From the Desk of the Principal

– Frank Howlett

Reprinted from the April 4 Friday Folder

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I write to you in hopes of bringing attention to a very disturbing trend in our community that has caused many to search for answers.

Recently, we have lost a number of Ridge High School alumni to the disease of drug addiction. This has brought both heartache and fear to our community.

The issue of drug education and prevention is always at the forefront for the Bernards Township Public Schools, and the recent losses of our children has us re-evaluating our efforts in educating students of the dangers of substance abuse.

A recent program focusing on educating parents concerning drug abuse called “Pills to Heroin” was extremely well attended and is indicative of the concern the community has for this issue.

Furthermore, recent BOE meetings, where the issue of drug education and prevention was discussed, brought out a well above average number of concerned citizens. One thing is absolutely clear: an overwhelming number of parents believe that we have a growing epidemic that is claiming the lives of our children.

At the March 24 BOE meeting, Superintendent Markarian reported on the many issues related to this problem. He outlined the efforts of the district to educate students about the dangers of substance abuse. I wish to be more specific about programs we implement at Ridge High School.

Freshman Year

In the freshman year all students participate in Project Adventure, a program that assists freshmen with the transition to high school. This program addresses many issues including substance abuse and senior peer leaders have the opportunity to speak with their freshmen students on a one to one basis about a myriad of subjects pertaining to their high school experiences. Often the subject of substance abuse is addressed. Freshmen students have the privilege of listening to Dr. Michael Fowlin, a renowned speaker who addresses tolerance and acceptance. I receive many communications from parents who relate to me the effectiveness of this program.

Additionally, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, dependency, addiction, and treatment are a mainstay of the Health 9 curriculum.

Sophomore Year

During the sophomore year students hear Dr. Fowlin once again as he addresses the subject of drug abuse. His captivating style keeps nearly 500 students engaged for more than an hour. His message is strong, clear, entertaining and well received by our students. Substance abuse awareness is also addressed in the Health 10 curriculum within the parameters of operating a motor vehicle.

Junior and Senior Year

Substance abuse is again addressed at a more mature level in both the Health 11 and Health 12 curriculum. However, the most impacting program is one presented by the New Jersey Department of Corrections called Project Pride. This program brings prisoners incarcerated due to events...continued on page 2
related to substance abuse to Ridge High School. The message delivered by these prisoners, who represent all walks of life, is very powerful and, even with a packed house (almost 1,000 students), you could hear a pin drop. The program is presented during the month of April shortly before prom season; this year it is on April 16.

Helping the Entire Student Body

The administration is also interested in providing a version of the “Pills to Heroin” presentation to the entire student body before year’s end, but this is easier said than done due to scheduling conflicts. We will do all we can within those parameters.

Our staff here at Ridge is committed to standing strong against the abuse of alcohol and drugs by our students. In addition to the educational programs described above, our team of professionals works daily to help our students. Our student assistance counselors, guidance counselors, teaching staff, nurses, child study team members, and school resource officer take proactive steps everyday to help our students. Our staff is trained annually; at our April faculty meeting we once again walked the staff through our suspicion based drug policy and asked for their support in monitoring bathrooms.

Lockers at Ridge

Additionally, I wish to remind all parents and students that student lockers are the possession of the Bernards Township BOE and the administration may search any locker for any reason (see the student handbook). Many people have inquired about having canines sweep the building for drugs. The dogs can be used to check lockers, classrooms and other school grounds. Please consider this notice that we are in the process of trying to arrange such a canine sweep through the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office. We hope to be able to have the dogs visit our school in the near future. Obviously, the goal of such a sweep is to deter students from bringing controlled dangerous substances to school.

Working Together

We at Ridge High School will continue to look for valuable programs and practices to address the problem of alcohol and drug abuse. However we know that this is a problem that is not going to be solved by the staff at Ridge High School alone. The community, and especially parents, need to recognize that the root of this problem stems from society itself. Schools are merely a reflection of society’s norms. Consequently, here are some suggestions for parents and guardians as we fight the battle to reduce use and abuse of controlled dangerous substances.

• Speak with your child about the dangers inherent to substance abuse. Use the most recent tragedies as examples of the worst that can happen – even to them. Perhaps the loss of some of our children can have a positive impact in some way.

• You are the best judge of your child and research shows that if you have the notion that your child may be involved with an addiction, you’re probably right. A simple Monday morning trip to the doctor or laboratory for a drug screening can be enlightening. You may even wish to consider the utility of at-home test kits that are readily available for $25 or less.

• Commit to not serving alcoholic beverages or allow other CDS’s to be taken at your home. Each year, scores of information about parent sponsored parties with alcohol come to my attention. I have to believe that if I know what families are engaging in such activities, that the community at large must know. Do not allow your child to attend gatherings at homes where this is known to take place.

• Dispose of or lock away any prescription drugs.

• Keep alcoholic beverages in locked cabinets.

• Seek advice from our student assistance counselors or other substance abuse trained professionals.

• Remember that an addict will do or say anything they can to continue their drug use.

• Do not hesitate to search your child’s room or car.

• Use school programs such as Project Pride as a conversation starter to talk to your child.

• Take advantage of great resources such as the information available on the Municipal Alliance website: http://www.bernardsalliance.org/

• Attend meetings for the public such as the upcoming WAMS PTO meeting where the “Its 21 for a Reason” program is being presented (April 16, 9:30 am in the WAMS auditorium, all parents welcome).

