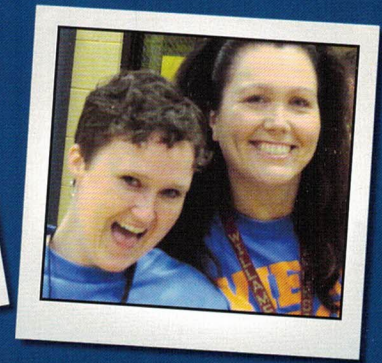
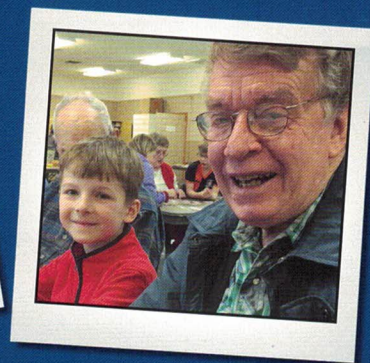
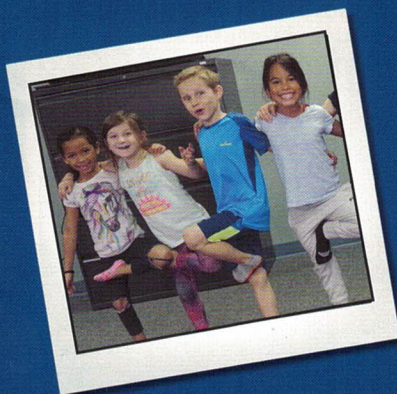
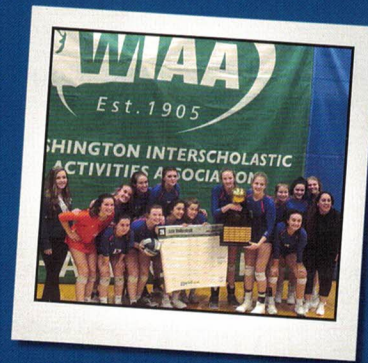
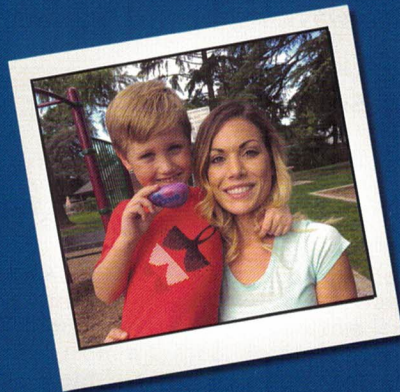
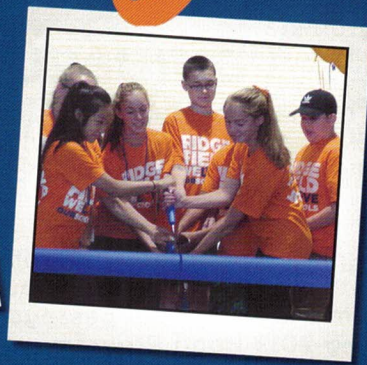
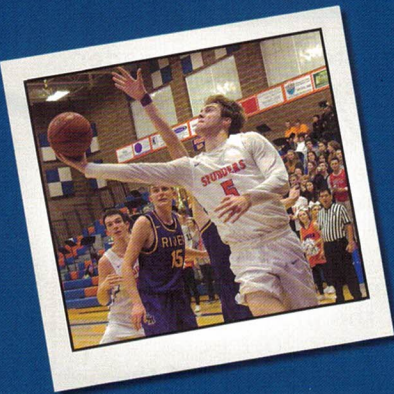


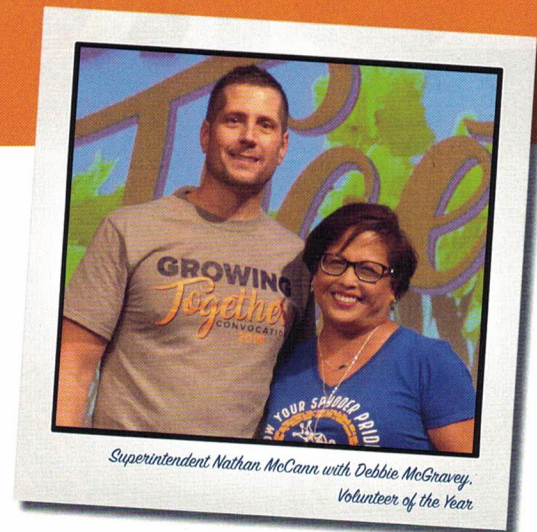
GROWING *Together*



WELCOME 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, and we strive 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 accomplishments, including the many program and facility additions and enhancements that are positively influencing the learning experience for every student.

You will find a feature story that highlights the unique spirit and strong sense of community found in Ridgefield, from its earliest days through today and beyond. Be sure to check out the progress update on the Phase II construction projects now underway from the successful passage of our 2017 Bond Program and the many projects included in the upcoming 2019 Bond Program. You'll also learn of the tremendous support provided to our schools through our valued partnership with the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation. Of course, student achievement and demographic data, as well as financial data chronicling the 2017-2018 school year are included. 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,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



District 1
Emily Enquist



District 2
Joseph Vance



District 3
Steven Radosevich



District 4
Becky Greenwald



District 5
Scott Gullickson

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.

QUALITY INSTRUCTION

We ensure research-based instructional practices are implemented in every classroom utilizing access to professional growth and collaboration opportunities to reflect on and improve our practices.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We deliver a premier educational program dedicated to developing the whole child. We provide students with personalized academic and extracurricular opportunities while increasing student learning.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We strive to provide safe, well-maintained facilities with 21st century learning environments in which all students can succeed. We will maximize the availability of our facilities to support community use.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We create educational partnerships to promote collaboration, improve communication, and provide programs for greater learning opportunities.

