As this school year comes to a close, I am struck by how fortunate I am to be the Principal of such an extraordinary school. Our school, our staff, our students, and our support personnel are nothing short of the very best! Ridge could not provide such a comprehensive and rich educational experience without all of these professionals continuing to give their all each and every day, and the multitude of accolades and accomplishments bestowed upon our students certainly supports that.

This has been a remarkable year filled with many traditional and new events, as well as some unexpected challenges from Mother Nature. Through it all, our caring staff has made the difference in ways small, big, and unimagined. Whether it is delivering excellent instruction, organizing community events, serving as advisors or committee members, directing morning traffic, holding evening meetings, or making improvements to programming, their commitment is second to none, and it truly benefits our students.

I thank the entire Ridge staff for being there for our students and showing that education is about selflessness, sparking curiosity, and providing ongoing support for growth and achievement.

To the Ridge Community, I cannot thank you enough for supporting both our staff and our fine school in so many ways this year. I have heard that “it takes a village” and Ridge is no exception. I have worked in conjunction with the PTO, its membership, and community organizations alike to enhance Ridge’s programs and facilities. The response has been truly inspiring. The community’s passion to make Ridge an even better place for our students and staff is what makes Bernards Township such a special place.

To the Ridge students, thank you for your hard work this year and for representing Ridge with honor and pride. Your spirit, enthusiasm, and talent have no bounds. To the Class of 2018, thank you for being leaders and role models for the underclassmen throughout the year. I also want to thank you for welcoming me as your new Principal. From the beginning you made me feel like a true Red Devil, and for that I will be forever grateful. Best wishes as you travel on your new path, but always know that you have a home here at Ridge.

I am already eagerly anticipating a productive and enjoyable 2018-2019 school year. Until then, I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer vacation.
A Word from Our PTO Co-Presidents

As the school year draws to a close, we hope you have a wonderful summer. We are so close to hitting 1,000 likes on the Ridge High School PTO Facebook page so please follow us to keep up with the latest news. We’ve had a busy spring as seen below..

Balloons in June
Look for the green balloons on the mailboxes of graduating seniors the last week of school. Help is needed to inflate on June 17 and deliver balloons on June 18! If available, please email Carol Hipsher at carol_hipsher@me.com. The town will be awash in Ridge green!

School Spirit
Through a collaboration with the Booster Club and several sports teams, the Athletic Atrium is now adorned with Ridge spirit. Students and teachers alike have commented on how great the new signage looks. Additionally, we are working with the school on the “What’s in your R?” campaign to fill R’s with area-related words. The Athletic R has already been installed by the new gym and more R’s will be installed over the summer. Additionally, RIDGE is now displayed on the wall in the hallway from the cafeteria to the woodworking and arts areas. We’ve been working with Mr. Krause on other ideas so look for more changes next fall.

Staff Appreciation
Teachers and staff were surprised with delicious Edible Arrangements’ flowers on April 17 to show the PTO’s appreciation for having to work during the shortened spring break. On May 23, Co-Chairs Jan Blakeyman and Patti Pierson, organized a lovely Staff Appreciation Luncheon for our faculty, administration and staff. Thank you to these co-chairs and all the parent volunteers who helped make the event such a success!

PTO Volunteer Brunch
The PTO Volunteer Brunch was held June 4 in the Athletic Atrium to thank all of our wonderful PTO volunteers and vote on the Executive Board slate. Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Board members:
- Co-President: Lisa Laurino
- Co-Vice Presidents - Volunteers: Cathy Cheo-Isaacs and Alicia Martine
- Vice President - Programs: Ameetha S. Iyer
- Vice President - Newsletter: Aditi Tandon
- Treasurer: Katie Chan
- Recording Secretary: Chau Shearer.

Thank You Volunteers
In addition to the aforementioned volunteers, we want to thank all the volunteers who work so hard on the many PTO and school events. We couldn’t do it without you! First, we’d like to thank all of our class parents for their participation in PAC and helping their class with getting general volunteers for selling prom bids, student government elections, and distributing graduation announcements and caps and gowns among other things. Second, a special thank you to Kristina Folkart and Lisa McNey for coordinating the Welcome Desk volunteers, Lastly, we’d also like to thank the following who helped with spring activities: Cristina Del Giorno for the lovely flowers in the planters by the main office, Tania Kahe, Doreen Yan Lin, and Mona Doshi for their hard work on the Junior Prom, Rachna Garg for helping with the Charter Day Art Show, Chrissy Lind and Meeta Garg for coordinating the Art Show volunteers, Shannon Yu, Sherri Camp, and Cathy Cheo-Isaacs for their tireless effort on the Senior Dinner, and Keri Conkling and Carol Hipsher for organizing the Balloons in June fundraiser.

We wish the Class of 2018 much success in their future endeavors and the Ridge families a fun, relaxing summer break!

