Voluntary Random Drug Testing

The final days of the 2014-2015 school year are winding down and focus has shifted to the next school year. In this issue, I would like to focus on Voluntary Random Drug Testing (VRDT).

Let's start by identifying what VRDT is, what it is not, and the reasons for the procedures we are asking parents to follow as there still seems to be some confusion and concern.

There are two reasons why a student may be drug tested—VRDT or suspicion-based testing. Suspicion-based testing is exactly what it sounds like: Should a faculty member have a reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence, that student is sent for testing via the nurse’s office. First the student is brought to the nurse and vital signs are taken. Regardless of these results, the student is sent out for testing. The administration has absolutely no discretion in this matter; the testing is done as a direct result of the faculty member’s observations. It is the law. A positive test result will invoke a consequence according to district policy, including a four- to ten-day suspension and substance abuse counseling.

Parents have been asked to complete a form online to either enroll their child in or out of the program with proper notice. Unlike with suspicion-based testing, there are no consequences for students who test positive the first time they are tested under the VRDT program.

It is my hope that every parent will take the time to complete the form. Completing the form needs to be done only once while the child is in the district, beginning in grade 6.

PARCC Testing

I don’t know of anyone, including myself, who has not been frustrated to some degree over the PARCC testing program. Administering the test was not an easy task as, unlike with past testing programs, many parents refused to have their child participate in PARCC testing. Recording attendance for the five days of PARCC testing was quite a challenge!

Ridge High School implemented a rather complicated testing procedure to allow the rest of the district to avoid delayed openings and keep lost instruction to a minimum. It was acknowledged going in that there was little room for error. With that said, I would like to thank the student body for their cooperation with PARCC testing. Their efforts and patience were a huge help. Thank you to the parents as well for understanding our efforts and the difficulties involved. Finally, thanks to the professional, technical, and support staff for their unbelievable efforts and understanding.

Very special thanks to Mr. Thomas Thorp, assistant principal and building test coordinator; Mr. Christopher Barone, supervisor of technology; and Mr. Matthew Hall, supervisor of science and district testing coordinator for their time, efforts, and sleepless nights.

Parcc Testing
**SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

**May 2015**
- **15** Senior Prom
  7 pm, Birchwood Manor, Whippany

**June 2015**
- **5** Senior Dinner
  6 to 9 pm, Ridge Cafeteria
- **10** Caps and Gowns
  Pick up during lunch periods. Graduates must resolve all obligations and bring the $25 purchase fee in order to receive their gown.
- **17** Ice Cream Party
  A SCOP Team-sponsored event immediately following graduation practice.
- **17-18** Graduation Practices
  1 pm, Lee Field
  Attendance is mandatory.
- **18** Ridge Graduation
  6:30 pm, Lee Field
- **18** Senior Bash
  Funplex, East Hanover, NJ
  Bus leaves at 9 pm from RHS.

**RIDGE GRADUATION**

**CAPS AND GOWNS**
**Wednesday, June 10**
- **Lunch Periods**
- **New Gymnasium Lobby**
- **$25 Purchase Fee**

Caps and gowns will be issued on Wednesday, June 10 during lunch periods in the new gymnasium lobby. In order to receive their gowns, students must resolve all obligations and bring a $25 purchase fee. Cash or checks are accepted; checks should be made payable to “RHS Student Activities Fund.” It is recommended that students try on both cap and gown and iron if necessary. Students who are absent on June 10 should see Mrs. Sobine in the main office.

**GRADUATION REHEARSALS**
**Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18**
- **1 pm, Lee Field**

Student attendance is MANDATORY for participation in the graduation ceremony. Practice will last approximately one hour and thirty minutes. Students should carpool since there is not adequate parking for every senior. Those who double park or park in fire lanes will be ticketed.

**BEFORE & AFTER GRADUATION**

Students will report to their assigned homerooms Thursday afternoon, June 18 at 5:30 pm. Commencement begins at 6:30 pm on Lee Field. No one except SENIORS, BAND MEMBERS, and NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS who are assisting will be permitted in the building. Enter the building using the front canopy doors (near the nurses’ office). At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, students will report back to their homerooms to receive their formal diploma and collect their belongings.

**GRADUATION**
**Thursday, June 18**
- **6:30 pm**
- **Lee Field**

The Ridge graduation ceremony will be held outdoors on Lee Field (the football field behind the high school). Tickets are not needed and there is no limit on attendance for an outdoor ceremony. Graduation guests will be seated in the bleachers and the ceremony will take place on the football field.

In the event of severe weather such as sustained thunderstorms, the graduation ceremony will be held in gym A (the new gymnasium). If an indoor graduation becomes necessary, students will be given two (2) tickets per family regardless of the number of 2015 graduates in the family (ie, twins, triplets, etc.) due to limited seating. No exceptions will be made.

The ceremony will be broadcast via video stream, rain or shine. A link will be posted on the Ridge High School homepage. Look for correspondence in upcoming Friday Folders for additional information.

**GRADUATION ATTIRE**

Students who are dressed inappropriately will not march.

**Boys**
- White or light blue shirt and necktie
- Dress slacks (no jeans or shorts)
- Socks and shoes (no sneakers or sandals)
- No sunglasses

**Girls**
- Light colored dress/skirt/dress slacks (no shorts)
- Flat shoes (no sandals or heels)
- No sunglasses

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015**

The Ridge PTO would like to wish the class of 2015 students success in the future. Good luck as you pursue your dreams!

**THE RIDGE BRIDGE**

Editors: Karen Wexler and Gayle Shimoun
Submissions may be made via email to ridgebridge1@yahoo.com
Scop-sponsored ice cream party

The SCOP Team will host an ice cream party immediately after commencement practice on Wednesday, June 17. The location of the party will be announced at this practice.

What is Project Graduation?

Project Graduation provides activities throughout the year for Ridge seniors, including the senior tailgate dinner in October, goodie bags marking the last 100 days until graduation, and an ice cream social held on June 17. The final event is an all-night drug- and alcohol-free graduation celebration, called “The BASH,” which is chaperoned by school personnel, police officers, parents, and community volunteers.

Is there a fee to attend Project Graduation?

A nonprofit organization, Project Graduation, was started in Bernards Township in 1986 as a result of numerous local tragedies associated with drinking and driving on graduation night. The program was created to provide SAFE and memorable activities for Ridge seniors. Project Graduation depends on the generosity of our senior families and contributions from the community. The cost is $125 per family. It is not too late to send in your payment if you have not already done so. Please make your check payable to Project Graduation and send it to the Ridge main office in an envelope marked “Project Graduation.” If you have financial concerns, please contact Anita DeAngelis at 908-647-2723 or RHSPProjectGraduation@gmail.com

What is the BASH?

BASH 2015 will be held on June 18 at The Funplex in East Hanover. Buses for students and chaperones will depart from Ridge at approximately 9 pm. At about 4:30 am on Friday, the buses will leave from The Funplex to return to Ridge around 5 am. Food and beverages are served throughout the night. Planned activities include an origami artist, caricaturists, arcade games throughout the facility, swimming in the outdoor pool, Go Karts, massage therapists, basketball, hypnotist, and mentalist show.