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 three years implementing improvements related to assessment practices, communication and professional development.

DISTRICT PROFILE



OUR SCHOOL FACILITIES

RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)
VIEW RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL (7-8)
SUNSET RIDGE INTERMEDIATE (5-6)
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	189
AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE	11.9
% TEACHERS WITH AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE	57.1
TOTAL WHO TEACH CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES	137
NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO ARE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED	20

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, 510 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642, (360) 619-1304, or by email at chris.griffith@ridgefieldsd.org.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2017-2018

ENROLLMENT 2017-2018 as of October 1, 2017 **3,067**

GENDER

MALE	50.5%
FEMALE	49.5%

ETHNICITY

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE	0.4%
ASIAN	1.4%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	0.5%
HISPANIC	11.5%
WHITE	80.1%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.4%
TWO OR MORE RACES	5.8%

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

FREE OR REDUCED-PRICED MEALS	27.3%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	12.4%
TRANSITIONAL BILINGUAL	3.6%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

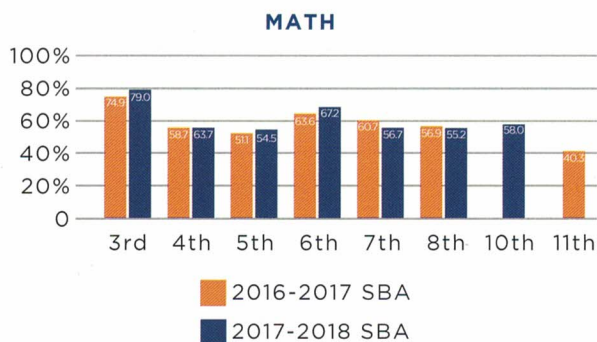
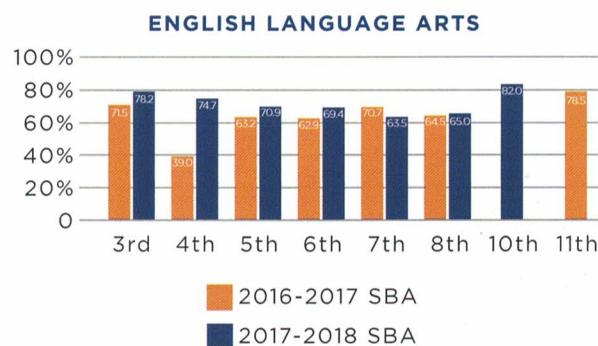
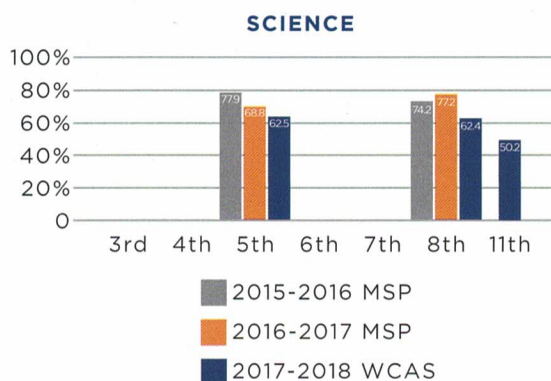
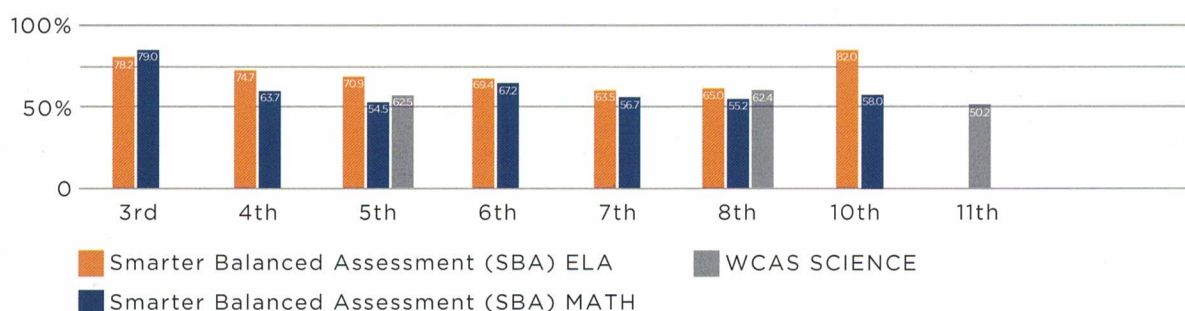
UNEXCUSED ABSENCE RATE	0.34%
ADJUSTED 4-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE: CLASS OF 2017	88.8%
ADJUSTED 5-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE CLASS OF 2016	93.9%
GRADUATION RATE, CLASS OF 2018	89.5%

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. 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.

2017-2018 RESULTS



2017 BOND



VIEW RIDGE + SUNSET RIDGE opened Fall 2018 on time and under budget accommodating 1,200 students grades 5 - 8. The new 21st century learning environment is a Washington Sustainable School.

RIDGEFIELD HS EXPANSION, currently under budget, is on track to open Fall 2019.

43,000 SF will include:

- 8 New Science Classrooms
- 8 New Gen Ed Classrooms
- Central Library / Media Center
- Art / Graphic Design Studios
- Comprehensive Life Skills Suite
- Step Two in multi-phase expansion and modernization

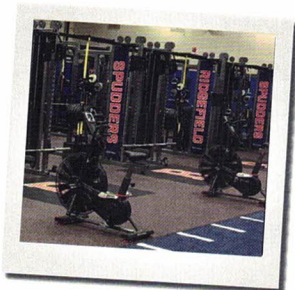


View of RHS Expansion project as of January 4, 2019, showing building exterior wrapped in weather barriers. Work is progressing on schedule in the following areas: roofing; interior framing; mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-ins; and installations for drywall, precast concrete wainscot panels, metal wall panels, and windows.

