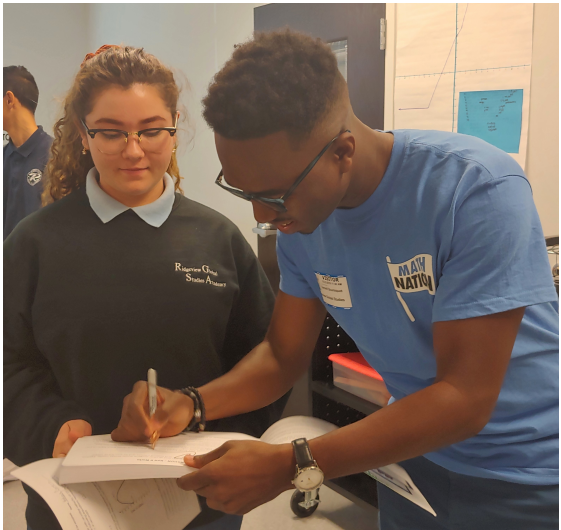


Math Nation with Mrs. Bairley and Algebra 1 and 2 Students

Written by Ainhoa Aguiar Ortiz and Darlenis Nunez

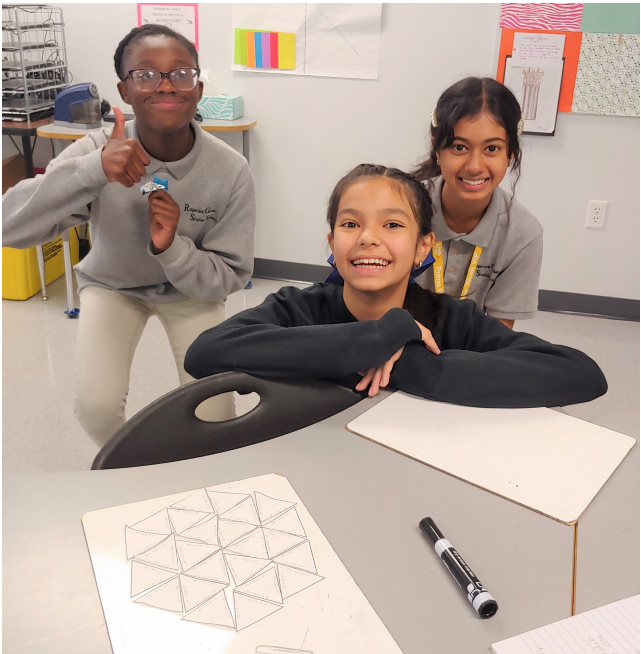
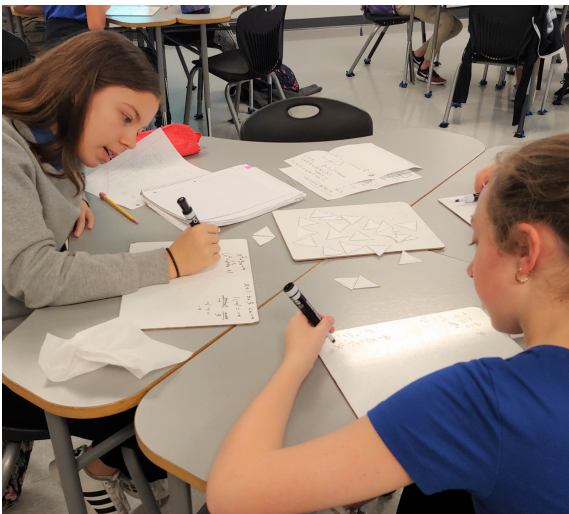
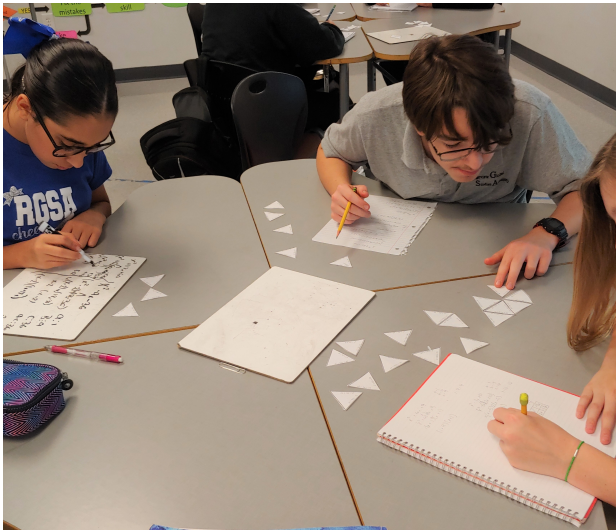
Math Nation is a tool that Mrs. Bairley uses for her Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 classes. It has an entire curriculum that includes a workbook that her students do in class. "It has a practice book that students can do their homework. There's also online tools to help students check their understanding after each topic that we do. The students test themselves with a self-practice tool which helps them get ready for their tests. In addition to that, there are all kinds of resources on Math Nation that I can use. They have some really good games that we play. You know once students have mastered a skill, we can then use those different games and activities to practice with."

Below- Mrs. Bairley and her algebra students enjoy a special visit from guest speaker, Darnell, who works for Math Nation. He graciously autographed many of their Math Nation workbooks.



Below and middle: Algebra 1 Honors students factoring equations into trinomials.

Bottom right: The winners, Sarah Lubin, Camila Labarca, and Neelam Dewansingh are joyful after they won their math challenge.



Science Fair Students Division Winners

This is Ridgeview's 3rd Science Fair. We had 80 8th and 9th graders participate this year. The winners will be attending the Regional Science Fair in Bartow to compete with the entire county. Congratulations to the following students in the Junior Division and Senior Division.

Junior Division - 8th Grade

- Aryam Rodriguez Rios - Title: Sound Sleep Category: Behavioral & Social Science BEHA
Axel Garcia - Title: A Breath of Fresh Air Category: Biomedical & Health Science BMED
Tamara Gavrilets - Title: The Magic With Eyesight Category: Biomedical & Health Science BMED
Braedon Guilfoil-Nassar - Title: Eggs are the New Teeth! Category: Chemistry
Xarianna Munoz - Title: Sticky Situation Category: Chemistry
Allyson Radford - Title: Ink Erasers Category: Chemistry
Erina Shashivari - Title: Elephants Toothpaste Category: Chemistry
Oscar Hanson - Title: Does the Shape of an Ice Cube Affect the Evaporation Process? Category: Mathematics & Computational Sciences
Jacinto Solano-Diaz - Title: The Study of Airfoils Category: Mathematics & Computational Sciences
Giacomo Albo - Title: How does Temperature Effect Baseball? Category: Physics
Thomas Nickel - Title: Magnetic Levitation Train Category: Physics
Andrea Robayo - Title: A Simple Motor and the Effects of Electromagnetic Fields Category: Physics
Mauricio Coral - Title: The Bitter, Sweet Growth Category: Plants
Dorian Desmond - Title: Nitro Growth Radishes Category: Plants

Senior Division - 9th Grade

- Kelsey Correira - Title: What's the Best Way to Keep Your Berry Fresh? Category: Chemistry
Olivia Hodgman Geer - Title: What Substances Lie in Our Bottled Water? Category: Chemistry
Nora Andre - Title: Effects of Different Types of Substances on Plants Category: Plants



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"Be silly, be honest, be kind." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Engineering is a project-based class lead by Mr. Baker. Students pictured are currently working on building gliders. Next, will be a prototype prosthetic arm project for the engineering students to develop.

