

Ridgemont Local School District  
560 West Taylor Street  
Mt. Victory, Ohio 43340

937-354-2141

Ridgemont Golden Gophers

# Ridgemont Newsletter

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ridgemontlocal/>

Website: <http://www.ridgemont.k12.oh.us/>

## **Aug 1 –**

Start enrolling new student in the Welcome Center at the Mt. Victory Building M-F, 8 am-3 pm. Computers will be available to online-register.

## **August 15th-**

K-12 Back to School Night-4:00-6:00 pm, to meet your teachers, drop off your supplies, pay school fees, bring in proof of residency, and 7-12 graders can pick up their Chromebooks.

## **August 17<sup>th</sup>- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Doors open at 8:15 am  
Classes start at 8:30 am  
Dismissal is at 3:15 pm

## JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS TO RIDGEMONT

Please help us welcome the following new staff members to the Ridgemont Local School District.

### **Interim Superintendent**

Chris Pfister was hired to be the Interim Superintendent for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Pfister has been a superintendent for 25 years and recently retired as Waynesfield Goshen's superintendent. Please welcome Mr. Pfister to Ridgemont!

### **K-6 Principal**

Tana Mull has been hired as the K-6 Principal. Ms. Mull was a teacher at Marion City Schools and received degrees from Ashland University. Welcome to Ridgemont Ms. Mull!

### **7-12 Principal**

The new 7-12 Principal will be Nick Stuck. Mr. Stuck has been a teacher in the Ridgemont, Findlay City, Whitehall, and Kenton City. Mr. Stuck received degrees from The Ohio State University, Ashland University and Concordia University. Welcome to Ridgemont Mr. Stuck!

### **7-12 Visual Arts Teacher**

Erin Dechman will be the 7-12 Visual Arts Teacher. Ms.

Dechman has degrees from Baker College of Owosso and Ohio Wesleyan University and is attending Bowling Green State University to further her education. She has 6 years teaching experience in school districts as an art teacher.

### **4-12 Agricultural and Environmental Systems Teacher**

Lori Romie will be the 4-12 Agricultural and Environmental Systems Teacher. Ms. Romie received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from The Ohio State University and is in the process of earning her Masters from Colorado State. For the last 4 years Ms. Romie has been an Agricultural Educator at Spencerville Schools.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Science Teacher**

Wyatt James was approved as the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Science teacher. Mr. James has earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from The Ohio State University. He will be starting his teaching career at Ridgemont. Please welcome Mr. James to Ridgemont.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA/Reading/Social Studies Teacher**

Robert Anspach is the new 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts and Reading / Social Studies Teacher. His teaching degree is from Wright State University and he is currently a student at Ashland University. Please welcome Mr. Anspach to Ridgemont.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher**

Welcome Holly Frey as the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Ms. Frey earned her degree from The University of Findlay and is currently attending Bowling Green State University. During the 2021-2022 school year Ms. Frey worked with our Preschool students through the MRESC as an intervention specialist.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math/Science Teacher**

Sara McKee will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Science Teacher. Ms. McKee earned her teaching degree from The Ohio State University. Welcome to Ridgemont Ms. McKee!

### **High School English Teacher**

Angela Arthur has been hired as the High School English Teacher. Ms. Arthur earned her

# Happy Retirement-

## Pam Robinson

## Marianne Galyk

## Frank Galyk

### Enjoy your retirement!



degrees from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and The Ohio State University. Ms. Arthur has experience teaching in the Columbus area.

#### **High School English Teacher**

Welcome Tara Neer as our High School English Teacher. Ms. Neer received her teaching degree from The Ohio State University. Welcome to Ridgemont Ms. Neer!

#### **7-9 Social Studies Teacher**

Matthew Stemmer will be the 7-9 Social Studies Teacher. Mr. Stemmer received his teaching degree from Bowling Green State University. Please welcome Mr. Stemmer to Ridgemont!

#### **High School Social Studies/Government/American History Teacher**

The High School Social Studies and Government Teacher will be Andrew Trihaft. Mr. Trihaft received his teaching degree from Ohio Northern University. Welcome Mr. Trihaft to Ridgemont!

#### **7-9 English Language Arts Teacher**

The new 7-9 English Language Arts Teacher will be Madison Geyer. Ms. Geyer received her teaching degree from Bowling Green University. Please welcome Ms. Geyer to Ridgemont!