RIDGEFIELD HS RENOVATIONS

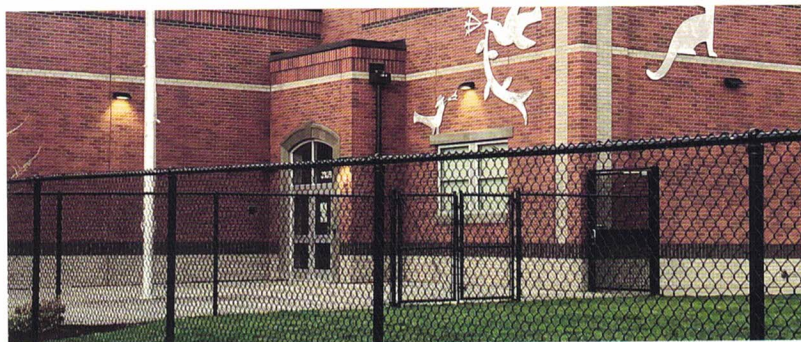
Weight room renovation project completed Fall 2018, on time and under budget

Locker room renovation project is currently on schedule and under budget



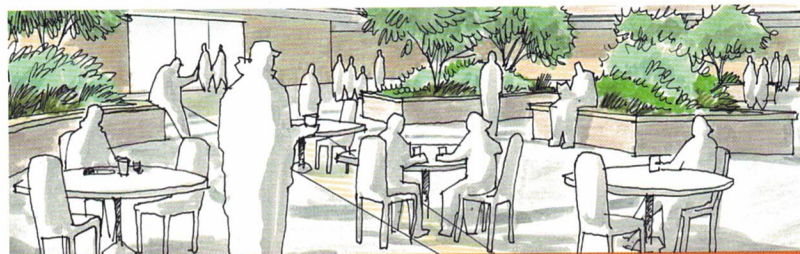
SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENT

Both Union Ridge and South Ridge security improvements completed Fall 2018, on time and under budget.



VIEW RIDGE REPURPOSE

The old View Ridge Middle School is transforming into the new home of Ridgefield School District administration and City of Ridgefield offices. The new Ridgefield Administrative & Civic Center (RACC), is currently under budget and on schedule to open January 2019. The space will include shared community meeting space, a re-developed interior courtyard, street scape improvements, and community park.



2019 BOND



HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The total bond request is \$77 million. We will leverage an additional \$15 million from the state and utilize school impact fees for an infrastructure improvement program of nearly \$100 million. The District's levy rate will fall 74¢ and assessed valuation continues to rise substantially.

The result is a tax rate increase of only 9¢ for \$100 million in improvements!

Annual Increase



If the assessed value of your home is \$300,000 then your annual increase will be \$27 per year or **\$2.25 per month**. The current average home value assessment is \$466,000 which translates to just under \$42 annually or **\$3.50 per month**. For a home with an assessed valuation of \$600,000, the annual increase is \$54 or **\$4.50 per month**.

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

School District Tax Rate/\$1000 Assessed Valuation

La Center	\$3.86
Battle Ground	\$4.14
Woodland	\$4.28
Ridgefield	\$4.34
Vancouver	\$4.39
Evergreen	\$4.84
Washougal	\$5.17
Hockinson	\$5.63
Camas	\$6.71



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The comprehensive bond measure will replace temporary, less secure and inefficient portable classrooms with permanent classrooms. Included in the bond are the following projects:

- ✓ Reduce overcrowding by building a new K-4 elementary school on the northeast side of the freeway
- ✓ Fully renovate and modernize the vocational education building at Ridgefield High School. This building has not been renovated since it was constructed nearly 50 years ago.
- ✓ Expand Ridgefield High School by constructing a new classroom wing
- ✓ Add covered play at all elementary schools
- ✓ Install new HVAC systems at elementary schools
- ✓ Enhance safety and security at all facilities in the district

RIDGEFIELD SCHOOLS

Proud Past, Prosperous Present, Promising Future



Ridgefield's first public school, built in 1892

Clark County Historical Museum - Project Identifier #P15.29.98

People have been drawn to Ridgefield for many years because it is a thriving community with small town charm, scenic beauty, and quality education. But new residents may not have heard of the city's rich history, with ties to great explorers, Native American culture, and active farm and forestry trade. The school system is an important part of Ridgefield's history, with a legacy dating back more than a century.

When the first Ridgefield school opened in 1892, there were only a few students sharing the one room schoolhouse. Students walked across wide fields and dirt roads to get to school. For a time, there was even a school boat that picked students up from houseboats and properties along Lake River.

Now, 120 years later, there are five thriving schools that serve nearly 3,200 students. Ridgefield schools are setting new standards in education, with award-winning achievements and state of the art technology. And the proud story of our community continues to be reflected in our schools.

NEW FRONTIERS

The future of Ridgefield is still being written by every person who lives here. As we carry on what the first settlers began, we look to continue our 120-year tradition of academic excellence.

Calleigh Thomas, an 11th grade student at Ridgefield High School, agrees, "I think the classes I am taking are challenging and are great learning environments. I love Ridgefield, and our education system has improved greatly over the past few years. I am hopeful and looking forward to the future of Ridgefield."



