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# The Globe



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Ridgeview Strong

**NEWS FOR STUDENTS, WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY STUDENTS.**

## ***The Growth of our School***

**Written by Lucero Ojedo and Destiny Tran**

Ridgeview Global Studies Academy first opened 21 years ago and has been growing ever since. Can you believe it? 21 years ago, this school was only K-5 and now it's K-11! Let's begin by interviewing Mr. Johnson, a long-serving educator at RGSA, our MS/HS Assistant Principal, Mr. Thacker, and some fellow teachers who have been with us for a long time.

RGSA has been open for more than 20 years. Crazy right? We interviewed our principal, Mr. Johnson. First, we asked him, "How much has the school changed from the beginning when it first opened in 2000?" Mr. Johnson replied, "Wow! How Ridgeview has grown. In 2000, Mr. Frier opened Ridgeview for kindergarten through 5th grade with five buildings and less than 500 students. The offices and cafeteria were not even finished. So, the office operated out of Mr. Frier's office, and we ate lunch in the classrooms like we are doing today. A couple of years later, we added building six and later building seven which allowed us to increase to over 800 students. Also, during the 2001-2002 school year we became a charter school. As you know, a few years ago our school board answered our parent's requests and began adding middle school grades. This was accomplished by bringing in portables. Ultimately, we purchased the 15 acres adjacent to the elementary campus and constructed the secondary campus. Then the board decided to add a high school. We now have over 1,400 students in grades K-10. We will be adding eleventh grade next year and are currently under construction on a two-story building primarily for high school use. We look forward to our first graduating class 2022-2023. SO EXCITING!"

Next, we wanted to get some information on the construction of our high school. Our question was, "What are the future plans for the high school?" Mr. Thacker gladly agreed to answer this question and said, "Students may have noticed that we are under construction again. This time, we are building a two-story building for our high schoolers. The building will consist of several classrooms, a state-of-the-art science lab, a large multipurpose room with outdoor patio area, a fitness/weight room, and office areas. We will be adding the 11th grade in 2021-2022 and the 12th in 2022-2023. We are excited about the future possibilities for our high school students."

Furthermore, we interviewed 5th grade teachers Mrs. Hall and Mr. Erickson to get a teacher's perspective on the growth of the school. We asked them, "How long have you worked at RGSA, and what have you enjoyed about your experience as a teacher here?" Mrs. Hall said, "I am proud to say that I started at RGSA, helping to open this school in 2000. I have enjoyed teaching hundreds of students during my time

time here, and I have made many valuable friendships with other staff members. I think the thing that I love the most here is the feeling that everyone is 'family.'" Mr. Erickson replied, "I have worked at Ridgeview since the school opened in the year 2000. It is hard to believe it has been 21 years. What I have enjoyed about my experience is the pleasant atmosphere and the congeniality among staff. We have a wonderful administration that works well with staff and students. We also have great students here at Ridgeview." Lastly, we asked them, "What are some of the challenges you have seen take place that have personally affected you and your teaching?" Mrs. Hall answered, "Of course, there have been many changes at RGSA since I began here. We now have many more buildings on the elementary campus that at the beginning. We have also grown to middle and high school on our secondary campus. Teachers have come and gone, but our administration has remained, making our school stable and comfortable. Many changes in teaching have occurred in my years here, but to be a teacher is also to be flexible. I still believe in treating every student the same way I would expect my own child to be treated, and I teach my students the same way I would expect my own children to be taught. That has never changed during all my years of teaching, and I hope that it never changes." Mr. Erickson said, "Some of the changes I have seen have involved curriculum and testing mandates. Standards have changed for the grade levels over the years. We have gone from Sunshine State Standards and FCAT testing to Common Core, and soon the BEST Standards will be implemented. Another change has been the addition of more buildings and classrooms at Ridgeview. There are now six fifth grade classes, compared to only three when I started.

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In 2000, Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, also known as Home of the Explorers, opened their doors to its staff, students, and families in Davenport, Florida.

Mrs. Young ~ 3rd Grade

Art with Mrs. Hewes

Written by Adriana Cortes

Written by Elijah Laurent, Jose Cordero,  
and Rayyan Bouddi

Here in these days, we are giving our farewells to 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Young, a long-time companion of ours. Although we are putting a close to her chapter of teaching 3rd grade students here, we are happy of the memories we all may cherish about Mrs. Young. Mrs. Young has shared a one-of-a-kind instruction style throughout the years.

From the beginning, Mrs. Young has loved her job as an educator. I asked her a handful of questions. Our newspaper team asked, "How long have you been in the educational field?" She was quick to answer with, "I've been in the educational field for 21 years." It was surprising to hear her specify she had spent a whopping 21 years teaching 3rd grade. 3rd grade teachers are essential in the development of students. Next, we asked, "What is your favorite aspect about being able to work as a teacher?" Mrs. Young answered sweetly saying, "It's the relationships that I make with my students. The kids are independent, and they still respect their teachers." She brought up a valuable point about teachers, reminding us on how teachers aid in learning new information as well as participate in making students independent in other aspects of their lives. Afterwards, we asked, "If you could go to one single memory before retiring, what would it be and why?" Mrs. Young pondered for a bit before telling us a story about one of her former students. She detailed having a student that struggled in 3rd grade with school. When this former student came back to see her, he told her that he had fulfilled his long time dream of becoming a professional basketball player. It was inspiring to hear about one of Mrs. Young's students being able to complete a dream they had held since they were only a kid. Finally, we told her, "Your dedication and commitment as teacher is truly admiring. What are your future plans as you leave the teaching profession?" Mrs. Young responded with, "I have a 97-year old mother, and I'd like to continue to take care of her. I have a granddaughter that I'm raising. She is going into middle school next year, and I want to have more time to be with her and work with her. I want to travel. I am in process of getting a new RV and a new truck. I'm going to take my granddaughter and my mom to travel and see some family out west. Then I want to come back to Ridgeview and volunteer. I can't stay away from here. I have too many friends."

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Brush. Brush. Brush. She smiles as she finishes her masterpiece. According to <https://www.invaluable.com/blog/art-history-timeline/>, "Art was created by humans during the prehistoric stone age, between 300,00 and 700,00 years ago. The history of art is often told as a chronology of master piece created during each civilization." In honor all great artists, we will be paying tribute to the one and only Mrs. Hewes.

Mrs. Hewes, our amazing art teacher, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Throughout her career, she has taught kindergarten through seventh grade. Mrs. Hewes is currently teaching kindergarten through six grade as both a block teacher and an elective teacher. Before RGSA, Mrs. Hewes started her teaching career in New Jersey where she taught kindergarten through ninth grade. We asked Mrs. Hewes a few questions through email and she shared some very interesting information with us. We first asked her, "What inspired you to be an art teacher?" She responded with, "I fell in love with art in middle school. That was the first time I had an art teacher. But I always liked to draw and was pretty good at it. In college, I started out in elementary education then switched to art education. I thought art would be more fun." The next question we asked was, "What does art mean to you?" She then responded, "Art is another way to express myself. It's a form of escape. I love to work with line and color. I can come home at the end of a stressful day, doodle in my sketch book, and totally relax. Because I studied art, it means I can appreciate the art of others and understand their art better."

Moving on, we asked Mrs. Hewes, "Do you have a favorite artist and if so who?" She said, I have a tee shirt that says, some people only dream of meeting their favorite artist, I teach mine." You, my students, are my favorite artists. I am amazed each day at each at the talent I see in all of you." We then asked, "What do you want your kids to learn most about the subject art?" Mrs. Hewes said, "What I hope that my students learn most about art that it is another form of expression and that, even if one is not an artist, anyone can appreciate art and value it."

Continuing, we asked Mrs. Hewes to reflect on her career as an art educator. "Do you have a favorite memory you could share about your teaching years?" She responded with an amazing answer. "A favorite memory? I don't have just one. When Ridgeview first opened, I had very little supplies, so I had to improvise until the supplies came in.

