

View Ridge Middle School

Ridgefield School District
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Greetings View Ridge Middle School Families:

It is now August, which means school is fast approaching. This year's transition back into the school year at VRMS will be a unique experience for all as we move into our new campus on Hillhurst Rd. The 15 month construction has proceeded at a blistering pace, and the result is an awe-inspiring new building with state of the art structures to support a premier education for our students. While we could not be more grateful for the new construction our community has provided, the staff at VRMS understands that the most important focus we have is providing a great, supportive, personalized learning experience for all students who walk through our doors.

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of important details, and activities pertinent to kicking off the school year. With the rare opportunities that come in moving into a new, state-of-the-art, school, there will also come hiccups, headaches, and unforeseen struggles. We ask you for your patience as we work through these and invite you to offer feedback as we go.

Your first opportunity to visit the new campus will be a joint Sunset Ridge/View Ridge Back to School Social (for all students and parents) on Monday, August 27 from 4:30-7:00pm. Teachers will be on hand to meet and discuss the academic program of their class.

I want to welcome families of our new students--7th graders and newly enrolling 8th graders. We know transitioning to a new school can be a confusing and stressful experience, and want to do all we can to help all students and parents feel welcome, informed, and supported here. On our first day of school we hold Assurance Day, which is an all-day orientation for new students (all 7th and new 8th) on procedures, expectations, and the culture of View Ridge. Returning 8th graders stay home on this day. Our goal on Assurance Day is that every student has a sense of belonging, connection, and clarity about our school. We will also be hosting an information night for new parents on Wednesday, September 5 from 6:00-7:00pm. This will cover topics around academics, expectations, and other aspects of our school.

Other important information:

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

You can find our school supply list by clicking on the link here: [VRMS Supply List](#)

Mission

Together, View Ridge prepares all students for high school and beyond by ensuring high levels of character development and academic achievement.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION, DROP-OFF, AND PICK-UP

If you plan to transport your own child(ren) to the new campus, please be mindful of the correct parking lot and location to do this. Drop-off and pick-up are in the north parking lot in front of the main entrance to the building (on the Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex side). Staff will be on hand to help direct traffic in the first several days to ensure a safe and orderly procedure. Please be patient and attentive to signs and directions as you proceed through the process.

STUDENT HANDBOOK AND DRESS CODE

If you are a family who traditionally purchases clothing in the lead up to the school year, we encourage you to review the VRMS dress code guidelines and keep them in mind while shopping. Please consult the linked Student Handbook for these guidelines and others: [Student Handbook](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, August 13: Athletics Registration Night (RHS, 5-7pm)

Student athletes can complete their online registration in person with assistance from school staff and pay fees. See athletics web page for more information. Attendance at this evening is not required or needed to register, but may be helpful.

Thursday, August 16: Sunset Ridge/View Ridge Office Opens (8am)

Monday, August 20: Cross Country Practice Begins

Saturday, August 25: Back to School Bash (Ridgefield Church of the Nazarene, 9-Noon)

Local community supporters provide free backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, sports physicals, clothing and other resources for families in preparation for school.

Monday, August 27: Fall Sports Practices Begin (except Cross Country)

Football, Volleyball, and Girls Soccer begin practices

Monday, August 27: SRIS and VRMS Back to School Social (4:30-7pm)

A back to school open house. Students and parents can tour the new school, get schedules, pay fees, and enjoy refreshments as they gear up for another school year.

Wednesday, August 29: Assurance Day (first day for 7th graders and students new to Ridgefield--regular transportation)

In order to orient new students to the routines and practices of middle school, we spend a day with only them on campus to deliberately teach expectations, routines, and establish an inclusive, supportive culture to help them feel welcome in our school.

Thursday, August 30: 8th Grade First Day

8th graders join us on Day 2, please keep them at home on Day 1.

Monday, September 3: Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)

Wednesday, September 5: New Parent Information Night (6-7pm)

In the final weeks of summer we encourage you to make the most of your family time, and soak up those memorable summer moments with your kids. We make one request, however, and that is to help get your student back into an school mindset. Some of the biggest learning loss we see happens over the summer, and students greatly benefit from maintaining engagement in some academic activity (reading, writing, problem solving, practicing your musical instrument, etc.) in the weeks leading up to the start of the school year. Re-establishing bed times and good eating habits are also a good idea.

I look forward to beginning a great school year with you and your children.

In partnership,

Tony Smith
Principal