Working together we can have a greater impact in reducing the incidences of drug and alcohol abuse. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Francis T. Howlett Jr.
Principal
RHS Student Assistance Program

Ridge High School has established a comprehensive Student Assistance Program to address the various needs of students and families experiencing such things as child-focused crisis, substance abuse, mental health issues and/or psychosocial stressors. The Student Assistance Program Intervention and Prevention efforts include assessment, short-term counseling, group counseling, referrals and collaboration with parents and other systems.

What Is Student Assistance?
The Student Assistance Program at Ridge includes many prevention services, as well as confidential counseling services for students. The Program is designed to collaborate with parents in an effort to determine effective strategies to best support their child. The Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) gets to know students in order to help them manage common adolescent obstacles from a strengths-based perspective. Assessment and short-term counseling is provided. If ongoing therapy is indicated, referrals are made to private practitioners and/or appropriate community agencies. Student Assistance Counselors deal with the following types of problems and all services are confidential:

- Peer and Social Problems
- Drug and Alcohol Problems
- Eating Disorders
- Anxiety and Mood Disorders
- Grief and Loss
- Family Transitions
- Depression and Suicide Prevention
- Self-Injury
- Emotion Management
- Stress Management

For more information, please go to http://www.oncoursesystems.com/school/webpage/489625/487481. The Ridge Student Assistance Counselors are:

Chad Gillikin, MSW, LCSW  
Cgillikin@bernardsboe.com

Megan Hoffman, MSW, LCSW  
Mhoffman@bernardsboe.com

Getting to Know Our Ridge School Resource Officer (SRO)

Ridge High School is lucky to have Detective John Neiman as our assigned School Resource Officer. He is a resource for anything pertaining to student drug and alcohol use. Here is a short listing of some of the things Detective Neiman does at Ridge in regard to drugs and alcohol.

Driver Education Classes – He presents about the dangers and consequences of drugs and Driving While Intoxicated to all sophomore Driver’s Education classes.

Senior Health Classes – He presents to the senior Health classes on the topic of sexual assault and its connection to alcohol and drug abuse.

Introduction to Law Classes – Detective Neiman speaks to the students about the legal ramifications of various crimes, including drug offenses.

Drug Identification – He advises the administration and staff on current drug trends and identification. He also speaks to them about the physical signs and symptoms of drug use.

Parent/Student Resource
Detective Neiman is a resource for parents and students who have questions regarding substance abuse, criminal law, and other topics.

Investigator – He investigates all cases involving students arrested for possession of drugs and alcohol both in school and outside of the school.

As a SRO, Detective Neiman encourages students, parents, and community members to report any suspicious activity to him at 908-204-2585 (Ext. 202) or via email to jneiman@bernardsboe.com. Such reports are helpful when they contain specific details, such as names, locations, and/or dates and times. Detective Neiman will accept information from anonymous sources as well.

Pills to Heroin Presentation Brings Awareness About Addiction

The RHS PTO teamed up with the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance in March to present Pills to Heroin, a new documentary that the audience previewed after an informative panel discussion with recovering addicts, counselors, and one parent of a recovering addict. The result was a highly moving and motivating presentation that allowed parents to better understand the addiction process and what we can do to help thwart addiction in our own families. With record attendance, and renewed interest in substance abuse within the community, the Ridge PTO plans to facilitate more informational presentations to help educate and eradicate substance abuse. The Municipal Alliance has scheduled three follow-up presentations to continue these discussions.

Cycle of Pills to Heroin: The Dialogue Series

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm

Warren Craft Room
Bernards Twp Municipal Building
One Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge

The Dilemma
April 30

Not My Teen: Prom, Graduation, and Parties, What to Expect – Decisions to Make

The Definition of Addiction
May 21

Learn the Difference: Is It Adolescent Angst or Drug Use?

The Discipline of Recovery
June 11

Getting & Staying Clean – Sober Living & Support, Tough But Not Impossible
SENIOR ACTIVITIES

May 2013

16  Senior Prom, 7 pm
    Birchwood Manor

June 2013

6   Senior Dinner, 6 - 8 pm
    RHS Café and Outside Area

10  Caps and Gowns issued during lunch periods. Graduates must resolve all obligations and bring the $25 purchase fee in order to receive their gown.

19-20 Mandatory Graduation Rehearsals
1 – 2:30 pm, Lee Field

19  Ice Cream Party,
    a SCOP Team sponsored event immediately following commencement practice.

20  Ridge Graduation, 6:30 pm
    Lee Field

20-21 Senior Bash, Fun Plex in East Hanover, NJ. Bus leaves at 9 pm from RHS.

RIDGE GRADUATION

CAPS AND GOWNS

Tuesday, June 10
Lunch Periods
New Gymnasium Lobby
$25 Purchase Fee

Caps and gowns will be issued on Tuesday, June 10 during lunch periods in the new gymnasium lobby. Students must resolve all obligations and bring a $25 purchase fee in order to receive their gowns. Checks should be made payable to RHS Student Activities Fund. It is recommended that students try on both cap and gown to ensure the fit. If a student is absent on June 10 or if there is a problem with the fit, see Mrs. Sobine in the Main Office.

