Panther Tales

Feb. 1, 2024

Para ver este boletín en otro idioma, haga clic aquí para abrir el boletín en la web. En el lado derecho, haz clic en traducir. (To view this newsletter in another language, click here to open the newsletter on the web. On the right side, click translate.)

Principal's Message

Hello Ridgeview United Families!

- **Hardship Transfers**- Applications for a hardship transfer will open on Jan.1 and remain open through Feb. 28. Applications are reviewed annually by the Student Assignment Office. Through this process, parents can seek a transfer for medical reasons, curriculum differences, child care situations or if they are an employee of the school system. Parents may also request the renewal of an existing hardship transfer. The Hardship Transfer Policy as well as the Hardship Transfer Guidelines will be used to determine student eligibility.

- **Valentine's Day**- It is important to ensure that all homemade candy, desserts, baked goods, or other edible items **are not** to be distributed during school hours. Please know that taking this measure will help us maintain a safe environment for all students with allergies, etc. You can help us protect your student(s) by requesting that they not eat anything given to them by another person, anything that they have not brought from your home or anything not in its original sealed package.

- **Confiscation of Non-Approved Items**- Fulton County School campuses are a place of learning and safety for all students. As such, we have a zero-tolerance policy for any personal items that cause a distraction or disruption to the learning process.

  This includes vapes, e-cigarettes, tobacco products, illegal substances, and any other personal items that are not conducive to a safe and orderly learning environment. While this guidance is not new, I would like to draw your attention to a minor revision that has been made to the current 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct. This revision explains the actions school administration will take when the confiscation and/or destruction of these items is necessary to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students. In short, cell phones that

are confiscated will only be released to your parent or guardian at the end of the school day in which it was taken and no vape cartridges, e-cigarettes that don't have a separate battery, etc. will be returned to any student or parent/guardian. These will be destroyed. Cartridges containing illegal substances may lead to criminal charges.

More detailed information on these actions can be found on pages 9 and 10 of our 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct which is located here.

I urge you to discuss this matter with your student and ensure that they are aware of the school's policy. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your Proud Principal,
Thomas Garrett

Assistant Principals' Message

Ms. Bulluck will conduct a Course Scheduling 101 Information Meeting for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders for next year. A virtual option is on Feb. 13th- starting at 9:30 a.m. using this link:
Click here to join the meeting
Meeting ID: 282 900 478 778
Passcode: MJk5Z8
Download Teams | Join on the web

Ms. Bulluck will conduct a face-to-face option on Feb. 13th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the media center.

Mr. Garrett, Mr. Hulett and Ms. Harp will conduct a 6th Grade Rising Parent Night from 6:00-7:00 on Feb. 22 in the media center.

Mr. Garrett plans to have a morning meet and greet with rising 6th grade parents at each feeder elementary school in March from 8:00 -9:00 a.m. (Heards Ferry- March 22; Lake Forrest- March 25; and High Point-March 26).

Counselors' Corner

FEBRUARY	
FRIENDSHIP/TEAMWORK	
Developing skills in making/keeping friends; empathy; working together; dealing with teasing/bullying; appreciation	
February 5-9 National School Counseling Week	Leadership, MTSS, 504, IEP, Grade-level meetings
C5 Finalists Interviews	Individual, Group Counseling
8th Grade Newsletters via Email	Program Data Analysis

Congratulations to all students who made the A & A/B Honor Roll!

We LOVE the month of February. We express our *love* of education, learning, student achievement and each other. During this month, let's make a special effort to enlarge our kindness circle by pulling a few others in. Remember that words hurt too. Be mindful and what we say and do. It all matters. ❤

Useful Links from the Student Support Team

Georgia Department of Family & Children Services Child Abuse Hotline –

Reports are taken 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-855-GACHILD / 1-855-422-4453

Georgia Crisis and Access Line - For immediate access to routine or crisis services, please call the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) at 1-800-715-4225 or 988. GCAL is the 24/7 hotline for accessing mental health services in Georgia.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - We can all help prevent suicide. Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. 1-800-273-8255

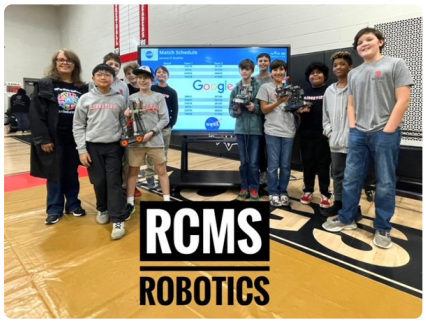
Health Crisis Resources - Parent resources on COVID-19 from the National Association of School Psychologists.