Alyson McCauley and Christine Ziegler
Ridge PTO Co-Presidents

2017-18 RIDGE PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD
Co-Presidents
Alyson McCauley
Christine Ziegler
Co-Vice Presidents, Volunteers
Joanne Marcus
Shannon Yu
Vice President, Programs
Rebeca Cuadros
Newsletter Editor
Betsy Bacot-Aigner
Treasurer
Kelly Tang
Co-Vice Presidents, Communications
Achint Kaur
Ged Ong
Recording Secretary
Lisa Laurino
BOE Representative:
Elaine DiDario

Board members may be reached at rhsptocommerce@gmail.com
A Fond Farewell

...and heartfelt thanks to our six PTO executive board members whose terms have ended.

Alyson McCauley

Alyson McCauley has been on the Executive Board since the 2015-1016 school year having served as the Co-Vice President of Programs for one year and Co-President for two years. She chaired several events at Oak Street School and WAMS and served on both the Oak Street School and WAMS PTO boards in the positions of Cultural Arts and Curriculum Enhancement as well as Programs. Alyson is especially proud of the school spirit efforts this past school year. She was instrumental in bringing together the school, Booster Club, and sports teams to fund the new vinyl lettering in the Athletic Atrium and Ridge parents to design and install the lettering. “It’s gratifying to be able to bring together so many different groups for a common cause. Increasing school spirit is one of Mr. Krause’s key initiatives and it has been a pleasure working with him and Christine Ziegler to show Ridge pride.” Alyson is also pleased that the PTO Board has streamlined the Mini Grant process to make it easier for teachers and staff to receive their items from a wide choice of vendors in a timely manner. Alyson added, “I’m proud to have been part of three PTO boards and working with great women to make a positive difference in our schools. It has been my pleasure to get to know school administration and staff who work so hard for our students.”

Betsy Bacot-Aigner

Betsy has enjoyed her 2 years on the board as newsletter editor. This is her 6th/final Ridge Bridge issue. She is best known as the photographer for numerous Ridge groups/sports teams including: Concert Choir, A cappella Choir, Drama Club, Dance, Swimming, Boys Soccer, Volleyball, and many events such as those for the “classes of 2016 & 2018 seniors.” She also frequently does PR/submitting her photos to the Bville News & TAP, and has contributed many of her photos to the yearbook for the last 3 years Her “resume” includes 6 years as school photographer & producing two 5th grade yearbooks at LCS; yearbook work and PAC at WAMS; and “RHS grades 9 & 10 class parent”/PAC. As her youngest graduates next week, Betsy reflects that she is extremely grateful for the opportunity to do what she loves/share her photography/graphic design talents all these years to visually document, publicize and share all the extraordinary talents and achievements of the students and staff in our amazing school district. She will always cherish the countless friendships she has made with so many other parent volunteers, students and staff over all these years. Betsy will certainly greatly miss being so active in the schools, but is ready to move on to a “new chapter” in her life and will continue her photography for sure.

Joanne Marcus

During her many years as a Ridge parent, Joanne Marcus has enjoyed being a volunteer and co-chair for the various committees offered by the PTO including the senior dinner, Back to School Night, Week of Respect, Teacher Appreciation luncheon and Balloons in June. The Staff Holiday luncheon, which she has co-chaired for three consecutive years, is her favorite event because it brings together so many parent volunteers who enjoy making the day a special one for our teachers and they have a lot of fun in the process. With such a love for volunteering, Joanne decided to join the PTO board in 2016 as the Co-Vice President of Volunteers and has enjoyed the position for the past two years. She feels her most important accomplishment as a board member was helping to implement a Suicide Prevention/Awareness Week at Ridge in September. She is truly thankful for all the wonderful parents she has had the pleasure of meeting and who volunteer their time and talents to make our school community so great!! She also wants to thank the PTO board for allowing her to be a part of such a vitally important and enthusiastic group that strives to make our school such a great place to be.

Kelly Tang

Kelly Tang has been the treasurer for Ridge PTO for the 2016-2018 school years. Kelly brought her extensive financial planning and management experience into the board and has always made sure the PTO worked within the budget and that there were sufficient funds for the programs and events planned for the year. Although Kelly managed a busy life with a full-time corporate job as well as five children in school, she is proud of serving the Ridge community. Kelly has enjoyed working with a group of caring and intelligent members on the PTO board.

Rebeca Cuadros

Rebeca Cuadros has served as the Vice President of Programs at Ridge the last two years. She organized, coordinated, and collaborated in bringing great speakers to PTO-sponsored presentations, such as Dr. Bradley with his presentation on Teen Resilience and the Dayton’s with their program “You Cannot Be Replaced.” “In this role I was able to work in collaboration with exceptional people and bring programs relevant to the community of parents and students of RHS and beyond.”

Shannon Yu

Shannon Yu joined the Ridge PTO Board two years ago as Co-VP for Volunteers. She truly enjoyed working with her fellow board members and greatly appreciated the support from all parent volunteers. Before Ridge PTO, Shannon has been a volunteer at various school events at MPS and WAMS.
Ridge Staff Enjoyed Spring Luncheon
RHS Senior Francisco Cabrera Awarded $18,000 Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship

Ridge High senior Francisco Cabrera has won the 2018 Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship, a $18,000 award that recognizes character and determination. “Francisco’s application demonstrated extraordinary determination,” according to Jane Cullinan, a founding Trustee and member of the Ridge AMS selection committee. “He was a great fit for our selection criteria.”