GRADUATION REHEARSALS

Thursday, June 19
and Friday, June 20
1 pm, Lee Field

Attendance is MANDATORY if you wish to participate in the graduation ceremony. Practice will be approximately one hour and thirty minutes. Please try to 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 designated homerooms Friday afternoon, June 20 at 5:30 pm. Commencement begins at 6:30 pm on Lee Field. No one except SENIORS, BAND MEMBERS and NHS STUDENTS ASSISTING will be permitted in the building. Enter the building using the front canopy doors (near the nurse’s 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 ATTIRE

Students who are inappropriately dressed 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

The Ridge PTO would like to wish the Class of 2014 students success in the future. Good luck as you pursue your dreams!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2014

The Ridge PTO would like to wish the Class of 2014 students success in the future. Good luck as you pursue your dreams!

THE RIDGE BRIDGE

Editors: Jen Mueller
and Gayle Shimoun

Submissions may be made via email to ridgebridge1@yahoo.com
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**SCOP SPONSORED ICE CREAM PARTY**

The SCOP Team will host an Ice Cream Party immediately after commencement practice on Thursday, June 19. 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, gift bags marking the last 100 days until graduation and an ice cream social. The final event is an all-night drug and alcohol-free graduation celebration, “the BASH”, which is chaperoned by school personnel, parents, and community volunteers.

A non-profit organization, Project Graduation 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.

A donation of $125 per family is requested. It is not too late to send in your donation if you have not already done so; please make you check payable to Project Graduation and send it to the Ridge Main office in an envelope marked, Project Graduation.

BASH 2014 will be held June 20 at The Funplex in East Hanover. Buses for students and chaperones will depart from Ridge at approximately 9 pm. About 5 am on Saturday, the buses will leave from The Funplex to return to Ridge. Food and beverages are served throughout the night. Past years’ planned activities have included a DJ, Origami Artist, Caricaturist, arcade games throughout the facility, swimming in the outdoor pool, Go Carts, Massage therapists, Hypnotist show, and Mentalist show.

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 monthly during the school year on the first Monday of the month at 3 pm at Ridge High School. Members of the Team include: Alise Alden, Loren Alexis, Kristy Baril, Ruth Cucinell, Anita DeAngelis, Bob Erbig, Jen Hauser, Catherine Heaslip, Meg Jewson, Fr. Rick Morley, Laurie Summers, Thomas Thorp, and Sgt. Scott Ward.

We are also in need of chaperones for BASH 2014. Any parent or community member is welcome to chaperone! Although you are welcome to stay all night, we definitely need help from approximately 10 pm until 2 am at The FunPlex in East Hanover!

**Chaperones Needed!**

Give a gift to the Class of 2014 and to their parents by chaperoning at the Bash! Any parent or community member is welcome to chaperone. Although you are welcome to stay all night, we definitely need help from approximately 10 pm until 2 am at The FunPlex in East Hanover!

If interested in helping, email RHSPProjectGraduation@gmail.com

**RIDGE SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

**SCOP SPONSORED ICE CREAM PARTY**

The SCOP Team will host an Ice Cream Party immediately after commencement practice on Thursday, June 19. The location of the party will be announced at this practice.

**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. The information in HAC and Honeywell is automatically updated when the student is no longer active.
Welcome Spring! We are so excited to have the warmer weather after such a challenging winter.

We were proud to have sponsored the well-attended “Pills to Heroin” meeting in March, in Partnership with the Municipal Alliance, the WAMS PTO, and a number of other organizations. The meeting was very powerful and has helped spark significant discussion among the BOE and parents regarding drug and alcohol issues in our town. We are working to schedule future meetings around this topic and look forward to doing our part to change the trajectory that we have seen in recent years.

The PTO has some exciting events planned before the end of the school year and we thank all our volunteers for their support!

The PTO will sponsor a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 29. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help! You may email us at rhsptocomm@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping!

Once again, the PTO is sponsoring Balloons in June! This annual event for the graduating RHS Senior Class is also a fundraiser for the Junior Class. During the last week of school, volunteers will deliver a mylar balloon and message of congratulations to RHS graduates residing in Basking Ridge. The deadline to order balloons is Monday, May 19. You will find the order form on page 7 of this Ridge Bridge and also in the April 25 Friday Folder.

We are hosting our annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast from 8-10 am on Monday, June 2 at the Mockingbird Café. If you can attend please RSVP to Candy Hull, rhsptocomm@yahoo.com.

The PTO recently sent out a Spring Mailing that included 2014-15 PTO Membership, Volunteer, and Welcome Desk sign ups and information about our Volunteer Breakfast. The same information has also been posted on the PTO website at www.RidgePTO.com under Resources/Forms and Flyers.

We hope to see you at our volunteer breakfast in June! And please consider signing up to volunteer your time at Ridge High School.

Amy Venetianer and Kris Leopold
PTO Co-Presidents

The Welcome Desk

Volunteers are needed to staff the Ridge High School Welcome Desk. Volunteers sign in, direct visitors, and 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 8-11 am or 11 am-2:10 pm. 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 15, 2014 via mail of your scheduled time and day. If you have further questions, please call Welcome Desk Coordinators Joy Hultman at 908-470-2895 or Karen Wexler at 908-647-2202. Do not turn in the Welcome Desk Form with any other PTO sign-up form. The Welcome Desk form must be mailed separately to Joy Hultman by July 18, 2014.

Join the Ridge PTO!

You should have received your PTO Membership form in the mail or it can be found on the PTO website, http://ridgepto.com/index.php/resources/forms/

Please return your form before September 1, 2014.
YOU ARE INVITED!