Who is the SCOP Team?

The Bernards Township SCOP Team (pronounced “scope”) oversees Project Graduation activities. SCOP, which stands for State Community Organization Program, is a committee that includes parents, school administrators, faculty, police, and local clergy. The SCOP Team meets throughout the school year at Ridge High School.

Chaperones are needed for the BASH!

We are also in need of chaperones for BASH 2015. Any parent or community member is welcome to chaperone! This is a fun and rewarding experience. You would be surprised how you are able to stay awake all night, or if you prefer, we definitely need volunteers from 10 pm until 1 am. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact any of the team members directly or by email at RHSPProjectGraduation@gmail.com

Senior Dinner

It’s Been a Great Ride!!

Friday, June 5, 2015
6 – 8 pm
RHS Cafeteria

• Fun Food
• Sign Yearbooks
• Watch the Senior Slideshow
• Lots of Photo Opportunities

Reservations

The event is free to all seniors but students MUST register on the following days during lunches: Tuesday and Wednesday May 13, 14, 20 and 21. Tickets will be handed out, as there will be door prizes awarded throughout the dinner!

YEAR-END BUSINESS

If you have a graduating senior and will no longer have a student in the district, you need to remove your email from all the Friday Folders that you receive. Click on the SafeUnsubscribe link at the bottom of the email. The information in HAC and Honeywell is automatically updated when the student is no longer active.
Welcome Spring

Spring was slow to arrive but it is finally here! We are looking forward to having warmer weather here to stay.

As we near the end of this school year, a special thank-you to all the volunteers who commit their time throughout the school year to the PTO and PTO-sponsored school events; to those families who joined the PTO this year; and to those who made monetary donations above the PTO membership. The PTO-sponsored school activities would not be possible without your involvement.

We are proud to have sponsored “Out of the Mouth of…TEENS!” in April, in partnership with the Municipal Alliance and the WAMS PTO and with presentations by Ridge Against Alcohol & Drugs (RAAD) Youth Leadership. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Municipal Alliance and WAMS PTO as the dialogue continues on drug and alcohol issues facing our community.

The PTO has some exciting events planned before the end of the school year. Please check out the PTO Update issued weekly through the Ridge Friday Folder for up-to-date information and upcoming important dates.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

On May 21, the PTO will sponsor the Spring Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Email us at rhsptocomm@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping! The PTO recently purchased a replacement microwave for the Ridge staffroom; it was enthusiastically received by staff wanting to heat their lunches!

Balloons in June

Once again, the PTO is sponsoring Balloons in June. This year, all orders will be taken online; information about ordering balloons can be found on page 5 of this Ridge Bridge. This annual event for the graduating Ridge senior class is a fundraiser for the junior class. During the last week of school, volunteers will deliver mylar balloons and messages of congratulations to Ridge graduates residing in Basking Ridge. Order your balloons by the May 21 deadline!

PTO Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Join us Monday, June 1 from 8 am to 10 am for our annual PTO Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at the Mockingbird Café in the downtown Basking Ridge. We will vote on the slate for the PTO Executive Board at this meeting.

Annual PTO Spring Mailing

You already should have received the annual PTO spring mailing, which includes 2015-2016 PTO membership, volunteer, and welcome desk signup forms. There are various ways to volunteer throughout the school year; as an event chair, at the Ridge Welcome Desk, as a class parent or a general volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering at Ridge next school year, please follow the instructions to sign up or email the PTO at rhsptocomm@yahoo.com. These forms are also posted on the PTO website at www.ridgepto.com under Forms.

Amy Venetianer and Jane Kolarik
Ridge PTO Co-Presidents
YOU ARE INVITED!

Join us for the Seventh Annual
Ridge High Volunteer Breakfast
An Open House for ALL Ridge Parents

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015
8 AM TO 10 AM
MOKINGBIRD CAFE

If you would like to attend, please RSVP
to Elaine Edge, rhsptocomm@yahoo.com.

A Fond Farewell. . .

… and heartfelt thanks to our three PTO executive board members who are stepping down, as their children graduate from Ridge.

Amy Venetianer has been on the board for five years, serving two years as communications officer and three years as co-president. Amy’s leadership, positive attitude, and determination to make things happen (she said she wouldn’t leave until the water fountains were installed!) were a tremendous asset to the board and to Ridge.

Candy Hull spent four years on the board—two years as recording secretary and two years as vice president of programs. In addition to her talent for taking ownership of projects and seeing them through, Candy offered valuable insight and a unique perspective on school-related issues, thanks to her experience as an educator in another school district.

Note: Amy and Candy are “PTO lifers,” having served on the PTO boards of their respective elementary schools, and the WAMS and Ridge boards. Look for them to start PTO organizations at their children’s colleges so they can stay involved!

Jen Kluger, having completed five years on the Ridge marching band board (serving as VP, president, and co-president), found too much free time on her calendar. So what else could she do but join the Ridge PTO, where she served as recording secretary for two years. Jen’s proactivity, organization, and ability to identify the “heart of the matter” at the board and PAC meetings allowed her to document the discussions at these meetings clearly and effectively.

We will miss the contributions and talents of these exceptional women. Thank you Amy, Candy, and Jen, for all you have done for the board, school, parents, and students!
RHS Senior Emily Brenner Awarded $10,000 Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship

Ridge High School senior Emily Brenner has won the 2015 Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship, a $10,000 award that recognizes character and determination.

“Emily’s application demonstrated impressive determination,” said Jane Cullinan, a member of the Ridge AMS selection committee. “It was a great fit for our selection criteria.”

The Ridge AMS grant is unusual in recognizing applicants’ character, determination, and nontraditional achievements, rather than grades or test scores. Winners may use the award as they see fit, whether for tuition, transportation, travel, vocational training, or any personal growth opportunity they identify.

Cullinan added, “In her application, Emily stated that Tourette Syndrome and an undercurrent of obsessive-compulsive disorder tendencies ‘strangled my thoughts and dictated my everyday routine… (but) over time I realized that my physical tics were muted while painting and drawing. Art serves as both an escape and a catharsis. When I paint, I channel my anxiety, frustration, excitement, and emotion into my artwork.’”

Emily’s remarkable artwork will take her to the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design in the fall. When notified that she would receive the Ridge AMS award, Emily said, “I cannot thank (RHS counselor) Ms. Muraview enough for her encouragement and advice, not only when applying for this scholarship but throughout my college search and four years at Ridge High School. I am also sincerely indebted to Wendel Jeffrey and Carla Falb, art teachers at RHS, for their support and guidance in helping me realize my goal of attending a competitive collegiate art and design program upon graduation.”

Emily will receive the $10,000 check at RHS’s annual Awards Night on June 3. In recent years, there’s been no larger grant presented at the RHS Awards Night, other than scholarships made by and restricted to specific colleges or universities.

Cullinan said, “Ridge High and the Basking Ridge community can be proud of Emily, and all this year’s candidates. It’s a pleasure to review the applications of these seniors, who have demonstrated character and courage in the face of challenges.”

