



Ridgefield Park High School

9th Grade Orientation Information Packet

September 2023

Dear Students,

Welcome to Ridgefield Park High School!

In September you will begin the next step in your educational journey. We are excited to start you off and partner with you during this process. High school provides a unique opportunity for you to develop academically, while also exploring who you are as an individual. Your experiences during this time will help to shape the young adult that you will soon be.

The beginning of a school year often brings forth feelings of nervousness and excitement. To help ease you into high school and answer your questions, attached you will find a 9th grade information packet. This packet covers most of what students inquire about from year to year. However, I know I may have missed a few questions! If there is something you are wondering about that you cannot find, please do not hesitate to ask.

I look forward to working with you in September!

Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson
9th Grade School Counselor
eanderson@rpschools.net

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Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is a typical 9th grade schedule?**
 - a. English I, World History II, Biology, Algebra I or Geometry, Foreign Language, Physical Education/Health and two electives.
- 2. When will I find out my high school schedule?**
 - a. Schedules are available in late August on Genesis. Parents must complete required forms through Genesis and then student schedules will become visible.
- 3. What locks can be used for lockers?**
 - a. For hallway lockers, students can purchase their own locks. Locks are encouraged for all students.
 - b. For gym lockers, students can use their own lock, but only for their gym period. Gym locks have to be put on at the beginning of each class and removed at the end. It is recommended that students use a gym lock.
- 4. How many credits do you need to graduate?**
 - a. 125 credits are required for graduation. Full year courses are 5 credits. Half-year courses are 2.5. A typical schedule will consist of 35-40 credits per school year.
- 5. Is there an attendance policy?**
 - a. The Board of Education maintains a policy on attendance which allows for fifteen (15) cumulative absences per year in a full year course, seven (7) cumulative absences in a semester (1/2 year) course, and five (5) cumulative absences in a marking period course. If your child should exceed the allowable number of cumulative absences, automatic loss of credit will result.
 - b. Excessive tardiness to school will result in consequences, such as detentions.
 - c. Did you know that children can suffer academically if they miss 10% of the school year? That's just 18 days or 2 to 3 days a month. Research shows us that absences add up. It's as true for excused absences as it is for skipping school. And research shows us it also marks the point when students start to fall behind academically, because they have missed too many days. Let's work together as a community to get all kids to school - on time, every day.
- 6. Where can students complete their 30 hours of community service requirement?**
 - a. Some students have volunteered at Holy Name Medical Center, our local libraries, at school events with teachers, after school tutoring, and through local agencies. Community service must be unpaid and approved by your school counselor. If you have questions or need help finding volunteer work, see the Guidance Department. Students must submit a community service form to Guidance to document hours.
- 7. How do you start a club?**
 - a. Students can start a club by writing a proposal to Mrs. Hasselberger, Supervisor of Guidance, and finding a willing teacher to advise the club. It will then go to the BOE for approval.
- 8. How do you start an after school student activity or event?**
 - a. You can work with the student government to submit a proposal to Mrs. Hasselberger or Mrs. Cavins, our principal.
- 9. Where can students receive college and career guidance?**

- a. Students receive college and career guidance each year through their guidance counselor. Families are welcome to set up meetings as well. Naviance is a new program the school offers which allows students to take career tests and look up colleges and careers. Ms. Anderson will introduce Naviance to freshmen mid year.

10. How do students make a schedule change?

- a. Schedule change forms will be available during the first week of school.

11. Where do the buses pick students up in Little Ferry?

- a. Morning Pick Up: Outside of Memorial School and at Indian Lake/Lakeview at 7:00am, 7:10am and 7:20am.
- b. Afternoon Drop Off: Buses return students to Indian Lake/Lakeview and Pickens. The bus schedule is located on the high school website. In the afternoon, buses leave the high school directly after the last period, 3:00pm, and 3:30pm. There are also sports buses that leave later in the afternoon.
- c. Little Ferry buses are only for Little Ferry students.