#### **Athletic Director/Monitor Aide Position**

The new Athletic Director/Flex Position and Head Football Coach is Luke Taviano, Mr. Taviano has a degree from Bluffton University. Mr. Taviano played football at the college level and has coached football on the youth level, high school level the college level. Coach Taviano will also be the Weight Room Coordinator. Please welcome Mr. Taviano to Ridgemont!

#### **School Liaison**

Emily Pool will be the School Liaison at Ridgemont. Please welcome Ms. Pool to Ridgemont!

#### **Bus Route Driver**

Lynda Vermillion will be joining the transportation crew again as a

regular route bus driver. Please welcome Lynda!

#### **Assistant Cook-**

Please welcome Becky Large to Ridgemont. Becky will be joining the Food Service Department as an assistant cook.

Ridgemont will also be adding an educational aide soon.

Meet our new staff members at our Open House on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

**August 15th-**

**K-12 Back to School Night-4:00-6:00 pm, to meet your teachers, drop off your supplies, pay school fees, bring in proof of residency, and 7-12 graders can pick up their Chromebooks.**

**Nick Stuck-  
JH/HS Principal**

Ridgemont Community:

My name is Nick Stuck and I am the new junior high/high school principal. When I saw this position was open, I knew I had to apply because I have never had a classroom or office with air conditioning! I'm kidding! My heart has always been at Ridgemont. If you do not know me, here are a few details about me and my connection to Ridgemont.

I graduated from Ridgemont in 1997. I was the varsity boys basketball coach from 2008-2022. I also taught high school science classes part time in this district from 2010-2019. Yes, I am new to this position, but I am not new to Ridgemont.

There have been many changes on the 7-12 side of the building since last year. Some people do not like change. However, change is inevitable and I have improved at embracing change. I am excited by our full staff of teachers. We have returning teachers that have demonstrated a clear devotion to this district. We have brand new teachers that are full of energy and enthusiasm as well. We also have a new Athletic Director. He has hit the ground running and has high expectations for himself.

I believe that the 2022-2023 school year is going to be outstanding! I look forward to seeing all of you at school activities and sporting events.

**Tana Mull-  
Elementary Principal**

Ridgemont:

It is with eagerness and great excitement that I am writing this letter to introduce myself to you as the new Principal for Ridgemont Elementary. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such a strong student driven mission. I have been dedicated to the field of education for the past sixteen years and in that time I have had the privilege of working with a variety of students' ranging in age from preschool through fifth grade. My former position was as a special education teacher in the Marion City School District at Benjamin Harrison Elementary.

On a personal note, my husband and I have been married for 10 years and have 4 children. Our two oldest daughters graduated in 2021 and our 17 year old son is set to graduate this year. Our youngest daughter is beginning 6th grade this year in middle school. Two dogs, Lyndsay and Darbie, as well as Winter the cat round out our crazy, fun family.

I look forward to working with you as a team to help each student at Ridgemont Elementary meet their goals and have a successful school year!



**School  
Pictures-  
PK-12<sup>th</sup> Grade School  
Pictures-  
September 28, 2022  
Retakes-  
November 10, 2022  
K-6 Spring Pictures-  
February 23, 2023**

**Parents-**

**Please go to Final Forms (link on our website) and update your child's forms for the 2022-2023 school year as soon as possible.**

**<https://www.ridgemont.k12.oh.us/>**

**On the school website in the Latest News section you can find-**

- Supply List**
- School Calendar**
- Parent Information**

**AUGUST  
17<sup>TH</sup>-FIRST  
DAY OF  
SCHOOL  
DOORS OPEN AT 8:15  
AM, CLASS STARTS AT  
8:30 AM, DISMISSAL AT  
3:15 PM**

## News from the Ridgemont Foodservice Department

### Free and Reduced Lunch Information

**The USDA has suspended Free Meals for the 22-23 school year.**

**You will need to fill out the Free and Reduced form enclosed to qualify for free or reduced meals.**

The Income guidelines are on the last page of the application (on the website). This program is here to assist families with the breakfast and lunch program. You can also fill out an application online at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). You will need to set up an account with a password to use this website. With the computer system, students will not be identified as Free or Reduced when they go through the line. You can also fill out this form at any time of the year if your financial situation has changed and you need assistance. If you qualified for Free and Reduced Lunches in the past you will have until **September 29, 2020** to fill out a new application. **If you receive a letter before the school year starts notifying you that you have qualified for free lunches you will not have to fill out a new application.**