Ridge AMS contributions are tax-deductible. For more information on the Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship, visit: http://RidgeAMS.googlepages.com or search “Ridge AMS.”

Have a great summer!
On Tuesday, March 24, 2015, the PTO sponsored a community service project for Ridge High School seniors, which benefited Bridges Outreach. Founded in 1988, Bridges reaches out to the homeless in New York City, Newark, Irvington, and Summit every week. Each year over 2,000 volunteers help deliver 100,000 meals, seasonal clothing, and necessities without question and with genuine respect. For more information about Bridges, go to www.bridgesoutreach.org.

About 60 Ridge seniors participated in the community service project. While the students gathered in the cafeteria, many decorated brown bags that would be used for the nonperishable lunches. The students were creative in decorating the bags—writing inspirational messages such as “Believe in yourself!” and “Hang in there!”; drawing scenes; and creating word searches. Next, they packed 600 toiletry bags for Bridges. Donations helped fund the purchase of toiletry items—shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, soap, razor, shaving cream, lotion, and deodorant—from Bridges, and provided quart-sized plastic bags. An assembly line of sorts was created for the students to fill each bag—they figured out after the first time through the assembly line that they could fill several bags at once and finish the job more quickly (and slightly less accurately).

The Bridges Volunteer Director, Dan RosenHanst (see photo below), joined us and gave a brief presentation for the students about homelessness and how they were helping by providing the toiletry kits and lunches. Dan also described how they can get further involved if they are interested. Following Dan’s presentation and some Q&A, the students packed 500 nonperishable brown bag lunches. Each lunch included a tuna or chicken salad (purchased by the Ridge High School PTO) and crackers, bag of Goldfish, Nutri•Grain bar, applesauce, water, and a spoon.

The kits and lunches were packed into large plastic tubs, and the students helped pack the tubs into the Bridges truck. The students were enthusiastic, energetic, polite, and helpful. They showed great creativity and thoughtfulness, both with their bag decorations and their methods of filling the bags as efficiently as possible.
News and Notes from the Ridge Counseling Department

Ridge Scheduling Update

The counseling department will spend the month of June resolving scheduling conflicts along with students. This process will continue throughout the summer. Finalized schedules will not be posted on HAC until the end of August.

May 2015

Sophomore Career Module

Ridge counselors met with 10th graders on April 20 and May 1 in the computer labs to discuss career exploration and explore the Naviance “Careers” tab.

During the session, the sophomores took the Career Interest Profiler, a tool that can help them discover the types of work activities and careers that match their interests. The interest profiler has 180 questions about work activities that people do at their jobs. Students completed a handout that was returned to their counselor for follow-up discussions during junior year.

Tenth graders were also sent home with information and instructions to complete four other online “assessments” to help guide them with career research:

- Identify your talents with StrengthsExplorer®
- Determine your personality type with Do What You Are
- Understand how you learn with The Learning Style Inventory
- Check out your intelligence profile with MI Advantage™

These online modules are paid for by the district and offered free to students through their Naviance account. Ask your children to share the information they learned by completing these activities!

June 2015

Senior Prep Packet Part A Due to Counselors June 1

In order to facilitate the college application process, which includes the counselor letter of recommendation, we need the cooperation of juniors and their families.

Part A of the senior packet consists of five components:

1. Transcript release/counselor waiver form
2. Self-description survey
3. Parent brag sheet
4. Preliminary college list
5. Student activity résumé (draft)

College Essay Night

Please join us on Wednesday, May 27 as we host our first College Essay Night. The essay is such a critical piece of the admissions puzzle. Associate Director of Duke Undergraduate Admissions, Kathy Phillips, will explain how students can present themselves in the best light. The program begins at 7 pm in the PAC and is intended for students in grades 9-11, though parents are more than welcome to attend.

In order for the college application process to operate smoothly, students must complete the senior packet accurately and completely. The printed packet, which is due to your counselor no later than June 1, can be found at http://bernardsboe.ss5.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3096972&pageId=4799527

Option II Applications Due June 15

Option II applications for summer, fall, and 2015-16 full-year academic experiences are due June 15, 2015.

This includes:

- Financial literacy
- Courses not offered at Ridge
- Internships
- Independent studies

Any student interested in Option II opportunities should read the descriptions of qualifying activities carefully before beginning any applications. The descriptions and the links for the application are posted on the Option II website.

http://bernardsboe.ss5.sharpschool.com/departments/counseling_department/ridge_high_school_counseling/option_i_i/

College Essay Night

The essay allows Admissions Officers to get to know you. Find out how to present yourself in the best light.

Presented by
Kathy Phillips
Associate Director
Duke Undergraduate Admissions

Hosted by the Ridge Counseling Department

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
7:00 PM
Ridge High School
Performing Arts Center
258 South Finley Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

SAVE THE DATE

Back to School Nights Fall 2015

October 1, 2015
Grades 9 and 12

October 8, 2015
Grades 10 and 11
**News and Notes from the Ridge Counseling Department . . . continued**

**July 2015**

**Honors and Advanced Placement Appeals Due July 15**
Honors and advanced placement courses have entrance criteria. Please review the Program of Studies before attempting an appeal. In the event that a student does not meet the entrance criteria and he or she has extenuating circumstances that should be considered in the determination of placement, the online form is the vehicle for an appeal.

All decisions regarding honors appeals are made by the curriculum area supervisor. The decision to grant the appeal will be based on the following criteria:
- Extenuating circumstance
- Seat availability
- Student explanation of the extenuating circumstances
- Overall academic performance
- Teacher consultation on academic performance
- Standardized test scores, when applicable
- Student writing portfolios, when applicable

All appeals must be submitted online by July 15. Applications will be available on the counseling department home page at the end of June (after final report card grades are posted).

http://bernardsboe.ss5.sharpschool.com/departments/counseling_department/ridge_high_school_counseling/

**Late Qualification Forms Due July 15**
If a student’s final course grade now qualifies him/her for an honors/AP class and he/she wants to enroll in that course for the fall, he/she must complete a Late Qualification Form online by July 15. Applications will be available on the counseling department home page at the end of June (after final report card grades are posted).

http://bernardsboe.ss5.sharpschool.com/departments/counseling_department/ridge_high_school_counseling/

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<tr>
<th>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS</th>
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<td>To view a video recording of each Board of Education meeting, go to <a href="http://www.bernardsboe.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3096972&amp;pageId=6196390">http://www.bernardsboe.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3096972&amp;pageId=6196390</a>. Minutes of all BOE meetings are available at <a href="http://www.bernardsboe.com/board_of_education/agendas__minutes/">http://www.bernardsboe.com/board_of_education/agendas__minutes/</a></td>
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**May 2015**
- 18 Cedar Hill School Showcase and BOE Meeting, 7 pm, Cedar Hill School

**June 2015**
- 8 BOE Meeting, 7 pm, WAMS
- 15 BOE Meeting, 7 pm, RHS PAC

**July 2015**
- 20 BOE Meeting, 7 pm BOE Conference Room

**August 2015**
- 24 BOE Meeting, 7 pm BOE Conference Room

**September 2015**
- 14 BOE Meeting, 7 pm, RHS PAC
- 28 BOE Meeting, 7 pm, RHS PAC

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**Volunteers Needed for Welcome Desk**
Volunteers are needed to staff the Ridge High School Welcome Desk. Volunteers assist with items dropped off for students to pick up. We usually have more applicants than we need for the Welcome Desk so please apply only if you are available for a once-a-month commitment for the entire school year. There are two shifts per day, either 8 to 11 am or 11 am to 2:10 pm. We ask that two parents sit at the desk every day for each shift.

