

# PURSUIING PREMIER

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Families,

Welcome to our Report to the Community. The Ridgefield School District has a proud history and a long track record of delivering excellent results. In Ridgefield, this begins with high-quality instruction delivered by dedicated, highly-skilled teachers who make a world of difference in the classroom. We offer educational programs that nurture the growth of the whole child while striving to build and maintain safe and healthy learning environments for every student. Finally, we develop and nurture community partnerships that enable us to achieve together what we cannot accomplish alone.

We are committed to our pursuit of becoming Washington state's premier school system. It's no wonder that the reason so many young families are flocking to Ridgefield is because of our excellent schools.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read our Report to the Community. This magazine contains significant information about Pursuing Premier. In these pages you will learn about our many accomplishments, including Ridgefield becoming the first district in the state to earn the prestigious AdvancED system-wide accreditation.

You will also find a progress update on the Phase II construction projects now underway from the successful passage of our 2017 Bond Program. Additionally, there is information about the work of the Capital Facilities Advisory Committee in preparation for a February 2019 bond election. You'll also learn of the tremendous support provided to our schools from our partnership with the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation. Of course, you will also find student achievement and demographic data as well as financial data chronicling the 2016-17 school year. As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at 360-619-1302.

Thank you for your continued support of the Ridgefield School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nathan McCann  
Superintendent

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

Ridgefield School District aspires to be the state's premier district, leveraging strong community partnerships to provide each student personalized learning experiences, opportunities, and skills that ensure success and unlimited possibilities.



## DISTRICT GOALS

- #1 Achieve high outcomes through quality instruction, personalized learning, and continuous improvement resulting in success for every student.
- #2 Provide safe, inclusive, and supportive environments that nurture the well-being of the whole child.
- #3 Provide collaboration and communication opportunities with families, staff, and the community resulting in strong partnerships.
- #4 Close the disparity gaps by ensuring high expectations, removing barriers, and providing opportunities for all students.

AdvancED



AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world. AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous on-site external reviews of Pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. While their expertise is grounded in more than a hundred years of work in school accreditation, AdvancED is far from a typical accrediting agency. Their goal isn't to certify that schools are good enough. Rather, their commitment is to help schools improve.

The Accreditation Process is a balanced, systemic approach combining standards, stakeholder feedback and student performance to measure quality programs, relationships and results. The Accreditation Process helps institutions make the most of their talents and resources. The process aligns accreditation with accountability, emphasizing learner outcomes when evaluating institutional quality. However, it is not the outcome but the course taken over time that yields the greatest return on investment.

During the 2015-2016 school year the Ridgefield School District was honored to become the first Washington state school district to receive AdvancED System accreditation. We have spent the last two years implementing improvements related to assessment practices, communication and professional development.

# DISTRICT PROFILE

## OUR SCHOOL FACILITIES

**RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)**  
Expansion completes Fall 2019

**VIEW RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL (7-8)**  
New facility opens Fall 2018

**SUNSET RIDGE INTERMEDIATE (5-6)**  
New facility opens Fall 2018

**SOUTH RIDGE ELEMENTARY (K-4)**

**UNION RIDGE ELEMENTARY (K-4)**

## OUR TEACHERS

The district has highly qualified staff members in all classrooms. For those who would like to know about the training background of our staff, please contact Human Resources at 360-619-1306. All paraprofessionals working in the Title I program meet the federal standards.

## TEACHER STATISTICS

CLASSROOM TEACHERS	129
AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE	13
% TEACHERS WITH AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE	76.7

Ridgefield School District No.122 complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and provides equal opportunity in programs and employment and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin/language, marital status, HIV/Hepatitis C status, sex, sexual orientation-including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Ridgefield School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities. For information regarding translation services, bilingual education or inquiries regarding compliance procedures, contact Chris Griffith, Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator, 2724 S. Hillhurst Road, Ridgefield, WA 98642, 360-619-1304, or by email at [chris.griffith@ridgefieldsd.org](mailto:chris.griffith@ridgefieldsd.org).