There will be an increase in meal prices this school year. The last increase was 5 years ago and with supply chain problems and inflation we need to make this change. Breakfast will cost **\$1.75** for paid students and **\$0.30** for Reduced in all buildings. Lunch will cost **\$3.00** for Pre-K-8 and **\$3.25** for 9-12. Reduced Lunch is **\$0.40** for all schools. Milk is **\$0.50**. Free students will receive Breakfast and Lunch for **Free**. If you do not want your student to eat breakfast please send a note to school to notify the cashier of this request. A La Carte items will not be charged to Elementary accounts unless it is authorized by a parent/guardian. Send a note or call the cafeteria to request this service. Limits can be set for all students on a la carte items. Just send a note or call the cafeteria to request this service.

The Parent/Guardian will still be responsible for payment on the account. As always it is recommended to pay daily, weekly or monthly to avoid a negative balance. Payment can be made with cash or check (**Please put in an envelope with student's name and Student ID # to avoid confusion**) or online with the link at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). If you do not wish to pay online it is still a great tool to track your student's account balance and to see what is being purchased.

A limit of **-\$10.00** will be set on all accounts. This is equivalent to two breakfasts and two lunches. When a student has reached a charge limit, an alternate meal will be provided. An alternate meal will be a sandwich, fruit and milk. **If you cannot pay on the account please pack your students' lunch to avoid uncomfortable situations.** Breakfast is considered a meal and will be a part of the charges. If you do not want your student to charge a breakfast, send a note or call the cafeteria to avoid these charges. Students are not permitted to purchase extras or a la carte items if they have accrued a negative balance at any time, even if they have cash in hand. Any extra money given to the cashier will be applied to negative balances. During the final two weeks of school there will be no charging allowed.

If you have any questions about the Free and Reduced application or about your student's account contact Beverly Wasserbeck, Food Service Director at 937-354-2141 ext 3208 or email at [bev.wasserbeck@ridgemont.k12.oh.us](mailto:bev.wasserbeck@ridgemont.k12.oh.us).

Sincerely,

*Food Service Department*

**Free/Reduced Meal Forms are available in any school office and on the school website. Please fill out the forms and return to the school office. New forms can be accepted throughout the school year. If your household income changes at any time, please fill out new forms which are available at our office and on our website.**

**RIDGEMONT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2022-2023 CALENDAR**

<b>Wednesday, August 17</b>	<b>First Day of School</b>
<b>Monday, September 5</b>	<b>No School - Labor Day</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 6 to Friday, September 9</b>	<b>No School - Enjoy the Hardin County Fair!</b>
<b>Monday, September 12</b>	<b>No School - Teacher Professional Development</b>
<b>Friday, October 21</b>	<b>No School - Teacher Professional Development</b>
<b>Thursday, October 20</b>	<b>End of First Grading Period</b>
<b>November 3rd and 17th</b>	<b>Parent Teacher Conferences in Evenings</b>
<b>Monday, November 21</b>	<b>No School for PK-6 Grade-Parent Teacher Conf. am 7th-12th Grade - Job Shadowing</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 22</b>	<b>No School - Teacher Professional Development</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 23 to Friday, November 25</b>	<b>No School - Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Monday, December 19, 2022 to Friday, December 30, 2022</b>	<b>No School - Christmas Break</b>
<b>Monday, January 2</b>	<b>School Back in Session</b>
<b>Thursday, January 12</b>	<b>End of 1st Semester</b>
<b>Friday, January 13</b>	<b>No School - Teacher Professional Development</b>
<b>Monday, January 16</b>	<b>No School - Martin Luther King Day</b>
<b>Friday, February 17</b>	<b>No School - Teacher Professional Development</b>
<b>Monday, February 20</b>	<b>No School - Presidents Day</b>
<b>Thursday, March 23</b>	<b>No School for PK-6 Grade-Parent Teacher Conf. am 7th-12th Grade - School in Session &amp; End of Third Grading Period</b>
<b>Friday, March 24</b>	<b>No School - Teacher Professional Development</b>
<b>Friday, April 7</b>	<b>No School - Good Friday</b>
<b>Monday, April 10</b>	<b>No School - Easter Break</b>
<b>Thursday, May 25</b>	<b>Last Day of School</b>
<b>Friday, June 2</b>	<b>Senior Graduation - 7:00 pm Mt. Victory Gym</b>

**Possible Calamity Make Up Days**

**February 20, April 10, May 26, May 30, May 31**

## Drop Off and Pick Up Traffic Flow Will Remain the Same as Last Year

Parent pick up and drop off will be located at the back of the building. Parents will enter the east drive and exit the east drive from the back loop. Student drivers will enter on the west drive and proceed to the student parking lot and will also exit the west drive. Buses will be using the front drive of the building, entering the west drive and exiting the east drive. Please see the picture below.