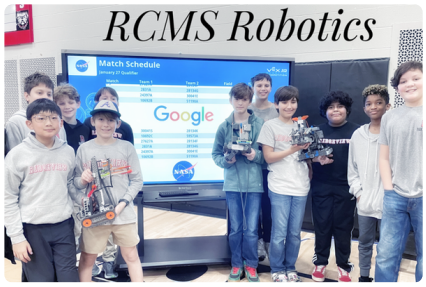
National Online Safety - Here you will find the most up to date guides for social media apps and platforms. There is very useful information for parents about apps such as Fortnite, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, YouTube and others.

StopBullying.gov - provides information from various government agencies on bullying, cyberbullying, prevention, and response.

Be the Voice - a student-driven initiative that results in a kinder, more inclusive school environment.

Way to go, RCMS Robotics Team!



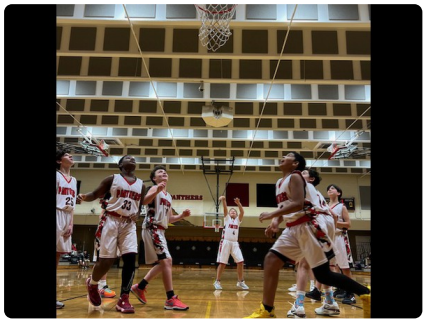


Congratulations to the RCMS Robotics Team, who competed at the VEX IQ Robotics Tournament last weekend. The 7th-grade team finished 13th out of 25 - just one point shy of being finalists in their first competition ever! RCMS Robotics competes again in March, and will also be part of the Sandy Springs Education Force STEAM Showcase on March 13, 2024.

RCMS Robotics is grant-funded and led by Mrs. Argentia Amores. Participants include Nathan Skillings, Grayson Avery, Warren Sanders, Charles Mitchell, Marek Wheeler, Mason Pink, Will Kang, Christopher Bass, Jackson O'Meara, Marcos Cajigal-Garcia and Tim Lapitan.

Congratulations to all our RCMS Students on the Honor Roll!

Congrats to the B & C Boys Basketball Teams for Winning the Championship Game!



Calendar at a Glance

Feb. 7: Basketball Hopewell- Home
Feb. 9: Basketball @Haynes Bridge
Feb. 13: Governance at 7:30 AM
Feb. 13: Scheduling 101 with Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders (Virtual @9:30 AM; Face to Face @ 6:00 PM)
Feb. 14: Foundation at 7:30 AM

Feb. 14: Basketball Elkins Pointe- Home
Feb. 16: Basketball @Autrey Mill
Feb. 19: President's Day (School Out)
Feb. 20: Student Holiday
Feb. 22: Rising 6th Grade Meeting from 6:00 to 7:00 PM
Feb. 23: Basketball @Crabapple
Feb. 28: Basketball Fast Academy- Home

Announcements and Events

SGC Elections 2024

The candidate declaration phase will begin on **Monday, February 5th** and will end **Friday, March 29th at 5pm**. Candidates who wish to run for election should visit our charter system website on February 5th. We need 2 employees, 1 parent, and 1 community member for next year.

Candygrams are Coming Soon. Please Sign Up to Volunteer!

Valentine's Day is almost here and that means it is time for Candygrams. Send a friend, teacher or student a Conversation Heart treat. Each Candygram is only $1! Candygrams will be for sale during all lunch periods beginning Monday, February 5 through Thursday, February 8, and they will be delivered to the student's homeroom teacher for distribution. This fundraiser benefits our 8th grade programming, including the 8th grade dance. Please sign up to help at this link!

Volunteer Opportunity in the Media Center

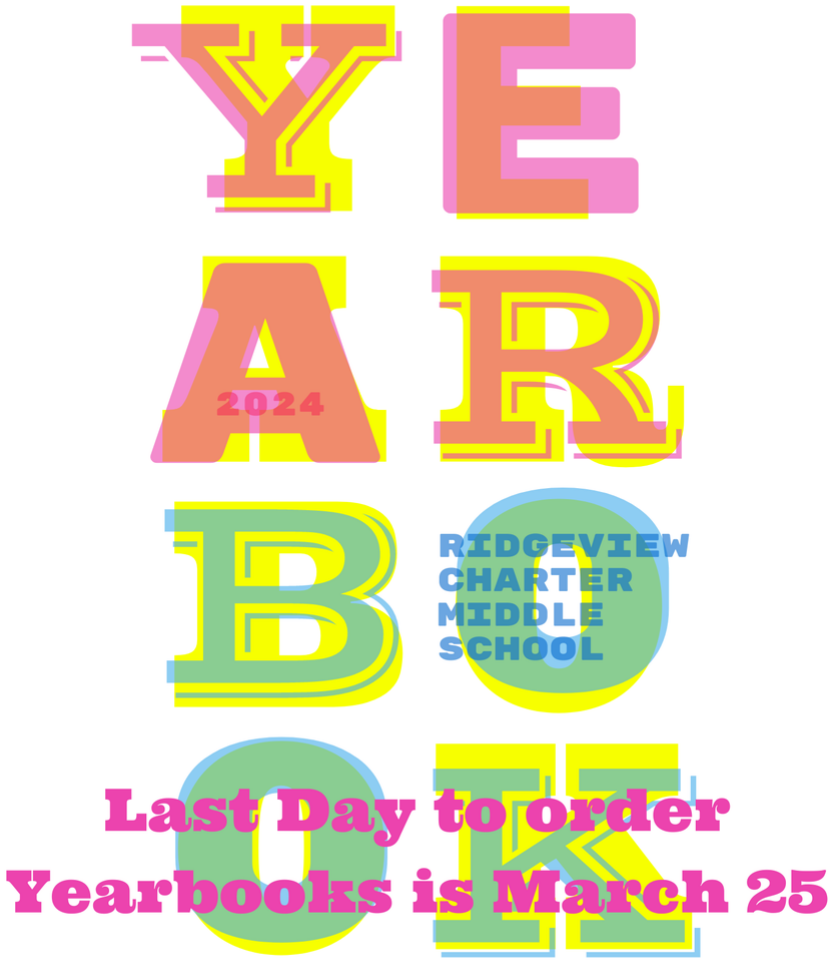
Please sign up to help Mr. Bosarge in the Media Center. Come in any time between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to help shelve books. Sign up here.