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

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014
8 AM TO 10 AM
MOCKINGBIRD CAFÉ
BASKING RIDGE

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Candy Hull, rhsptocomm@yahoo.com

Balloons in June

This annual event honors our graduating RHS Senior Class and is a fundraiser for the Junior Class. Volunteers will deliver a mylar balloon and message of congratulations to any RHS graduate residing in Basking Ridge on Monday, June 16. Balloons are $5 each and will be tied to a mailbox, or front door in condo developments. Balloon delivery is capped at 30 balloons per household; each student will receive all cards from purchasers. Please email any questions to: amyjones@optonline.net

Balloons in June Order Form – Orders due by May 19

Your Name ____________________________________________________________
Your Email ____________________________________________________________
Graduate’s Name _______________________________________________________
Number of Balloons _____________________________
Graduate’s Name _______________________________________________________
Number of Balloons _____________________________

_______ Total Number of Balloons Ordered at $5 each $_________ Total enclosed

Please be sure to enclose:
• 3 x 5 Index card with your personal message to the graduate on one side and their name and address on the other side.
• Check for $5 per balloon made payable to RHS Student Activities

Drop off at the RHS Welcome Desk or mail index card and check to:

Amy Jones
32 Squire Court
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Orders received after May 19 require a $20 late fee and cannot be guaranteed.
SCHOOL CONNECTION

Board of Education Highlights

The following are highlights of the recent Bernards Township Board of Education meetings. All BOE meetings have been recorded and can now be viewed at [http://www.bernardsboe.com/Bernards-BOE/Board_Meeting_Recordings.aspx](http://www.bernardsboe.com/Bernards-BOE/Board_Meeting_Recordings.aspx)

February 10 Meeting
Athletic Director Rich Shello acknowledged the State Champion Girls’ Volleyball team as well as the County Champion Girls’ Soccer Team. Mr. Markarian presented the HIB report and reminded the community to attend the From Pills to Heroin presentation. BOE approved the French trip to Quebec. Additionally, the BOE acknowledged the Ridge Booster Club donation of $5,000 for a message board at Lee Field.

February 24 Meeting
Business Administrator Rod McLaughlin presented a preliminary 2014-15 school budget, compared with the final 2013-14 budget. During Public Comment two issues were raised; comments were made regarding the school calendar, future consideration being given to an earlier school start date, and the poor condition of the turf field was discussed.

March 10 Meeting
Presentation was given regarding testing throughout the district. HSPA will be eliminated next year as well as quarterly assessments, and will be replaced by PARCC and an end of year assessments. Mr. Hall presented a background of PARCC testing, including the desire in 2009 to adopt a common core of internationally benchmarked standards in grades K-12 Math and Language Arts through 2010, when two separate assessment consortia were created to assess student achievement. He described the PARCC assessment as being a computer-based tool, aligned to the Common Core State Standards, administered to students in grades 3-11. A tool to determine student performance and preparation for college and career, PARCC will replace the NJASK and HSPA in 2015. Mr. Hall provided samples of Math and English literacy questions for grades 3 and 7, the estimated testing windows for 2015, anticipated cost to district, and impact on high school graduation.

March 24 Meeting
There was a presentation by Mr. Markarian on Current Programs & Policies to Address Substance Abuse – the presentation can be located online at [http://www.bernardsboe.com/BernardsBOE/Board_Meeting_Recordings.aspx](http://www.bernardsboe.com/BernardsBOE/Board_Meeting_Recordings.aspx)

June 2014 Quarterly Schedule

**Thursday, June 12** – Periods 1 & 5

**Friday, June 13** – Periods 2 & 6

**Monday, June 16** – Periods 3 & 7

**Tuesday, June 17** – Periods 4 & 8

**Wednesday, June 18** – Period 9

RIDGE ORIENTATION

**Parent Orientation**
**August 26, 7 pm, PAC**

The Ridge PTO will be hosting an orientation for parents of freshmen and new to the district students. The goal of the presentation is to help parents understand how the high school functions and learn what to expect for their student.

**Freshman Orientation**
**August 27, RHS**

Times and Groupings TBD

An opportunity for freshman students to tour the high school and learn what to expect during the coming year.
April 23 – 24

Sophomore Career Module
Ridge Counselors met with 10th graders 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 will be returned to their counselor for follow-up discussions during junior year.

Tenth graders were also sent home with information and instructions to complete the “Personality Type” test called Do What You Are. This online test provides information about careers that are matched to the student’s likes and dislikes, personal strengths and blind spots, and how they negotiate through daily life. Ask your children to share the information they learned by completing these activities!

May 5 – 16

Advanced Placement Testing

May 28

College Admissions Panel
Please join us on Wednesday, May 28 for our annual College Admissions Panel. This year, representatives from the following institutions will be on hand to answer questions and “demystify” the college admissions process:

• Monmouth University
• New York University
• Sacred Heart University
• University of Miami
• University of Pittsburgh

The program begins at 7 pm in the PAC and is open to everyone.

June 2

Current Juniors-Senior Prep Packet Part A Due to Counselors
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)

In order for the college application process to operate smoothly, students must complete the Senior Packet accurately and completely. The printed packet is due to your counselor no later than June 2, 2014. http://www.bernardsboe.com/Guidance/College_Documents.aspx

An Insider’s Guide to College for Students with IEPs and 504s
On Monday, June 2, the Ridge Counseling Department and Child Study Team are co-sponsoring a college admissions program intended for students with IEPs and 504s. William N. Presutti, M.S., LDT/C, Campus Director at Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Regional Center for College Students with Learning Disabilities, will review the types of services and programs available to students on the college level, the application process, documentation, disclosing a disability, researching programs, types of accommodations available, and more. Parents and Students alike are welcome to attend. This program will begin at 6 pm in Lecture Hall A, and end at approximately 7:15 pm.