Ridgefield school classroom in 1921

Clark County Historical Museum - Project Identifier #P15.29.105

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY

Many projects are designed to link students to the stories and traditions of our past. Students learn about Lewis and Clark's time in Ridgefield and visit the Cathlapotle Plankhouse on the National Wildlife Refuge. Cispus Outdoor School, a learning camp for fifth graders, marks its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Our school mascots are named for the history of our farms and fields, nature and wildlife: the Spudders and Tater Tots, the Coyotes, Herons, and Roadrunners. (Interestingly, the high school actually had another mascot choice many years ago—the Pruners, after another of our main crops.)

The schools continue to actively honor our city's past by weaving it into the present. It's a type of historic preservation for our sense of community, preserving and protecting our sense of place.



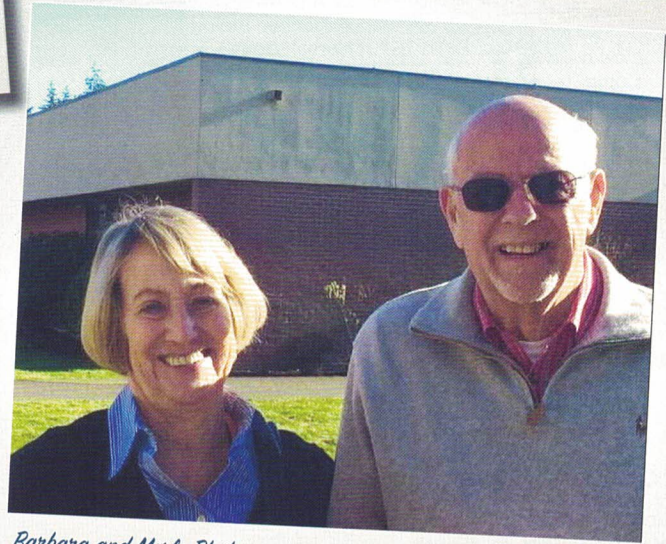
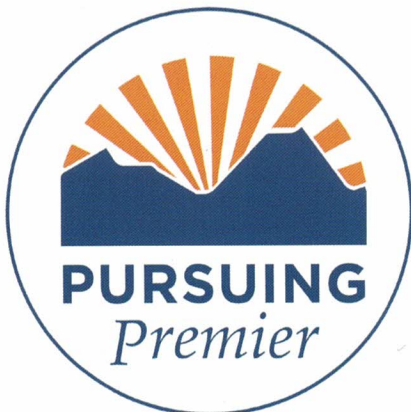
Superintendent's Student Advisory Council plans plaza landscaping to commemorate Pioneer School.

PURSING PREMIER

In 2015, Ridgefield School District adopted Pursuing Premier, a blueprint to becoming the state's premier school system. By leveraging community partnerships, the District provides personalized learning experiences for each student, giving them the opportunities and skills to ensure their success.

With forward-thinking teachers and administrators, Pursuing Premier is a goal that is within reach. By starting with high expectations for our schools and students, Pursuing Premier opens unlimited possibilities for achievement.

Students and parents have already seen positive change within the schools. Tara Nathan is the parent of two daughters in Ridgefield schools. She shared her experience. "Ridgefield schools are amazing. There are growing pains that we, as a town, are experiencing with so many folks moving here. But overall Ridgefield is full of Spudder pride, kindness, and a sense of community. I love that the schools really do try to think outside the box."



Barbara and Merle Pfeifer met in sixth grade at Pioneer School. Their five children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild all attended Ridgefield schools. photo courtesy of Citizens for Ridgefield Schools

GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS

Merle Pfeifer remembers attending the Ridgefield School, a large brick building on Pioneer Street. The Ridgefield Administrative and Civic Center (formerly View Ridge Middle School) stands on the school's original site, with a student-designed plaza to commemorate its history.

"Children started school in the one end of the school and graduated out the other end. We were fortunate with good teachers and a community that supported and was very involved in the school district," Pfeifer said.

He felt the schools were the key to the students' success. "Many of our Ridgefield students went on to excel with academic success, military service—good family people and honest hard workers. The opportunities were there for all who strived to succeed."

Merle and his wife, Barbara Pfeifer (whom he met at the school in sixth grade), their five children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, all attended Ridgefield schools. As new families start their own legacies here, the schools strive to reflect the same important core value Pfeifer remembers: creating opportunities for all students to achieve success. And this core value is also a key element of the Ridgefield School District's plan, Pursuing Premier.



in Action!

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST 5 YEARS



Math + Engineering

Principles of Engineering
Probability and Stats
Inclusion Algebra IA + IB
Introduction to Engineering Design
AP Calculus BC
CAPS Engineer + Industrial Design

Science

Advanced Biology/Physics
Human Body Systems
Biomedical
Medical Interventions
CAPS Medicine and Health Care

Social Studies

AP Human Geography
AP World History
AP Psychology

Physical Education

Sports Development
Freshmen Fitness

Career and Technical Education

Child Development II
Teaching Academy
Marketing
Animation
Graphic Arts Production
Carpentry
Construction
CAPS Business, Marketing +
Entrepreneurship

World Language

French I + II
Spanish - more classes

ELL Development course

Fine + Performing Art

AP Art
Stagecraft
RHS YouTube
Men's Choir

Electives

Academic Success
(to help students behind in
graduation requirements)
Leadership - more classes
Peer Mentorship program
Virtual Learning

Title I/LAP

New intervention programs and
professional development

Career + College Technical Education

New Student Clubs - HOSA, DECA,
SkillsUSA, FIRST Robotics

CAPS - Center for Advanced
Professional Studies in Engineering,
Health Sciences, and Business,
Marketing & Entrepreneurship