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 for any personal growth opportunity. The generosity of donors allowed the Ridge AMS Board of Trustees to raise the 2018 award to the highest level in its twelve year history.

Cullinan added, “In his application, Francisco described the challenges of moving to the U.S. from Guatemala, trying to catch up academically while learning English and supporting himself. This year he has eight classes and a grueling work schedule, but he will graduate! He told us how helpful everyone at Ridge has been to him.”

When notified about winning the Ridge AMS award, Francisco said, “I feel like my dreams came true.” Francisco received the $18,000 check at RHS’s annual Awards Night.

In recent years, the Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship has been the largest grant presented at the RHS Awards Night, other than scholarships to specific colleges or universities.

Athletic Atrium

The Athletic Atrium vinyl lettering has been installed and it looks great as seen on the attached files. Teachers and students alike have commented on how much they like it. Many thanks to the following contributors to the Athletic Atrium signage:

1. Booster Club
2. Boys Lacrosse
3. Cheerleading
4. Fencing
5. Field Hockey
6. Girls Basketball
7. Girls Soccer
8. Marching Band
9. Rebound Club
10. Ridge Racers
11. Ridge Touchdown Club
12. Softball

This is the first time we’ve had so many different groups come together to help build Ridge school spirit. This project was a great success, and we thank you for your generous contributions.
Project Graduation “The BASH”

Project Graduation 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?
Yes. We are a nonprofit organization which 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 nurses’ office in an envelope marked “Project Graduation.”

What is the BASH?
BASH 2018 will be held on Wednesday, June 20 – Graduation night at The Funplex in East Hanover. Buses for students and chaperones will depart from Ridge by 9:00 p.m. At about 4:30 a.m. on Thursday, the buses will leave from The Funplex to return to Ridge around 5:00 a.m. Food and beverages are served throughout the night, including breakfast. Planned activities include an origami artist, caricaturists, arcade games throughout the facility, swimming in the outdoor pool, go karts, massage therapists, a hypnotist and mentalist show. Students will be given a clear plastic bag prior to boarding the buses that they may bring with them to The Funplex for their bathing suit, towel and any personal items. No outside food or drinks will be allowed on the buses. The clear bags will be checked by the Bernards Township Police Department before students are allowed on each bus. No purses, backpacks, string bags will be permitted. Students attending Project Graduation must ride the bus and may not leave early.

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. Members of the Team include: Alise Alden, Loren Alexis, Ruth Cucinell, Anita DeAngelis, Catherine Heaslip, Meg Jewson, Fr. Rick Morley, Laurie Summers, Kim Clark, Tim Howard, Scott Thompson, Lt. Scott Ward and Officer Steven Matthews.

Chaperones are needed for the BASH!
We are also in need of chaperones for BASH 2018. 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 10:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact any of the team members directly or by email at RHSProjectGraduation@gmail.com

Biliteracy Certificate Winners

This year, 41 Ridge HS Seniors were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy from the NJDOE proving their ability to speak, read and write in two or more languages at a proficient level. Students voluntarily registered for a test that took anywhere from 1 to 5 hours. Our students did a wonderful job and we are so proud of their accomplishments. Students will receive a seal on their transcripts, a certificate from the state and their name will be noted in the graduation program.

Italian Day at Ridge
News and Notes from the Ridge Counseling Department

**June 2018**

**June 15: Option II Applications Due for Summer, Fall and Full-Year 2018-19 Academic Experiences**

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 Academics Tab of the Option II website.

**July 2018**

**July 6: 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 6. Applications will be available on the Counseling Department home page in June.

**July 6: 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. 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 6. Applications will be available on the Counseling Department home page in June.

**July 15: Option II – Remediation**

Students who fail a course, or lose credit for any reason, can choose to remediate, or “make up,” the course during the summer, instead of taking it during the following school year.

The application link will be posted in June on the Option II website and is due July 15.

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**General Reminders**

**Summer School/Programs, Scholarships and Special Programs**

- Scholarship information that the Ridge Counseling Department receives are posted on Naviance. Log in, click on the Colleges tab, scroll down, then click on Scholarship List

Summer School (remediation) and Summer Programs (enrichment) are posted on the Outside Programs and Opportunities page of our website.

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**August 30 - Freshman & New Student Orientation**

**AUGUST 29, 2018**

- Freshmen Last Names A - K
  - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
  - Check in at 8:45
  - Auditorium Lobby

- Freshmen Last Names L - Z
  - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
  - Check in at 11:45
  - Auditorium Lobby

- New Students Grades 10-12
  - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
  - Check in at 11:45
  - Auditorium Lobby

- Meet your Counselor
- Take a Tour of Ridge
- Register for Naviance
- Q&A with Upperclassmen

Please note that these events are for students only. Due to the size of the class and intricacies of the program, we regret that we are unable to offer any makeup sessions or tours, or accommodate students wishing to attend a session other than the one to which they are assigned.
Congratulations to Jimmy Yu, Karen Fung, Michelle Zhu and Emily Li Wang for being accepted into the 2018 New Jersey All-State Orchestra. They were selected among hundreds of students in New Jersey.