The positions for the Welcome Desk will be assigned by a lottery system. So that everyone has an equal chance in the lottery, if two people are applying to work together, they must submit their forms stapled together and they will receive one number between them. Please fill out the Welcome Desk Volunteer form, located online at the Ridge PTO website under the Resources tab, and then “Forms.” To download the form, go to http://ridgepto.com/index.php/resources/forms

You will be notified by August 14, 2015 via email. If you do not receive an email by that date or if you have further questions, please contact Joy Hultman at 470-2895; joyss@optonline.net or Karen Wexler at 647-2202; wexlerfarina@optonline.net. Do not turn in the Welcome Desk form with any other PTO signup form. The Welcome Desk form must be mailed separately to Joy Hultman by July 17, 2014.

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**Join the Ridge PTO!**
The PTO Membership form was sent to you in the mail and is also on the PTO website, http://ridgepto.com/index.php/resources/forms/

Please return your form before September 1, 2015.
Ridge Student Selected as “Enthusiastic Reader”

Eun-Seo (Katherine) Kim, grade 9 at Ridge High School, has been selected as one of this year’s “New Jersey Enthusiastic Reader” winners.

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) sponsors the “New Jersey Enthusiastic Reader Award” each spring. An elementary school student, middle school student, and high school student from the north, central, and southern regions of the state (nine students total) are presented with this award.

Each school and public library in New Jersey was invited to nominate students who personify the following criteria:
- Exhibits an enthusiasm for reading
- Exhibits an enthusiasm for sharing books
- Uses books for a variety of purposes
- Reads independently on a voluntary basis
- Uses school and/or public libraries

A committee of librarians then evaluated each of 300 nominations to select the nine winners.

School Library Media Specialist Mary Jane McNally nominated Katherine because of her ability to connect her wide reading to current events and her ability to use her artistic talents to encourage others to read.

The awards were presented Saturday, March 14 at NJASL’s spring meeting held at William Paterson University. Katherine’s parents and brother were on hand to see her accept the award.

Curriculum Forums Provide Useful Information for Bernards Township Parents

This year, in conjunction with the Ridge and WAMS PTOs, the district curriculum department presented a variety of “Curriculum Forums.” The forums were intended to give the parent organizations and community the opportunity to get in-depth details on district initiatives and some of the hot topics in curriculum directly from the teachers, supervisors, and building administrators who deal with them each day.

The year started off with a late-fall presentation on the issue of academic integrity. Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Raphael, and Mrs. Dwyer provided an overview of topics like plagiarism, cheating, and the district’s policy on academic integrity, which lead to a broader community discussion of these topics.

The March presentation focused on creating successful writers in middle and high school. During their presentation, Mr. Hunscher and Dr. Thorpe discussed why writing matters for adolescents, how the English language arts curriculum and teachers approach writing instruction, and ways that parents can support their teen in developing writing ability. As a part of the presentation, attendees reviewed examples of writing assignments and current student writing across grade levels. Both workshops were tremendously successful with great parent turnout and open discussion. For those who were not able to attend, notes and PowerPoint presentations are available.

The final forum will take place on Thursday, May 21, 9 am at WAMS and will focus on the district initiative to increase our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) offerings and develop a more robust, articulated STEM program for grades 6 to 12. We hope you will be able to join us to hear some of the proposed changes and new STEM offerings at WAMS and Ridge! For those parents who cannot attend, the presentation will also be given on Monday, May 18, at the Board of Education meeting. Please check the upcoming Friday Folders for more details.
Orchestra News

Join Us for the Spring Orchestra Concert
Thursday, June 4, 2015
7 pm
Ridge PAC
Come and join us for an evening of music provided by the Ridge High School Chamber and Symphony Orchestras.

Orchestra Achievements
Congratulations to Louise Choi, Vikram Kalghatgi, and Lillian Usadi, 10th grade violinists from the Chamber Orchestra who auditioned and were accepted into the 2015 New Jersey All-State Orchestra.

The Pit Orchestra for the Bye Bye Birdie theater production received a final nomination for the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards.

Piano Quartet to Debut at Carnegie Hall
Congratulations to Ridge sophomores, violist Catherine Luu, cellist Thomas Mazumder, violinist Lillian Usadi, and pianist Madeline Wong for their outstanding performance of Brahms Piano Quartet No. 3, Op. 60, Mvmt. III Andante in the NLPA Young Artists Chamber Music and Ensemble Competition on May 3, 2015! They will be performing as a Grand Winner at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall in the winners’ concert on Saturday, June 6 at 1:30 pm. Come enjoy their music after a stressful morning of SAT tests! Tickets are available at the door.

Notes from the Choral Department

A Cappella Choir
Voices of Ridge and Ridgemen
On Thursday, May 21, the A Cappella Choir will travel to Liberty Corner School and the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church to sing for the 3rd through 5th graders and then for the Men’s Club.

On Saturday, May 16, the A Cappella Choir, Ridgemen, Voices of Ridge, and Madrigal Singers will compete in the New York City Big Apple Fest, sponsored by Performing Arts Consultants.

2015-2016 New Jersey All State Chorus
Congratulations to the following members of the RHS choral department who have been selected from 1,200+ singers, by audition, to participate in the 2015-2016 New Jersey All-State Choruses:

2015 Mixed Chorus
Claire Fiocco
Evelyne Labelle
Ginny Lafean
Owen McKenna
Rahul Mirchandani
Timmy Morrow
Sydney Vollmar

2015 Women’s Chorus
Julia Fiocco
Rachel Keough
Savitha Krishnan
Paige Smyth
Madeline Wong

Spring Choral Concert
Tuesday, June 9 at 7 pm in the Ridge PAC. Ridge Chorale, A Cappella Choir, Voices of Ridge, Ridgemen, Madrigal Singers, GUYS NITE OUT, and RHS Concert Choir will participate. Come and share the evening as we sing our final songs with the class of 2015.

A Cappella Choir Auditions for the 2015-2016 School Year
Auditions for the 2015-2016 Ridge High School A Cappella Choir will be held on Thursday, June 11 from 3:30-6:30 pm in the choral room. Audition materials are available online on the RETZKO ORD.
Quebec City: A 3-Day French Adventure

by Asha Krishnan and Wanxing Lu

On April 10, 2015, during the early hours of the morning, Madame Joelle Gozlan, 22 Ridge High School French students, and Spanish teacher Ms. Villarino, took a nine-and-a-half hour drive to Quebec City. Departing at approximately 5:30 am, the drive consisted of nothing but sleeping and eating. However, upon reaching the border, students began three days of speaking only French.

