# Ridgeview Reporter

*commitment *community *collaboration

February 2022
Volume 6

## Quick Facts

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Student Drop Off:
8:40 - 9:00 am

Breakfast:
8:40 - 9:05 am

Bell Rings:
8:55 am

Tardies Begin:
9:00 am

**Important Dates:**

Feb. 9 - Student Spring Count Day
Feb. 10 - Mobile Dentist
Feb. 18 - Half-Day K-5
Feb. 21-22 - Mid-Winter Break
Feb. 23 - Kindergarten Round-Up
Feb. 26 - PTC Sponsored Daddy Daughter Dance
Feb. 28-Mar. 4 - Hearing and Vision Screening
Mar. 3 - Book Fair
Mar. 3 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dear Ridgeview Family,

Welcome back to in-person learning! We are so thrilled to be back in the building with all of our students and we are thankful that it only had to be for a short period of time. As we transition back into our classroom settings, please remember to return all virtual learning materials to Ridgeview. Chromebooks and iPads should be sent back to your student's classrooms and Hotspots should be returned to the Ridgeview office.

As we continue to work to ensure our students are progressing in their learning, it is important to remember that regular school attendance is vital. Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Please be cognisant of getting your children at school each day and on time. We will be communicating with families when students' attendance reaches more than 10% of the school days absent (excused or unexcused). For example we are on the 100th day of school and if a student has more than 10 absences, they have missed more than 10% of the school year. While we do understand and account for the "required" absences during this time of COVID, we believe communicating the total number of absences is important. If you receive an email communication regarding absences, we simply ask that you take this as a gentle reminder that regular school attendance is important for academic success. If attendance continues to be concerning, additional communication and interventions from our attendance specialist or myself will happen. Please click the link to the Ridgeview Attendance Intervention plan. If you have any questions regarding your child(ren)'s attendance, please reach out to me!

Though we are only half way through the school year, we are already looking to planning for next year. If you have a child in your family or know a friend or neighbor with a child who will be eligible for kindergarten, please join us on Wednesday, February 23rd for the Kindergarten Round-Up. For more information, check out our Facebook page or call the office!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Daddy-Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 26th. Tickets are available for purchase online or at the Ridgeview office!

In partnership,
Mrs. Heather Guerra
Principal
Ridgeview Elementary
Sparta Area Schools

**School Delays/Closings**

If we have inclement weather and need to cancel school, families will be notified through our School Messenger program. School closing will also be posted on local TV stations and our Ridgeview Facebook page.

# End of School Day Reminders

**Communicating Changes in Plans** – If you need to change dismissal plans during the day, please call the main office at 616-887-8218 prior to 3:30pm. The main office will inform the teacher of this change. While emailing the teacher is a great additional step, calling the main office is important since a teacher may not see your email in time for dismissal due to an absence or simply because s/he is working with your child. If your child attends an after school program, it is important to inform that program separately of any changes since they will be looking for your child if you do not inform them.

**Main Office Pickup Before 3:30 pm Only** - Please note that at 3:30 pm the main office begins preparations for dismissal. After 3:30 pm, students will not be dismissed from the main office. Families needing to pick up students from the main office may do so prior to 3:30 pm. After 3:30 pm, families may use the car rider pickup or buses. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this procedure to ensure the safe dismissal of all students.

**Parent Pickup Procedures** -

We use the DriveLine App to assist with our parent pick up at the end of the school day. All parents will wait in their car, within the two "driving lanes" and display a pick-up number on the dashboard of your vehicle. Each family is assigned one pick up number. There will be a designated "loading zone" in which staff will bring students to your cars.

**Break down of DRIVE LINE PROCEDURES:**

1 - Parents of all RV students will wait in their cars within the two entering traffic lanes.
2 - Cars within the designated "loading zone" will have students brought to them by staff members.
3 - Traffic within the loading zone area will be controlled by a staff member - NO CARS will be allowed to move in or out of the loading zone while students are on the sidewalk of the loading zone.
4 - Families with multiple children will be assigned the same pick up number in order for all students to be brought to the car at the same time.
5 - If your child needs assistance with buckling after being brought to your car, we ask that you continue through the traffic lanes as directed and then pull into a parking spot to assist with buckling. Please do not get out of your vehicle and buckle your child in while in the traffic lanes as this holds up the process for all.