Congratulations to the Annie Pit Orchestra on their FINAL NOMINATION for the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards! Congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Curran and Mrs. Barbara Retzko for receiving an honorable mention for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction for the musical Annie!
Ridge Music Department Highlights...continued

CHORAL

The Ridge HS A Cappella Choir Honors, Voices of Ridge, Ridgemen and Madrigal Singers competed on April 28 in the Big Apple Classic at the College of Staten Island and May 5 in the Music Showcase Festival in Hershey, PA.

The results were a double sweep...
- Four first place Gold/Superior Ratings
- Outstanding Soloist Senior Helen Shen (both weekends)
- Outstanding Student Accompanist (May 5) Albert Gu
- Outstanding Tenor Section (May 5)
- Grand Champion-A Cappella Choir in NYC (96.66)
- Grand Champion-Madrigal Singers

Photos below from the Spring Choral Concert held on June 12, 2018 at RHS

Photos left & above: from Ridge A cappella Choir’s visit & performance @ LCS May 24
Accomplishments

Sophomore, Kevin Tang, entered his memoir into a Scholastic contest and received a Gold Key award! NJ Writing Region students are eligible to receive Gold Key, Silver Key, or Honorable Mention awards. Gold Key works will automatically advance to national judging and will be considered for national awards.

Congratulations to the following orchestra students who were accepted into the 2018 New Jersey All-State Orchestra. They were selected among hundreds of students and proud: 11th Grade Violinists: Michelle Zhu for Boys and Emily Wang for Girls. Justin bowled a 704 (218, 187, & 299) and High Game of a 299 on Tuesday, February 6, at Oakwood Lanes in Washington, NJ. Way to represent Ridge High School!

Congratulations to Senior, Justin Pavlik for for winning the 2017-18 Skyland Conference Bowling Invitational Championship High Series for Boys and High Game. Justin bowled a 704 (218, 187, & 299) and High Game of a 299 on Tuesday, February 6, at Oakwood Lanes in Washington, NJ. Way to represent Ridge High School!

Fine teachers Jessica Demcsak and Wendell Jeffrey, and 7 other female artists from around the area were featured at the Eye of the Storm, the 11th annual Wonder Women Residency Project which explores the increasingly vital issues of climate change and current environmental challenges. Each artist’s work presents an individual narrative, engaging in the science, data and future of life on the planet, and considers the artist’s role in informing and empowering people. The show ran from March 21st through May 9th at the Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery at NJCU.

Katherine Liu, a freshman at Ridge, won Junior C (13-14) Women Division overall 3rd place in the annual US Speedskating National Age Group Short Track Championships held in Saratoga Springs, NY on March 23-25, 2018. In January 18-20, 2018, Katherine also debuted her US Short Track Junior National Championships at Green Bay Wisconsin, the qualified participating athletes are ages from 14-18, Katherine ranked 10th in the junior nationals. The National Age Class Short Track Championships is the highest level short track speed skating competition for juvenile athletes in the US. More than 225 skaters of various age groups from all over the country qualified and participated in this year’s competition.

Applied Arts Teacher, Frank Caccavale, recently received: Program Excellence Award - International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, to tie for first place at the end of 18 holes, which led to a sudden death playoff. He won the playoff on the first hole and was crowned the Somerset County Individual Champion. He teamed with seniors Thomas Kirby and Aidan O’Rourke and junior, James Pruskowski, to place 3rd in the Somerset County Team Championships.

Congratulations to our Ridge High School Golf Teams for their amazing showing at the Somerset County Championships!!! Senior, Anina Ku, shot an unbelievable 62 (which included 4 eagles!) and was crowned the Somerset County Individual Champion. She teamed with seniors, Laura Taylor and Stephanie Zheng and freshman, Rachel McCormick to win the Somerset County Team Championship! Sophomore, Jeffrey Li, shot a 70 to place 6th (with a 73), and Lucius Zane (freshman) tied for 18th place (with a 79).classmates Brandon Liu (86) and Andrew Li (80) placed 24th (with a 74) and 26th (with a 77). SophomoreEthan Higginbotham (86) tied with senior Max Zane (86) for 24th place, while senior George Liu (87) tied for 27th place (with a 87). Freshman Anthony Li (90) placed 32nd (with a 90), and senior Alec Tang (97) tied for 34th place (with a 97). In Girls’ Division, Sophomore Alexi Wang (91) tied with senior Sara Tang (91) for 22nd place, while senior Nicole Tang (101) tied with senior Eunice Hsu (101) and junior Reilly Wu (101) for 34th place.

High School Teaching Excellence Award - New Jersey Technology and Engineering Educators Association (NJTEEA), and the Image Award – NJTEEA. Applied Arts Teachers, Steve Richards, Frank Caccavale, and Mark Dotta received the High School Program of Excellence Award from NJTEEA. In addition, senior, Elizabeth Wilson, received the NJTEEA Future Technology Educator Scholarship.