New Courses

(2017-19 added 24 new sections)
AP Biology
Teaching Academy before school
learning lab
Leadership
Health
Business & Marketing
Welding Tech
Machining
Construction Tech
Computer Science at VRMS

New staff since 2016-17

Katey Sheley
Chris Shipp
Nam Nyugen
Sarah Fontyn
Angela Gardner
Andrea Reinertson

Access to Precision Exams

Additional Equipment

Foods - new refrigerator,
washer/dryer, small appliances
Woods/Metals Shops
52" Heavy Duty Combination
3 in 1 sheet metal shearer
Arc Welders
Bench Grinder
Repair welding bays
Metal lathe
Welding curtains
RIDGID Planer
Forge
Sawstop
VRMS
Shopbot buddy
Laser Engraver
Refrigerators + dishwashers
Sawstop
Makerbot 3D printers

HiCap

Hired consultant
Transitioned to cluster grouping
model

English Language Learning

Enrollment increased every year
2014-15 up 19 2017-18 up 78
2015-16 up 33 2018-19 up 97
2016-17 up 53

Hired ELL endorsed Title I/LAP/
ELL specialist (Tiffany Quast) and
increased para educator hours

Added Imagine Learning

Safety

Raptor screening tool
Standard Response Protocol
Standard Reunification Method
School Resource Officers

Annual Safety Night

Transportation Model Revamp
(no longer K-12 bussing)

Community

**Ridgefield Administrative
+ Civic Center**

Experience Ridgefield

Ridgefield Youth Arts Month

Holiday Greeting Card contest

District Art Show

PE Showcase

Patron Tours



Family Solutions partnership
Community Services Northwest
Foster Care/McKinney Vento
Liaison Coordinator

Athletics + Activities

STEP / Core Covenants

Boys/girls tennis

Gymnastics

Girls Bowling

Girls Golf

Weights/conditioning program

International Thespians

HOSA

Spanish Club

Photo Club

GSA

Robotics

Student/staff recognition program

Additional Improvements

**District led Professional
Development Department**

New Employee Induction
(4 day program)

**Pursuing Premier Strategic Plan
Positive Behavioral Interventions
+ Supports**

Seal of Bi-literacy

AdvancEd Accreditation

Little Spudders Pre K program

Additional Technology: 1-to-1
Chromebooks in grades 3-12



New building addition
- Commons/cafe/teria
- Performing arts stage



New building addition
- Commons/cafe/teria
- Performing arts stage
- New gym



New building
Computer science elective
Choir for 5-6
WIN: What I Need
intervention time
Project based learning
RSD based CISPUS camp
fire partnership with RHS
STEM classes



New building
French + Spanish
Computer science elective
STEM classes
Intervention time
Robotics Team

Special Education

18-21 transition program focused
on teaching students vocational,
daily living and leisure skills as they
transition into the next phase of
their lives.

New life skills program for 5-8
grades. Previously students were
part of the K-8 program, but with
additional funds from higher stu-
dent counts we now can create
more appropriate peer groups.

K-4 focused learning groups based
on needs. One group provides
more positive behavior interven-
tions and supports while the other
uses applied behavioral analysis
techniques.

New curriculum for students exhib-
iting dyslexic like characteristics.
Training to special and general
education teachers on how to
implement the curriculum in the
multi-tiered system of supports.

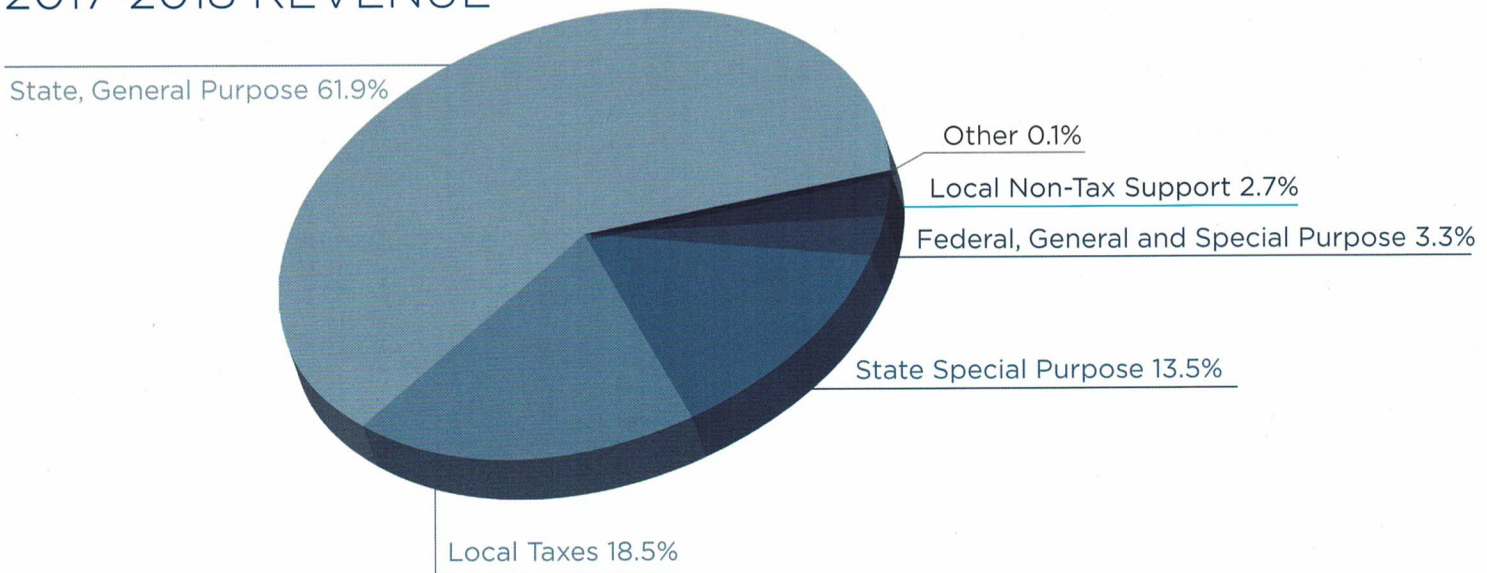
Hired a .6 OT, a 1.0 SLP, a regis-
tered behavior technician (RBT)
and contract with a board certified
behavior analyst (BCBA). This was
possible because of the increase
in funding with growth. This allows
for smaller caseload sizes and the
ability to work more intentionally
with students.