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Mrs. Young brings her love of teaching to RGSA everyday.



Our very talented Mrs. Hewes loves to make art.



Mr. Simmons ~ Civics and US History

Elementary Educator Mrs. Jones

Written by Carson Camp

Students and staff, this school year we have several teachers and staff members retiring. So, I have decided to focus my last article for "The Globe" on an amazing teacher who I would like to pay my homage to. His class was so welcoming and so fun, that I couldn't have let him retire without me saying thank you. I interviewed Mr. Simmons about his teaching career and what is to come, and here's what he had to say.

**Q: What grades and/or subjects have you taught throughout the course of your career?**

A: I started in 7th grade Geography and moved to 8th grade US History, 9th grade World History and 10th grade US History. Here at RGSA, I have taught Civics, 6th-7th grade US History and 9th-10th grade US History.

**Q: Have you had a favorite grade or subject? If so, why?**

A: I really like the US History classes. The 6th-7th grade US History classes span Christopher Columbus to the Civil War. The 9th-10th grade spans from Civil War to modern times. What a blast!

**Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in the educational system?**

A: I really believe that the "learning process" is the key to success and good character. Learning to study, to be honest with yourself and others, is to use your time wisely, and to trust God to bring to remembrance those things you've learned will strengthen your character. I love being a part of that process.

**Q: Do you have any inspiring words for future teachers?**

A: Teaching is a calling more than a profession. If you are called to teach, do it with all your might!

**Q: Do you have any fond memories while working as a teacher?**

A: Some of my fondest memories are tied to FCA and the FCA Fridays in the gym. Also, I like when a former student sees me outside of school and reminds me of something they happily remember from a class or a field trip.

**Q: What are your plans once you are officially retired?**

A: My wife and I will travel, spend a lot of time with family, and find a ministry or veteran's organization to serve in. These last three years at RGSA have been a great joy for me. I am honored to have spent them with the staff and students I am surrounded by here. Thanks!

Mr. Simmons, I think I can say this for everybody, "Thank you for being such an amazing teacher." We can't wait to see what you will accomplish even after you have had marvelous career. Since we are a global studies school after all, I just wanted to say goodbye, farvel, tot ziens, ma'a as-salaama, au revoir, adios, and adjö to Mr. Simmons.



Mr. Simmons and his wife love their time together at the beach.

Written by Marwa and Safaa Zaaflane

As a tribute article to Mrs. Jones and her upcoming retirement, we wanted to spotlight a very special educator. We first met Mrs. Jones as a substitute teacher at RGSA when we were in first grade. She was one of our most favorite teachers because she was so kind and sweet. We appreciated the way she cared for us and the respect we all had for her was infinite. Sadly she's retiring this year, which breaks our hearts, and it makes us realize that we are going to lose one of the best people we have ever met. So we wrote an article in memory and appreciation for Mrs. Jones.

**Q: Before you became an elementary educational support teacher, what was your career?**

A: Before becoming an educational support teacher here in Florida, I was a para-educator in Maryland. I worked in varying positions including elementary and high school. This included 7 years working in an autism program. When I first graduated from high school, however, I was employed by our Federal Government. While my children were young, I held a variety of part-time jobs.

**Q: What or who made you interested in coming to work for Ridgeview?**

A: Once my husband and I moved to Florida, my neighbor who was a teacher at Loughman Oaks suggested I apply for a substitute position. After I got hired in Polk County, my husband read about a charter school on the Polk County website that was closer to our home. I interviewed, was hired, and put on a list of available substitutes.

**Q: How many years have you been a part of the Ridgeview family?**

A: I was hired as full-time seven years ago but started substituting here thirteen years ago. I subbed at two other Polk County schools and worked two days a week at EPCOT.

**Q: You work with students ranging in ages from kindergarten to 5th grade. What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

A: I love the family feel here at RGSA. Over the years I think I have probably spent most of my time in first grade. I feel like that is my home base here. It is especially exciting working with children in small groups or individually and watching them get excited as they discover how to read, recognize words, and be eager to learn. It is also quite meaningful to me to see students in middle school or high school who still have fond memories of my time with them when they first started Ridgeview. Before COVID that often involved hugs from students who are now taller than me!

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Mrs. Jones and her husband get ready to celebrate their 47th year of marriage next month.





MS/HS Food Service ~ Ms. Singh

Continuation of our RGSA Tributes

Written by Matthew Berard

Welcome to the final issue to "The Globe." Sadly, you'll have to wait for the next school year for another issue, but even more saddening, some staff members will be retiring and leaving RGSA. One of these members is Ms. Singh, one of our food service employees. Thankfully, I had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Singh about her retirement. Here's the Q & A session with Ms. Singh who retired in March.

- Q: How long have you been working at RGSA?**

A: I had been working for 15 and 1/2 years at the school.

**Q: What will you miss during your retirement from the school?**

A: I will miss the kids and the teachers. I will miss my coworkers too.

**Q: Do you have any fond memories of working here you'd like to share?**

A: One of my fond memories is Christmas time. We would get to wear our Christmas shirts all month in December. I also loved it Mr. Frier made our Christmas lunch for the staff. I will always have fond memories of the decorations in the school too. God bless him so much.

**Q: What will you do now in your retirement?**

A: Wow! Now that I am retired from school, I will be working at my second job, McDonald's. I have worked there three days a week for the last 18 years. I will spend more time with my family. I just want to relax and be happy. Thanks so much Mr. Frier for letting me work at Ridgeview. Keep up the good work, and God bless you all.

Ms. Singh and everyone else working at RGSA have done so much for us. They've given us a clean school with delicious food, computers and tablets to work on, free supplies like pencils, and perks that other schools don't get. So, we honor the ones who will leave and will continue to make new memories with our Ridgeview family.



Ms. Singh will always be a part of the Ridgeview family, and she will be missed. Enjoy your retirement!

Mrs. Hewes- *Continued from page 2*

Another memory is of a student who gave me a very hard time in class. She was a talented young lady, had artwork accepted into the Polk Museum of Art elementary exhibit, but questioned everything I did. Many years later, I ran into her dad who told me she was going into art as a career choice because of having art with me. Another favorite memory is having several Ridgeview students win purchases rewards from the Polk Museum of Art. This means that their artwork is part of the permanent collection of the museum."

Having learned so much about Mrs. Hewes in our interview, we wanted to know one more thing. "As you are getting ready to start a new chapter of your life, what are some things you plan on doing?" Her final answer was, "What I planed to do when I retire is rest, relax, and do some work around the house that my husband and I having been meaning to do. Of course, I want work on my art. I love to draw, paint, and work in collage. I also look forward to going to the library and reading lots of books ( hopefully on the beach )."

Art has been a HUGE part of our RGSA history thanks to our very talented and dedicated art teacher, Mrs. Hewes. This subject helps students better understand the point of view of the artist. In the famous words of Jerzy Kosinski, "The principles of true art is not to portray, but to evoke." There is no doubt that we give our appreciation to Mrs. Hewes for teaching us not only about art, but for being such an amazing art teacher.

Mrs. Jones- *Continued from page 3*

- Q: If you had one piece of advice to give to your students, what would it be?**

A: My advice would be to always strive to do your best and encourage everyone else to do the same. We all can use encouragement at times, and you never know the impact that will have on someone else's life.

**Q: With retirement right around the corner, what do you plan next?**

A: I am excited to retire and have more time for activities I enjoy like gardening and pool aerobics. We hopefully will be able to spend more time traveling and visiting our family especially our grandchildren.

In essence, Mrs. Jones is a really amazing person and we all love her. She's retiring and we'll miss her. The love and affection Mrs. Jones has for her students, staff, and the school itself has had a real impact on us. Thank you Mrs. Jones for being a part of the Ridgeview family. You will not be forgotten.