Parents should have a number tag from last year for their family. Please make sure this tag is visible when you pick your student(s) up so that we can dismiss them quickly. If you do not have a tag, one will be issued.

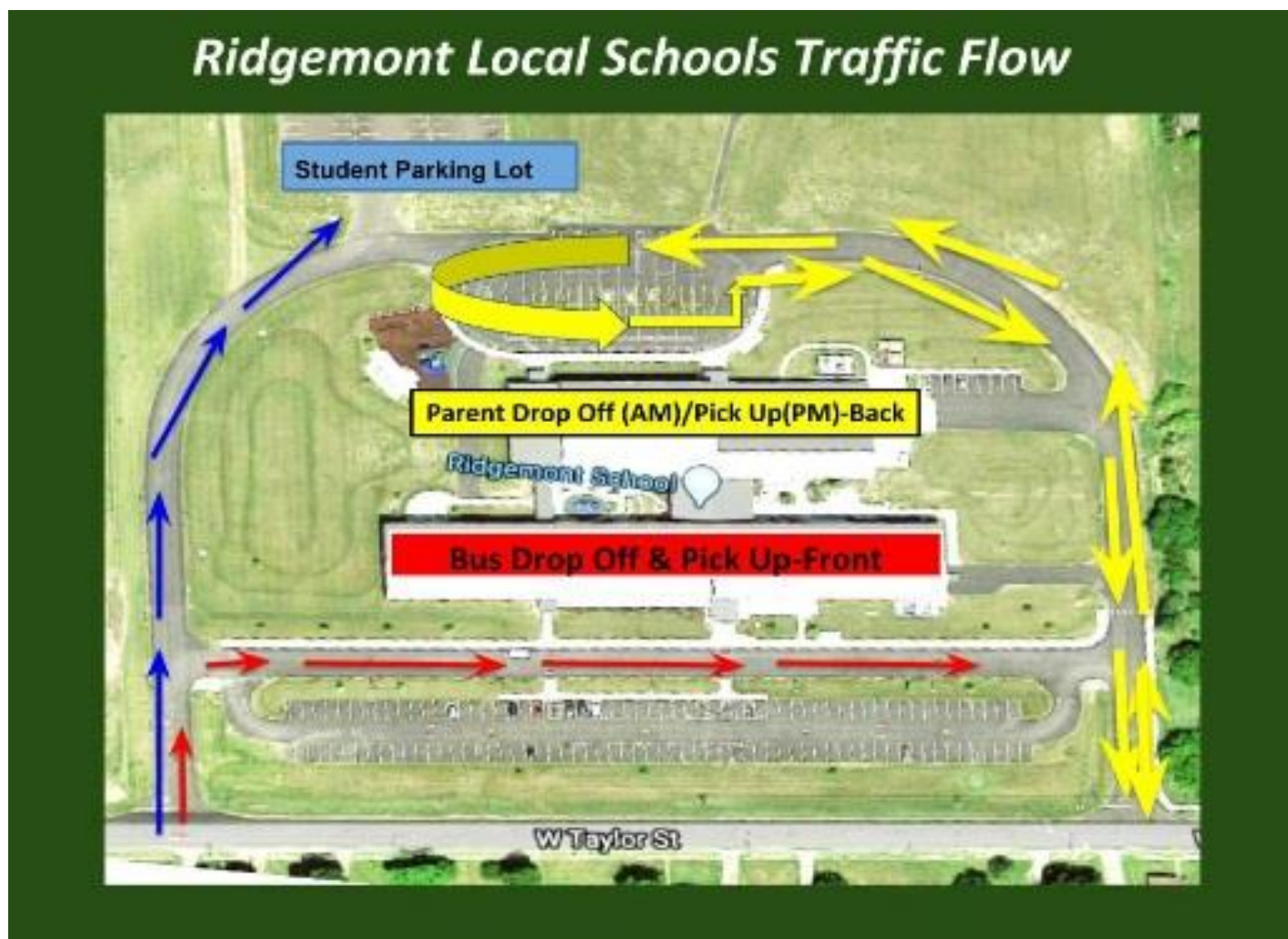
During the AM Drop-off-

Doors do not open until 8:15 am, all students need to remain in the vehicles until doors open. Please have students exit the vehicle on the passenger side only. Move forward as far as possible before student exits your vehicle to keep the line moving. Only students may exit the vehicle.