12. How does morning arrival work?

- a. Homeroom begins at 7:55am. Last period ends at 2:41pm.
- b. The oval ALWAYS backs up in the morning during drop off. Student lateness is not excused because of traffic. To avoid this I suggest:
 - i. Arrive before 7:35 AM.
 - ii. Parent drop off at the top of the hill by the steps above the school or the steps in Veteran's Park.
 - iii. Allow them to walk or bike to school.
- c. When dropping off, please have students exit quickly and then leave immediately (but carefully) to keep the flow of traffic moving.
- d. Students will enter through the main doors, by the main office.

13. How does lunch work?

- a. There are four lunch periods throughout the day. Your lunch period will be indicated on your schedule as B, C or D.
- b. You can bring lunch or buy lunch in the cafeteria with cash or by loading money into your student account. If you load money onto your student account you will type in your student ID number to buy lunch. Lunch account information can be found on the high school website under Parent Resources - Food Service. Freshmen have a closed lunch, which means you cannot leave the building for lunch. Students are NOT allowed to order food to be delivered to the school.

14. What is the Free and Reduced Lunch Program?

- a. This is a program that offers free or reduced lunch based on family income. Any student can apply for this program.
- b. Future benefits of this program include, college application fee waivers and reduced course cost for dual enrollment courses.
- c. Applications are available in the Genesis parent portal.
- d. If your child qualified for free or reduced price lunch last year, they will continue to receive it through September. A new form must be completed for the remainder of this year.

15. What do I do if I want to play a sport?

- a. Register on Genesis.

- b. Students must complete physical forms prior to participation. You can use a current year physical from your personal doctor. Physical forms should be emailed to the nurse for approval - eaguilar@rpschools.net.

16. Is there required summer work?

- a. There is required math work.
- b. The English Department offers a suggested reading list.
- c. Summer work information can be found [here](#).

17. Where can I access the student handbook?

- a. The student handbook has lots of important information. Be sure to review it!
 - i. [Student Handbook Link](#)

Genesis

Genesis is our student information system. Students and parents both have their own accounts, where they can access their class schedule, grades, attendance records and teacher contact information.

Student Accounts: All students should have their Genesis account information. The student portal can be accessed using this [link](#). Schedules will become available on Genesis in late August.

Genesis Parent Portal

- Ridgefield Park parents already have Genesis accounts.
- Little Ferry parent accounts will be activated in mid July. Little Ferry parents will receive an email notification informing them they can log into their account.

[Genesis Login Page](#)

[Genesis Parent Module Directions](#)

All Parents/Guardians

- **Required Forms:** Upon logging into Genesis required forms must be completed. Student accounts will not be accessible until the parent/guardian has completed the required forms.
- **Contact Update:** Please review your contact information to ensure we have the most up to date records for you.
- **Other Genesis Forms:**
 - Sports registration form available on Genesis
 - Free/Reduced Lunch Application available on Genesis

Athletics Program

At Ridgefield Park Jr/Sr High School, Interscholastic Athletics are an important part of the overall educational experience of our students. Nationwide studies have shown that students involved in extracurricular activities, including sports, achieve better grades, have better attendance, manage their time more efficiently, and have fewer discipline issues. Our philosophy at Ridgefield Park is to provide our student athletes with safe and positive programs that afford each athlete the opportunity to reach their greatest potential, both athletically and personally.

Being a part of an Interscholastic Athletic program requires a great deal of responsibility and commitment from our students and their families. Outlined below is some basic information that will assist you in understanding how a competitive interscholastic program is conducted.