Child Study Team Member, Meredith Ross, won first place for a Morris County photo competition.

Births

Special Education Teacher, Kara Higgins and her husband Bryan, welcomed another son, Griffin Baker Higgins on February 2, 2018. This not-so-little guy weighed in at 9 lbs 3 oz, and was 21 inches long. Griffin’s three older brothers, Caleb, Emmet and Oliver are thrilled to add the latest member to their team!

Science Supervisor, Tom Misiak, and his wife Teresa welcomed daughter, Abigail on February 10, 2018. Abby, was a healthy 6lbs.10oz at birth and joins elder big brothers Aiden and Aaron.

World Language Teacher, Chiara Kupiec, and her husband, Vance, announce the debut of their son, Zane Morrison, on March 1. Baby Zane weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. Big brother, Myles, is ecstatic to have a little brother!

March was a great month for the World Language Department – a week after the Kupiec baby arrived, another World Language Teacher gave birth. Stephanie Serafin and her husband, Richie, doubled the size of their family when they welcomed identical twin boys on March 8, 2018. Kyle Manuel weighed 5 lbs. 3 oz and Carter Henry weighed 4 lbs. 1 oz and both were 18” long at birth.

Math teacher, Lauren Baker, and her husband, Len Bitter, added to their family on April 22, 2018 when they welcomed son Lucas Gerard Bitter (note the math humor!). He weighed 8 lbs. 3oz. and is the apple of their eyes!
Anti-Stigma Club Award Recipient

On Wednesday, May 16, Ridge junior, Ilse Fleischer, was awarded by the New Jersey State Board Recognition Program for her contribution to the school community, particularly for her outstanding leadership in creating the Anti-Stigma Club.

The Anti-Stigma Club seeks to provide students with a platform to discuss mental health in the district. At the club, students seek and implement solutions to improve mental health and make the Ridge High School stigma-free. The Anti-Stigma club has been supported by Ridge High School Principal, Drew Krause, who attended meetings, as well as the RHS Assistant Principals and Jillian Shadis, the Director of School Counseling. Assistant Principal, Kathleen Dusebout, and Faculty Advisor, Sarah Mueller, accompanied Ilse and her father at the New Jersey State Board Recognition Program award ceremony in Trenton on May 16.

Ilse has educated her club members, the current Freshmen Health Classes, and faculty and administrators about mental health, stigma, and advocacy, and has used her knowledge and research to create the following initiatives for the school and community:

- Attending Board Meetings to discuss mental health
- Selling Candy Grams with words of affirmation during the holiday season - all proceeds were donated to NAMI NJ (The National Alliance on Mental Illness for New Jersey)
- Hosting a presentation for faculty, staff, and administration in the RHS Media Center to review the district-wide mental health statistics and discuss and propose effective solutions
- Hosting a table at the Bernards Township Library & ‘Pathways to Mental Health’ community resource fair
- Working with the Athletics Department to have student representatives from the Anti-Stigma Club come speak in Freshmen Health Classes about mental health, stigma, and advocacy

Together, Ilse and her club are promoting the district-wide goal for social and emotional health by educating their peers, and promoting advocacy, and encouraging partnership between students, teachers, and administrators.

Cornell University Recognition for Ridge Social Studies Teacher

Ridge Social Studies teacher Jennifer Raphael was among 32 high school teachers recognized by Cornell University on May 23 at the 30th annual Merrill Presidential Scholars Convocation. She was nominated by Ridge alumna Emily Jones, one of 32 Merrill Scholars at Cornell. The Scholars are in the top 1% of their class and are selected by their college deans for their intellectual drive, leadership abilities and potential to contribute to society. The Scholars then nominate the high school teachers who most inspired them.

Each year before Commencement Weekend, the nominated high school teachers are invited to Cornell, all expenses paid, for two days of events as guests of the university, culminating in a luncheon where they are joined by the Cornell faculty members also chosen by the seniors. This year, including Mrs. Raphael, 28 teachers attended, traveling from 12 states and Singapore, the Netherlands, India and Canada.

The honored educators were recognized by Provost Michael Kotlikoff. “You can take pride in having influenced some of Cornell’s top graduating seniors – and in knowing that they continue to appreciate all you did for them,” he said. “On behalf of the university, I want to thank all the secondary and university teachers here today, for your dedication to bringing out the very best in our students. Congratulations on being extraordinary teachers.”

Doug Merrill, the son of Philip Merrill who created the program, also thanked the educators for their hard work. “Listening to what these students have accomplished is staggering. You make a difference in their lives, and you make a difference in the world,” he said.

To further honor the high school teachers chosen by the Merrill Scholars, the Special Teachers Are Recognized (STAR) Scholarship was established. These one-time, $4,000 scholarships are awarded in the teachers’ names to incoming Cornell freshmen or current students with financial need from the teacher’s high school or geographic area.
RIDGE CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Ridge Concert Choir’s CABARET 2018!
What’s Happening in the Ridge Dance Department?