Mrs. Young- *Continued from page 2*

It was interesting to hear about Mrs. Young's future plans and goals following her retiring.

This here is the last chapter of Mrs. Young's RGSA teaching days, and although we are closing in on it, she will be opening a new and exciting chapter of her life. We will miss you dearly, Mrs. Young, and we appreciate you taking the liberty of instructing so many of our Ridgeview 3rd grade students.



## Engineering with Mr. Baker

Written by Sophia Joumad and Braelyn Solis-Leclair

Vroom! Vroom! The engineering class with Mr. Baker are constructing their very own cars they call dragsters. The students are racing their cars too! The big event took place on May 14th through May 21st in the hallway of building 2. We interviewed students Valesa Gashi and Asher Stover, along with the engineering teacher, Mr. Baker.

First, we interviewed Mr. Baker. The initial question we asked him was, "What is the objective of the dragsters assignment for your students?" He said, "The learning objective is for the students to understand friction, force, drag, and velocity. All of these things are put together to complete the dragster project. The goal of the dragster itself is the time and distance it has to meet." Next we asked, "What do you hope your students ultimately learn from this project?" He responded with, "The main goal of the dragster is to teach students aerodynamics and air fluidity with vehicles and how that's applied to, not only just cars that we drive, but race cars and F-1 vehicles and stuff like that." Something else we were curious about was, "What was the most challenging part of assembling the dragster, and have you noticed anything in particular your students have been struggling with?" His reply was, "I think most of the students struggle the most with taking time and sanding the cars down properly. They tend to want to just rush and get these done real fast. The part of the challenge of making the dragsters is literally just taking your time with real light sanding over and over and over for 3 or 4 hours."

Then, we interviewed Valesa Gashi, a 7th grader at Ridgeview Global Studies Academy. We began by asking her what she must do to complete the project, and she gave us a very thorough response. "We went on whiteboxlearning.com to make a model of the car so that we could build it later. To make it look good, we had to put it into the specifications tab, where you have a certain amount of numbers. Then you go into the engineering tab to input the numbers." Valesa also informed us that some of the most important materials they are using include wood, axles, wheels, and bearings. Everyone's design is special and unique with their own personal touches. We wanted to know what her favorite feature on her design is. She said it is the way her car is shaped. "It looks funky and cool, and it's different from all the other cars." With the race going on, everyone's car must make it to the finish line faster than the others. In order to make it work, they must incorporate knowledge from other subjects. Valesa replied with, "We are using a lot of math in the research section, and it's really complicated."

Lastly, we talked to Asher Stover, another student in engineering that is participating in the dragster race. We asked Asher what he needed to have done in order to complete this project. He responded with, "We are supposed to make a car out of wood and get the car to a speed fast enough so that it can get across the finish line within a certain time." Next, we asked Asher what materials he is using to complete this project. He said, "We are using balsa wood." We followed up by asking what is favorite feature on his design is. He replied without hesitation, "The wheels." The last question we asked Asher was, "What other subjects from school are you using to incorporate in this project?" He said, "Science."

**More pictures on page 13**

In essence, everybody's dragster car is special and unique to them. The multi-step process in building these cars has allowed each of the engineering students to create cool cars that have intricate designs. There is no doubt that Mr. Baker has done a fantastic job teaching his students how to properly build their dragsters. Overall, the engineering students had fun making their cars, and they all completed this project extremely well.



The first step in assembling the dragster is sanding the cars to achieve a smooth surface of the wood.



The next step is applying the first coat of paint. This is followed by multiple other coats.



Then, they cut out stencils to add personal touches to their vehicle.



Lastly, the students added wheels to complete their project.



## Ramadan

**Written by Safaa Zaafane and Marwa Zaafane**

Ramadan is one of the most important times on the Islamic calendar, and Muslims all over the world take part. This years Ramadan will be different due to the Coronavirus outbreak because many people will not be able to visit family and friends, or their local mosque. Ramadan is a month of fasting where Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. This presents unique challenges to Muslims and helps them take risks in life. We have some Ramadan students experts right here at our very own Ridgeview Global Studies Academy.

To begin, what is Ramadan? First, we asked Valesa Gashi and she said, "Ramadan is when you have to fast because there are poor people that don't have anything to eat. Basically, that is what we are doing. The main difference is at the end of the day we get to eat." Next, we asked Rayan Elkadiri and he said, "It's about feeling how unfortunate poor people feel like people who have no food. It also makes you much more grateful about food." Sarah Touati said, "It's mostly about cleansing yourself, and it's like a health benefit. Ramadan also allows you to feel what poor people feel."

Next, we wanted to know what the benefits of fasting are? Valesa explained, "You get to lose weight, and it also relieves stress." Rayan said, "It's a month where you get rid of toxins in your body." Sarah then stated that, "It's actually really healthy, but people think it's starving yourself. Actually, its helping your body which is really good."

This got us thinking about what is the hardest part of fasting during Ramadan? Valesa replied, "The hardest part of Ramadan is when you have to go to school. It's temping to eat and you can't eat or drink at all." Sarah responded to that question with, "Well, personally for me the hardest part is waking up early in the morning so I don't starve. I wake up early, usually around like 5 am in the morning, and eat. But even though I do that I usually end up being hungry anyways."

To end our interview with our Ramadan student experts we asked what do you do at the end of Ramadan? Valesa stated, "At the end of Ramadan, we wake up early in the morning. We go to the Majid, and we pray. Then after, we hang out for a while before we go home. My family invites people over, or we go to other peoples houses to eat." We asked Rayan the same question and he said, "At the end of Ramadan, we have this festival named Eid. It's a festival where we eat good food and spend time with family and friends." Finally, we spoke with Sarah and she replied with, "When Ramadan is over, there's this special holiday and basically you spend time with family and friends and just have fun."

So, what we can conclude is that Ramadan is a holiday for forgiveness and it's intended for Muslims to show love and kindness towards other people. It also is a month where you show that you're grateful for what you have in this world. There is no doubt that when celebrating this interesting holiday, it can benefit so many Muslim people in variety of ways.



## 10th Grade Movie Night Palooza

**Written by Sydney Last, Kamila Stand, and Laurie Louis**

Did you hear about the 10th grade *Movie Night Palooza* that happened? Well, if you didn't, we are here to tell you all about it. Here are some fun facts about what the event was, how it got its name, and even if our current sophomores plan on having more events like this. The 10th graders found it a thrill to have some time to socialize after school at RGSA. The opportunity has been limited due to the current social distancing and group gatherings we are experiencing this school year. So come along to learn more about this after-school event.

RGSA sponsored a movie night for our 10th graders. One of our amazing administrators, Mr. Thacker, gave us some cool details on this event. We started off by asking him what this after-school event was. He responded by saying, "We had a 10th grade movie night, and at this event they could play board games. The movie we played was *Spiderman: Far from Home*." We also were curious to know how this event came to be. Mr. Thacker answered by saying, "Normally, our 10th grade students would have a school dance every year. With Covid restrictions, we haven't been able to do that dance. We still wanted to give them some social events. With Covid-19 cases going down, we thought it was time to do that. We also consulted with the high school leaders from that grade, they agreed with the idea, and really liked it. We got some movie ideas from them. Through a student survey, we ended up asking all of the 10th graders what their favorite movie was from the school's selections. *Spiderman* won by a landslide." At RGSA, it's awesome to see our 10th graders getting a special school sponsored event like this.

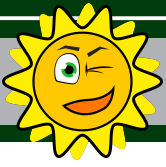
We then moved on to another question about movie night. "Would you agree that the 10th graders enjoyed this event?" Mr. Thacker responded by saying, "Yes." He also went on to say, "We might even look to expand it to other grade levels."

Last but not least, we wrapped up our interview by asking Mr. Thacker how many 10th graders participated in the after-school event? His response was, "So, we had about 30 students that came up to participate that night." When asked if the school plans to have more events like this for the tenth graders, and if so, what are some ideas for the next one? Mr. Thacker said, "We would love to have more events like this. We need to talk to our 10th graders a little more. We got some ideas, but I want to make sure it's a safe, fun experience for all of the students that come out to participate."