1. Sports registration on Genesis: Genesis registration must be completed by parents of athletes in order to participate in athletics; see the Genesis registration cheat sheet below. All forms can be found on the Ridgefield Park J/S High School website. Parents must sign off on all forms online.
2. Additional Forms: Physical Examination, Health History, and Covid forms are required each year; these are the only forms accepted on paper. They must be downloaded and printed off the Ridgefield Park J/S High School website. Physical examinations, as of the 2021 fall season, must be performed by a doctor trained and certified in the Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening PD Module. Doctors must sign off on all physical exam paperwork.
3. Transportation: As a member of an interscholastic program, students must travel to and from away contests on the school provided transportation in order to participate in the scheduled event.
4. In each program, coaches are hired to be responsible for that program. Team selection and student placement on teams can be a subjective process. It is the right and responsibility of the coaching staff to select the team with whom they will work with throughout the entire season. It is our hope that a student who is not selected for a team will pursue participation in other programs sponsored by the athletic department.

Regardless of the time spent in actual competition, being a member of an athletic program allows student athletes to learn many valuable lessons including: citizenship, sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, loyalty, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self control, and responsibility. Communication among coaches, parents, athletes, and the Athletic Director is an important component to the success of our athletes and teams. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding your child's participation in our programs.

Athletic Options & Contacts

Athletic Director	Athletic Department Secretary
Michael Raimondi	Linda Artuso
(201) 807-2272	(201)-807-2272
mraimondi@rpschools.net	lartuso@rpschools.net

If you are interested in playing a sport, email the coach to learn about summer workouts and tryouts.

FALL SPORTS

Sport	Coach
Football	Coach Rapp - crapp@rpschools.net
Boys Soccer Assistant Coach	Coach Haines - brianhaines@rpschools.net Coach Pavin - mpavin@rpschools.net
Girls Soccer	Coach Lax - alax@rpschools.net
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)	Coach Murri - dmurri@rpschools.net
Girls Volleyball	Coach Suess - jsuess@rpschools.net
Girls Tennis	Coach Iannacone - eiannacone@rpschools.net
Sideline Cheering	Coach Graves - sgraves@rpschools.net

WINTER SPORTS

Sport	Coach
Boys Basketball	Coach Gaskin - cgaskin@rpschools.net
Girls Basketball	Coach Lax - alax@rpschools.net
Wrestling Co-Op with Bogota (Boys & Girls)	Coach Suess - jsuess@rpschools.net
Indoor Track (Boys & Girls)	TBA
Bowling (Boys & Girls)	Coach Wood - jwood@rpschools.net
Competition Cheering (Boys & Girls)	Coach Graves - sgraves@rpschools.net

SPRING SPORTS

Sport	Coach
Baseball	Coach Papetti - spapetti@rpschools.net
Softball	Coach Hansen - ghansen@rpschools.net
Track and Field (Boys & Girls)	Coach Murri - dmurri@rpschools.net
Boys Tennis	Coach Fells - rfells@rpschools.net

How to Register your Child on Genesis

1. Log into your Genesis portal
2. Click on forms.
3. Next, click the Athletic Participation (Fall, Winter, Spring) link.
4. Read the first two Boxes and confirm. Select the sport your child wants to play.
5. Continue to read the information and confirm that you did so.
6. Print out a copy of the Pre participation Athletic Physical form. You complete page one (1) and your Doctor fills out the rest.
7. Print out and complete the New Health History Form. These two forms must be handed in to the Nurse by the deadline.
8. Dr. Meese our school Doctor will sign off on the physical then your child will be cleared for participation.
9. All deadlines for submission of physicals and Genesis registration must be met, or your child will be delayed, or not able to participate at all.

Finally, all forms and information can also be found on our website, including a helpful video.

Bell Schedule

RPHS has a regular and block schedule based on the day of the week. Monday, Tuesday and Friday are regular days. Wednesday and Thursday are block days. The first week of school will follow a regular day schedule.

Regular Day Schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Friday)

All students meet for the same time Periods 2, 3, 4, 8 & 9. The mid day schedule (Period 5, 6 & 7) are determined by the lunch period.

7:55am - 8:03am	Homeroom
8:07am - 8:49am	Period 2
8:53am - 9:35am	Period 3
9:39am - 10:21am	Period 4

Select the block that matches your Lunch.