June 14

Option II Applications Due for Summer, Fall, and Full-Year 2014-2015 Academic Experiences
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 will be posted on the Option II website.

July 15

Honors and Advanced Placement Appeals
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. All appeals must be submitted online by July 15, 2014. The decision to grant the appeal will be based on the following criteria:

• Seat availability (typically, this is the first consideration)
• Student explanation of the extenuating circumstances
• Overall academic performance
• Teacher consultation on academic performance
• Standardized test scores, when applicable
• Student writing portfolios, when applicable

Late Qualification Forms
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. The form will be posted on the Counseling Department website in late June under the “Forms” tab.

Summer 2014

Scheduling Update
The Counseling Department will spend the month of June resolving scheduling conflicts with students. This process will continue throughout the summer. Finalized schedules will not be posted on HAC until the end of August.
RHS Senior Awarded $10,000 Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship

Grace Smith to Receive Largest Ridge AMS Award to Date

Ridge High senior Grace Smith has won the 2014 Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship, a $10,000 award that recognizes character and determination.

“Grace’s application moved and impressed us,” said Carol Mason Schoenig, a member of the Ridge AMS selection committee. “Grace is blind. She had been home-schooled through the eighth grade, and entered Ridge High as one of the district’s very few visually impaired students. Not only did she have to find her way, she had to help faculty, administrators and peers find theirs.”

The Ridge AMS grant is unusual in recognizing applicants’ character, determination, and non-traditional 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.

Schoenig added, “From a crop of terrific candidates, Grace’s application stood out. Not only has she succeeded in high school, but she has advocated for herself and others at the state Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Commission sponsored Grace’s attendance at the National Federation of the Blind’s annual convention in Colorado, and after the program, Grace flew home from Denver independently.”

Grace reports that she was “elated” to learn she had won the scholarship. Next year she plans to attend Gordon College, near Boston, MA, to study literature and prepare for a future as a teacher and/or writer. She dreams of traveling to Spain and Germany, having studied German as a homeschool student and Spanish at Ridge.

Although the 2014 Ridge AMS was announced as a $9,500 award, organizers were able to surprise Grace by increasing it to $10,000. “The generosity of our donors made that possible,” said Schoenig, adding, “We were especially touched by the kindness of the Patrick J. Tuohy family, who lost their husband and father earlier this year. In the midst of their grief, they thought to request that, in lieu of flowers, friends and family make donations to the Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship in Patrick’s memory. We were deeply moved and honored.”

That generosity helped make Grace’s award the largest Ridge AMS grant to date. She will receive the funds at RHS’s annual Awards Night on June 4. In recent years, there’s been no larger grant presented at the RHS Awards Night, other than scholarships to specific colleges or universities.

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

Organizers donate all expenses associated with Ridge AMS, including legal counsel, website development, and promotion. This allows all contributions to go directly to student awards. Ridge AMS contributions are tax-deductible. For more information on the Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship, visit: http://RidgeAMS.googlepages.com or search “Ridge AMS”.

Community Service Requirement for Rising Sophomores

All students in American History (Themes, College Prep and Honors levels) are required to complete 25 hours of community service and a reflective assignment upon completion of the service hours. Students can earn their hours from May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015. For specific information about the requirement, please visit the Community Service website on the Ridge website (see the link below), under Required Service, American History Requirement. World History teachers will be sharing the information with their students in the coming weeks, and sample reflective assignments will be available for students to review. We encourage students to begin thinking about the project that will work best for them and will be a meaningful experience!

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Fox, Social Studies Supervisor at kfox@bernardsboe.com.

Visit the Community Service Link at: http://www1.bernardsboe.com/RidgeHighSchool/ComSerOpp.aspx
Notes from the Choral Department

Mark Your Calendars for Our Upcoming Choral Concerts

Concert Choir – Cabaret 2014
Thursday, May 22 at 7 pm
Ridge PAC
Cabaret 2014 is an in-class project of scenes and selections from movies and Broadway shows performed by the period 8 Concert Choir. Selections from Sister Act II, How to Succeed in Business and West Side Story...just to name a few! An evening not to be missed!

Spring Choral Concert
Tuesday, June 11 at 7 pm
Ridge PAC
Ridge Chorale, A Cappella Choir, Voices of Ridge, Ridgemen, Madrigal Singers, GUYS NITE OUT and RHS Concert Choir. Come and share the evening as we sing our final songs with the Class of 2014.

Auditions
A Cappella Choir Auditions for the 2014-2015 School Year
Auditions for the 2014-2015 Ridge High School A Cappella Choir will be held on Thursday, June 12 from 3:30-6:30 pm in the Choral Room. Audition materials are available online on the Retzko ORD at http://www.oncoursesystems.com/school/webpage/308428.

A Cappella Choir
Voices of Ridge and Ridgemen
On Thursday, April 24, the A Cappella Choir traveled to Liberty Corner School and the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church to sing first for the 3rd through 5th graders and then for the Men’s Club.


On Saturday, May 17, the Ridge High School A Cappella Choir will compete in the Music in the Parks Festival in Hershey PA.

2014-2015
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 2014-2015 New Jersey All-State Choruses.