*Growth Leads
to Opportunities!*

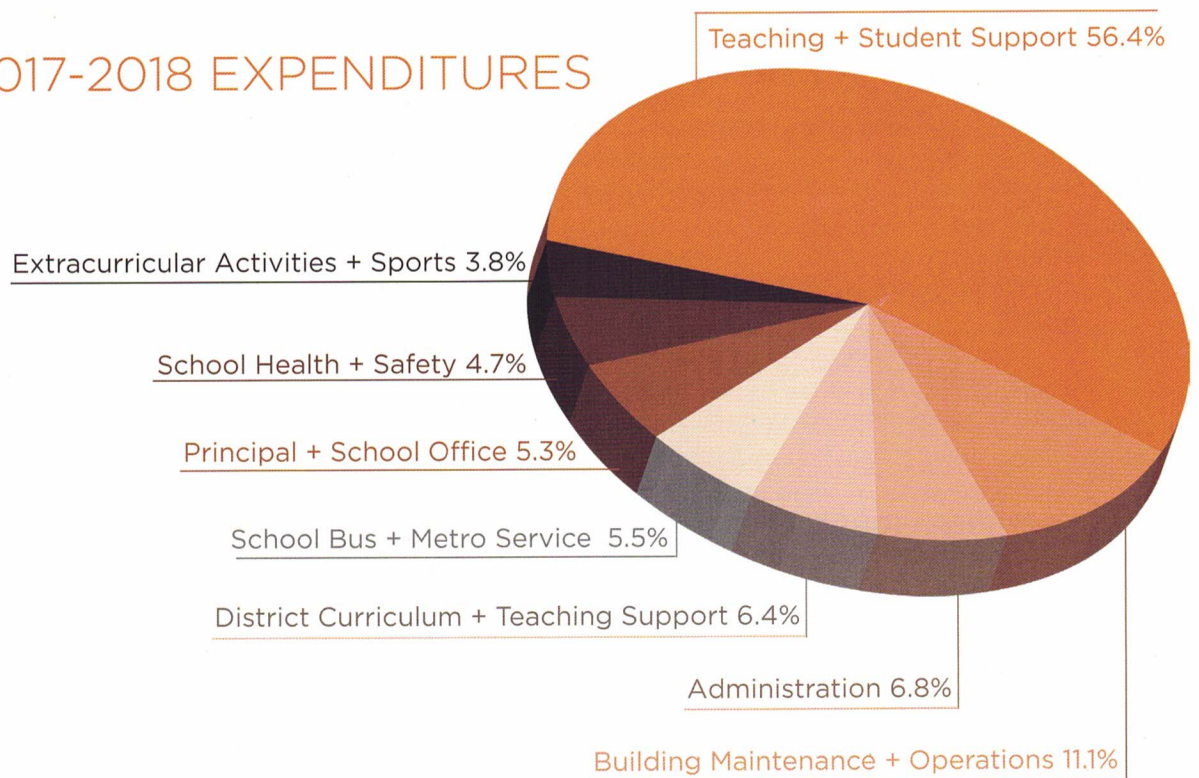
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The fiscal year for the district begins September 1 and ends August 31. The following charts show revenue sources and expenditures for the 2017-18 school year. The district budget for 2017-18 was \$33.7 million.

2017-2018 REVENUE

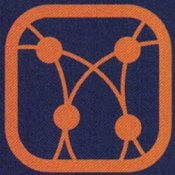


2017-2018 EXPENDITURES





CENTER FOR ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES represents the collaboration of education, business and community, providing students with a unique, immersive experience, resulting in highly skilled, adaptable, global innovators and leaders.



Developing engaged students committed to making a positive difference in the world.

Innovation Ridge Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) is a nationally recognized, innovative high school program. Students fast forward into their future and are fully immersed in a professional culture, solving real world problems, using industry standard tools mentored by actual employers. CAPS is an example of how business, community and public education can partner to produce personalized learning experiences that educate the workforce of tomorrow, especially in high skill, high demand jobs. Innovation Ridge strands of study for juniors and seniors include Engineering; Health Services; Business, Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

5 key guiding principles unite, define, and guide the caps experience

PROFESSION-BASED LEARNING

Instructors develop real-world, project-based learning strategies through collaborations with business and community partners. These interactions enhance the learning experience, preparing students for college and career.

RESPONSIVENESS

CAPS supports high-skill, high-demand careers through ongoing innovation in curriculum development, programs and services based on local business and community needs.

SELF-DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

Students realize their strengths and passions by exploring and experiencing potential professions. This allows them to make informed decisions about their future, while learning to exhibit leadership.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Unique experiences allow students to cultivate transformative professional skills such as understanding expectations, time management and other essential business values. These skills are critical to providing students a competitive advantage in their post-secondary education and professional careers.

ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

Instructors create an environment where creative thinking and problem solving is encouraged. An innovative culture is key to fostering entrepreneurial learning and design thinking.

Community involvement with the Innovation Ridge CAPS program is an essential piece to making it successful, plus it is simple, and you can get involved in many ways. From providing guidance in the day to day hands on learning, to ensuring curriculum is industry relevant, or speaking to students about how they can grow professionally, volunteers are needed at every level. Learn more at www.innovationridge.weebly.org.



EST.

2009

RIDGEFIELD

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Helping to advance programs and activities in the Ridgefield School District through support from our community...

How you can get involved:

MAKE A DONATION

You can donate to the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation at www.ridgefieldpsf.org/donate or by sending a check to Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation, PO Box 1402, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

VOLUNTEER AS A BOARD MEMBER

The Foundation is currently seeking qualified board members who are willing to volunteer their talents and time to grow our reach and effectiveness in the Ridgefield School District.

ATTEND AN EVENT

The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation hosts several community events to help raise funds for our students and teachers. The annual golf tournament is usually held in the summer, followed by the Turkey Trot in late fall, and we are currently working on a new event expected to run during Experience Ridgefield in September. Check out our website at www.ridgefieldpsf.org/events to learn more about each event opportunity!

THANK YOU!

We genuinely want to thank the community for their continued commitment and support of the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation. We could not continue to impact teachers and students in the ways we do without the many generous donations, volunteers, and business partnerships throughout our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Vigue, President
Elizabeth J. Flynn, Vice President
Alan Hughes, Treasurer
Audri Bomar, Secretary
Jen Dawson, Trustee
Stephanie Goad, Trustee
Georgianna Jones, Trustee
Karen Mittlestadt, Trustee
Rachelle Simmons, Trustee
Dr. Nathan McCann, Ex-Officio Member
Kelli Paterson, Student, Ex-Officio Member
Tyler Lehnertz, Student, Ex-Officio Member

For more information about the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation, visit our website at www.ridgefieldpsf.org.



Participating in one of our events is a great way to support the foundation

The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation is a privately-funded, nonprofit organization serving to fund new resources and innovative ideas in the classroom. We believe this is key to the success of Ridgefield students and that creating an innovative, inclusive and supported classroom only enhances Ridgefield students' ability to reach their full potential.

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. Specifically, the Foundation wants to target the areas where the Ridgefield School District, PTA, PTO, and Booster Club funding are not able to meet the needs of the rapidly-growing district.

Since the Foundation's inception in 2009, we have provided over \$250,000 to support our schools. In 2018, the Foundation was able to award over \$52,000 in grant and scholarships. Foundation dollars reach our students in so many ways.

IMPACT GRANT

The Foundation awarded 16 Impact grants totaling over \$11,000 to teachers in our district.

INNOVATION GRANT

The Innovation Grant, sponsored by Columbia Credit Union, was launched in 2018 to fuel innovation in the classroom by incorporating new, creative, original, or out-of-the-box programs in schools and classrooms. Grants up to \$5,000 were presented to three staff members for the 2018-19 school year. We are excited to be partnering with Columbia Credit Union in 2019 to continue this amazing opportunity.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In partnership with RHS Alumni, the Foundation helped five students in 2018 continue their education after graduation with a total of \$8,000 in scholarships.

TANNER TROSKO MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of Tanner's legacy, this need-based scholarship is open to students enrolled in Ridgefield School District (K-12) to cover the cost of individual or group music lessons and instrument rental (if required for lessons) through Ridgefield Community Education or Opus School of Music.

RIDGEFIELD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Foundation continues to support the Ridgefield Family Resource Center because we believe that every student deserves the ability to reach their full potential, and meeting basic needs should not be a barrier to any student in Ridgefield schools. This year, the Foundation was able to provide \$5,000 to help students and families in Ridgefield.

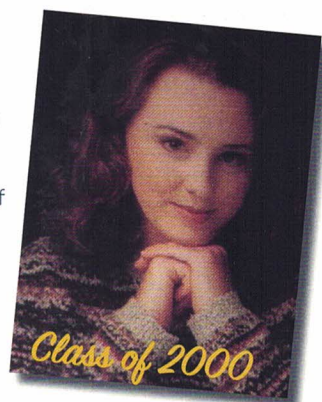


WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

SPUDDER GRAD SUCCESS STORIES

High school years for **Allison Ford** were busy ones. Ford was Co-captain for both the Girls' Basketball and Girls' Soccer teams and was on the Volleyball team. In addition, she volunteered as Cispus counselor during her junior year, participated in Mock Trial, served as Manager of the School Employees Credit Union Student Branch, was on the Yearbook Committee and was Vice-President of the senior class.

Ford's interest in government, politics, history and love of travel helped to define her career path. "I remember my senior year, there was a table at lunch that you could register to vote at (if you were 18)," she said, "and I took the form and felt very proud and excited about whatever the future holds." Ford has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Gonzaga University and a Masters degree in Public Administration from George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia.



Fast forward to 2019 Allison is thriving at her job in International Government Relations at United Technologies Corporation (UTC), a high-tech manufacturer of aerospace and building systems equipment in Washington, DC, whose iconic brands (Otis, Carrier, and Pratt & Whitney) are built and distributed world-wide. In her job, Ford interacts regularly with foreign governments in Washington, DC and abroad to advocate on behalf of UTC's public policy and business interests. In addition, she is very active in advocating for women's rights issues and the empowerment of female leadership and representation in government and other industries. Ford also serves on the Board of Directors of the Women's Foreign Policy Group and is producer and host of a podcast, Career Therapy, which is on track to go live this year.

