



RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

627 East Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450 • 201.670.2800 • 201.670.6961 (f)

November 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

First Quarter

RHS has enjoyed a long-standing tradition of strong academics and a healthy student body. As students grow and mature, society and families give children more responsibilities and freedoms in controlled settings. The same is true with schools. The students at RHS are very well prepared for life after senior year. Graduates and past parents consistently attribute the freedoms and responsibilities given to students directly contributed to their success in college.

The privilege of having an open campus at RHS dates back to the 1970s. The ability to budget and use one's time in a meaningful way are skills students must learn. To help learn this skill, students have the privilege of Open Campus. During free periods, students may leave school grounds or use any of the open areas of the campus, such as the Learning Commons, Campus Center, cafeteria, courtyard, and front lawn. This privilege carries with it the responsibility of being prompt to all classes, meeting Period 9 obligations, and avoiding noise or activities that will disturb classes.



In 1986, RHS was reorganized as a four-year high school with the incoming freshmen class of 1990. To assuage the concerns of the parents at the time, the freshmen were not given the privilege of having an open campus. Recently, based upon feedback from parents, students, and faculty, many did not believe restricting the freshmen was productive anymore and requested the open campus privilege be extended to freshmen.

Beginning with the 2018 school year, RHS is piloting an open campus policy for freshmen. Open Campus is now a privilege for all students grades 9-12. Students who violate the Code of Conduct or Period 9 obligations may also lose the open campus privilege and be assigned study hall and restricted lunch periods. The campus will be considered “closed” for these students.

Parents/guardians always have the option to deny this privilege to their child and only have to notify the appropriate Grade Advisor to have the child assigned to a supervised study hall. Thus far, not one freshman has been ten minutes late to class/cut class with this privilege in place; there have been no negative incidents involving any freshman or upperclassman; and HSA and freshmen parent feedback regarding this policy has been overwhelmingly positive. We will be evaluating this pilot program at the end of the year.

Communication

The high school's website at rhs.ridgewood.k12.nj.us has a wealth of information. The *RHS Guidebook*, *Program of Studies*, and many daily announcements are posted for your convenience.

You can also follow daily announcements through the **RHS App**, **Facebook** www.facebook.com/hs.ridgewood, **Twitter** [@RidgewoodHS](https://twitter.com/RidgewoodHS), [@Maroon_Sports](https://twitter.com/Maroon_Sports), [@MaroonGuidance](https://twitter.com/MaroonGuidance) and **Instagram** [@ridgewoodhs](https://www.instagram.com/ridgewoodhs).

Guidance

The Guidance Department offered several programs for students this fall such as an information session for 9th grade parents, college application process meetings with 12th grade students and parents, Freshmen F.O.C.U.S. meetings for the counselors to meet the 9th graders, and an evening meeting for senior parents on the financial aid process.

In addition to early decision and early action applications, the seniors have been very busy working with their school counselors on regular decision and rolling admissions college applications. As in the first quarter, regular decision and rolling admissions applications for students are ongoing.

Through Naviance eDocs, the guidance department has electronically delivered school forms, recommendations, and more than 2,525 transcripts to participating colleges.

Seniors will be apprised of 66 local scholarship opportunities through the Local Scholarship Booklets shortly.

A discussion regarding the 2019-2020 scheduling process between the counselor and each student will begin the end of January and continue through February.

Arts and Activities

The New Players Company produced a successful fall performance of *Mere Mortals and Others*. The students and faculty did an excellent job with this production and many families enjoyed the show. The next show is the *Three Musketeers*, opening on **December 6**.



The RHS Music Production Club and NEW Recording Studio are officially up and running. The Recording Studio is a fully equipped recording studio offering a FREE recording environment for student bands and groups looking to record a demo, mixtape, single or an album.

The RHS Marching Band had a successful 2018 competition season with their show *A Journey West*. The band won numerous caption awards throughout the year including Best Music, Best Visual, Best Effect, Best Color Guard, and Best in Show. The band was also awarded the “Cadets Awards of Excellence” at USBands National Championships for best demonstrating pride, professionalism and overall performance. The band ended their competition season with a 2nd place finish at USBands National Championships with a score of 95.8, and was the highest scoring band from New Jersey.