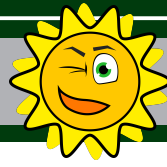
To conclude, the 10th grade RGSA high school students enjoyed this event. It was a great way to get their mind off of school and Covid restrictions. We really hope you had fun exploring and learning about the amazing *10th grade Movie Night Palooza*.







## Finally a REAL Summer!



Written by Reem Naceur and Arianna Bradley

We've been waiting all year! Summer is finally here! An actual summer! As we know and experienced firsthand, COVID-19 has changed our lives and the way we live. We interviewed Ryele Demesmin, Braedon Guilfoil, Mia Baumer, and Niema Toki on what they are looking forward to doing this upcoming summer.

The first question was, "What is one thing you want to accomplish this summer that you couldn't do in the summer of 2020?" Ryele said, "I didn't get to go to the waterpark with my friends, so I want to do that this summer." Braedon stated that he wants to go to his sports games since he got his schedules stopped last summer. Mia said, "Being able to go to the beach with my friends. This year I plan to do whatever I want." Niema responded with, "Last summer, I was supposed to go to Morocco. I still want to go this year, but I am not going to be able to because we are still in a pandemic."

The second question we asked was, "What is one hobby you want to try out this summer?" Ryele stated with that she wants to start running more. Braedon said he wants to try out surfing. Mia stated, "Probably gardening. My parents are really into that. I want to see if I can grow my own garden." Lastly, Niema answered with, "I want to go on a hot air balloon ride. I want to fly in the sky or jump out of an airplane."

The final question we asked these excited summer ready students was what their plans or personal goals are for this summer. Ryele wants to eat healthier, while Braedon wants to focus on himself. Mia said, "Since it's hot, I will probably go to the pool and beach a lot. I enjoy doing things that involve water. I hate being hot. It's so annoying." Niema stated, "I definitely need to get a tan. My legs are really white. I will also go swimming because that what people do in the summer."

As this school year comes to an end, we can't help getting excited when we think about the upcoming summer. These responses give people a positive way to think about their summer. A REAL summer will give us a break and opportunities to make new memories!



Niema Toki, Braedon Guilfoil, and Ryele Demesmin are counting down the days until summer vacation. Not pictured: Mia Baumer

# Summer Vacation

## Student Spotlights



### Jonathan Vargas

Congratulations to Jonathan Vargas, a ninth grader in Mrs. Blanchard's ELA class. When asked what Jonathan enjoys about his ELA class, he said, "It's fun and there's lots to do." Wanting to know who or what motivates Jonathan to do his best, he explained, "I like working hard on my work, and I just put my best into the work that I do." Congratulations Jonathan for earning the honor of being featured in our Student Spotlight.



### Veronica Mascia

Congratulations to Veronica Mascia, a ninth grader in Mr. Blanchard's World History class. When asked what or who inspires her to do well in school, Veronica stated, "My little brother always tells me I can do anything, and he just helps me really go for it." Curious to know what Veronica enjoys about attending Ridgeview, she explained, "It feels like I have known all the teachers and my friends here my entire life." A big shout out to Veronica Mascia who was chosen to represent hard working students here at Ridgeview Academy.



## Horticulture Elective with Mrs. Parsons

Written by Carson Camp

At this school, middle school students have an opportunity to learn about the sky and the earth during just one elective. Astronomy and horticulture is an elective available for sixth graders. During the first semester, students learn about space. In the second semester, these same students get to grow and study plants. I wanted to focus on the horticulture aspect of this elective, so I interviewed Mrs. Parsons who teaches this elective and a couple of her students.

First and foremost, I interviewed Mrs. Parsons who teaches the elective *Astrology and Horticulture*.

**Q: How do you prepare the greenhouse for the plants you are about to grow?**

A: So, this year was a bit different. Normally, we can just go out, add new soil and compost to the beds and start planting. However, because we couldn't come back to school at the end of last year due to Covid, the greenhouse was never properly cleaned and closed for the summer. So, this year's students have had to clean up the inside of the greenhouse (which was quite a mess this year), then clear out all the soil from the beds, and even break down some of the beds that had rotted due to being out in the sun and rain for over a year straight. Once we get that completed, we will be adding new soil and organic compost to the beds. The other thing that is different from last year is that we planted everything in the ground on the middle/high school campus last year. Mr. Carver was kind to plow a garden for us back by his building. However, now that the construction of the high school has begun, that area is fenced off, so now we will have to use the greenhouse again this year.

**Q: What do you plan on growing?**

A: Students have chosen to grow culturally-relevant veggies and herbs such as: cilantro, basil, different types of tomatoes (beefsteak, roma, cherry), banana peppers, jalapeno peppers, bell peppers, chili peppers, cabbage, romaine lettuce, carrots, garlic, and onion.

**Q: What are some weekly chores that you and your students need to do in the greenhouse to make sure the plants are in the best growing environment?**

A: **Weekly Chores:**

- \* Pulling weeds
- \* Maintaining proper water levels
- \* Testing soil for proper nutrients
- \* Measuring & charting plant growth
- \* (and eventually) Harvesting the plants!

**Q: Once grown, what do you plan on doing with the plants?**

A: Students grew something that was culturally relevant to their families. They will either use it to make one of their favorite recipes, or we will combine everyone's different plants and make either tacos, pizza, or salad at the end of the year.

Secondly, I interviewed Balal Naceur and Angelina Schley who are both sixth grade students who partake in the elective *Astrology and Horticulture*. I asked them a couple of questions about the semester in which they study horticulture.

Interview with Balal Naceur ~

**Q: What are you looking forward to growing?**

A: I am growing chickpeas and cilantro, but mainly wanted to grow the chickpeas.

**Q: Why did you decide to choose horticulture as your elective this year?**

A: I chose this as my elective because I mainly like science, and horticulture is own of my favorite kind of science.

Interview with Angelina Schley ~

**Q: What are looking forward to growing?**

A: I am looking forward to growing cucumbers and iceberg lettuce.

**Q: Why did you choose horticulture as your elective this year?**

A: I chose this elective because I really enjoy growing plants and different types of food.

In conclusion, astrology and horticulture is by far one of the best elective to choose from in sixth grade. The experience of growing your own plant or food here is possible during this exciting elective. When you are taking care of the plants, you get to study them as they continue to grow. This is truly and experience like no other.



Horticulture students use teamwork to clean and clear out the greenhouse.



## American History & Civics

### ***American History with Mr. Smith***

**Written by Amayali Adams, Bianca Arellano,  
and Marissa Beach**

There are many different events that have contributed to our history today. We decided to interview two American history students and our American history teacher, Mr. Smith. They had amazing answers to our questions. This overall experience helped us learn more about American history and its background.

To start, we began by interviewing Mr. Smith, an American history teacher. Initially we asked, "How long have you been teaching American history?" He proudly replied, "I have been teaching American history since 2003. So, a very long time." We then asked him, "What inspired you to teach American history to your students?" He responded, "Well, I always loved American history. It was like the one class I would stay awake for." The last question we asked Mr. Smith was, "What's your favorite topic to teach in your American history class and why?" He responded very confidently with, "I love the Civil War. It's a fascinating part in our history. It was when Americans fought each other. It was a war that some might say almost had to happen. It's fascinating to see the events take place and why they took place and the fallout because of that. To me it is interesting just because it's a pivotal point in American history." American history continues to develop and change every day.

Next, we interviewed Brandon Barrera, a student that takes American history in Mr. Smith's class. We started the interview with the question, "What is something important you have learned this year in American history?" He responded with, "In American history, I liked how we learned about the Industrial Revolution. They talked a lot about how people built stuff and things like that." We then went on to ask Brandon, "If you were the teacher for a day, what would you teach your students?" Brandon replied with confidence and said, "The Industrial Revolution because it's probably the most interesting topic. Because of it, it helped shape how America is today." Brandon's responses gave a good perspective and shed a positive point of view on the way America has progressed through time.