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2016-2017

ENROLLMENT 2016-2017	2,825
<b>ENROLLMENT 2017-2018</b> (as of January 4, 2018)	<b>2,957</b>

<b>GENDER</b>	
MALE	50.4%
FEMALE	49.6%

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE	0.2%
ASIAN	1.4%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	0.6%
HISPANIC	11.2%
WHITE	80.5%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.4%
TWO OR MORE RACES	5.8%

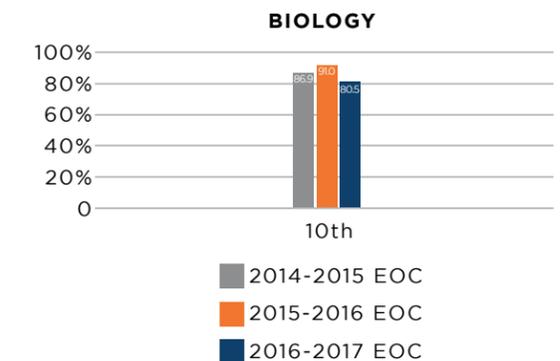
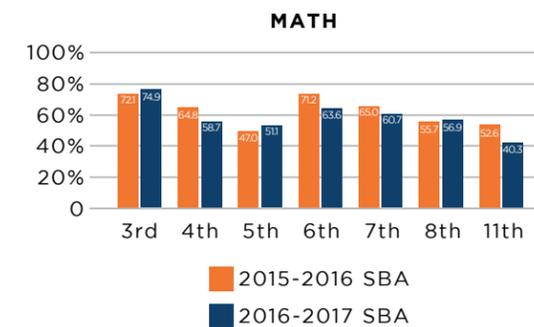
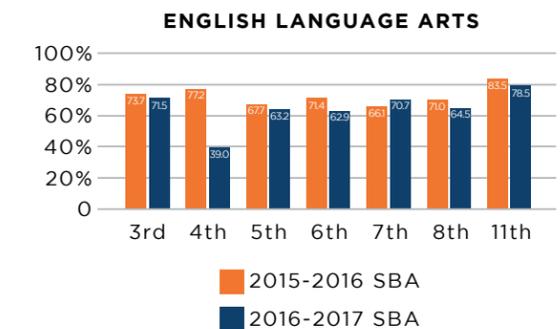
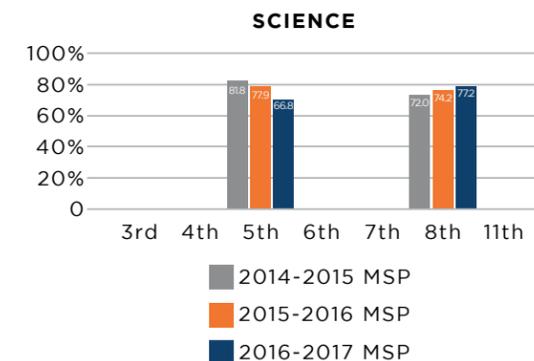
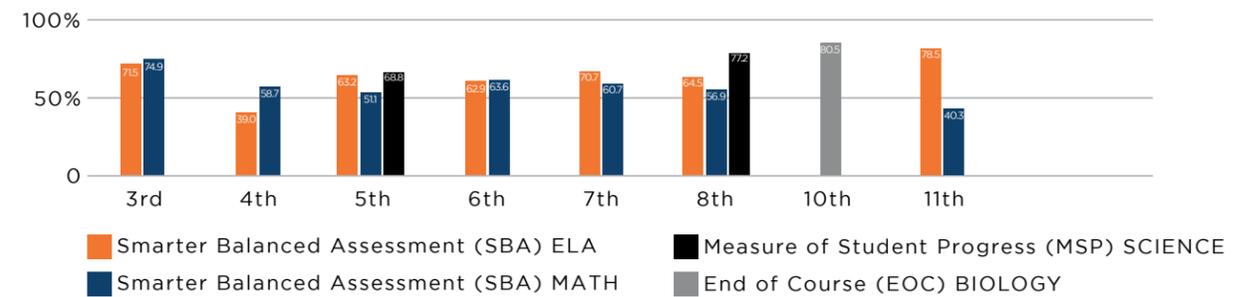
<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	
FREE OR REDUCED-PRICED MEALS	22.7%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	11.5%
TRANSITIONAL BILINGUAL	3.3%
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
UNEXCUSED ABSENCE RATE	0.4%
ADJUSTED 4-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE: CLASS OF 2016	89.8%
ADJUSTED 5-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE CLASS OF 2015	92.8%

## STATE TESTING SCORE DATA

The Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) maintains demographic and test score data for every district and school in the state. Below, we have provided you with the OSPI Report Card information for the Ridgefield School District as a whole. Detailed district and school information can be found at [www.ridgefieldsd.org/ridgefield-school-district-report-card](http://www.ridgefieldsd.org/ridgefield-school-district-report-card). On this site, disaggregated student achievement data can be viewed by clicking on the links to the left for the specific OSPI report card for each school within the Ridgefield School District. These reports will provide more detail about individual school performance.