2014 Mixed Chorus
Freshman Owen McKenna*
Freshman Timothy Morrow
Junior Luke Chiafullo*
*Owen placed second overall in his section and Luke placed third in the same section!

2015 Women’s Chorus
Junior Caroline McKenna
Sophomore Julia Fiocco
Sophomore Savitha Krishnan
Sophomore Evelyne Labelle

Join us for the SPRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Thursday, June 5
7 pm
Ridge PAC
The RHS Orchestra Spring Concert will include performances by the RHS Concert Choir singing How Lovely Thy Dwelling Place from The German Requiem by Johannes Brahms and marimba soloist/orchestra percussionist, Sarah Phinney, performing Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Camille Saint-Saens. The orchestras will also perform select movements from Swan Lake by Piotr Tchaikowsky and Hoe-Down from Rodeo by Aaron Copland. Come out and enjoy a fun night of music with us!

SAVE THE DATE
Back to School Nights
Fall 2014
September 23, 2014
Grades 9 and 12
October 2, 2014
Grades 10 and 11
Ridge High School Award Winning Band Program
Ridge Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band and Concert Percussion Ensemble

Ridge Wind Ensemble Earns Gold
On March 18, the Ridge Wind Ensemble performed at the Central Jersey Music Educators Association concert band festival held at South Brunswick High School. The band earned a gold rating, best percussion, and Jasmine Xie earned an outstanding musicianship award. As a result of this festival, the band has been invited to perform at the New Jersey All-State Band Gala Concert on May 4 at 2 pm at Rutgers University. This is the highest honor for a band in the state. The Ridge Wind Ensemble is the first new band in many years to be invited to this performance as the spots are typically filled by a few of the most established band programs. This is a tremendous accomplishment and establishes the Ridge band program as one of the best in the state.

RHS Band Students Win Awards
Congratulations to the following members of the Ridge Band Program who have been selected by audition, to participate in the 2014-2015 Region and All-State Bands.

Region Band
Kevin Liu, Joseph Criscione, Lezhou Jiang, Joshua Kluger, Andrew McKeon, Kristen Park, Edward Park, Jasmine Xie, and Jonathan Xie

All State Band
Lezhou Jiang, Kevin Liu, Edward Park, and Kristen Park

All National Band
Kevin Liu

Region Jazz
Brian Weil and Justin Yuan

West Point Honors
Sarah Phinney won the prestigious West Point Band concerto competition. She earned the honor of performing Tambourin Chinois with the West Point Band on April 13, 2014.

Concert Percussion Ensemble Prepares for Performance
The Concert Percussion Ensemble comprises 16 students from the Ridge band program. The ensemble will be performing three pieces at the Spring Band Concert. The first is the well-known Mah-na, popularized by the Muppets. The second is El Paso Waltz, a piece for small mallet ensemble. The last is Detour, a piece for large percussion ensemble that is, in the words of the composer, an “engaging journey through life’s little detours.” The concert percussion ensemble is directed by Joe Keefe. Weekly rehearsals take place in April and May.

Upcoming Concerts

NJ All-State Gala Band Concert
Sunday, May 4 at 2 pm
Rutgers University

An Evening of Jazz
Tuesday, May 20 at 7 pm
Ridge PAC

Spring Band Concert
Thursday, May 29 at 7 pm
Ridge PAC

East Coast Band Festival
Tuesday, May 30 at 10:30 am
Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, PA

NAVY BAND NORTHEAST
POPS ENSEMBLE

Monday, May 19 at 7 pm
Ridge PAC – Free Admission

Navy Band Northeast’s Pops Ensemble is a full concert band that performs a wide variety of musical styles including traditional band literature, popular standards and patriotic favorites. Whether performing for an outdoor summer concert series or a holiday concert in December, the Pops Ensemble provides musical entertainment for audiences of all ages. Go to ridgepac.com for the performance information.

Sample Set List
- Second Suite for Military Band
- Irish Tune from County Derry
- Buglers’ Holiday
- The Florentiner
- Swanee
- Nat King Cole Medley
- The Prayer
- God Bless the USA
- America the Beautiful
Congratulations to Ridge junior Victor Castagno!
Victor was selected as Ridge’s recipient of The Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award for 2014, recognizing outstanding high school juniors in New Jersey. The award is designed to honor exceptional students who have demonstrated outstanding attributes of character, service, and leadership, and is sponsored by The West Point Society of New Jersey. Victor will attend a special ceremony of recognition at The United States Military Academy on April 26.

Faculty
On March 30, 2014, in a presentation held at The Pines Manor in Edison, Head Boys Lacrosse Coach Ken Marsh and Head Football Coach Bill Tracy were both inducted into the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Ken Marsh was also honored as the recipient of the National Federation of Coaches Award for Boys Lacrosse in New Jersey, for his distinguished service and promotion of the sport.

Sophomore Joyce Hyojin Lee, earned the national recognition of a silver medal in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. What He Left Behind and Ignorance placed Hyojin’s poetry in the top 1% out of almost 255,000 works of art entered in the contest.

Krista Webster, a sophomore at Ridge High School, has been selected as the winner of the annual Earth Day chemistry poster/essay contest sponsored by the Chemistry Council of New Jersey. Krista’s essay spoke about the achievements of chemistry and the contributions to the well-being of humankind. Her accompanying watercolor poster depicted a chemist-tree with appropriate formulas and scientific inventions that have improved our existence. Krista will be honored with a certificate and a monetary award granted by the Chemistry Council of New Jersey.