## COVID Screening Reminders: Stay home if you feel unwell

- Please be sure to call the office at 887-8218 to report illness.
- Specific symptoms that parents/guardians should be monitoring for are each morning are:
  - Fever (measured or subjective)
  - Chills/Body aches
  - Headaches
  - Extreme Tiredness/fatigue
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea/vomiting or diarrhea
  - Shortness of breath
  - New cough
  - Loss of taste/smell
- If your student has any of these symptoms please notify the Ridgeview office (887-8218).
- Also, if your student or a household member is a close contact to a person who is confirmed COVID positive, please call the office so that we can share the expectations while your student is home.
- When in doubt about an illness, stay home and call the office for more information

**School Nurse Notes**

Dental Health – February is dental health month. Please remind your children to brush their teeth at least twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste and to floss their teeth at least once a day. Limit acidic drinks like soft drinks and fruit juices. Limit sugary foods. Protect teeth from injury by wearing mouth guards when recommended. Please remember to take your children to the dentist twice a year for dental checkups.

Hearing and Vision Screening – Kent County Health Department visits our district every fall to conduct their annual hearing and vision screening on our students. Hearing screening is done on Preschool, K, 2nd, and 4th grade students. Vision screening is done on Preschool, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students. The Health Department will notify you if your child fails their hearing or vision screening.

- Nurse Amy and Nurse Elaine

# Attendance Reminders

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please be sure that you are communicating with the office. While we appreciate that most of our families also reach out to the teachers, the office does need that information for accurate attendance reporting to the state.

Celebrating its 30th year, the SEF has been providing classroom grants to Sparta Area Schools since 1991.
THANK YOU for your support and generous donations that keep this program strong.
Like us on Facebook for updates and information: Sparta Education Foundation MI.
Ways you can help support the SEF;
-Shop smile.amazon.com, choose Sparta Education Foundation as your charity, and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to the SEF.
-Visit www.spartaschools.org/sef to donate and get more information about the SEF. This is a great time of year to purchase a memorial brick that will be installed at the entrance of SHS.

Thank you for helping us provide the "Extras for Education"!
Mark your calendar for our next fundraiser, a pasta buffet, on Monday, February 7, 2022, from 4-7 p.m.
at The Garden Patch Restaurant.

Sparta Education Foundation
Providing Extras for Education

*"Sparta Area Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:*
*Joel Stoner, Director of Human Resources*
*465 S. Union St. Sparta, MI*
*616-887-8253*

## Mrs. Ruffer's Musical Moments

CONCERT INFORMATION:

**FIRST GRADE:**
March 15, 2022 -
5:30 Concert - Mrs. Bender / Miss Lehan / Miss Dominique
7:00 Concert - Mrs. Taylor / Mrs. Powell

March 22, 2022 -
5:30 Concert - Mrs. Herceg / Mrs. Andresen
7:00 Concert - Mrs. Myers / Mrs. Groters

**KINDERGARTEN**
April 26, 2022 -
All Kindergarten classes. Specific times will be announced at a later date.

**SECOND GRADE**
I am in the process of rescheduling our concert in early May. I will send out information as soon as it is available.

**Other Music News -**
The students continue to grow their rhythmic skills. Using musical games, the students are working in teams to write / read / play more challenging rhythms. We are able to use our instruments as well as legos. I am really proud of how far they have all come! Making music together is a pretty amazing experience!

## Mrs. Barber's
## S.T.E.M. NEWS
(science, technology, engineering & math)

Welcome to 2022! We finally received some snowfall! It was perfect timing for our unit on snow. Each grade level has explored the science of snow in some type of way. Some interesting facts about snow…

- Every snowflake is different– however there are 8 different basic shapes they take when they first form
- Each snowflake has six points
- Every snowflake is symmetrical

KINDERGARTEN: Kindergarteners explored winter engineering stations. After learning about how a snowflake is formed, students created six pointed snowflakes. They explored/created snowflakes with cotton balls, popsicle sticks, legos, toothpicks and pattern blocks. Their creations were beautiful!

1st GRADE: First graders also learned about the science behind the creation of a snowflake. They engineered snowflakes and also did an experiment with those snowflakes. We wrapped up the unit by creating snow using a recipe of baking soda and shaving cream. Look for baggies of snow coming home!

2nd GRADE: The second grade students explored the science of snow by learning about how the molecules move to form a snowflake! We also brought buckets of snow into the STEM room and used magnifying glasses to identify the type of snowflakes that had fallen. This also provided the opportunity to discover the impact of temperature on a snowflake.