Braden Garner was the next student of Mr. Smith's we interviewed. The first question was, "What is something important you learned this year in American History?" He replied, "I have learned more about the civil rights movement. I learned mainly about the extents and how deep the protests were during this time." We then followed up, "If you were the teacher for a day what would you teach your students?" He said, "I'd probably talk about the Cold War mainly because that's what I found the most interesting." To elaborate, Braden states that both the Civil Rights movement and Cold War are very interesting topics that he has learned so much more about.

To sum it up, Mr. Smith, Brandon Barrera, and Braden Garner gave us a whole different perspective of historical events. There was a different variety of topics that each of the individuals focused on as points of interests. In the famous words of Thomas Jefferson, "Determine never to be idle... It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing."



### ***Civics with Ms. Lopez***

**Written by Ryan Merino**

Do you know what political parties, Executive Branch, and Congress have in common? They are all things you learn in civics. To explain a bit more, civics is U.S. history with some extra political information included in this core subject. With help and the expertise from our very own civics teacher, Ms. Lopez, I'm here to tell you about the ways these teachers are getting their students prepared for the Civics EOC and what most people should know about it.

**Q: What are you doing to get your students prepared for the Civics EOC?**

A: Students are given EOC packet questions at the beginning of the year, and we use them for bell work when we finish the lessons. We are also doing lots of games like Jeopardy quizzes which include EOC terms to get prepared for this EOC.

**Q: What's the easiest lesson to give your kids?**

A: *Voting and Elections* was a fun lesson and an easy lesson since we got to do role-play. We did the voting process where students had to register to vote and got voting cards. The students also got a chance to vote in a voting booth, use ballots and everything that we do as U.S. citizens to vote.

**Q: What is the hardest lesson for your kids to understand?**

A: The hardest one was *The Constitution* chapter overall. Just helping them trying to understand the old writing and understanding the purpose of it since they don't really know much about it. At first, this topic gave them a hard time.

**Q: What do you think is the most important lesson for your students to know?**

A: The most important lesson for them to know is why it is important to be an active citizen and what that means getting to know the responsibilities and duties. They are our future and living in the U.S. They will value the importance of it especially living in a nation where we get to be a part of important decision making.

Civics is an important part of our American history because it helps us better understand our past. All Americans should know who people in the U.S. were years ago. Civics is a part of us. We should learn how it has made voting, citizenship, government, and much more what it is today.



***Tangerine* Novel Study**

Written by Ryan Merino

*Tangerine* is a good book that many people would recommend. This novel is a story about a boy named Paul who has moved to new state and tells what happens to the character when he gets to Tangerine, Florida. *Tangerine* is a book all 7th graders read. So when our 7th graders had the opportunity to meet the author, they must have been surprised. Now let's see how this author/student Zoom meeting got scheduled.

Interview with ELA teacher, Mrs Merck:

**Q: Why did you choose *Tangerine* to read with your 7th graders?**

A: "*Tangerine* is a novel embedded in our Springboard book, so that's how we were introduced to it here at Ridgeview. Every year that I've taught 7th grade, we've read *Tangerine*. We just add more with it, and my students do different projects as the years go on."

**Q: How did you get the author, Edward Bloor, to meet with your ELA classes?**

A: "Well, this year with how strange things have been, with Zoom presenting an opportunity I thought it would be a good idea to reach out to see if I could get a response from Mr. Bloor. We had a lot of questions to ask him, and we got some valuable and intriguing answers back from him."

**Q: How surprised were you when the author of *Tangerine* actually responded to you?**

A: "Well, it was actually my daughter's birthday. It was Thursday when I think I emailed Mr. Bloor and hadn't heard anything back. So, when I got the response in the middle of the day, Saturday, during my daughter's birthday party, I was really excited and shared it with everyone at the party. No one knew who he was. But the fact that he responded and was hoping to be able to meet us, made me excited because I had some questions of my own."

**Q: What did you talk about to Edward Bloor during the meeting?**

A: "I had my students create questions to ask Mr. Bloor like, 'Was there ever going to be a movie based on *Tangerine*?' or 'Would he have changed what the fate of some characters are?' We also got some more basic background on his ideas and inspirations for the novel. So, every class got 30 minutes to talk to the author."

**Q: Is *Tangerine* the type of book you would recommend to others and why?**

A: "I think *Tangerine* is a book I would recommend to others because Paul Fisher, the main character, is so relatable, especially to my 7th grade students. It is also an easy read and Edward Bloor implements literary devices and figurative language throughout the whole novel so you can picture everything that's happening in the different scenes. It's like you are in the book. So, this is a book that I would recommend to others."

*Continued on page 13*

**Mother's Day**

Written by Laurie Louis

We all should be familiar with the holiday we call Mother's Day. But do you know how it came to be? The way Mother's Day was celebrated in the 1800s was totally different than then how we celebrate today.

It all began when the Ancient Greeks and Romans would hold festivals to honor the mother goddesses named Rhea and Cybele. According to history.com, this later got shifted into a modern tradition called "Mothering Sunday." Overtime, Europeans found this tradition and held it on the 4th Sunday of Lent. According to learnreligions.com, this also is a Christian holiday in which many Christians spend a period of time doing things like fasting. Over the years, this celebration transformed into a more put together holiday. Children would gift their mothers things like flowers to show their appreciation. Eventually, this became more popular in places like America in the early-mid 1900s.

In the United States, Mother's Day dates back to the 1900s. History shows this occurred before the civil war. Anna Reeves Jarvis started these "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to educate mothers on how to properly take care of their children. According to history.com, "These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the civil war. In 1868, Jarvis organized 'Mother's Friendship Day,' at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation." In the early 1900s, Mother's Day became an official holiday.

I then decided I wanted to take this article to a more personal level. So, I thought who better to interview than my own mother and get her thoughts on being a mom. The first question I asked was, "What's your favorite memory you have of being a mother?" She replied by saying, "Spending time with my kids and watching them do some of their favorite hobbies." I next asked her, "What's the worst part of being of mother?" She went onto say, "When my kids fight." I wanted to know what the most rewarding part of being a mother is. My mom said, "Seeing them grow up and become good citizens."

Obviously, Mother's Day has a lot of history behind it that you probably did not have any knowledge about. It has definitely evolved over time. To this day, we still do similar things that people in the 1800s to celebrate this holiday in the United States. All together, Mother's Day is a great holiday to honor your mother and show all of your appreciation.

Laurie honors her own mom by writing this article for "The Globe."







## Let's Celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week



Written by Sydney Last and Kamila Stand

National Teacher Appreciation Week was Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7. Teachers throughout our entire school are the best and work very hard to teach us students. We interviewed Mrs. Noreika, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Farrell. We received some very strong responses from these educators.

First and foremost, we began by speaking with Mrs. Noreika. Mrs. Noreika is an amazing 7th, 9th, and 10th grade ELA teacher here at RGSA. The first question we asked her was, "What or who inspired you to become teacher?" Her response was, "My high school teacher was my inspiration. I had the same English teacher for my four years of high school. She really made me passionate about literature in general. I always wanted to be like her." It is very inspiring to hear someone share something that they knew they wanted to do because of something special they saw in someone. Even more so, someone they could look up to. The next question we asked Mrs. Noreika was, "What do you enjoy most about being a teacher?" She answered, "My kids! I've enjoy seeing them become adults. I also have kids from my first year of teaching who are now in their 20s. Its nice being part of their lives." That statement was very heart warming, and is just one of the many reasons why you know Mrs. Noreika is a wonderful teacher.

The next teacher we spotlighted on was our amazing 6th- 8th math teacher, Ms. Smith. We first asked Ms. Smith, "What or who inspired her to become a teacher?" "My high school math teacher, Ms. Amber. I had her three out of my four years of high school. She was super awesome and a great teacher who inspired me to do the same profession." It's clear to see that Ms. Smith did have an amazing teacher who inspired her to become the type of teacher she is today. We continued by asking Ms. Smith, "What do you enjoy most about being teacher?" She replied with, "I call it the 'light bulb effect.' It's where a student is struggling on a concept and when I or a student says something, it makes them feel proud, and it makes me feel proud." Teachers like Ms. Smith positively impact her student's lives.

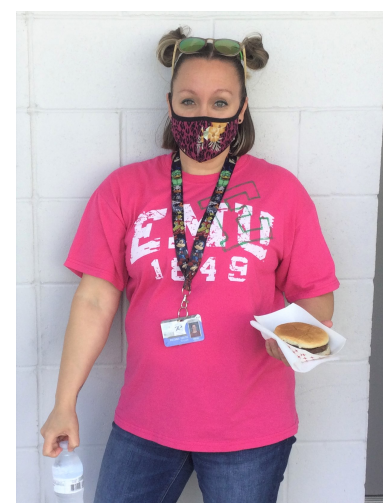
The last teacher we interviewed from RGSA was our awesome all-around teacher, 5th grade teacher Mr. Farrell. Mr. Farrell gave great responses starting with the first question. "What or who inspired you to become a teacher?" He responded, "I was very inspired to be a teacher by my music teacher when I was in elementary school. She was the nicest person I knew, and she was always there for me. I also grew up in a rough area where kids didn't have a great experience in school, so I wanted to help them have a good education in the future." The next question we asked Mr. Farrell was, "What do you enjoy the most about being a teacher?" He gave us a heart-warming answer by saying,

"I love the opportunity to make friendships and to help my students be better than they were before." Mr. Farrell is a very inspiring teacher who gave us the idea for our next question. "What has been one of your favorite memories in your teaching career?" He stated, "I really enjoyed celebrating teacher of the year with my kids, watching my students all pass the state test, and getting the opportunity to go on field trips with my class and see them out of school." The last and final question we asked the fantastic Mr. Farrell was, "What is one piece of advice you would pass on to your students?" Mr. Farrell responded with, "I would like to pass on to my children that life is short, unexpected, and pretty challenging. You just have to keep one foot in front of the other." Mr. Farrell provided us with amazing responses that are just as amazing as he is.

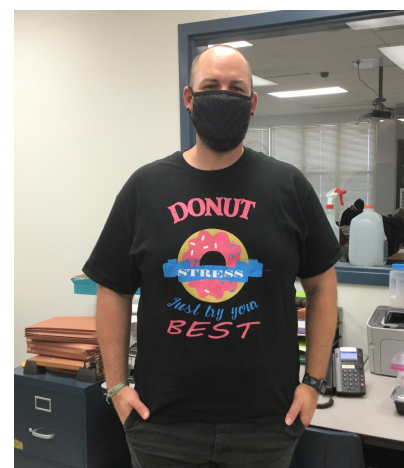
To wrap up our article, we would like to thank all our teachers for being with us through this school year. It's been rough year, but our teachers have never doubted us or what we could accomplish. National Teacher Appreciation Week should be celebrated more often to recognize our teachers and their dedication and commitment to our educational system.



Left:  
Mrs.  
Noreika



Right:  
Ms.  
Smith



Left:  
Mr.  
Farrell





## National Nurses Week



Written by Isabella Martell

Nurses do so much for us everyday. May 6-12 was a week dedicated to them. They go to work and help patients, risking their own health along the way. Especially in the complicated time with COVID, we need to say thank you to all of the doctors and nurses out there.

Did you know most nurses walk 4 to 5 miles every shift? That is only one of the fascinating facts about nurses. There are over 100 nursing professions to choose from. In the article, "10 Interesting Facts You Did Not Know About Nursing," it states, "There are 104 specialties and a number of advanced nursing degrees. Because of this, nursing can be highly customizable and many nurses and many move laterally, to another specialty, or build on their education and move up." Also, nursing is one of the top-ranked occupations. "U.S. News & World Report's 100 Best Jobs" showed that nursing offers a mix of positive qualities. These jobs pay well, are challenging, offer room to advance, and provide a satisfying work-life balance.

National Nurses Week has been celebrated for over 40 years. In "10 Fun Facts About Nurses," it explains, "Efforts to have a week dedicated to nurses began in the 1950's but wasn't formally designated by the White House until President Nixon issued a proclamation in 1974. Each year, National Nurses Week begins on May 6 and ends on May 12- Florence Nightingale's birthday." For more go to:

<https://www.spok.com/blog/10-fun-facts-about-nurses-national-nurses-week>.

During this difficult time, nurses have had to work extra hard. But how do nurses deal with the struggles of COVID-19? Well, "International Council of Nurses (ICN) explains, "Nurses are dealing with relentless, unprecedented demands from their patients, resulting on physical exhaustion. But they are also facing enormous mental health pressures leading to serious psychological distress." It also states, "There can be no doubt there will be a large 'COVID-19 Effect' on the size of the nursing workforce, which is already heading for a 10 million deficit. Even if only 10-15% of the current nursing population quits because of the 'COVID-19 Effect.'"

Here at Ridgeview, we are lucky enough to have two amazing nurses. It was an honor to interview Holle Loar (elementary school) and Colleen Eddy (middle/high school). I first interviewed Nurse Holle by asking, "What or who inspired her to become a nurse?" She replied, "I read a biography of Clara Barton when I was in elementary school and wanted to be a nurse ever since." I then asked, "How long have you been working as a nurse at RGSA?" Nurse Holle responded with, "5 years at RGSA. I have been a registered nurse for 46 years." I continued to ask her, "Each day, you have new medical passes and students coming into your clinic. How do you keep up with it all?" She said, "The clinics are like miniature emergency rooms. We never know what will come in. Some things are serious, and some are minor. I just deal with each case, and if there are several students at once, I handle the most serious first. There are some days when I work on passes after school is dismissed. I also have trained staff who help if it is really busy, or I need assistance." I also asked Nurse Holle what is one tip that she feels is important to teach students about being healthy and staying healthy? She responded to the question with, "Look in the mirror and you will see the person who is most responsible for making good, healthy choices for you." The last question I asked was, "What do you enjoy most about being a nurse?" "Just about everything (except paperwork). I am very lucky that I have enjoyed each of the three types of nursing that I have done in my career. Overall, I love to be a part of

helping someone and to see people smile when they feel better," stated Nurse Holle with a big smile.

I then interviewed our middle/high school nurse, Nurse Eddy. I first asked her, "what or who inspired her to become to nurse?" She responded with, "My desire to become a nurse was inspired by my mom, who I consider to be one of the best nurses in the whole world. She was always so loving, compassionate, tough, and always gave 100% to her patients. My second source of inspiration was the nurses who cared for me when I had to have a surgical procedure done when I was 5 years old. I was at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and all the nurses that cared for me were exceptional and made me feel safe, secure, and happy at a difficult time. After that experience I knew nursing was what I wanted to do." I then asked, "How long have you been working as a nurse at RGSA?" She replied with, "This is my second year at RGSA." I continued with, "Each day, you have new medical passes and students coming into your clinic. How do you keep up with it all?" She said, "Being a nurse for 20 years, I learned the art of 'triage', which is to prioritize the patient's care according to who is most critical and multi-tasking. In this career, sometimes you must just work from 'have to.' People need to be taken care of and you just do it. If there is something that needs to be done, you just do it. As nurses, you work diligently, quickly, and safely and get the job done. For me prayer, faith, and the grace of God helps too." I also asked, "What is one tip that you feel is important to teach students about being healthy and staying healthy?" She answered with, "Being healthy is a choice and a lifestyle. People need to be healthy to be educated and educated to be healthy. One of my favorite tips for people to make a good choice is to drink water. Lots and lots of water! It is a simple thing that will make a big difference." The last question I asked Nurse Eddy was, "What do you enjoy most about being a nurse?" She said, "I enjoy the people. I enjoy not knowing what I will encounter, the challenges I face, and that I can use my gifts and abilities to make a difference in the lives of others. One of the best parts is that every day I have the opportunity to make a difference."