During the PM Pickup-

Students will only enter the passenger side. No passengers are to exit the vehicle. All students will exit Entrance D according to their family's tag number.

**VERY IMPORTANT-Share this information with all who drop off or pick up your children.**



## Transportation Information – Robert Ball Transportation Supervisor

Happy August! It is hard to believe that summer break is almost over and that the new school year is quickly approaching! We are all ready to welcome back our students and once again begin transporting our most precious cargo. In the transportation department, we will be implementing a lot of new things this year, so I wanted to share some of those changes with you in our annual newsletter.

We will officially be rolling out our new routing software, Transfinder, for this school year. I have been working all summer on redoing the routes in an effort to make them more efficient. Believe it or not, we actually have one route that will not cross any railroad tracks. As you all know, that is not an easy feat to accomplish in a district like ours! As always, timing will smooth out after the first week or so of school, so please bear with the drivers for the first few days.

We will also be rolling out GPS tracking for the fleet this year. Unfortunately, in the world we live in today, it's better to be prepared if something ever happens. You just never know. Having live tracking on our buses will also help when there is inclement weather, as I will easily be able to look up and see where a bus might be, instead of communicating directly with the driver to see if there are any issues. This will also assist me whenever there is a question of whether the bus stopped or not, as that will be logged and the information will be available with the click of a few buttons.

You may have noticed that over the course of last school year, we had new lights installed on all of our buses. These lights use LED technology, which makes the lights brighter and, in turn, able to see from farther distances. These lights also last longer than the lights that we used to have on our buses, which will save us money in the long run.

In addition, we also received a grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to upgrade the camera systems on all of our buses. We will be going from a three-camera system to a six-camera system, with four interior cameras that will focus on the students, one camera placed on the windshield to see the road in front of the bus, and a camera on the driver's side of the bus that will aid us in catching any cars that may pass the school bus while it is stopped. I am very excited to add these cameras to the fleet, as they will certainly help get the full story when there are discipline issues on the bus.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me by email or by phone here at the school. My e-mail is [robert.ball@ridgemont.k12.oh.us](mailto:robert.ball@ridgemont.k12.oh.us) and the number to reach me directly is 937-354-2141 ext. 4208.

The drivers and myself will be available in the cafeteria at our Open House this coming Monday to answer any questions that you may have regarding the bus stop times. We will also have a couple buses here at the school so that any student who is not familiar with the bus will be able to check it out and acclimate themselves. As I said before, we are all very excited to welcome our students back and we are ready for another great school year here at Ridgemont!

# HELP WANTED

## Substitute Bus Drivers NEEDED

As Needed Basis-Substitute AM and PM Routes and Extra-Curricular

Ridgemont Local School District is offering substitute bus driver training to approved applicants, as soon as it can be scheduled. Training is through the school and you will be reimbursed for the certification cost after driving 30 hours.

**Regular Route Substitute Bus Driver-\$16.00/hour and Event Rate is \$15.63/hour. Applications accepted all year.**

**CONTACT Robert Ball,  
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR,  
937-354-2141 ext 4208  
robert.ball@ridgemont.k12.oh.us**

Classified applications are available on our website: <https://www.ridgemont.k12.oh.us/>





### **Elementary Fees**

Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade school fees - \$20 per student  
4th – 6th grade school fees - \$35 per student

### **JH/HS Fees**

7-12 Technology Fee - \$50 per student in each grade level.

9-12 Art Class Fee - \$22 per student/per class

Class Dues for All 7th through 12th Graders- \$25.00  
(No fundraisers will be approved to raise funds for classes. The \$25 fee will support all class projects such as prom and graduation.)

FFA Dues-\$25.00

5-12 Grade Band Instrument Rental Fee for all students using school instruments-\$25.00

Miscellaneous Band Charges-At Cost

\*The Family Cap on the School Fee and the Technology Device Fee for families with more than two children in grades 7-12 will continue. The Family Cap will limit the cost of these fees to the dollar amount equivalent to what is charged to two students. Should a family have more than two children in grades 7-12, the family will pay the School Fee and the Technology Fee for two children and the remaining School Fees and Technology Fees for the other children will be waived by the Board of Education annually.