Spring Dance Showcase 2018: A Night at the Movies
The Ridge Dance Department, under the direction of Rachel Miranda and Carson Michura, recently presented their Spring Dance Showcase 2018! The showcase was titled “A Night at the Movies” and every dance was inspired by a movie. Dances from the in-school dance classes, as well as, the after school dance programs were presented. Students in the Social Skills Dance and Dance I classes performed faculty work. Students in Dance II and Dance III performed faculty work, in addition to their own choreographed dances. Students in the National Honor Society for Dance Arts presented work by Ridge Dance interim director Carson Michura. The students truly enjoyed learning from her!

The Ridge Dance Collective also participated in the showcase and presented two innovative and inspiring dances. This is a modern dance group that is comprised of students from William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School. Students in this afterschool program collaboratively choreograph their own dances under the advisement of Mrs. Miranda. The Ridge Dance Team performed two of their spectacular dances taught by master teachers Jude Cassion and Valerie Salgado earlier in the year. Ridge Dance Team is an audition-only group that competes in the styles of Hip Hop and Jazz dance at regional dance competitions.

Ridge Dance Team Finishes Season on a High Note
The Ridge Dance Team competed at the Cathy Roe Ultimate Dance Competition in Basking Ridge on March 17. The team’s Large Group Jazz dance won an Ultimate Elite placement, which is the highest award, and first overall. The Large Group Hip Hop dance won an Outstanding placement and second overall. The Production Hip Hop dance won a Spectacular placement and first overall. The team finished their competition season at Groove National Dance Competition in Chester on March 25th. The team won a High Gold, 1st in the category and 1st overall for the Senior Large Group Jazz dance, Gold and 1st in the category for Senior Large Group Hip Hop dance and High Gold and 1st in the category the Production Hip Hop dance. Overall, they had a highly successful 2017-2018 season under the direction of Mrs. Miranda, the Ridge High School dance teacher. Congratulations to all Ridge Dance Team members on a great season! Ridge Dance!

Dance Students Attend the NJ High School Dance Fest
In March, members of the Ridge Dance classes, National Honor Society for Dance Arts, Ridge Dance Team and Ridge Dance Collective attended the New Jersey High School Dance Fest in Union City, NJ for the fifth year. 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 ranging from Hip Hop to Modern, adjudication concerts, and concluded with a professional dance concert gala. Ridge Dance Department director, Rachel Miranda, serves on the committee for the festival. Students truly enjoyed this festival and are excited to attend next year!

National Honor Society for Dance Arts Happenings
The National Honor Society for Dance Arts held its fourth annual induction ceremony on April 5th in the Ridge PAC. Seven new students were inducted: Sarah Arrigo, Sophia Bierstein, Julia Cox, Cate Hegeman, Nicolette Kavouras, Madison Maguire and Jane Mercer. Senior members Julia Cohen, Jessica Kransdorf and Francesca Menard were also honored at the ceremony and received their graduation cords and pins. The Ridge NHSDA chapter was honored to have Olivia Mode-Cater, Founder of Dance Ed Tips, speak at their ceremony. Congratulations to all new NHSDA inductees!

Additionally, the students in NHSDA spread the joy of dance by hosting a Girl Scout Dance Badge class for local Brownie and Daisy troops. Students created a lesson plan and taught the lesson to the troop members. It was a highly successful event!

Technique and Technology: Montclair State University
Professor Kaathleen Kelley Teaches Dance III
The Ridge High School PTO awarded a mini-grant to Rachel Miranda to invite Professor Kathleen Kelley to teach a unit on Dance for Film for the students in the Dance III course. Students learned about camera angles, perspectives, storyboarding and concept development while creating short dance films. The students enjoyed learning more ways to incorporate technology in the dance classroom.
Every year, on a Saturday morning in April, young women from all backgrounds, with diverse hopes and ambitions, gather in the Ridge High School auditorium to hear speeches from successful female leaders. They come from many walks of life—some are Emmy-nominated musicians and former State Supreme Court justices, others are directors of Fortune 500 companies and Ridge High alumnae turned notable author—but these leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries unite in a single purpose: to inspire and empower a new generation of leaders to pursue their dreams.

The event, formally known as the Women’s Leadership Summit, is a student-led conference, hosted by Ridge’s Alliance for Young Social Entrepreneurs (AYSE), a club advised by Italian teacher Ms. Fiorella Bologna and directed by AYSE’s President, Jennifer Huang. The Women’s Leadership Summit welcomes all audiences, from young children to adults seeking career advice. In TedTalk-esque speeches, each honorable speaker discusses her journey to success, the obstacles she faced, the ways she overcame, and her personal anecdotes. She offers advice to the aspiring young women, answers their questions, and guides them towards personal success.