Dave Yastremski, English Teacher, received his National Board Certification in English/Language Arts/Adolescence & Young Adult School Counselor.

Rebecca Muraview was asked to serve as Chairperson of the Professional Development Committee for The New Jersey Association for College Admission Counseling. She was also one of 25 school counselors from across the nation, nominated by an Admission Representative from The University of South Carolina, to attend a special counselor program showcasing the University in Columbia, South Carolina. As Ridge’s Military Liaison, Ms. Muraview was selected by The United States Naval Academy to attend its Centers of Influence workshop in Annapolis, as a fully sponsored participant.

Weddings
Student Assistance Counselor, Megan Hoffman, was married on April 5, 2014 to Christopher Dumsick. A honeymoon will follow this summer.

Eric Schroeder, Math Teacher, married his fiancée Marissa on April 8, 2014 in Orlando, Florida.

Births
English Teacher, Sarah John and her husband, Chris, welcomed a son, Matthew Vincent, on March 7, 2014. Matthew came into this world weighing 6 pounds and was 19 inches long.

Jackie Treanor, School Counselor, her husband, Sean, and daughter, Emily, announce the birth of their son/little brother, Jacob Samuel on March 19, 2014. Jake weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long.
Science League Earns Solid Rankings at Local Competitions

The New Jersey Science League is a competitive organization operating within the state of New Jersey. It consists of a series of four local competitions, which allow students to demonstrate their ability in science. Local tests scores are then sent to the New Jersey Science League where they are ranked statewide.

Presently, students at Ridge have participated in three of the four competitions. As of this date, RHS students rank 1st and 2nd place statewide in Physics I and Physics C respectively. The Biology I team ranks 4th place, the Chemistry I team is in 6th place, Biology II ranks 7th and Chemistry II ranks 13th place. The fourth and last competition of this season took place at the end of April.

Physics I is represented by Connor McKeon, Jeremy Mazumder, Cameron Montag and Willa Yu.

Physics C is represented by Cathy Chen, Jeffrey Zhao, Karn Dalal, and Ian Peczak.

Biology I is represented by Shaheer Rizwan, Thomas Mazumder, Noah Smith, Zach Levy and Asha Krishan.

Biology II is represented by Andy Zhang, Matt Bissonnette, Ben Choi and Kevin McCoy.

Chemistry I is represented by Vaikunth Badejji, Sanath Nagaraj, Srinivas Mandyam, Hyojin Lee, Karen Shen and Louie Zhou.

Chemistry II is represented by Elaine Lou, Kevin Liu, Tiffany Chen and Julia Nelson.

Chemistry Olympiad

Twelve Ridge students participated in the Northern New Jersey Chemistry Olympiad, held on March 27 at Ridge. Throughout the United States, ten thousand students competed in this first tier for a chance to represent the United States internationally. The top thousand students are invited to the next level to take the National Olympiad Exam. Senior, Ian Peczak, will be representing Ridge High School at the National Chemistry Olympiad later this month. The National exam is a 5 hour comprehensive exam that includes multiple choice and open ended questions as well as an experimental lab component.

Students Match Wits at Brain Bee

Mrs. Mitchell arranged for Ridge students to participate in the 2014 Central New Jersey Regional Brain Bee Competition, held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The event was hosted by the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology. At lunch, members of the faculty were available to discuss careers in neuroscience with the participants. 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. Senior Anil Salem, junior Renee Hastings, sophomores Bernie Jewson, Sanath Nagaraj, Pulak Raj and Julia Sun represented Ridge High School at this event. Renee Hastings and Sanath Nagaraj were chosen as semi-finalists for the oral question round.

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 Thursday, June 12 through Monday, June 16 in the gymnasium that is located off the main lobby by the cafeteria. The community is invited to the reception on Friday, June 13 from 7 to 8:30 pm. It is a lot of fun – with live music, student produced films, awards on display, and refreshments. All students that 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 Thesis students will be featured. Please come see the exhibit and support Ridge High School’s talented, hard-working art students!
Congratulations
Mr. Ridge 2014
Ryan Ackourey
Ridge Drama Club presented *The Robber Bridegroom*, a musical comedy in the Ridge PAC, on February 28 and March 1. This was the fourth musical headed up by the team of Mrs. Megan Kern (director), Mr. Jason Stewart (set design/construction), Mrs. Lyndsey Schaefer (music director), Mrs. Rachel Miranda (choreographer) and Mr. David Kern (lighting and sound designer). It starred and featured a multitude of talented Ridge students and was very well received by the audience, who laughed and applauded at every performance.

This was also the fourth year that Ridge Drama Club entered the musical in Papermill Playhouse’s “Rising Stars” program. They sent four professional evaluators who provided thorough critiques of the performers and artistic direction. The following students were recognized by some or all of the evaluators in the following categories: AJ D’Ambrosio as Jamie Lockhart and Stephen Dodrv as Clement Musgrove (Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role), Alex Ursino as Rosamond (Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role), Angie Cocuzza as Salome Musgrove and Rosie Perkins as Goat (Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role), Joe Dodrv as Big Harp & Luke Chiafullo as Little Harp (Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role), Alex Piro as the Raven (Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role), “Dream Dancers” (Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Group). Recognized staff members were Megan Kern (Outstanding Achievement by a Director), Rachel Miranda (Outstanding Achievement in Choreography & Staging), Lyndsey Schaefer (Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction), Jason Stewart (Outstanding Scenic Achievement), Mrs. Ursino, Mrs. Woo, Mrs. D’Ambrosio and Mrs. Perrier for (Outstanding Costume Achievement) and the staff from Bella Rouge who donated their time (Outstanding Achievement in Hair and Make-up).

One evaluator commented, “It was refreshing to see a show that is not as well known and therefore a challenge to the production team, especially the director, to convey the material to the audience. It was obvious that there was a clear vision from the director that extended to all the supporting elements. The visual aspect of the production complemented each other excellently and allowed the audience to enter into this time and place.” Another said, “Getting the students to commit to such a piece and perform it so well shows that the program here is strong. The production team showed that they were all in alignment with a vision and not operating in individual silos.”

While receiving the recommendations for the awards listed above is an honor in itself, two individuals received 3-4 out of 4 recommendations, which means they are eligible for a final nomination in those categories. Angie Cocuzza’s role as Salome is one of them. One evaluator said, “Wow, shot out of a cannon would be a great way to describe this young actress. She was totally committed to the craziness of her character and understood where the comedy was within her role.” Mr. Stewart’s efforts were also recognized “The set design and execution did an outstanding job of defining time and place, with a rustic theme that was attractive, informative, and clever. The use of slats to define the set allowed for the look to be carried through all scene changes. The several levels, placement of the orchestra as a country band, and the judicious use of set decoration gave this play an overall look which tied the action together. There was good attention to detail in dressing the set, and all props and set dressing affects looked authentic, were useful, and well-used by the actors.”

Mrs. Kern said she was thrilled with the whole experience and very proud of the entire cast and crew who made the show so much fun and an exciting time for all!

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**Ridge Girls/Boys Volleyball Camp**

**June 30 – July 3, 2014**

**9 am to 1 pm**

**Ridge High School Gym**

**$160**

For girls and boys entering grades 6 – 11 in September 2014.

Learn the basics for serving, forearm passing, setting, spiking, blocking and digging through demonstration, practice and games that emphasize FUN and learning.

Register Early – Space is Limited! **Registration deadline is June 21.** No refunds after deadline.

For more information, go to [http://ridgepto.com/index.php/summer-camps/](http://ridgepto.com/index.php/summer-camps/) to download the registration form.

Questions, please contact joanne.milot4@gmail.com
Ridge Dance Receives High Marks at NJHS 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. This festival is exclusively for public high school dance programs throughout the state of New Jersey. The festival day consisted of dance classes offered by dance professionals, adjudication concerts, and concluded with a professional dance concert gala. The following two dances were presented for adjudication: The Lost Generation choreographed by Alexandria Paladino, Justine Mastro, Hannah Kolarik and Gillian Murphy and To Reach You choreographed by Mrs. Miranda. Both dances received high marks from the adjudicators. Students truly enjoyed this festival and are excited to attend next year.

Above: Students taking Jazz class from Lisa Grimes, Montclair State University adjunct professor.

Above, right: Dance students at NJHS Dance Fest in Union City, NJ.

Below: Students taking Modern class from Randy James, Rutgers University professor.

RIDGE DANCE TEAM AUDITIONS

RHS Dance Studio
Fridays, May 30 or June 6
3 to 5 pm

So You Think You Can Dance? 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! 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 2014-2015 school year to audition!
Ridge Field Hockey Camp 2014

This one-week camp located at Astor Field, is open to girls entering grades 3 through 9. It will provide young athletes with strong fundamentals and challenge them to execute new skills in a game setting. Campers will also meet new friends and have fun learning field hockey.

Register by June 17: $200 per session
Same day registration: $250 per session

For questions, please contact Camp Director and Ridge High School Field Hockey Head Coach Kim Clark at ridgefieldhockeycamp@gmail.com. To download the registration form, please go to http://ridgepto.com/index.php/summer-camps/.

PEC Run to Read 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, May 18, 2014
9:30 am, One Mile Walk
10 am, 5K Race
Mountain Park, Basking Ridge

$25 pre-race registration (May 8 postmark deadline)
$22 pre-race registration for USATF-NJ Members
$30 race day registration

For more information or to download the race application visit http://bernardspec.com/5k.aspx

• T-shirts guaranteed for all pre-registered participants
• Trophies for top overall male and female finishers
• Jambox “Big Jambox” Bluetooth speaker raffle (need not be present to win)

January
Boys Basketball – Derek Lyons
Girls Basketball – Sam Mahon
Boys Fencing – Will Gaziano
Girls Fencing – Elinor McCarthy
Ice Hockey – Matt Wilson
Boys Ski Team – Daniele Colbertaldo
Girls Ski Team – Allys Thompson
Boys Swim – Connor McKeon
Girls Swim – Katie Corrigan
Boys Winter Track – Tyler Jurewicz
Girls Winter Track – Abby Regner
Wrestling – Ted Caruso

February
Boys Basketball – Kevin Doolan
Girls Basketball – Monica Schumacher
Cheerleading – Stephanie Riddiford
Boys Fencing – Arsalan Husain
Girls Fencing – Amanda Choy
Ice Hockey – Dan Giberna
Boys Ski Team – Alex Thompson
Girls Ski Team – Alexa Hughes
Boys Swim – Aaron Schlemovitz
Girls Swim – Tessa Lechleider
Boys Winter Track – Mitch Lawson
Girls Winter Track – Shaye McCoy
Wrestling – Cort Hotz and Austin Oliver