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Greetings Ridgeview Community:

The Thanksgiving Holidays are quickly approaching (Nov. 19-23), which is hard to believe, so with a few weeks left before that and a few critical weeks remaining afterward in the fall semester, I'd like to provide you some Fall updates.

Our Focus Areas

We have squarely set our sights on some exciting milestones this year, and I invite you to learn about our goals in our [2018-2022 strategic plan](#). You'll see that International Baccalaureate instruction which inspires the application of knowledge in inquiry-driven work is at the forefront of our student achievement pillar as is a focus on literacy. To ensure we reach those heights, we're focused on utilizing high-engagement Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (what we call W.I.C.O.R.) teaching strategies in all classes – strategies we've learned from [AVID](#) – and on personalizing learning to transform the use of teachers and technology to make instruction match students' needs. You'll see in our other pillars of the strategic plan like people and culture that we're focusing on continued improvement of our now [state-recognized PBIS program](#) to sustain positive student behavior, and in the community collaboration pillar we're focused on fostering better and increased community and parent engagement. In fact, on October 25th we presented a [Google Classroom Education program for families](#). Finally, goal-aligned fiscal management is the fourth pillar.

I must share that we're incredibly proud of our staff as they are making a name for Ridgeview as a model instructional site due to their commitment to our focus areas: On November 15th, we'll host an AVID instructional showcase for educators around the southeast to see our teachers using high-engagement, proven AVID WICOR strategies with your students – just as they do each day. This will officially make Ridgeview an AVID Showcase School!

CCRPI Scores Released

On Monday the state released schools' College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) scores reflecting outcomes for 2017-18. **Ridgeview's 2018 score is 72.3**, which is an increase of almost two points. In addition to student performance trending positively, I'm thrilled to share that for the second year we've been awarded a **5-star climate rating** – the highest a school can earn. This is reflective of a safe, supportive environment as indicated from student, parent, and faculty surveys and other measures such as our discipline practices. Our staff has been working hard, and we're pleased that student achievement trends and climate are reflective of that hard. We're not satisfied, though, and are hopeful that our hard work from this amazing faculty – along with your support at home – will aid us in increased spring student performance once again!

New This Year

If you missed my [October 23rd Community Update in my Principal's Town Hall](#), please take a few moments to read about some must know "what's new this year" highlights. Of note is our addition of advanced classes in all grades and core contents so that all students have a challenging course offering, and secondly our use of iReady acceleration and remediation software tools for math and reading now in COMPASS, our 3rd block, among a few other things.

Communication

Thank you for taking time to read Panther Tales each Friday evening and for ensuring your e-mail with the school is up-to-date. Our weekly blast is our consistent communication to you with a calendar of events and important announcements. You will also want to be sure your Google Classroom guardian summaries are in place. If you need assistance contact your child's 4th period teacher. Google Classroom summaries along with Home Access Center are the cornerstone of what we hope is a regular routine of check-ins at home on current progress so that we can act as a team of support for your child.

Above all else, as Thanksgiving approaches please know that we are thankful to have your trust and support as our incredible staff works each day to educate your children. It is an absolute privilege and work that we love. As always, if you need something, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers, to my administrative team, or to me. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Opie Blackwell, Principal