This year’s Women’s Leadership Summit took place on Saturday, April 28th, from 10:00am-12:00pm, in Ridge High School’s Performing Arts Center, and featured two inspiring speakers:

Ms. Mei-Mei Tuan, who founded and currently serves as a Managing Partner at Notch Partners. As an investment banker with Goldman Sachs, BankAmerica and BankAustria, Mei-Mei led domestic and international transactions in project finance, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, syndications and sale lease-backs. Mei-Mei’s operating experience includes serving as chief financial officer and chief operating officer at two nationally prominent nonprofit organizations. Prior to founding Notch Partners, Mei-Mei ran a thriving independent consulting practice, completing assignments for over 20 clients, including several private equity-backed companies, private equity funds and large corporations. Her current client relationships represent a range of industries, including media, apparel, consumer products, publishing, medical technology, telecommunications and enterprise software. A frequent speaker at events and on panels that promote and support women business leaders and managers, Mei-Mei is an active board member of the Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: TBBK), the Clara Maass Medical Center Foundation, the Harvard Business School Asian-American Association (HBS4A), and Montclair Kimberley Academy. She has also served recently on boards for the Wellesley College Alumnae Association, New Jersey Women’s Forum, New Jersey Network (NIN), Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA), Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation and New Jersey Wellesley Club, where she was president. Mei-Mei is a member of Business Leadership Council (BLC) at Wellesley, New Jersey Women’s Forum, and the Committee of 100—an international, nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that brings Chinese-American perspective to issues concerning U.S.-China relations.

Ms. Samantha Bruno, who works as a Manager of Client Relations at Pepper-Comm. In 2011, Samantha began her career at Janine Gordon Associates, where she represented luxury consumer, lifestyle and non-profit brands, before Peppercomm acquired the agency in 2013. Since starting in the industry, she has handled accounts in publishing, fine dining, consumer goods, industrial and international business. From restaurant openings to product announcements to unveiling the newest clothing collection, her agency experience includes consumer clients such as The Capital Grille, Texas de Brazil, Indagare, Holland & Holland and more. Over the years, she has also worked on a number of non-profits, including her current work on Pepper-comm’s pro bono account Youth About Business, and B2B clients such as Honeywell SM, AdvanSix and Wilbur-Ellis. Samantha’s energy, attention to detail and publicity skills have helped her to generate meaningful publicity and increase brand awareness for clients.

Beyond traditional media relations, Samantha has organized strategic partnerships, created brand positioning, planned and executed social media campaigns, events, digital marketing tactics and more. Samantha sits over Peppercomm’s Intern Committee as Intern Co-Coordinator, participating in the hiring, mentoring and advising of interns.

The Alliance for Young Social Entrepreneurs hosted the morning with discussion and exciting speeches. As leaders of the future, we must unite to change the world.
The Ridge Girls Lacrosse team, under the leadership of new Head Coach MG Hollingsworth, wrapped up a very successful Skylands Conference season with a record of 11-2. In post-season play, the Lady Red Devils fell to Pingry by a goal in the Somerset County semi-finals. They had their North 1/Group 4 state bracket on May 17. Ridge is seeded #2 in their section, beneath first-seed Ridge-wood. Highlights of the season included a take-down of previously unbeaten Lawrenceville, and senior Mena Loescher scoring her 200th Ridge career goal.
Boys Volleyball

The 2018 boys volleyball team ended their winning season with a second consecutive trip to the State North Group 2 final falling to Bayonne in straight sets. Their record was 15-8 for season. The offense was led by the combination of Simon Moeller at setter and Austin Zhao in the outside hitter position. Supporting them at offense was Shane Holcomb and Max Metzner at the middle hitter position, Chris Lee at the outside hitter position, and the combination of Jason Clingensmith and Michael Henderson at the opposite position. Peter Helverson led the defense at the libero position. Supporting players on the bench were Frankie Occiogrosso, Nick Selurco, David Kim and Jeff Wang. Two players on the team - Jason Clingensmith and Chris Lee - were honored at the "senior night game" on May 11. The team is looking forward to the 2019 season with 10 out of the 12 players eligible to return.
Drama Club News

The Ridge Drama Club had a very eventful and successful spring season this year. First, many of the members of the Peter and the Starcatcher Production attended the Foxy Awards at Montclair University, where they were nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design, Outstanding Achievement in Scenic Design, Outstanding Achievement in Choreography or Movement, Outstanding Achievement in Stage Direction, and Outstanding Achievement in Live or Original Music for Helen Shen and Victoria Anderson. They also went on to win three awards for Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Comedy for Emma Marsters and Outstanding Performance by Lead Actress in a Comedy for Annika Helgeson.

Next, the club received many nominations for their production of Annie at Papermill’s Rising Star Awards, including the Inclusion and Access Award, Educational Impact Award, Outstanding Lighting Achievement, Outstanding Scenic Achievement, Outstanding Performance by an Orchestra, and Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Group for the Orphan Ensemble. In addition, Evelyn Zeng received an honorable mention for Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Member, and Ms. Retzko and Ms. Curran received an honorable mention for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction. The results to all the nominations for Annie will be revealed on June 4th at the awards ceremony.