10:25am - 10:51am	A LUNCH	10:25am - 11:07am	Period 5A
10:55am - 11:37am	Period 5B	11:11am - 11:37am	B LUNCH
11:41am - 12:23pm	Period 6B	11:41am - 12:23pm	Period 6B
12:27pm - 1:09pm	Period 7B	12:27pm - 1:09pm	Period 7B

10:25am - 11:07am	Period 5A	10:25am - 11:07am	Period 5A
11:11am - 11:53am	Period 6A	11:11am - 11:53am	Period 6A
11:57am - 12:23pm	C LUNCH	11:57am - 12:39pm	Period 7A
12:27pm - 1:09pm	Period 7B	12:43pm - 1:09pm	D LUNCH

1:13pm - 1:55pm	Period 8
1:59pm - 2:41pm	Period 9

See below for the even and odd day schedule.

Even Day Schedule (Wednesday)

7:55am - 8:03am	Homeroom
8:07am - 9:34am	Period 2
9:38am - 11:05am	Period 4
11:09am - 1:10pm	(Period 6 & Lunches)
1:14pm - 2:41pm	Period 8

Your block day lunch is determined by your 6th period class. Your 6th period teacher will let you know which lunch you have during the first week of school.

11:09am - 11:35am **A LUNCH**
 11:39am - 1:10pm P. 6A, P. 6B

11:09am - 11:35am P. 6A, P. 6B
 11:39am - 12:05pm **B LUNCH**
 12:09pm - 1:10pm P. 6A, P. 6B

11:09am - 12:09pm P. 6A, P. 6B
 12:13pm - 12:40pm **C LUNCH**
 12:44pm - 1:10pm P. 6A, P. 6B

11:09am - 12:40pm P. 6A, P. 6B
 12:44pm - 1:10pm **D LUNCH**

Odd Day Schedule (Thursday)

7:55am - 8:03am	Homeroom
8:07am - 9:34am	Period 3
9:38am - 11:05am	Period 5
11:09am - 1:10pm	(Period 7 & Lunches)
1:14pm - 2:41pm	Period 9

Your block day lunch is determined by your 7th period class. Your 7th period teacher will let you know which lunch you have during the first week of school.

11:09am - 11:35am **A LUNCH**
 11:39am - 1:10pm P. 7A, P. 7B

11:09am - 11:35am P. 7A, P. 7B
 11:39am - 12:05pm **B LUNCH**
 12:09pm - 1:10pm P. 7A, P. 7B

11:09am - 12:09pm P. 7A, P. 7B
 12:13pm - 12:40pm **C LUNCH**
 12:44pm - 1:10pm P. 7A, P. 7B

11:09am - 12:40pm P. 7A, P. 7B
 12:44pm - 1:10pm **D LUNCH**

School Calendar

Ridgefield Park Public Schools 2023-2024 School Calendar

Ridgefield Park Board of Education
712 Lincoln Avenue
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

Schedule of School Dates

- August 28 & 29— New Teacher Orientation
- September 4 — Labor Day
- September 5 & 6 — Opening Day for Teachers — Staff Development
- September 7 — Opening Day for Students
- October 6—Early Dismissal for Professional Development
- October 9 — Columbus Day
- November 7—Election Day—No School for Students
Professional Day for Staff
- November 9 & 10 — NJEA Convention
- November 22 — 1:00 PM Session
- November 23 — Thanksgiving Day
- November 24 — Thanksgiving Recess
- December 22 — 1:00 PM Session
- December 23 thru January 1 — Winter Recess
- Schools Reopen — January 2, 2024
- January 15 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 19 & 20 — Winter Recess
- March 13 — Early Dismissal for Staff Development
- March 29 & April 1 — Good Friday and Easter Monday
- April 22 thru April 26 — Spring Recess
- May 27— Memorial Day
- June 19— Last Day for Students
- June 20— Last Day for Teachers

☐
Indicates "No School"

—
Indicates "1:00 PM Dismissal"

August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

If the district is required to make up snow days, this will be done during the Spring Break starting with April 26, 2024, and so forth.

182 Days for Students
186 Days for Teachers

Little Ferry Bus Schedule

Little Ferry Public Schools

*130 Liberty Street – Little Ferry, NJ 07643 (201) 641-6192 – FAX (201)
641-6604*

***Home of Memorial School
A "Governor's School of Excellence"***

Matthew Ferrapato
Superintendent of Schools

John A Gomez
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

August 29, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has been assigned for transportation through John Leckie, Inc. – Route# IN380A, IN380B, IN380C and IN380D to the Ridgefield Park Jr./Sr. High School, Ridgefield Park, NJ for the 2023-2024 school year.

Transportation will be provided beginning, Thursday, September 7, 2023

Please email John Gomez at jgomez@lfboe.org or Michele Monforte at mmonforte@lfboe.org if your child **will not** be using transportation.

If you have any questions, please contact John Gomez at (201) 641-6192 ext. 1603.

Pick-Up – 7:00 AM – Memorial School – 130 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ
Pick-Up – 7:10 AM – Memorial School – 130 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ

Pick-Up – 7:15 AM – Indian Lake and Lakeview Avenue, Little Ferry, NJ
Pick-Up – 7:25 AM – Indian Lake and Lakeview Avenue, Little Ferry, NJ

Please be sure that your child is at the appropriate stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

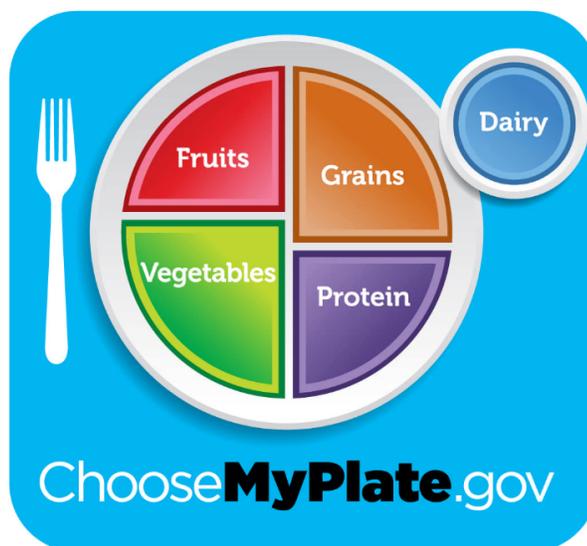


John A. Gomez
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Breakfast/Lunch Information

- Breakfast and Lunch will be served everyday for students. All families are eligible to apply for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program. The application is located on the Genesis parent portal.
- The lunch menu will be available on the school website each month.
- Parents/guardians can load money onto a student meal account by registering with PayschoolsCentral.com or by sending in cash or check made payable to Ridgefield Park BOE Cafeteria Acct. There should be a note with the students name or ID number.
- Breakfast/lunch checkout is completed using the student's ID number. Students should memorize their ID number or write it down in their phone for easy access.
- Food items vary in price, to purchase a meal at the "meal price" see the chart below for guidance.

BUILD YOUR PLATE THE HEALTHY WAY



What Comes With My Lunch?

To receive the Meal Price, you must select at least 3 of the 5 Food Components listed above.

At least 1 of your selections must be a fruit or a vegetable component in order to receive the meal price. **Take a Trip to the Farm Stand!**

The Farm Stand comes with **each** meal offered and includes vegetables from 5 specific sub groups each week (Dark green, Red/Orange, Beans/Peas, Starchy, Other).

Everyone is encouraged to take all the items that make up a balanced meal. To be considered a meal it must contain a minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ cup serving of fruit or vegetable.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



School Website Links

Ridgefield Park School District Website: <https://www.rpps.net/>

Ridgefield Park High School Website: <https://rpjshs.rpps.net/>

Student Handbook Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Y5QgjX5R-JO8RGLGWYzEw3qJ6eY6-6SreHdIujdf4Q/view>