The students were lucky enough to experience Quebec City with Richard, an expert on its history and sites. With his advice, students were armed with their raincoats and innumerable layers, as it was raining the entirety of the first day. Despite the rain, the terrace of the Saint Lawrence River was thoroughly flooded with Mme Gozlan’s eager students; their competitive spirits were not dampened as they participated in exciting trivia bowls on military history and in fact became soldiers themselves upon visiting the 19th century Martello Towers.

The next morning, students were awake and ready to go at 8 am. They were fortunate to enjoy a traditional native Canadian breakfast, followed by an interactive tour of the Huron-Wendat Village. But students took a break from the educational aspect of the trip upon visiting Les Galeries de la Capitale, a large shopping mall and indoor amusement park. In order to navigate this large complex, students were challenged to use their French-speaking skills and take small videos of conversations with locals. After a fantastic photo opportunity at Montmorency Falls Park, students were soon on their way to dinner at none other than one of Canada’s authentic sugar shacks, where they were encouraged not only to feast, but also to dance and sing traditional songs.

The last day was definitely one to look forward to and by far the most draining. While strolling down the colorful streets of Quebec City’s oldest neighborhood, Place Royale, students were encouraged to reach out to locals and use their navigation skills to complete a scavenger hunt.

During 2-3 hours of leisure time, students enjoyed exploring the picturesque streets of Quebec City, which were lined with artisan boutiques, restaurants, and souvenir shops of all sorts.

All in all, it was certainly a trip to remember! Not only were students encouraged to use their French skills, a good number even found it difficult to switch back to English. Many described the experience as not only educational, but also a time to bond with classmates; no wonder so many students have already decided to go again next year!
Are you interested in a career in engineering? Ridge High School’s technology education department offers a variety of science, engineering, technology, mathematics (STEM)-based classes including engineering design/CAD I & II, architecture, and robotics I & II, to name a few. Students from these classes have been hard at work, designing and building a variety of challenging projects. Such projects include balsa wood architecture home kits, NXT and VEX robot challenges, 3D modeling and developments on CAD, concrete testing, and even a hands-on experience with small gas engines.

Please go to the following site, http://mrdotta.blogspot.com/, to follow Mr. Mark Dotta’s blog for more photos of the above projects and activities.

The department would also like to extend a special thank-you to the Ridge PTO for its recent purchase of an Epilog Laser Cutting system (below). The laser cutter will help bridge the gap between designing a project on CAD and actually manufacturing a design to create a product you can hold in your hand. Laser projects will be coming soon; follow Mr. Dotta’s blog for the latest projects.

Marketing Classes Hold Brand Packaging Competition

Twelfth-grader Samantha Soulias has won the marketing classes’ inaugural “Shark Tank—Best Brand Package” concept and design final competition. Samantha came up with a product idea and package design for the FERRERO ROCHER® Ice Cream Sandwich. The other finalists were:

- **Mallowmars with PEEPS® Cookies**, by Andrew Kleinert. A great taste combination of rich chocolate and marshmallow.
- **Staples® Highlighters**, by Caroline De Witt. Highlighter that disappears in 3 or 6 months after using it.
- **Kleenex® Germ-Killer Facial Tissues**, by Brianna Dolan. Tissues that can kill commonly spread germs.

As background, students in the marketing classes participated in a project where they created and designed their own idea for a brand package. Students then presented the designs to their respective classes. Out of all the brand packages, one food and one nonfood design were selected from each of the two marketing classes (for a total of four designs) for the final competition. The contest ran on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 7 and 8, during lunch periods. The packages were on display in the school lobby, where students were able to vote for their favorite brand.

Congratulations Samantha Soulias!
Art Students’ Work Recognized and Exhibited

The Ridge art department is pleased to announce that several of their students won awards and scholarships totaling $94,000 at the Mount Olive High School National Art Honor Society’s Twenty-ninth Annual Invitational Competition. Fourteen high schools participated with 140 works of art on exhibit. Senior Deepa Mukundan was awarded 1st place in Painting, and senior Christine Sheng won 3rd place in mixed media, as well as scholarships to Savannah College of Art and Design and Maine College of Art (MECA). In addition, senior Ariel Saloman was awarded a scholarship to MECA.

Closer to home, Ariel Saloman won the 2015 Mayor’s Arts Award Bernards Township for a student who demonstrates excellence in and a commitment to the fine or performing arts. She was selected by a panel composed of the mayor; Recreation, Parks, & Pathways Advisory Committee members; and Park and Recreation staff.

The Ridge art department has recently had two exhibitions at local venues: One exhibition was held at the Farmstead Arts Center and featured work by AP studio art and photo III students. The show, titled Divine Site, consisted of drawings, paintings, and photographs produced from a field trip to The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City. The second exhibition was hosted by the Environmental Education Center. It showcased a ceramics bird theme project, titled Fowl Play. The work was inspired from bird forms as a vehicle to learn about methods and techniques used in sculptural ceramics.

Come See Our RHS Art Students’ Work On Display in Ridge Gymnasium

The annual Ridge High School art show will be open to the public during regular school hours from Wednesday, June 10 through Friday, June 12 in the gymnasium that is located off the main lobby by the cafeteria. The community is invited to the closing reception on Friday the 12th from 7 to 9 pm. It is a lot of fun—with live music, student-produced films, awards on display, and refreshments. All students who studied art this year at Ridge will be represented in the show, which will include drawings, watercolor and acrylic paintings, computer graphics, photography, sculpture, ceramics, woods, and films. In addition, bodies of work from advanced placement studio art and photo 3 students will be featured. Please come see the exhibit and support Ridge High School’s talented, hard-working art students!

Photo features Ariel Saloman, recipient of the 2015 Mayor’s Award for the Arts, whose work was also included in the 2014 Fresh Perspectives juried exhibit at the Morris Museum.
RIDGE RECOGNITION

The purpose of Ridge Recognition is to highlight the accomplishments of RHS students, faculty, and staff. If you or someone you know is deserving of praise and recognition, please send us an email at ridgebridge1@yahoo.com.

New Zip Line
As a result of a grant from the Municipal Youth Services Commission, a zip line was installed on April 24, 2015 at RHS for the Project Adventure program. Funding for the grant was provided by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Freshmen Help Feed Somerset County Children!
Two groups from the class of 2018 traveled to the Somerset County Food Bank to participate in “The Backpack Program,” which helps provide weekend meals for children of Somerset County on free/reduced lunch. The freshmen girls basketball team and the class of 2018 student government officers went to the food bank and packed bags of nonperishable items to be delivered to several elementary schools in our area. In addition, students were motivated to organize “Macaroni Madness,” which was a freshman class competition to collect single-serve macaroni and cheese packages to donate to the food bank. The class of 2018 made a generous donation to the Somerset County Food Bank and encourages families in Basking Ridge to do the same!