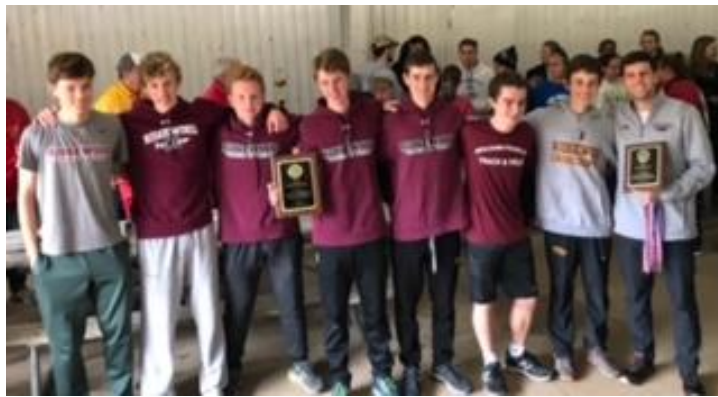
Five choir students were accepted into the NJ All-State Mixed Chorus. The students performed with the NJ All-State Choir in Atlantic City. Two additional RHS students will be performing with the NJ All-State Treble Chorus in February. The RHS Maroon Men and AcaBellas were recently accepted to compete in the Quarter Finals of the Mid-Atlantic Region in the International Competition of High School A Cappella. The groups will compete on **January 26** at Cherry Hill High School.

Athletics

All of the fall athletic teams had successful seasons and the varsity teams qualified for the state playoffs.

The Girls Tennis team won their State Sectional Championship-their 5th Sectional title in the past 6 years. The Girls Soccer team finished the season as Co-Freedom Division Champs. They earned their way to the State Sectional semi-finals but lost to the number one seed, West Orange. Boys Soccer captured the 2018 Freedom Division title. Our Volleyball team, division champs, continued to win their way into the Sectional semi-finals but lost to Southern Regional HS. After achieving the Division Champ title, Football continues in postseason play. They will face Piscataway HS in the NJSIAA Bowl Game at MetLife Stadium, 10:00 A.M. on **December 1**.

The Girls Cross Country team swept the dual meet season with a 6-0 record and won the Big North Freedom Division, Shore Varsity A Championship, County Group Meet, Bergen Meet of Champions, State Sectional Championship. The girls also qualified for the State Meet of Champions with a second place finish in the Group 4 Meet with the second fastest team time of the day and the second fastest time in school history. The girls are also entering the Nike Northeast Regional Championship with the opportunity to qualify for the National Championship Race.



The Boys Cross Country team also went undefeated within the Big North Freedom division, capturing the league title for the 2nd consecutive year. For the fifteenth time in school history (a Bergen County record) the boys won the League and took home the Bergen County Group A, Bergen County Meet of Champions, and North 1 Group IV Sectional titles. In addition, the Maroons took the Bergen County Meet of

Champions championship. The State Sectional win established a new record-breaking the one set by last year's Ridgewood team-of 9 consecutive and 25 overall Sectional titles. This season also marks the fifth time in school history that both the Boys and Girls Cross Country programs won a League, County Group, Bergen Meet of Champions, and State Sectional titles all in the same season; a feat no other Bergen County school has accomplished.

Please refer to the athletics website www.ridgewoodathletics.com for the latest sports schedules, directions to games and other important athletic information.



Save the Dates

Many evening events are scheduled to give parents information regarding their child as well as showcase many of the students' talents. The following is a highlight of a few, but not all, that are offered:

RHS Band Winter Concert	Dec. 5	7:30 P.M.	Campus Center
New Players Play	Dec. 6	7:00 P.M.	Little Theater
New Players Play	Dec. 7-8	6:00 P.M.	Little Theater
RHS Orchestra Concert	Dec. 11	7:30 P.M.	Campus Center
RHS Choirs Concert	Dec. 12	7:30 P.M.	Campus Center
11 th Grade Parent Mtg.	Jan. 24	7:30 P.M.	Campus Center
8 th Grade Parent Mtg.	Jan. 10	7:30 P.M.	Campus Center
New Players in Concert	Jan. 17-18	6:00 P.M.	Little Theater
Maroon & White Exhibit	Jan. 17	3:15 P.M.	Learning Commons
Winter Dance Concert	Jan. 24	5:00 P.M.	Little Theater
Jazz Ensemble Concert	Jan. 30	7:30 P.M.	Little Theater



Final words

To have students reach their fullest potential requires a combined effort from the faculty, school, and community. Communication is key to this success. Please reach out to your child's teacher, grade advisor, or guidance counselor if you have anything you wish to discuss.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas A. Gorman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas A. Gorman, Ed.D.
Principal