Spirit Donuts - February 23rd!

It's Spirit Donut Time! Friday February 23rd! We will be selling donuts in the carpool AND bus lines for $2 each (cash & check only) - please send exact change or consider donating change to the school. Students must arrive on time to purchase a donut. Donut sales will start at 8:20am and will close promptly at 9am so we do not disrupt instructional time.

Order Your Ad for the Yearbook! Ads Are Due March 1.

Celebrate that special student, teacher or staff member with an ad for the yearbook. March 1 is the LAST day to order ads, with options of full page, half page or quarter pages. Please find pricing, as well as the opportunity to design and order your ad at this link. The Yearbook code is #17957.
In addition, March 25 is the last day to order yearbooks! Order yearbooks here via Fulton County Payments or at the above yearbook ad link.



Save the Date! RCMS Parent Party & Auction

Save the Date! Our annual RCMS Parent Party & Auction will be held on April 20th at the new El Azteca on Peachtree Dunwoody Road! This fundraising event is a tremendous support for our RCMS Foundation. Our Auction will be available online this year and we are in need of amazing auction items! If you have something that you are willing to contribute, please fill out this form.

Sandy Springs Education Force

Do you have electronics you'd love to recycle? You are in luck! Sandy Springs Education Force is partnering with eWaste ePlanet to provide an opportunity to recycle electronics on January 27th from 10am-1pm at North Springs High School's parking lot. We will accept electronics for a minimum donation of $25 per car to SSEF. Working and non-working items are accepted, and all data will be wiped clean. We are also collecting new school supplies!

SSEF will need to pay extra, per-pound charges to eWaste ePlanet to recycle certain items, so additional donations are appreciated for TVs, printers, etc. See our website for specific details and to make your donation ahead of time: https://www.sandyspringseducationforce.org/electronics-drive/

The Clinic Closet Needs Your Help!

RCMS families- Please help keep the clinic closet stocked with items that our students need from time to time. Thank you for your help! Here is our Amazon wish list link.

RCMS Foundation

The RCMS Foundation supports BOTH the Music and Sports programs at the school. We would like to thank our community sponsors for believing in the mission the Foundation is supporting and helping to fund all of these programs for the students. Our Foundation sponsors include Shep Lawrence of Allstate Insurance Co. and Jennifer Barnes of Barnes Young Realty Team.

Joining the Foundation helps ensure that the school can continue to support these wonderful programs, and becoming a Corporate Partner is a great way to promote your business and support the students. **Find out more about our Corporate Partnership Program** here and look below to see and support our generous sponsors.

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serving more wins for our community

Join me in supporting the Ridgeview Panthers.

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Allstate.

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FAMILY MARTIAL ARTS

Consider Joining PTA and Foundation!

- **Parent Teacher Association:** Consider joining PTA with a range of donation levels to suit all families. These donations fund teacher grants, classroom supplies, staff gifts and recognitions, and student treats and incentives throughout the year. Please join at www.ptarcms.org.
- **RCMS Foundation:** Our amazing Foundation provides funding to our music and athletics programs. If your student participates in these hallmark programs, we need your support. Community partners are needed, too. Donate at www.rcmsfoundation.org.

Want to be Social?

Besides Panther Tales, Ridgeview Charter Middle School has several ways you can stay up-to-date on news and happenings. Follow us on our main Facebook and Instagram pages for a peek into the daily life of RCMS, plus read success stories about some of our RCMS alumni! The Ridgeview PTA also has Facebook and Instagram pages for PTA-sponsored happenings, spirit wear updates and volunteer opportunities.

Got News?

Panther Tales takes submissions for RCMS news or events that would benefit our student body. To submit your information, please fill out this form and the Panther Tales team will get back to you with any questions.

Ridgeview Charter Middle School

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Thomas is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters