

Panther Tales

Dec. 15, 2023

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

Principal's Message

I have been reminded by my family, friends, and colleagues that staying silent in these uncertain times is not an option. Our students and their hopes, dreams, and goals are all important to us, and we must make a united front in the upcoming 2024 year to not only protect our kids but also their dreams.

We will take a stand against injustices which are affecting our world by continuing to support our students unconditionally. There is no doubt that we are hurting, but we must remember that we must love and respect all people despite our differences. All students are welcome at Ridgeview Charter Middle School.

Our youth are especially hard hit as many are not able to process these circumstances. Please know that we will support our students in their return to school in the second semester with mental, academic, and social concerns as well as being empathetic to what has occurred in the world.

Please know that I support all of you, and I can only imagine some of the conversations you are having with your own children regarding the current state of the world. Please continue to remain safe, vigilant, and caring.

We are grateful for all of your kindness, both big and small, over this holiday season. We really appreciate you bringing us amazing kids to work with every day. We would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and thank each and every one of you for your love and support of RCMS.

-Principal Garrett

Assistant Principals' Message

1st semester report cards will be posted in Illuminate on January 12th.

Please take a moment to [read our New Uniform Policy](#).

As we begin 2nd semester, we want everyone to be aware of the student pledge and obligations for their laptop devices. Fines for student devices can be reviewed on the Fulton County School Webpage under [Information Technology / Department Overview \(fultonschools.org\)](#). Policy information regarding expected use and care of devices can be found within the Fulton County Schools 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook at [Student Discipline / Department Overview\(fultonschools.org\)](#).

Students and teachers will be reviewing these expectations along with fines on January 3, 2024. Thank you for your support.

If the device is damaged, lost or stolen the fines listed below will be applied to the student's account and should be paid through the Online School Payment account on the school website. This fee will include a small processing fee for the online account. Thank you.

FINES:

Lost/stolen/serious abuse, \$250

Damaged, \$100

Accessories – Lost or damaged, \$30 for each accessory

Counselors' Corner

We understand that the past few months have been challenging for many of us. While our kids are young, they are still impacted heavily by the world around them. Witnessing events such as terror attacks, war, racism, and other global issues takes a toll on all of us, and our kids are no different.

Given an increased concern about hate speech and racist remarks in our Ridgeview community, we felt it was necessary to let you all know how we as a staff are going to be attempting to correct this and ensure that Ridgeview remains a safe and empowering place for our diverse community of learners. We hope to continue to foster a community of respect.

This week, the school counselors will be addressing students during their lunch periods. We will have a short conversation with each grade level about being mindful of what we say and how we talk to people while at school. When we return in January, the administration will be doing class talks to realign the school with our behavioral policies. During these talks, the administrators will be reminding students of our conduct policy and ensuring they are aware of possible disciplinary actions that might be taken if these types of incidents continue to occur.

Through the month of January, the School Counselors (Ms. Harp and Mr. Hulett) will be pushing into classrooms to deliver lessons focused on appreciating differences, building a community of respect, harmful/helpful language, and appropriate ways to behave in a diverse community. It is our hope that these class talks combined with our classroom lessons will impact our students in a positive way and will lead to a decrease in the usage of violent and hurtful language.

School Counselors work to ensure that all students feel safe, supported, and empowered while they are at school. This comes from working directly with students and school staff, but also through partnering with parents and families to support their kids. Parents and families can expect

to receive information from their child's school counselor about how to continue these conversations at home.

Many of us might be comfortable broaching these topics, but many of us might be asking where to even start.

If you have questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to reach out to one of our School Counselors. We're here to help and are happy to support!

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season.

-Ms. Harp (7th Grade/6th Grade Teams A and B)

- Email: harpm1@fultonschools.org
- Phone: 470-254-8581

-Mr. Hulett (8th Grade/6th Grade Teams C and D)

- Email: hulettj@fultonschools.org
- Phone: 470-254-8575

Holiday Flair Week!





Joyful Noises at Holiday Concerts with Band and Chorus





Calendar at a Glance

Jan. 3: Students return from winter break
Jan. 4: Assessment Night
Jan. 9: Governance
Jan. 10: Foundation and Dress Down Day
Jan. 13: Sandy Springs Art Festival
Jan. 15: Dr. King's Observance
Jan. 16: Student Remote Day
Jan. 17: 8th Grade Field Trip to Riverwood High School
Jan. 25: GA Milestones Night

FAV News

The second semester enrollment window for Fulton County's online school, Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE), is open! We are an accredited, full-time virtual Fulton County public school and serve Fulton County students in grades 2 – 12.

Our FAVE school community is strong! Students not only learn from home, but also attend live gatherings with their peers and FAVE staff to form bonds that span the county. They also can participate in FCS sports and clubs at their zoned schools. In addition, students who demonstrate academic excellence can opt for our Flex path, which allows them to learn independently and access course content on demand to meet their learning needs.

If your student wants flexibility, excellence in education, and an innovative, future forward educational platform, FAVE is right for you! Act fast – the window closes **January 5th**.

Please visit our website, www.fultonschools.org/fave for more information!

Announcements and Events

District Honor Band

Cue the cymbals! More cowbell! Congratulations to the FIVE RCMS students who tried out and made the District Honor Band! Let's give a shout out to Megan Murden, Amelia Beck, Sierra Joelson, William Ericson and Grayson Avery.