Somerset County Champions
On April 13, 2015 the Ridge Girls golf team won their 5th Somerset County Team Title! Three of the top four finishers were Ridge Red Devils! Anina Ku won the individual title, shooting a 68, Monica Schumacher came in second with a 75, Carolyn Wang shot 79 for fourth place, and Anna Walsh completed the foursome with an 88. The dynasty continues!

Japanese Language and Culture Study Award
Every year, the New Jersey Association of Teachers of Japanese (NJATJ) holds an award ceremony to recognize students for their hard work and achievement in learning Japanese language and culture. Instructors of Japanese who are members of the NJATJ are invited to submit the names of students who have demonstrated excellence in their studies.

This year, Emily Arakawa (AP Japanese), Christoph Aigner (Pre-advanced Japanese honors) and Joseph Criscione (Pre-advanced Japanese honors) were nominated to receive the 2015 NJATJ Japanese Language and Culture Study Award on Friday, March 13, 2015 at Seton Hall University. We are very proud of their commitment to studying Japanese language and culture and their academic achievements!

Japanese National Honor Society Pre-College Chapter
This year, Ridge High will recognize one senior, Christine Papas, in the Japanese National Honor Society Pre-College Chapter (JNHS). This organization recognizes and encourages scholastic achievement and excellence in Japanese study by working with teachers and administrators to develop and maintain high standards of Japanese language education and promoting cultural activities. Congratulations to this year’s inductee!

National Honor Society for Dance Arts
The Ridge dance department started their first chapter of NHSDA (National Honor Society for Dance Arts) in the fall. Fifteen Ridge dance students will be inducted into this prestigious honor society in May. NHSDA inductee Emma Havighorst had her dance article “Masterful Pavane: Jose Limon’s Life and Impact on Modern Dance” chosen for publication in NHSDA’s second edition of the national newsletter, Dance Arts, Now!

Fed Challenge
On April 16, 2015 the Ridge Fed Challenge students competed in the semifinals of High School Fed Challenge, at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The Ridge team advanced to the afternoon final round of four teams. Out of 60+ teams from the New York region, Ridge’s students made the final four! Congratulations to seniors Alison Shim and Saloni Singvi, and to juniors Sanath Nagaraj, Timothy Tang, and Vaikunth Balaji, for their superb team presentations on macroeconomic analysis and monetary policy!

Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award
Congratulations to junior Katie Boyle! Katie was selected as Ridge’s recipient of The Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award sponsored by The West Point Society of New Jersey for her outstanding attributes of character, service, and leadership.

2015 Imagine Grant
Ridge counselor Rebecca Muraview was selected as a recipient for the 2015 Imagine Grant sponsored by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling in order to attend NACAC’s annual conference in the fall of 2015.
New Jersey Science League Results for February

The New Jersey Science League is a competitive science organization operating within the state of New Jersey. Science League consists of a series of four local competitions that allow students to demonstrate their ability in science. Each test combines new material as well as including material from previous tests. Scores are then sent to the New Jersey Science League where they are ranked statewide. The February competition took place on February 12 at Bernards High School. Ridge High School placed first in all subjects in the February competition.

Brain Bee Competition

On Saturday, February 7, Ridge students participated in the 2015 Central New Jersey Regional Brain Bee Competition held at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway. The event was hosted by the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology. Over 50 students from central New Jersey participated in the competition. At lunch, members of the faculty were available to discuss careers in neuroscience with the participants. Students were also invited to view cross sections of a brain in the laboratory.

The Regional Brain Bee is the first round in an international competition for high school students to match wits with other New Jersey students in the field of neuroscience. The competition consisted of a written test, an oral test and “Jeopardy”-style questions.

Juniors Vaikunth Balaji, Bernie Jewson, Sanath Nagaraj, Pulak Raj and sophomore Shreyes Manivel represented Ridge High School at this event. Sanath and Vaikunth made it to the second round of the top 19 students. Vaikunth was chosen to enter the third and final round of top 9 students.

On Sunday, February 8, Phoebe Seltzer and Naiti Bhatt participated in the Northern New Jersey Brain Bee held at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark. Phoebe made it to the final round of competition at this event.

Chemistry Olympiad

On March 26, 2015 15 students at Ridge High School participated in the local Chemistry Olympiad Competition sponsored by the North Jersey American Chemical Society. The goal of this competition is to stimulate interest and to recognize the achievements of high school chemistry students. The top 5% of students competing in this exam are eligible to take part in the 2015 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. Ridge High School junior Vaikunth Balaji placed in the top 5% of students nationwide and has been invited to participate in the second tier of exams, which include a written exam, problem solving scenarios, and a hands-on lab practical. The top 20 students nationwide will train for a place on the United States Olympiad Team.

Births

Applied Arts teacher Steve Richards and wife, Michelle, announce the birth of their daughter, Ashlee Michelle, on January 17, 2015. She weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 19½" long.

Fine Arts teacher Jessica Demcsak and her husband, Jay, announce the birth of their third child, a daughter, Violet Fae, born on February 19, 2015, at 8 lbs 15 oz and 20¾".

School counselor Kimberlee Sweet and her husband, Tim Roy, welcomed a son, Tyler Von Roy, on March 16, 2015. He weighed 6 lbs 7 oz and was 21" long.

We have two new additions in the Math Department (pun intended!): Lauren Tan and her husband, Andrew, welcomed Ryan William Tan on March 28, 2015. Ryan weighed 7 lbs 5 oz and was 19" long.

Travis Boop and his wife, Jamie, announce the birth of their son, Charlie Weeks Boop, on April 21, 2015. Charlie was a bouncing 9 lbs 6 oz and 21¾" long!
Concert Choir Shines in Cabaret 2015

On March 10, the Ridge High School Concert Choir, under the direction of Choral Director Barbara Retzko, presented Cabaret 2015. The in-class project was created with everyone participating in “all cast” numbers to open and close each of the two acts. To determine which additional songs were presented between these showstoppers, the members of the choir became “directors” as they voted on open-call auditions during the month of January. The finished product included 30 selections from Broadway and off-Broadway shows, as well as music from the movies. The professional-quality show, which showcased the exceptional talents of the RHS Concert Choir, also highlighted student-created choreography and costuming.

Ridge’s Literary Magazine is Back!

Though the magazine (previously named REALM) has gone unpublished for many years, the club publication has started up again under a new name—The Devil’s Quill—and with new advisors—Dr. Thorpe, Mr. Hartt, and Mr. Pernice. Moving from a print to a digital publication, The Devil’s Quill features fiction, nonfiction, poetry, reviews, and blog posts. The club meets every Tuesday morning in room 413 and provides a fun and exciting experience for all students who care deeply about writing. Please visit our site, devilsquill.com, and “like” and/or comment on the student work showcased.

Get Involved at Ridge!

The Ridge PTO has put together a document listing all the current activities, clubs, and sports offered at Ridge High School, including the various honor societies. The groups have provided mission statements and descriptions along with contact information. The document is posted on the Ridge PTO website under the handbook tab. Click here, take a look and get involved!
Drama Club News

Bye Bye Birdie

The Ridge Drama Club performance season closed on February 28 with its highly successful production of “Bye Bye Birdie.” The cast enjoyed standing ovations each night. Over 100 Ridge High students made up the cast, crew, and creative team for this musical comedy led by director Megan Kern; musical director Lyndsey Schaefer; orchestra director Jennifer Curran; choreographer Rachel Miranda; set design and construction by Jason M. Stewart; and lighting and sound by David Kern.

Papermill Playhouse “Rising Stars” adjudicators recommended senior Morgan Hernandez for “outstanding performance by a leading actress” for her portrayal of “Rosie,” and Ridge Orchestra was recommended for “outstanding performance by an orchestra.”

Ridge Drama Club Banquet

On March 31, performers, crewmembers, teachers, and family came together at the restaurant Prezzi to celebrate our successful season. Many students were acknowledged for their outstanding participation in “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” and “Bye Bye Birdie” as well as previous work on shows from past seasons.

The Drama Club awarded varsity letters to the following students:

The following students were formally inducted into the International Thespian Society, an organization led by the Educational Theatre Association, which honors the work of students, teachers, and volunteers in Educational Theatre: Luke Chiafullo, AJ D’Ambrosio, Morgan Hernandez, Rebecca Hull, Raghav Mathur, Alexandra Piro, Jessica Burchett, Jillian Haggard, Peyton Kennedy, Rachel Keough, Hannah Kolarik, Adam Miesner, Lizzy Sherman, Erin Taylor, Owen McKenna, and Emily Warshaw. Honorary Thespian Membership was awarded to the following adults for their commitment to educational theatre: Jason M. Stewart, Lyndsey Schaefer, Rachel Miranda, David Kern, Jennifer Curran, Jean D’Ambrosio, Candy Hull, Andrea Chiafullo, and Helene Perrier.

Somerset County Teen Arts

On May 13, 30 drama club members attended the Somerset County Teen Arts Festival at Raritan Valley College. Students performed selections from “Bye Bye Birdie” and “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon.” Students also had the opportunity to participate in several performing and visual arts workshops throughout the day.

Ridge Drama Club Goes to the Tony Awards!

The much-anticipated trip to NYC to attend the Tony Awards is fast approaching. Ridge Drama Club members are gearing up to attend the event on June 7, 2015 at Madison Square Garden. Students will participate in a dinner at Sardi’s with Broadway professionals, walk the red carpet, and then attend the awards ceremony. The trip is hosted by “Camp Broadway” and is sure to be a memorable event!
Another Outstanding Season for Ridge Forensics

Ridge High School’s Speech and Debate team is in the home stretch of a phenomenon season. Throughout the year, the team won numerous tournaments and did extraordinarily well nationally at Yale University, Bronx High School of Science, George Mason University, Princeton University, Harvard University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

In April, 10 students attended the Tournament of Champions (TOC) at the University of Kentucky, one of the premier national championships. Tim O’Shea and Oliver Tang advanced to the final round and the team of Davis George and Saloni Singhvi advanced to the quarterfinals. Ridge was the only school to have two teams in the Elite 8. In congressional debate, Ridge also had two entries advance to the final round; Kate Kleinle took fourth place honors and Eric Wan was a Presiding Officer finalist.

This prestigious tournament is only the first, however, in the succession of national tournaments. Over Memorial Day weekend, 31 students will travel to Fort Lauderdale to compete at the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) Grand Nationals, and in June, seven students will attend the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Championships in Dallas, Texas. There, the qualified competitors will be up against the top three members in each district of the United States. With 39 entries in these tournaments, the Ridge High School team has a busy next couple of months, but their participation in these tournaments is certainly an indication of how hard all the students, parents, and teachers have worked throughout the year.

Earlier this year, Ridge won their fourteenth consecutive state championship title. Students who were recognized as state champions include the public forum team of Davis George and Saloni Singhvi, Nidhi Mahagaokar in impromptu speaking, Ashley Yang in declamation, Alison Shim in congressional debate, and Vaikunth Balaji in international extemporaneous speaking. All varsity-level state champions will be recognized at the Governor’s Awards in Arts Education to be held at the War Memorial in Trenton in May. Freshman Jennifer Huang was also recognized at the state championships for her first-place title in novice Lincoln-Douglass debate.

National qualifiers include:

TOC qualifiers — Benjamin Levy, Eric Wan, Katherine Kleinle, Asli Pekcan, Alison Shim, Raina Karia, Oliver Tang, Tim O’Shea, Saloni Singhvi, and Davis George.

NCFL Qualifiers — Yana Kropotova, Shankar Krishnan, Timothy Tang, Saloni Singhvi, Davis George, Timothy O’Shea, Oliver Tang, Asli Pekcan, Alison Shim, Raina Karia, Eric Wan, Katherine Kleinle, Sejal Waghra, Cameron Montag, Shawn Kant, Vaikunth Balaji, Rana Shahan, Daniel Perez, Alan Du, Lena Li, Mary Zhang, Ashley Yang, Naiti Bhatt, Daanyal Farooqi, Matthew Perez, Amanda Luthy, Chandni Singhvi, Kathryn Lemke, Austin D’Ambrosio, Aria Dandawate, and Anudeep Akenapalli.

NSDA Qualifiers — Aria Dandawate, Austin D’Ambrosio, Shawn Kant, Vaikunth Balaji, Daniel Perez, Katherine Kleinle, and Eric Wan.
Latin Students Victorious at NJJCL State Convention

On Saturday, April 25, Latin students from across the state, including 30 students from Ridge, attended the 2015 New Jersey Junior Classical League (NJJCL) State Convention, held this year at Pennsauken High School in southern New Jersey, for an entire day of Latin- and Roman-themed competitions, discussions, and fun. Events included competitive written exams testing students’ mastery of Latin grammar and vocabulary, Roman history and daily life, and mythology. There were competitions in Latin oratory, dramatic improvisation, costume, original song, and various genera of art. The event also featured Roman-themed athletic competitions and, of course, a chariot race. Lastly, there were the finals for the Certamen Latin Quiz Bowl tournament.

Ridge Latin students plunged into the convention activities with the same vigor and enthusiasm they bring to their own Latin Club events, and as the number of names below will show, they were a commanding presence at convention. The following Ridge Latin students placed first, second, or third in one or more of Saturday’s events: Matthew Chase, Amy Che, Samantha Chin, Pierce Douglis, Keshav Harisrikanth, Cathy Jin, Alekha Kolli, Evelyne Labelle, Joyce Hyojin Lee, Avni Mahagaokar, Srinivas Mandyam, Tommy Martinson, Jeremy Mazumder, Thomas Mazumder, Connor McKeon, Val Post, Sikata Sengupta, Kaitlyn Van Baalen, Matthew Wang, Emily York, and Andrea Zhang.

Many consider the Certamen Latin Quiz Bowl tournament as the main event at State Convention for its drama and intensity, and those who watched Ridge’s level II and upper level teams compete this year were not disappointed. The Ridge level II team, made up of Sikata Sengupta, Kaitlyn Van Baalen, Matthew Wang, and Andrea Zhang, earned a second-place victory after a very close match. The Ridge upper level team, in a nail biter that went into the Certamen equivalent of extra innings, overcame a seemingly insurmountable point deficit in the final minutes of the match to earn a stunning first-place victory. The victorious team members were Shawn Kant, Joyce Hyojin Lee, Jeremy Mazumder, and Thomas Mazumder.