COVID-19 has affected all nurses in many ways. They play a very important role in caring for individuals. So, the next time you see our very special health care providers, Nurse Holle or Nurse Eddy, in the hallways say thank you for ALL they have done and continue to do.



Nurse Holle is passionate about helping others.



When not working, Nurse Eddy loves to spend time with her family.



## Tangerine and Engineering ~ Continued

### Tangerine Novel Study ~ Continued from page 12

Students:

**Q: How did you like meeting Edward Bloor?**

A: Kade Maresh: "It was cool that I met the author of the book. I thought it was a good book."

A: Lily Lyons: "I was excited to meet the author of the book that I read."

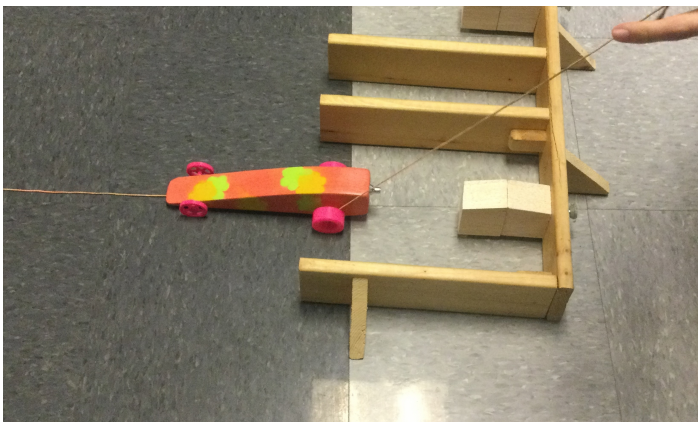
A: Emily Mohammed: "I was excited meeting an author that made such an amazing book. It was an awesome experience."

That Zoom meeting was probably a one in a million, so having it happen at our school was exciting for the 7th graders and Mrs. Merck. Meeting an author is a great experience that everyone should have the opportunity to have. Thanks to the author of *Tangerine*, Mr. Bloor, this is definitely a novel that our RGSA 7th grade students will never forget.



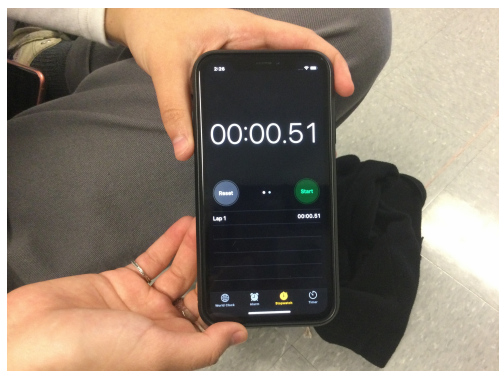
7th grade ELA students meet the author, Mr. Bloor, thanks to Mrs. Merck and Zoom.

### Engineering with Mr. Baker ~ Continued from page 5



After constructing their car, the engineering students test their projects to time their speed.

Valesa's dragster raced in at .51 seconds.



## End of the School Year

### Written by Exchmine Celestin and Winnie Alfred

Finally, it's the end of the school year! This has been a challenging year for everyone to say the least. As our final article, we decided to interview four students. We interviewed sixth grader Karina Luz Rodriguez, seventh grader Ayman Boudlal, and ninth grader Tamyra Minisci.

To start off, we interviewed Karina Luz Rodriguez. The first question we asked was, "Are you happy with what you accomplished this school year? If so, what have you done that makes you feel this way?" She answered with, "Yes, I am happy with what I accomplished this year." Karina explained that she started this school year as a distance learner. She believes that a big accomplishment of hers is coming back to the traditional school setting. Karina also explained that one of her friends contracted Covid-19, and although this was scary, her friend got better. We asked seventh grader Ayman Boudlal the same question and he said, "Yes, I am happy with what I've accomplished this year. I have earned better grades, and I have made more friends." Last, we asked ninth grader Tamyra Minisci, and she said that she is happy with that she accomplished. "I have even finished completing my community service hours."

The next question we asked was, "What advice would you give to people coming into your grade level next year?" Sixth grader Karina said, "Don't worry and just be chill about middle school. As long as you paid attention in elementary school, it will help you in sixth grade." We then asked Ayman for some advice. He said, "Never give up, study, and don't get nervous for tests." Ninth grader Tamyra shared advice for upcoming 9th graders. She replied with, "I would tell them to choose the right friend group and watch the people you hang around. Not all of them are going to stick to what you have going for yourself in the future."

Our final interview question was, "What is a personal goal you are setting for yourself so you can do better next year?" Karina answered with, "I plan on getting better grades and making sure I don't get bad ones." "I want to get better academically," Ayman stated. Tamyra said, "I plan on not only getting my mental health up, but I want to get the right mind set. I also want to get better grades."

Wow! It is the end of the 2020-21 school year already. We never thought the day would come so soon. All these students have great plans and awesome personal goals that they want to achieve. As Helen Keller says, "Life is either a great adventure or nothing."



Karina Luz Rodriguez, Ayman Boudlal, and Tamyra Minisci have some solid personal goals set for themselves.



## Advice for our Future 6th Grade Middle School Students



With a whole new group of middle school kids joining 6th grade this next school year, who better to give some words of wisdom to them than some of our very own current 6th graders. Here is what several students wanted to pass along to the graduating 5th graders.

"I would tell the 5th graders coming to middle school that you should try your best no matter what gets in your way. If things don't go your way, never give up." ~ Trisha Isbell

"My advice for the new 6th graders is to be nice and polite to everyone you meet. Sometimes the transition from elementary school to middle school can be difficult especially with people changing and the school work. Just remember to keep a positive outlook, and don't forget to have fun." ~ Lauren Gouty

"I think the first thing that you to do is listen and follow directions. That will help you no matter if it's the 4th week of school or the day before FSA. The second thing is don't get nervous. Everything's going to be fine. If you get a bad grade, don't pull yourself down. Be confident and you'll do better the next time." ~ Nate Kline

"Honestly, the best advice from me for the future 6th graders is do not stress. Yes, it is your first time in middle school and you're worried. Just go with the flow. You will make new friends and possibly lose some, but trust me, middle school will help shape you into who you are. So just stay calm. It's worth it." ~ Anabelle Swanborough

"Once you go into sixth grade, you need to listen carefully. It may be hard, but it's fun too. You have projects, contests, and make friends. Sixth grade is a whole new world. I know you will do great." ~ Gotti Lopez

"Here is some advice from one 6th grader almost another 6th grader. Memorize where your classrooms are. Also, listen to your teachers. If you listen, they give you more respect. Never push anybodies buttons. Finally, do your best, have fun, and choose the correct friends." ~ Bode Barnhart

"You might want to go on a popular side to be cool, but it's not always that way. The side that doesn't look as pleasing could be better for picking good over fake friends." ~ Lukas Velez

"Hey future 6th grade students. I would like to give you some advice about 6th grade. This year, your old friends might not hang or talk to you anymore, but that's normal. That is okay because there are plenty more fish in the sea. See you in middle school!" ~ Jackson Finiels

"Some advice I would like to give future 6th graders is that even if you do lose friends, keep your head up. There will be people who will think that you're coolest person ever. Also, I'd try to stay away from the drama." ~ Alyssa Mathews

"Don't limit yourself to what you think you can or can't do. Be yourself! Don't be what others want you to be. Giving up shouldn't be an option." ~ Omar Maldonado

