



Ridgedale Local School District

**3103 Hillman Ford Road
Morral, Ohio 43337**

**Robert A. Britton, Superintendent
Jason Fleming, Treasurer
(740) 382-6065 Phone
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December 11, 2020,

Dear Parents/Guardians and Ridgedale Community:

With only one week remaining until our Christmas we have not seen the escalation of Covid-19 cases in Marion County that were expected after Thanksgiving. So, with the recommendation of Marion Public Health we will continue with the lesson delivery models approved by the Board of Education on November 16, 2020. The Jr/Sr High School will continue in total remote instruction and the elementary will continue in Hybrid instruction through January 15, 2021. During this time of online learning, for the Jr/Sr High, there will be much more student accountability, we will not be handing out grades just for logging on to the classes, there will be work requirements that need to be met in order to achieve a grade in the class. As for the elementary will follow the same Hybrid schedule in which we started the year, with group A - students last names beginning A-K going to school Monday and Tuesday and group B - last names beginning with L-Z on Wednesday and Thursday, with Friday being all students remote. The preschool schedule will remain the same for both morning and afternoon sessions. We will continue this learning model through January 15, 2021. **As a reminder these plans are always subject to change based on public health recommendations or by Governor order.**

With regard to our extra-curricular athletic activities, the OHSAA has decided to continue on as normal with all winter sports. **However, the OHSAA is asking that we limit the number of spectators to only the parents of the athletes competing through the remainder of 2020.** All practices and games will be held during non-school hours, as they normally would if we were educating in person. The Board of Education realizes that not all families are comfortable with having their children participate at this time, so we have come to the following compromise. We will continue to practice and compete in all scheduled events, however if any student or their parent(s) do not wish to have their child play, they may hold their student/athlete from practices, competition, or both without repercussion or penalty. This is a family decision and will allow everyone to involved do what is best for each individual situation. If you have any questions please contact your respective coach or the Athletic Director Mrs. Cherie Leach at cleach@ridgedaleschools.org **The use of Ridgedale facilities for elementary basketball practices and games have been postponed until after the Christmas/Winter Break.**

For the latest district and Covid-19 information please go to our website www.ridgedaleschools.org, there you will find the district and state of Ohio schools Covid-19 dashboard, which will inform you of all school age Covid-19 cases, at Ridgedale and across the entire state, this dashboard is updated weekly. Currently we have 2 positive Jr/Sr High School

student cases and 3 students in quarantine, with 1 positive student case and 6 elementary students in quarantine. We have 2 Jr/Sr High staff members in quarantine and 1 elementary staff member positive with no staff quarantines at this time. Marion Public Health released earlier this week and will no longer be contact tracing or contacting people to quarantine. Ridgedale will be responsible for contact tracing and quarantining of students and staff. If your child will need to quarantine you will be hearing from our school nurse, Mr. Jon Campbell, and not Marion Public Health. The CDC has also released new guidance for quarantine, and it has been approved by the Ohio Department of Health. However, Marion Public Health is still recommending that if you need to quarantine, that you do so for the 14 days as originally suggested.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

<https://covid19.marionpublichealth.org/>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>

If you need a hotspot or if you have a T-Mobile hotspot that is not working please contact your building office or our Tech Coordinator Mr. Brian Slone at bslone@ridgedaleschools.org.

We will continue to provide food service for our students during this time. Elementary students will be taking meals home with them on Tuesdays/Thursdays starting December 1st. Parents of students in the Jr/Sr High building that would like meal delivery, please contact Mrs. Megan Mitchell at mmitchell@ridgedaleschools.org.

As we work to provide a safe learning environment for our students, we will continue to evaluate the Covid-19 situation moving forward to make an informed decision on when to have students return in January. We understand your frustration, we are frustrated too, however at this time we feel that these moves are in the best interest of our students and staff safety. If you have any question please feel free to call 740-382-6065 ext 101 or email at rbritton@ridgedaleschools.org
It's Great to be a Rocket! Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,
Robert A. Britton; Superintendent
Ridgedale Local Schools