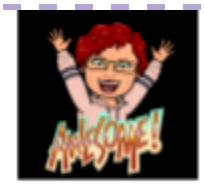
## P.E. Happenings ~ Mr. Wagner

887-8218 ext. 3404
andy.wagner@spartaschools.org

The month of January was devoted to turning the kids into professional basketball players. More specifically, we worked on our dribbling and shooting skills. To practice our dribbling skills, we played games like Dribbling with Cones, Builders and Bulldozers, Dribbling Maps, and Bubble Breakers (DK only). We then used hula hoops (stuck in the bleachers) and all three basketball hoops (each at different heights) to practice our shooting. We wrapped up our basketball unit with the kids working in stations to further advance their basketball skills.

Be sure to encourage your kiddos to continue working on their basketball skills. This can be done outside at a basketball hoop (when the weather is much nicer), or inside by using a laundry basket and a sock ball. This can be turned into a family minute-to-win-it event by adding some exercises for the team that doesn't make as many shots in the basket in one minute. This can be part of your family's 60 minutes of movement that is needed each and every day to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Feel free to send me pictures of the kids playing basketball at home.

For the month of February, the kids are going to get their jump on as we venture into jump roping. This is also the time that our Ridgeview kids will be participating in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge. Our Ridgeview kids have a chance to be heart heroes by raising money for the American Heart Association. More information will be coming home with your kiddo. You can also check out our team website to get registered at http://www2.heart.org/goto/ridgeview.




## smART, December 2021

*Visit and like the ***Ridgeview Art Smart*** Facebook Page

DK/K/MOCI: These artists are creating Wayne Thiebaud donuts and ice-cream masterpieces!

1st Grade: These imaginative creators are making an Alexander Calder inspired cardboard mobile! They are also currently painting beads for their African necklaces!

2nd Grade: These amazing artists are completing their Frank Stella 2-D and 3-D masterpieces. They are painting beads (cardboard) inspired by Native American work.

**Thank you:** 1) GRAM (Grand Rapids Art Museum) for inviting me to the Art Teacher Appreciation Event and for the free art supplies. 2) Rachel Courtade, for volunteering every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

**Donations Needed:** *Clean and Label Art Studio-Mrs. Mitchell

Paper Towels, Paper (any kind), Labels, Name Tags, Post-its, Ziploc Gallon Bags (new), Styrofoam Meat Trays, Stickers, Fabric, Yarn, Wiggle Eyes (any size), Craft Sticks (any size/color), Wood Pieces, Sticks/Branches (1/4 inch thick and 1 ft. long). Cardboard, Old Costume Jewelry, Old Board Game Pieces, Beads, Gems, Plastic Milk Jug Rings, Ribbon, Raffi, Cord, Shoelaces, Old Calendars, Magazines, Newspapers, Storage Bins, Feathers, Straws, Cardboard Tubes... *Note: If you think I could use it, donate it! If I cannot use it, I will share it.

**Volunteering in the Art Studio:** Email me and pick a weekly time that includes your child's art time. A.M.? P.M.?

# Title I Reading News

From

Mrs. Hartuniewicz & Mrs. Patin

February

**Parent Support**

Just a friendly reminder that you are part of your child's Individual Reading Improvement Plan. You have committed to the following.

*Ensure on time and consistent attendance.

***Ensure your child reads every night for at least 10-20 minutes.**

*Ensure your child masters grade level sight words by practicing nightly.

**Why is Reading at Home Important?**

Research has consistently linked reading outside of school hours to improved performance across all grades. Students who read independently have greater reading comprehension, verbal fluency and general knowledge than those who do not. They become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge that their non-reading peers. Students take the skills they have honed through reading into adulthood and, in turn, into the workforce and society.

**What to Say Beyond "Sound it Out"**

To help your child use **meaning:**

· "Look at the picture to help yourself."

· "You said...Does that make sense?

· "Try that again and think what would make sense."

After reading have your child retell the story. This helps develop a sense of story structure, and become more accurate in monitoring their understanding. They can transfer this knowledge of story to their own story writing.

**Universal Screening**

We have completed Universal Screening on all students as of this week. Students were benchmarked to find their current reading level. If you have any questions about your child's progress please contact your child's Title I teacher or their classroom teacher.

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