If you would prefer this information in printed form, please contact the Assistant Superintendent of the Ridgefield School District at 360-619-1304.

## 2016-2017 RESULTS



# QUALITY INSTRUCTION



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2015, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The law focuses on the performance gaps between student groups that persist in our schools. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) worked with hundreds of stakeholders to create the ESSA Consolidated Plan, which was approved by the federal Department of Education on January 16, 2018.

### What Will Change With ESSA?

The significant change is that more support will be provided to struggling schools. In the past, these schools were limited in the ways they could use their resources to improve. Now, schools have more flexibility to implement evidence-based strategies designed to help improve performance and to support specific groups of students needing additional help to be successful.

### What Stays the Same?

As is done currently, ESSA requires students to take state assessments in grades 3-8 and again in grade 10. It also requires states to use challenging academic content standards.

### Identifying Struggling Schools

ESSA requires states to identify schools that are struggling. There are two categories of struggling schools:

- “Comprehensive Support and Improvement” schools, which are the lowest performing schools in a state.
- “Targeted Support and Improvement” schools where certain student groups are consistently underperforming.

Once a struggling school is identified, states and school districts must create plans to assist the school to get back on track. The law requires that the plans must use evidence-based teaching and approaches.

Union Ridge Elementary School and View Ridge Middle School have been identified as Targeted Support Schools.

### How Is Our Accountability System Changing?

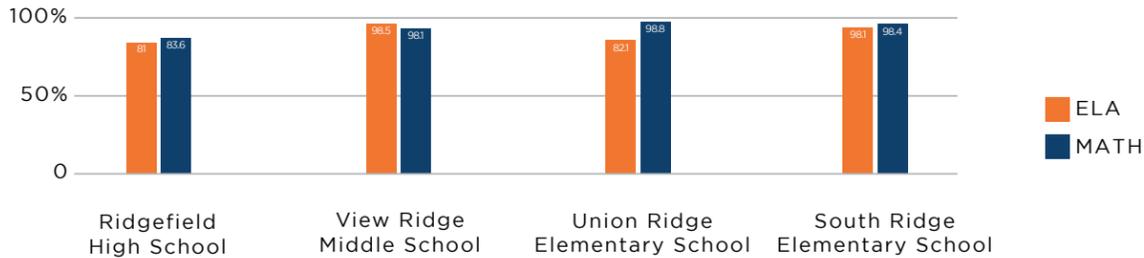
ESSA allowed OSPI to re-write Washington’s federal accountability system. The new index relies less on high-stakes state assessments as a measurement for schools while at the same time holding schools accountable for student growth, graduation rates, English Learner progress, and school quality indicators (e.g., absenteeism). The new index will be available to parents and families in Spring 2018.

## SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

New state standards are challenging students to understand subject matter more deeply, think more critically, and apply their learning to the real world. To measure these new state standards, educators from Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) states worked together to develop new, high-quality assessments in English and Math for grades 3-8 and high school. These Smarter Balanced Assessments provide more accurate and meaningful information about what students are learning by adapting to each student’s ability, giving teachers and parents better information to help students succeed in school and after.

### Smarter Balanced Assessment Participation Rates

Districts are required to achieve a participation rate of 95%. Below is a table of participation percentages at each building.



## WASHINGTON COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE

The 5th, 8th, and 11th grade Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) will be administered for the first time in Spring 2018. These tests fulfill the federal (ESSA) requirement that students be tested in science once at each level: elementary, middle, and high school.

The WCAS measures the level of proficiency that Washington students have achieved based on the Washington State 2013 K-12 Science Learning Standards, which were adopted in October 2013.

### Test Design and Item Specifications

The Test Design and Item Specifications documents describe how the clusters (stimulus and item sets) and standalone items for the WCAS are developed. They include a technical description of the assessment that assures the assessment will validly measure the science standards in a reliable manner every year.