**Pay all fees at the Welcome Center or online with payschoolcentral. Check, cash and credit cards are accepted. Make checks payable to Ridgemont Schools.**

**Students will not graduate until all fees are paid.**

Fee online payment is on our website to pay fees online through the same system school lunches are paid with now. Please click on the quick link on our website or go to, <https://www.payschoolscentral.com/#/user/login> .

## Athletic Passes

### **2022-2023 Gate Prices:**

High School Contests Adults-\$7.00  
Student/Senior-\$5.00

Jr. High Contests Adults-\$5.00  
Student/Senior-\$5.00

Season Passes for the 2022-2023 school year:

Family- \$250  
Individual- \$100  
Student- \$50  
HS Football Pass- \$30  
HS VB Pass- \$45  
JH Football Pass- \$15  
JH VB Pass- \$35

\*Individual Senior Pass - Free passes for all home athletic events for all senior citizens age 62 and older who currently live in the Ridgemont School District will be available through Hometown Tickets online. Current Senior passes from the 21-22 school year will be valid for the 22-23 school year. Beginning August 8th, senior passes will be available in the Welcome Center with proof of residency and age (driver's license, golden buckeye card, passport, etc.) for those needing a new senior pass.

## Building Use Forms

In order to make scheduling more efficient, we are asking that all people or organizations who are interested in using one of the buildings, please fill out the building use form (available on the web site [www.ridgemont.k12.oh.us](http://www.ridgemont.k12.oh.us) or any school office) and return to the main office for approval, one month prior to the scheduled event. A fee of \$12.00 per hour for custodial support and a \$35.00 fee will be billed to the responsible party. A copy of user's proof of insurance must be attached to form. A copy of the form will be mailed to you when it is approved by the administration.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**We are always searching for substitute bus drivers, educational aides, cafeteria workers, and maintenance crewmembers for as-needed-basis.**

**The classified application is on our website.**

<https://www.ridgemont.k12.oh.us/employment.aspx>

Send your application to the Superintendent's Office. For information call (937-354-2441) or email Sandy at [sandy.overly@ridgemont.k12.oh.us](mailto:sandy.overly@ridgemont.k12.oh.us).

**Proof of Residency** will be required for **ALL** students **every** school year **BEFORE September 1st**. Please provide us with one of the following documents: current telephone bill, utility bill, parent affidavits, rent payment receipts, a copy of a money order made out for payment of rent, a letter from a parent's employer that is written on company letterhead to establish residency, deed, building permit, rental agreement, tax statement, voter registration card, or completion of a Residency Affidavit which can be picked up in the Welcome Center. The Residency Affidavit must be notarized. Bring your Proof of Residency to the Welcome Center any time between July 31<sup>st</sup> and Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. The document should have the address and guardians name on it.

### Annual Notices 2022-2023

For annual notices related to the operation of our district, please use the following link and then click on the corresponding policy number to read the policy in full.

<https://www.boarddocs.com/oh/rid/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>

#### Policy Number

#### Name of Policy

2111-Parent and Family Engagement	
2260-Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity	
2261.01-Parent and Family Member Participation in Title I Programs	
2261.01-Parent Participation in Title I Programs	
2261.02-Title I - Parents Right to Know	
2413-Career Advising	
2416-Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information	
2520-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment	
2623.02-Third Grade Reading Guarantee	
3120-Employment of Professional Staff	
3122-Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity	
3217 & 4217-Weapons	
3362, 4362 & 5517-Anti-Harassment	
4120-Employment of Classified Staff	
5310-Health Services	
5517-Anti-Harrassment	
5517.01-Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior	
5530-Drug Prevention	
5610 & 5610.01-Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students	
5610.04-Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges	

5610.05-Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities  
 5611-Due Process Rights  
 5630.01-Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports and Limited Use of Restraint and Seclusion  
 5771-Search and Seizure  
 5772 & 7217-Weapons  
 5780-Student Rights  
 6152.01-Waiver of School Fees for Instructional Materials  
 7440-Facility Security  
 7440.01-Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring  
 8310-Public Records  
 8330-Student Records  
 8400-School Safety  
 8420-Emergency Situations at Schools  
 8453.01-Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens  
 9130-Public Complaints  
 9150-School Visitors  
 9160-Public Attendance at School Events

### New Students-

- **To set up bus times, email Robert Ball Transportation Supervisor**  
[robert.ball@ridgemont.k12.oh.us](mailto:robert.ball@ridgemont.k12.oh.us)