When we caught up with her in a recent interview, we asked Allison to reflect on her student experiences growing up in Ridgefield schools:

Favorite K-12 moment, class or teacher that prepared her for her current occupation

"That is incredibly difficult to answer. Ridgefield was much more of a small town back then, and many of my classmates and I grew up alongside each other from preschool to graduation. A lot of our teachers and coaches were also family friends, and in my case, even my parents (Gregg and Mary Ford). It truly was the essence of the phrase 'it takes a village'."

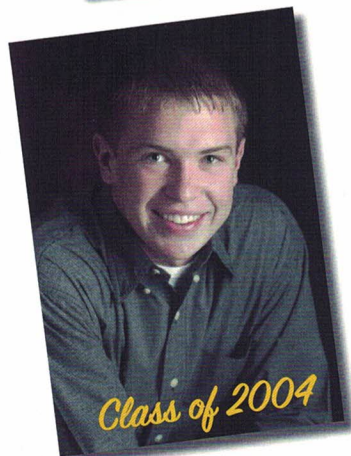
I have so many great memories, but going to Cispus as a fifth grader with Ms. Judy Bochart and then again as a counselor in high school is something that will always be very special to me. However, my favorite moments that will stick with me forever were playing basketball with my sister and our teammates. It feels impossible to pick just one teacher because there are so many that have had an impact on me, especially my father, but if I had to pick one, it would have to be Ms. Cathy Falk's English class. I am above all else a communicator in my job and being able to write well and organize my thoughts into compelling arguments is a practical skill that has been useful throughout my life."

Advice she would give to today's students

"Don't ever let anyone else define who you are or who you want to be. Comparing yourself and your life to others is the thief to happiness. Be actively supportive of each other's success AND failure. People never forget how you made them feel. When we lift each other up, we all rise. I give the same advice to the girls and young women I mentor—support each other and be confident."



Allison today



The Stolberg Family

Both Nick and Nikki Stolberg are graduates of Ridgefield High School. Nick played in the Band; Nikki was involved in soccer, track and National Honor Society. They met in their early teens and became good friends while doing short-term missions to Mexico through their church and doing volunteer work for their youth group.

Nick attended Clark College, earning an AA in Business Administration and a Bachelors degree in Business Administration at Washington State University Vancouver. Nikki holds a Bachelors degree in Human Services from Western Washington University. Nikki aspired to work abroad and go into social work to help others, especially families, a passion fueled since she was 12, when her mom became a foster parent. Nick followed her on that path after college—the beginning of an incredible journey together as a married couple.

Nick and Nikki moved to Haiti in 2010, working with Children of the Promise and Danita's Children, non-profit organizations dedicated to helping vulnerable children and their families. Through this work over the course of six years, Nick and Nikki cared for many sick and dying children living in poverty and soon realized the desperate plight of parents there, struggling to care for and support their families in an environment where jobs were scarce.

Determined to help create a better life for these families, the Stolbergs purchased a plot of land in the village of Chiron, 45 minutes from Cap Haitien and founded their own non-profit—an educational farm called New Roots Haiti, in June 2016. Its mission is to empower families by creating jobs, educating families and providing nutrition assistance. Today, New Roots Haiti is creating sustainable, dignified jobs on the farm, breaking the cycle of generational poverty, preventing malnutrition, keeping families intact, and empowering parents to provide the best possible life for their children.

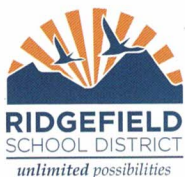
The educational farm is multi-faceted. Its focus is raising chickens, but it also raises turkeys, pigs and cows and cultivates gardens. It is thriving. In 2018, New Roots Haiti produced over 15,000 pounds of meat and employed 13 full-time and 13 part-time employees. "We are aiming to double this in 2019, helping empower even more families in our village," said Nikki Stolberg. "With the chance to have an income, they are able to put their kids in better schools, pay medical bills, and build more secure housing. We believe that a job is the first step in transformational generational development."

As the Business Director, Nick runs the New Roots Farm, overseeing finances, facilities, and employees. Nikki is the Program Director and oversees all media, promotions, and donor relations. She also homeschools her oldest children Evens, 8, and Josiah, 7. Daughter Avalyn is 2, and youngest son, Kendrix is 1. "The New Roots farm continues to grow all the time, creating more and more opportunities for both men and women in our community to find employment, said Nikki Stolberg." Over the next two years, as our vision continues to come to life, we hope that the number of people we are able to employ increases significantly as jobs are what truly make a difference here."

What advice would the Stolbergs give today's students?

"In a world polluted with division, greed and self-indulgence, be kind, share, and think of others every day," said Nick Stolberg. Nikki Stolberg said, "Don't be afraid to step out and do the unthinkable. With great risks come great rewards. We never could have envisioned starting our own non-profit in Haiti and often wondered over the first year if we had made a major mistake. But we are seeing so much positive change that we know this is exactly what we were supposed to do."

To learn more about Nick and Nikki Stolberg's incredible work in Haiti, visit the New Roots Haiti website at www.newrootshaiti.org.



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RSD BY THE NUMBERS

- \$15M** Assistance the state will provide to construct the proposed new K-4 elementary school in the 2019 Bond Program
- 2,301** Number of kids who participated in Ridgefield Community Education programs in the 2017-18 school year and Summer 2018
- 1,422** Number of new students projected to enroll in Ridgefield schools by 2022
- 65%** Growth experienced by the city of Ridgefield from 2010-2017
- 9¢** Increase in school tax rate per \$1,000 assessed valuation for the 2019 Bond Program
- #1** Reason people move to Ridgefield: THE SCHOOLS



A team of 13 fifth graders from Sunset Ridge Intermediate School placed among the top five competing schools in every scheduled event at the Eleventh Annual Elementary Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament