

Ridge High School

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Dear Ridge Parents/Guardians and Students:

During administration of the upcoming PARCC assessment in late April, Ridge High School is offering service learning opportunities to those students who are not required to take the PARCC assessment. These opportunities will be offered during the PARCC early dismissal school days on April 24 and April 25. Those students not otherwise enrolled in Geometry and Algebra II, and those enrolled in Algebra I and AP English Language and Composition (and who plan to take the AP test), can choose to enroll in the service learning opportunities listed below. We are calling this program “**Ridge Gives Back**” and view it as an important way for our students and school to make a difference in the lives of others. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*”

We will have sign-up opportunities during lunch periods over the next two weeks. There is also a sign-up link at <https://tinyurl.com/y8yzq27p>. Permission slips will be required for all those choosing to participate.

If your child is not otherwise required to take the PARCC assessment and chooses not to participate in these service opportunities, he/she will be provided with a place of quiet study while testing is being administered. We would hope that he/she will see the benefit in participating in Ridge Gives Back to further its altruistic purpose.

SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Brunch with United States Veterans

"We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause." -- Ronald Reagan

Here's your chance to say "thank you" to a U.S. Veteran. Come to the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 24th and engage in conversation with the veterans of our nation. This is your opportunity to show your appreciation for those who have served. In the words of former Congressman Jeff Miller of Florida, “*The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.*”

Giving Back to Veterans

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan" -A. Lincoln

Here's your chance to thank a Veteran by donating items and the time needed to package these items! Items collected will be delivered to a few of the many populations found at the Lyons Campus of the New Jersey Veterans Affairs Health Care System. Donated items will be gathered over the next few weeks and will be organized and bagged by you on Wednesday, April 25th in the Ridge High

cafeteria. Some examples include daily living kits for family members of veterans staying overnight at the Lyons Hospital, as well as various items to be delivered to the Homeless Veterans and Women Veteran programs.

Blessing Bag Brigade - Sorting & Assembling Blessing Bags

Blessing Bag Brigade is a non-profit organization geared towards assisting the homeless with basic necessities. Blessing Bags consist of basic hygiene products (shampoo, soap etc.) as well as a new pair of socks and snacks. Join us in welcoming Kevin Garrison, founder of Blessing Bags, for a short presentation in the Ridge PAC on Tuesday April 24th followed by sorting and organizing the various items, and assembling the blessing bags! After the presentation, students will be invited to the cafeteria to help sort and assemble the blessing bags.

Feeding the Homeless - Family Promise of Morris County, Morristown, NJ

“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try” - JFK.

Join Ridge High School students in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in the cafeteria on Wednesday April 25th. Once the students have completed making the sandwiches, they will board a bus headed to a homeless shelter in Morristown, NJ. Students will be given an opportunity to deliver the sandwiches and blessing bags to those in need.

Matheny- Peapack, NJ

Matheny is a special hospital and school whose mission is “to provide exceptional care and an optimal quality of life for children and adults with special needs and medically complex developmental disabilities.” The main campus in Peapack, NJ, is home to 101 children and adults with developmental disabilities. Please join us to help support Matheny by spending time with the residents at a field day and beautifying their campus by cleaning up the gardens and planting new flowers.

- **Option 1: Field Day Tuesday 4/24**

Please join us as we create a field day for Matheny. A variety of games will be played and students will have the opportunity to engage with Matheny’s students, adult residents, and staff.

- **Option 2: Matheny Gardens Wednesday 4/25**

Please join us to help to “spring clean” the gardens at the Matheny complex. Students will work outside to clean up the garden beds, plant new flowers, and create a welcoming environment at the school.

The Ross Farm - Basking Ridge, NJ 4/24 and 4/25

Help us out at the Ross Farm, an historic property near downtown Basking Ridge where we combine History, Landscape, Art, Music, and Theater in one of the most beautiful settings in the area. Nearly all the food grown in Boudinot’s Garden is donated to local food banks. Last year more than 2,000 pounds of food were donated to local food banks. We also have an historic herb section of the garden and a butterfly section. Outside volunteer activities will include Spring garden clean up and prep, path restoration and other landscape tasks as we prepare for our 2018 season. Inside work includes clean up and prep for the Oak Street School 4th grade Colonial Day which is on April 27th. How many of you remember coming to Ross Farm when you were in 4th grade? You’ll be challenged, you’ll learn a bit of history, and be helping a local resource with your time and energy.

Earth Day Service Learning Project 4/24 and 4/25

Students interested in having a positive impact on the environment are welcome to join us in a service-learning project where we will clean up trash and remove invasive species from public grounds (location to-be-determined). Students participating in this endeavor are encouraged to bring their own work gloves and dress appropriately!

Market Street Mission- Morristown, NJ

“The Market Street Mission ministers to the homeless, helpless, and hopeless in Northern NJ, by meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs through a structured program which enables them to lead responsible, productive lives.” Last year, MSM provided over 90,000 meals and 30,000 shelter nights to individuals in need, and distributed 2,500 coats and 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies. Please join us to support this very worthwhile organization through a variety of activities on Tuesday 4/24 and Wednesday 4/25.

- **Option 1: Thrift Store Tuesday 4/24**

In addition to their central building, Market Street Mission also has a thrift store location. MSM uses the money raised by the thrift store to fund their various programs throughout the year and needs assistance organizing the donations from the community. Students will go to MSM’s thrift store location to organize donations and have the opportunity to talk to some of the individuals who have benefited from the services that MSM provides.

- **Option 2: Car Wash Tuesday 4/24**

Market Street Mission engages in a variety of fundraising efforts to ensure that they can continue to provide essential services to individuals in need in northern New Jersey. Students will hold a car wash outside of the MSM’s thrift store location in order to help them raise money. Please join us to be part of the volunteer efforts and we encourage the Ridge community to stop by and have their car washed if they will be in the Morristown area that day.

- **Option 3: No-Sew Fleece Blankets Tuesday 4/24**

Market Street Mission needs bedding items such as twin sheets, pillows, and fleece blankets. We will be fundraising to buy sheets and pillows, and then the students will create the no-sew fleece blankets in the chapel of the main Market Street Mission building. Students will have the opportunity to talk to some of the men who have benefitted from the programs that MSM provides and tour the facility.



- **Option 4: Project Backpack Wednesday 4/25**

Students will also have the opportunity to help Market Street Mission’s Project Backpack. Students will go to MSM’s main facility and will fill backpacks with school supplies for needy students and schools. Students will have the opportunity to talk to some of the men who have benefitted from the programs that MSM provides and tour the facility.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Drew D. Krause

Principal