As much fun as Saturday’s convention was, Ridge Latin students are looking forward even more to next year’s convention. The host school? Ridge! See you there!

Another Milestone in Girls Basketball

On February 14, on a lay-up in a game against Immaculata, girls varsity basketball player Monica Schumacher scored her 1,000th career point, becoming the 11th female athlete in Ridge High School history to achieve this goal. (Two weeks earlier, teammate Sam Mahon reached the same milestone.) Monica finished her high school career with 1,095 total points and averaged 13.1 points per game, making her the team’s leading scorer this year.

According to coach Eric Schroeder, “Monica was a two-year captain, three-year starter and a four-year varsity letter-winner for the girls basketball team. She was an extremely hard worker and came to practice every day with a positive attitude.” Congratulations, Monica!
A Great Year for Ridge Dance

Ridge Dance Team
The Ridge Dance Team had a highly successful 2014-2015 season. They began their season at Dancer’s Inc Competition in Somerset, where they won gold and first place overall in the production hip-hop category, gold in the large group hip-hop category, and gold in the large group jazz category. The dancers also won a special Judge’s Award for their large group hip-hop dance. The dancers then traveled to the United States Tournament of Dance at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood. They won gold in the large group jazz category, gold in the large group hip-hop category, and gold in the line hip-hop category. The dancers finished off their season by winning gold for the senior large group hip-hop, gold for the senior large group jazz, and gold and second place overall in the production hip-hop category at Groove Dance Competition in Chester. Congratulations to all Ridge Dance Team members on a great season!

NJ High School Dance Fest
In March, the Ridge Dance Team and students in Mrs. Miranda’s dance 3 class attended the New Jersey High School Dance Fest in Union City, NJ for the second year. This festival is exclusively for public high school dance programs throughout the state of New Jersey. The day consisted of dance classes offered by dance professionals ranging from hip-hop to modern, adjudication concerts, and concluded with a professional dance concert gala. The following dances were presented for adjudication: “The Giving Tree” choreographed by senior Nicole Fedorchak and “Overtaken” by senior Elena Bonnefoi. Both dances received high marks from the adjudicators. Students enjoyed this festival and are excited to attend next year.

Ridge Dance Master Classes
In March, master teacher, Broadway veteran, and former Basking Ridge resident Jen Taylor visited Ridge to teach a dance to “Magic To Do” from the musical Pippin. Students from both William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School attended the class. During the class, students learned about the original choreographer of the musical, Bob Fosse, and his very unique style. Students presented this dance at the Ridge Spring Dance Showcase 2015 on May 8 in the Ridge PAC.
**RIDGE DANCE TEAM**

**AUDITIONS**

*RHS Dance Studio*
*Tuesday, May 26 or June 2*
*2:45 to 4:15 pm*

Audition for the Ridge Dance Team and learn the latest dance moves from your favorite dance shows. Hip-hop and jazz technique are used to create funky and rhythmic dance routines. Members will perform at the RHS Dance Showcase and dance competitions throughout New Jersey! Dance Team rehearses on Tuesdays from 2:30-4:00 pm.

Come and join the fun! To sign up please email Mrs. Miranda at rmiranda@bernardsboe.com or stop by the dance studio.

Only 25 students will be able to audition on each date, so sign up soon!

*Please wear dance clothes and hip hop sneakers or jazz shoes.*

*You must be in grades 9-12 for the 2015-2016 school year to audition!*

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**Calling All Dancers! Calling All Dancers!**

**Join the . . . Ridge Dance Collective**

*A Modern Dance Performance Group*

- Choreograph and perform your own dances!
- Perform in the Dance Showcases at RHS and throughout the community!

**Requirements**

- At least 3 years of dance experience (any styles) – dance teacher signatures required
- Must be in grades 7-12 for the 2015-2016 school year.
- No audition necessary!
- Attend our mandatory informational meeting for next season Friday, May 15 from 2:45-3:30 pm. Please join us!

We meet every Friday from 2:45-4:00 pm in the dance studio at RHS.

Questions? Email Mrs. Miranda at rmiranda@bernardsboe.com or stop by the dance studio!

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**Student and Staff Talent Showcased**

*Ridge’s Got Talent* took place on Thursday, March 19 at 7 pm in the PAC. There were performers from every grade level, as well as several performances from staff. Sarah Venetianer, grade 12, won the award for best solo performance for her hip-hop dance medley. Seniors Sophia Verdi, Isabella Guerreiro, and Elaine Lou won the award for best group performance with their amazing rendition of Sam Smith’s song, *Latch*. The amount and level of talent were overwhelming!

Emcees and junior class officers (l to r): Brandon Sahler (vice president), Andrew Kleinert (Treasurer), and Mike Minsch (secretary)

Sarah Venetianer, grade 12, performing her award-winning hip-hop dance medley.
Ridge International Dance Ensemble is Born!

At Ridge High School, students are fortunate enough to experience dance, however, there has never been a platform for non-western styles of dance. That idea was the spark for Ridge’s newest club, the Ridge International Dance Ensemble, founded this year by sophomore Asha Krishnan and junior Aria Dandawate.

On April 2, the dance ensemble held its very first production in collaboration with the Ridge Modern A Cappella Group, a sister club founded by junior Savitha Krishnan and junior Aria Dandawate.

The show, which provided continuous variety as pieces changed from music to dance, included belly dancing, ballet, Indian classical, Kathak, Bollywood, and Irish dancing. For next year’s production the ensemble plans to include many more styles of dance, trying to reach every continent and take the audience on a cultural journey through the pieces. A personal goal of dance ensemble president Asha Krishnan is to begin mixing styles and create unique pieces using, for example, the steady beats of an African drum combined with the intricate footwork of Irish dancing.

The dance ensemble certainly has major goals and dreams for the coming year, but all seem quite possible with amazing club advisor Joelle Gozlan. An avid traveler herself, her continuous encouragement and ideas on how to incorporate the cultures of the world has pushed the dance ensemble to its full potential.

Say hello to Ridge’s newest dance ensemble: the Ridge International Dance Ensemble. We hope to see you at next year’s production!

Indoor Percussion Ensemble Taps Out a Win!

The Ridge Indoor Percussion Ensemble capped off their 2015 competitive season on Saturday, April 18 with a performance at USBands Indoor Percussion Championships at Stabler Arena at Lehigh University. Twenty percussion ensembles competed in multiple classifications, and the Ridge Indoor Percussion Ensemble secured first place in their classification with a score of 95.70. Congratulations to our musicians!
Congratulations
Mr. Ridge 2015
Neil Farley

Tommy O’Rourke  
Ben McCrone  
John Cassidy  
AJ D’Ambrosio

Andrew Glockenmeier

Mark Szeluga

Patrick Clarke

Thomas Klinger

David Holmes

All photos by Erin Weisgerber, Ridge Productions