## What are some of the changes in the shift to the Every Student Succeeds Act?

No Child Left Behind	Every Student Succeeds Act
100% Proficiency Standard	Emphasis on Growth and Gaps
School Failure Letters Home	Schools Identified for Support
“Highly Qualified” Requirements	Effective Educators
SES Set-Asides and School Choice	Local Control on Spending
Required School Turnaround Models	LEA and SEA Improvement Models
Cascading Sanctions	LEA School Supports

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



## 2017 BOND PROGRAM UPDATE

### 5-8 SCHOOLS COMPLEX

The construction of this two-story, 146,000 SF facility is nearly halfway through the building phase. It will house the new Sunset Ridge Intermediate School (Grades 5-6) and the replacement View Ridge Middle School (Grades 7-8) and include 44 full-size classrooms, two gymnasiums, a multi-purpose/wrestling facility, spacious library-media center, life skills suite, band and choir rooms, and a state-of-the-art black box theater. Construction continues to progress and is on track for scheduled completion in August 2018.

Last October, students got an opportunity to sign a steel beam for the new school, now installed on the second floor of the 7/8 classroom wing (south end). Students were excited to be involved in the construction of their new school, knowing that the signatures and personal messages penned onto the beam will be a part of their new school for years to come. In addition, new mascots and logos for both schools were announced in Fall 2017. Sunset Ridge Intermediate will be known as the Coyotes, and View Ridge Middle School, the Herons.

Weekly construction updates on the 5-8 schools complex are available at the district website [Bond page](#). Updates are also available via the RSD mobile app.



### RIDGEFIELD OUTDOOR RECREATION COMPLEX

Just north of the 5-8 schools complex, work is also underway on the Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex (RORC), a joint project between the city of Ridgefield and Ridgefield School District. Financed by the city, RORC will serve the school district and the Ridgefield community. It will have six multipurpose turf sports fields, a track, an amphitheater and a community center with walking trails and picnic tables set in a naturalscape setting. As with the new 5-8 school campus, it is scheduled for completion in Fall 2018.

### SECURITY UPGRADES FOR UNION RIDGE AND SOUTH RIDGE

This project is currently in the design phase. A security audit was completed in December, and draft layouts are currently being reviewed. Implementation of these security upgrades will strengthen security and control access to the buildings.

Plans being considered include installation of card readers, door sensors, doorbells with cameras, door release with auto lockdown capability, and security cameras (inside and outside) and more secure entry doors. Estimated completion of this project is August 2018.

### CAPITAL FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)

The district is gearing up for Phase III in its four-phase plan to deal with rapid growth. In December, it assembled a CFAC committee to study, analyze and make capital facility recommendations to the school board for an upcoming February 2019 bond issue. Phase III plans include a new K-4 school, additions at current sites, expansion at the high school and/or a small specialty or alternative high school.

For more information about the CFAC committee, click their link on the district website [Bond page](#).

### RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT

Nearing completion of the design phase, this project is scheduled for bid in April 2018. The new two-story structure will replace the building currently housing the library and school offices. Construction is scheduled to begin immediately after the last day of school and continue for a year, with completion scheduled for August 2019.

The new two-story building will include a large, centrally located media center, five general education classrooms, eight science labs, two art labs, two special education spaces, a student art gallery, and three flex classrooms that can be used for art, science, and/or special education as needs arise. A college career center, located on the second level, will be connected to the media center.

For a virtual tour of the new building, [click here](#).

### RE-PURPOSING OF VIEW RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The district is working closely with the city of Ridgefield on this project, which is currently midway in design and development. Plans for re-purposing View Ridge's building space include a common lobby for visitors; community meeting rooms for use by the school district and the city; office space for the school district's administrative office, special education office and technical support; and City of Ridgefield's city services.

Also under consideration are plans to increase the capacity of View Ridge's parking lot to provide more parking and improve traffic flow with a re-configured entrance/exit. Estimated project completion is December 2018.

### Landscaping Design Project By Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC)

Recognizing the need to landscape the open spaces around View Ridge Middle School with no available bond funding, Superintendent Nathan McCann turned to the 12 students in his Superintendent's Student Advisory Council for ideas. The council, which meets monthly with McCann, is comprised of students from Grades 4-12 representing each of the district's four schools.