Also, the club traveled to RVCC to participate in the Teen Arts festival. The festival included various workshops and performances. A few club members competed at the event, including Marlowe Conway, who presented a monologue; Kyle Watkins and Allen Wang, who did a scene together; and Austin Segal, who submitted a couple of different video productions. Additionally, Elizabeth Maloney submitted artwork and Marlowe Conway submitted a poem, which both qualified to go to state competition. Finally, on May 17th, they put on the theatre showcase, titled “Showtime” for the first time ever. Participation was open to all members of Drama Club and theatre classes at Ridge and contained a variety of acts, including a large ensemble number, group scenes, monologues, slam poetry, dance numbers, and many musical solos.

National Honor Society

150 Juniors were inducted into the National Honor Society at a ceremony held at the Ridge PAC on May 22. The students were selected based on scholarship, service, leadership and character. In his opening comments Principal Krause noted that students should be most proud not of the honor itself but “what you had to do to get it” and that any recognition is icing on the cake. He further challenged students to not be satisfied “but to continue to strive to even greater heights.”

Officers for the year 2018-19 were introduced. Rachel Tam (President), Nicole Roberts (Vice President), Kruthik Ravishankar (Secretary) and Eshan Doshi (Treasurer).

The evening wrapped up with the inductees pledging to uphold the highest purpose of the NHS and to make its ideals their own.
Varsity Softball 2018

Ridge Softball did a fundraiser for the foundation of a very special young girl in our community, Katie King. It was held during Senior Night and a yearly night game against Bernards. With the T-shirt sales, concession stand, and donations, roughly $2,000 was raised for her! Above all, the softball family is very committed to helping out in the community and doing what they can to help those who cannot play the sport they love anymore.

In addition to that, it has been a very exciting year for ridge softball! Not only has the varsity program made a run in the Somerset county softball tournament by making it to the county semifinals and losing a heartbreaker in the 8th inning to Hillsborough, but they were on a run in the states and headed into the second round of the state tournament in May! They played North Hunterdon who they were split with for the season and as of this writing, hoped to make past them!

They also celebrated 4 seniors this season, Kristin Miscia, Jordan Richman, Nikki Decanio and Hannah Matusz, with all the hard work and dedication they have given to Ridge Softball! There is pride in all their individual and team accomplishments and wish them the best of luck next year in college!

JV Softball 2018

What an exciting 2018 Season it has been! Mother Nature decided to give the outdoor sports a challenging Spring, to say the least! Despite only getting outside to practice or scrimmage 3x in the pre-season, the team worked hard indoors and started the season at 3-3, with back-to-back huge victories. First defeating Somerville 14-12 coming back from being down by 4 runs in the 4th inning, to tying the game in the 6th inning and winning it in the 7th inning. They then defeated North Hunterdon in 8 innings. Soph-Lyndsey Collins commanded the mound with 11 KO’s. They had 2 over the fence home runs - first by Captain Soph-Gigi Duncan in the 4th, and the game winning HR by Captain Junior-Katie Kisker in the top of the 8th!

The team continued to face many tough opponents and played hard throughout the rest of the season. As of this writing, they were currently 6-7 and awaiting the reschedule date of their final game. Way to go JV!

Coach Mannix
Team: Juniors - Captain Katie Kisker, Hanna Molinary
Sophomores - Captain Carly Kosakowski, Captain Gigi Duncan, Lyndsey Collins
Freshman - Stephanie Oliver, Allie Blanchard, Sophie Kramer, Eliana Lazar, Abby Siegel

VARSITY ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

February 2018
Basketball Boys – Jeremy McCavera
Basketball Girls– Kristin Miscia
Competitive Cheerleading – Cassie Raia
Fencing Boys – Andrew McGowan
Fencing Girls – Elizaveta Yugov
Ice Hockey – Alex Konovalov
Ski Team Boys – Warren Halbing
Ski Team Girls – Clare Mohan
Swimming Boys – Ethan Chiu
Swimming Girls – Grace Sedlazek
Winter Track Boys – Amil Khattar
Winter Track Girls – Girls 4x 800 Meter Relay
Meghan Convery (12), Olivia Cicchetti (10), Morgan Lyons (9) and Kaitlyn Van Baalen (12)
Wrestling - Jake Stein

April 2018
Baseball - James Crowley
Golf Boys - Jeffrey Li
Golf Girls - Stephanie Zhang, Laura Taylor, Rachel McCormick, Anina Ku
Lacrosse Boys- Michael Harris
Lacrosse Girls - Mena Loesch
Softball - Kristin Miscia
Tennis - Ryhan Moghe
Track & Field Boys - Rourke Edwards
Track & Field Girls - Tatum Peskin
Volleyball Boys- Austin Zhao

May 2018
Baseball – Brandon Hylton
Golf Boys – James Pruskowski
Golf Girls – Anina Ku
Lacrosse Boys- Bryce Kirkwood
Lacrosse Girls – Emma Wightman
Softball – Allegra Decandia
Tennis – Roshun Navin
Track & Field Boys – Curtis Lyons
Track & Field Girls – Joy Osborne
Volleyball Boys- Simon Moeller
Class of 2018 - Senior Dinner