"Going into middle school can be really stressful. So, here's some advice to help you get through. The first piece of advice I would give to a 5th grader is to be yourself. You don't need to change for anyone. The next piece of advice is to stay out of the drama. It will only cause more trouble for you. Finally, not everyone will like you, and they can be mean as result of this. If this happens, keep your chin up, and ignore it. If you can't, tell an adult." ~ Adrian Nieves

"To the future 6th graders, I would like to say that it's good to keep old friends, but getting some new ones is good as well. Some rules that are really good to follow is to keep your book bag organized and don't lose your temper. Trust me on this when I say be careful in the crowd because people are always bumping into you. Lastly, not that this necessary, if you happen to get into a dating relationship, don't make a big deal out of it. Come on! It's 6th grade!" ~ Elijah Miller

"Some advice I'd give to a fifth grader going to sixth grade is you don't need a huge friend group. The friend groups bring tons of drama. Besides, having only a few friends you can trust and expect to support you in hard situations is the way to go. Also, you don't have to be a perfect person. As long as you're nice and respectful to other students, you'll be perfectly fine." ~ Ava Hannmann

"Future 6th grader students, I think you should know not to worry because your friends will be there to help you get to classes. If they have the same period as you, then go together and it will not be as scary. Also, 6th grade is easy because your teachers help you if you don't understand anything, and your friends make the day better." ~ Ivan Hanson

"It doesn't matter what other people say. All you need to get through 6th grade are some friends and the determination to keep going." ~ Brock Highsmith

"Some advice you'd need to take into account about middle school is when it's your first time entering it's going to be stressful, but don't get caught up by all the distractions. Just head to your section of the environment. After a little but of getting used to the new territory, you'll be just fine." ~ Parker Mnick

"My advice to the new 6th graders next year is to stay out of the drama. Be the nice kid. You don't have to hang out with a person if you don't like them, but still be nice. Stuff changes in middle school, but you will get through it and know how to handle it." ~ Breanna Weiss

My advice to new 6th graders would be before the first day of school memorize your route around the school. If you get lost, travel with a friend. Plan for your elective first pick. Pick a seat out in the cafeteria next to some good friends. Sixth grade might feel challenging at first, but you'll do great." ~ Noah Stone

"I think the best advice is to stay determined. Keep your confidence up even if you get a bad grade and it brought your grade down. Don't worry. You still have more things to do that will make it up. Now friends is not a big deal because in middle school you switch classes, so you are meeting new people. Also, if you start to get behind on you work don't stress yourself. Organize yourself." ~ Sebastian Zapata

"Some advice that I would give is no matter what follow your dreams. Be yourself. Another tip is to try your best. It doesn't matter if you have A's, B's, or C's as long as you try your best. If you struggle at first, it's okay. It only gets better." ~ Jayden Feliz



## *The Growth of our School ~ Continued from page 1*

There are now six fifth grade classes, compared to only three when I started. The school continues to expand, so there is no longer a need for our fifth graders to take a field trip to Discovery Academy in Lake Alfred, where most of our students attended in the past. We used to have a special dinner and student entertainment as we celebrated holidays around the world in December. However, once the school expanded, this was an undertaking that was no longer possible. However, Global Fiesta has really grown with our school's expansion over the years. Ridgeview is a wonderful place that I enjoy, even as it continues to change and grow."

Lastly, we interviewed students Cecilia Lozada and Ethan Miller. We asked them, "How has technology changed in classroom for you as a student?" Cecilia Lozada said, "I feel like technology has improved. It's more interactive with people since we have done more work on the computer than on paper." Ethan Miller answered, "So last year we didn't really use it, but this year we started using it more. This year we have been using more of it and like different websites and stuff." Next, we asked the students, "How have you grown academically as a student from last year to this year?" Cecilia replied, "I feel like I've improved on talking out loud more. I've gained more confidence academically. Presenting things is one thing I got stronger at." Ethan said, "I've been getting better at guitar and for a subject I've been getting better at science."

In essence, RGSA has gone through much improvement over the years. Our school has grown, and its technology has advanced. Now with all the information we gathered, we can see how the school has changed over the years. So, let's give a big thank you to our administrators, teachers, and staff that have worked at RGSA throughout the years and helped in its progression.



On the secondary campus, Ridgeview Global Studies Academy Grades 6-8 opened in 2018.



Mr. Frier and Mr. Johnson proudly open the doors of the new middle school.



Opening in 2021, our future high school is currently under construction. Here is a model of what the new 2-story classroom building will look like.



"The Globe" Newspaper Team Over the Past Five Years ~ Thanks for all of the memories.



Newspaper Team 2016-17

Back row left: Mrs. Lovizio, Katia Vazquez, Ava Garrano, Emika Joseph, Yamirel Riveria, Chancellor Moore, Ernesto Espinoza, Damian Abel, James Edwards, Nicole Vangilder, Ty McCurdy, Christian Torres, Alex Merino, Aldrish Nieves, and Tyree Williamson  
Front row left: Lana Bischoff, Alia Abboud, Alondra Maldonado, Tatiana Betancourt, Jaida Keller, Crisamy Molina, Alanis Dejesus, Jazmyn Bedore, Alexa Bordash, and Zack Aziz



Newspaper Team 2017-18

Back row left: Vitaliy Pogrebnuik, Mrs. Lovizio, William Hiskey, Mar'quis Cummings, Noemi Casique, Erin Tefft, Jasmin Gabriel, Daniel Moreno, Amira Melendez, Jason Ramos, Sarah Dusrajh, Julie Uceda, Nashalie Rodriguez, Ciara Mackey, Heather Diaz, Braden Garner, Derickson Irizarry, and Enzo Zuniga  
Front row left: Henry Rodriguez, Rhys Webber, Matthew Fisk, Alexander Thibodeau, Aidan Young, Elijah Miller, Manrique Rios, and Ethan Ayala  
Not pictured: Clayton Rouse and Asiyah Wetzel



Newspaper Team 2018-19

Back row left: Andy Mercure, Waheeda Khan, Anaya Hogan, Mrs. Lovizio, Crystal Narducci, Dominick Martin, Tianna Rodriguez, and Mia Baumer  
Middle row: Brandon Espinal, Fabio Zuniga, Presley Forant, Jacyra Ahmed, Annie Cobty, Emma Carpenter, Hailey Guillermo, Carmen Araujo, Nyteria Joseph, Solie Williams, Loa Johannsson, and Nicole Parada  
Bottom row: Salvatore Gallizzi, Giacomo Albo, and Stan Rice  
Not pictured: Braedon Guilfoil



Newspaper Team 2019-20

Back row left: Sarah Correia, Kalen McDermott, Alejandra Duran, Nelyanis Melendez, Crystal Montero, Mrs. Lovizio, Darlenis Nunez, Savannah Remp, Adrialisse Figueroa, Cole Abruzzese, and Annette Odupoy  
Middle row: Erona Shashivari, Niema Toki, Valerie Marin, Briana Velez, Monica Clermont, Allison Barrera, Max Vasquez, Yasiel Carrero, and Julius Sanabia  
Front row: Bailie Bornemann, Riley Roberts, Angiolina Guisto, Ainhoa Aguiar, and Camila Labarca  
Not pictured: Ana Paz



Newspaper Team 2020-21  
Hybrid Class

Left: Marwa Zaafane, Sophia Joumad, Mrs. Lovizio, Braelyn Solis-Leclair, Amayali Adams, Marissa Beach, Safaa Zaafane, Exchmine Celestin, Rayyan Boudi, Elijah Laurent, Jose Cordero, and Winnie Alfred



Above: Mrs. Lovizio, Adriana Cortes, Sydney Last, Lucero Ojeda, Kamila Stand, and Laurie Louis.  
Not pictured: Bianca Arellano, Matthew Berard, Arianna Bradley, Carson Camp, Jaliyah Dyte, Isabella Martell, Ryan Merino, Reem Naceur, and Destiny Tran