With the professional support of architects and landscape designers, McCann met with his SSAC students in January and presented them with the challenge: To design and construct a park in downtown Ridgefield utilizing the open spaces around View Ridge Middle School, relying primarily on the volunteer efforts of professionals and the Ridgefield community.

Not only were the students eager to tackle the project, they came up with some impressive ideas for the design team, including a community garden, a playground for early learners, and an amphitheater, to name a few. The students were excited to know that their ideas would benefit the community and at the same time leave a lasting impact in Ridgefield.

In the coming year, the students will continue to collaborate with landscape designers and architects to refine their ideas, get community organizations on board, and increase volunteer support. Estimated completion is January 2019.



# LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The fiscal year for the district begins September 1 and ends August 31. The following charts show revenue sources and expenditures for the 2016-17 school year. The district budget for 2016-17 was \$29.2 million.

### 2016-2017 REVENUE



### 2016-2017 EXPENDITURES



The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation is a privately-funded, nonprofit organization serving as a liaison between the Ridgefield community and the Ridgefield School District to support our students' academic and social needs. The Foundation was established in 2009 by a small group of parents looking for a way to fund programs and services in our schools that are not funded from other sources.

In the 2016-2017 school year, nearly 100% of the revenue generated by the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation went directly back to Ridgefield schools: Mini Grants: \$19,000, Laspa Classroom School Supply Grant: \$7,000, Scholarships: \$1,500 (\$4,000 total in partnership with Ridgefield High School Alumni), Ridgefield Youth Arts Month: \$1,000.

#### GRANTS

Partnering with Columbia Credit Union, the Foundation announced the creation of the Paul Lewis Innovation Grant in November 2017. Grants up to \$5,000 will be presented to a staff member, high school student, or school program in the Ridgefield School District that will use the funding to provide opportunities aligned with the school district's "Pursuing Premier Goals and Planning Blueprint" to benefit a large number of students in subsequent years. It was created in honor of the work and contributions of Paul Lewis, co-founder and past president of the Foundation. Applications are now available, and grants will be awarded in June 2018.

The Foundation partners each year with the Laspa Family to donate \$100 to every teacher in the district through the Laspa Classroom Supply Grant. Additionally, in the fall, the Foundation awards Ridgefield teachers grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, which go directly towards curriculum materials, experiences, and programs that support learning and development.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

Partnering with Ridgefield High School Alumni, the Foundation offers scholarships up to \$500 to Ridgefield High School students continuing their education beyond high school. These scholarships are available to students who have overcome a challenge during their high school years and have a plan to further their education.

#### FUNDRAISING

The Foundation's first annual Turkey Trot kicked off fundraising for the 2017-18 school year in November. More than 300 race participants showed up for the Thanksgiving Day 5K/10K run. The event raised over \$12,000 for the Foundation, exceeding fundraising expectations. Along with the large amount of food donations from race participants, the Foundation donated \$5,000 of the event's proceeds to the Ridgefield Family Resource Center. Nearly 20 local businesses and organizations stepped up to sponsor the race, showing Ridgefield's exceptional commitment to its community and public schools.

The Foundation's 9th Annual RPSF Golf Tournament at Tri-Mountain Golf Course is scheduled in June. The event is the Foundation's largest and longest-running fundraiser and has come a long way since its first year, when it raised \$600. In 2017, with 26 sponsors and 80 participants, the event raised over \$16,000.



#### The Mission

The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation advances programs and activities that support whole student development for which public resources are insufficient or unavailable.

#### Board of Directors

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- Elizabeth J. Flynn, Vice President
- Alan Hughes, Treasurer
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- Dr. Nathan McCann, Ex-Officio Member
- Hallie Stalcup, Ex-Officio Member

For more information about the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation, visit their website at [www.ridgefieldpsf.org](http://www.ridgefieldpsf.org).

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



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## RSD BY THE NUMBERS

- 2,957** Total student enrollment as of January 4, 2018
- 60%** Increase in student capacity that the 2017 Bond Program will provide
- 44** Number of new, full-sized classrooms in the new 5-8 school complex
- 19** Number of Ridgefield teachers that are National Board Certified
- 10** Number of unique Advanced Placement classes offered at Ridgefield High School
- #1** Reason people move to Ridgefield: THE SCHOOLS