Holiday Donuts!

Let's Celebrate the last day of school with Holiday Donuts - Friday Dec 15th! We will be selling donuts in the carpool AND bus lines for \$2 each (cash & check only) - please send exact change or consider donating change to the school. Students must arrive on time to purchase a donut. Donut sales will start at 8am close promptly at 830am so we do not disrupt instructional time.

Issues with a Laptop?

Issues with a Laptop? Here is the new protocol! Please complete [this questionnaire](#) if your students have difficulties with his or her laptop. Mr. Johnson, the IT technician, will respond quickly to your concern.

Parent Survey CCRPI

Your opinion matters! Tell us about your experiences with the district and your school by filling out the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) **Georgia Parent Survey** required by the Georgia Department of Education. This survey provides a foundation for your school's Climate Star rating score and is part of the CCRPI. These climate scores are an important indicator of culture and climate within each school in the district. Each school will receive a 1-5 star rating, with five stars representing an excellent school climate, and one star representing a school climate most in need of improvement. The surveys are anonymous and confidential and will remain open through **Friday, December 15**. To access the CCRPI survey, click [here](#).

Assessment Information Night

Learn more about our academic assessments in this informative session. Please see below for more information.



Ridgeview Charter
Middle School
5340 S. Trimble Road
Sandy Springs, GA 30342

ASSESSMENT

INFORMATION NIGHT

LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE ASSESSMENTS
OUR SCHOLARS TAKE
AND WHAT THEY ARE
USED FOR

- Unit Assessments
- i - Ready
- MAP
- ACCESS
- Georgia Milestones
- Many of these assessments are used to determine class placement for next year.



FOR MORE INFO CALL

Dr. Mills:
470-254-8590
Ms. Soledad:
470-254-8589

DATE AND TIME:
January 4th , 2024
At 6pm

LOCATION:
MEDIA CENTER

Art Beat

Sandy Springs Arts Foundation will sponsor a free art showcase featuring Ridgeview and other schools. For more information, please see below.



WHERE KIDS SING, DANCE, CREATE, & IMAGINE

SANDY SPRINGS **ARTS** FOUNDATION
PROUDLY PRESENTS

ARTBEAT

JAN 13|2024
TWO O'CLOCK PM

BYERS THEATRE

1 Galambos Way Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Come **experience** the visual & performing arts **talent** of our own
public-school **students** in **Sandy Springs!**

A FREE art showcase featuring:

Ridgeview Charter Middle School

Riverwood International Charter School

Sandy Springs Middle School • North Springs High School

SSEF Electronics Recycling Event

Are you purchasing new electronics for the holidays? You are in luck! You can recycle your old electronics and have the data securely wiped with a donation to Sandy Springs Education Force! Save the date and recycle your items for a good cause: Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

January 27, 2024, 10am-1pm, North Springs High School Parking Lot, 7447 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs. Your donation of \$20 per car will help provide urgently needed funds to support Sandy Springs Education Force's STEAM, literacy, after-school and mentoring programs in our schools. [Learn all the details.](#)

Sandy Springs
EDUCATION FORCE

Electronics Recycling & New School Supply Drive
January 27, 2024 / 10am-1pm: 7447 Roswell Road
North Springs High School Parking Lot
\$20 Donation to SSEF to Recycle Electronics*
All data securely deleted / Free to Donate School Supplies

*Additional per pound fees for some items.
Visit website for details.
Visit www.SandySpringsEducationForce.org for details

The Clinic Closet Needs Your Help!

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

Media Center News

Mr. Bosarge would appreciate help in the Media Center. Stop by between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to help shelve books or other assistance Mr. Bosarge may need. [Please sign up here to help!](#)

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

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

Jaguar Partner



QuestOrthodontics
— smiles accomplished —

Cougar Partners

serving more wins for our community

Join me in supporting the Ridgeview Panthers.



Shep Lawrence

404-937-6222

5252 Roswell Rd, Ste 102

Sandy Springs

sheplawrence@allstate.com



Allstate

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19730907

BARNES  YOUNG
OPENING DOORS TO YOUR FUTURE

404-419-3535

info@barnesyoung.com | @BYTRealty

Keller Williams Peachtree Road

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR RIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY!




JIMMY BARON
AND ASSOCIATES

(404)234-2033

Jimmy Baron
C| 404-234-2033
Kira Karlin Baron
C| 678-895-8810
O| 404-531-5700
Jimmy@JimmyBaron.com
www.JimmyBaron.com
200 Glenridge Point Pkwy.
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30342

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Leopard Partners



Consider Joining PTA and Foundation!

- **Parent Teacher Association:** Consider joining PTA with a range of donation levels to suit all families. These donations fund teacher grants, classroom supplies, staff gifts and recognitions, and student treats and incentives throughout the year. Please join at

- **RCMS Foundation:** Our amazing Foundation provides funding to our music and athletics programs. If your student participates in these hallmark programs, we need your support. Community partners are needed, too. Donate at www.rcmsfoundation.org.

Want to be Social?

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

Got News?

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



Ridgeview Charter Middle School

Email: Ridgeview@fultonschools.org

Location: [5340 South Trimble Road, Sandy Springs, GA, USA](#)

Phone: [\(470\)254-7710](tel:(470)254-7710)

Twitter: [@RCMSPanther](https://twitter.com/RCMSPanther)



Thomas Garrett

Thomas is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters