

400 FREE STREET
RIDLEY PARK, PA 19078
610-534-1900 #1304
610-237-8032 FAX
jtheodosi@ridleysd.org

MR. JOHN THEODOSIADES
PRINCIPAL

RMS Families,

August, 2026

Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year at Ridley Middle School! We hope that you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer. I am excited for another year here as principal of Ridley Middle School. Each new year comes with a fresh start filled with opportunities to grow. I truly believe that by working together as partners, we will help all of our children meet with success in reaching their full academic and social potential. I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

Our Ridley Middle School theme this year is: ***“Character Counts Everywhere. Online. Offline. Always.”*** Every choice you make as a student—whether you are talking to someone face-to-face, texting a friend, posting online, or using AI - shows the kind of person you are and helps shape your character. We will work every day in helping to guide our students in making the choices that enable them to put their best foot forward.

Cultivating relationships within our school and outside in the community remains a priority through our CLASS (Connected Learning Assures Successful Students) program. We will practice the lifelines and continue with our once a week, 20-minute CLASS meetings. These meetings will take place in homeroom on rotating days. We feel it is vital for the children to be able to be heard and for us to be able to review important topics. These discussions will be led by our faculty and will focus on schoolwide themes. Our lifelines this year have been chosen with our theme in mind. They are: integrity, friendship, respect, awareness, self-management, common sense, trustworthiness, accountability, and patience.

This year, our start and end times on regular school days will remain the same (8:25–2:55), and students will continue to have five blocks each day.

First Days of School: Students arrive by **8:30 AM** and will be dismissed at **12:00**.

September 1st : 8th grade

September 2nd : 7th grade

September 3rd : 6th grade

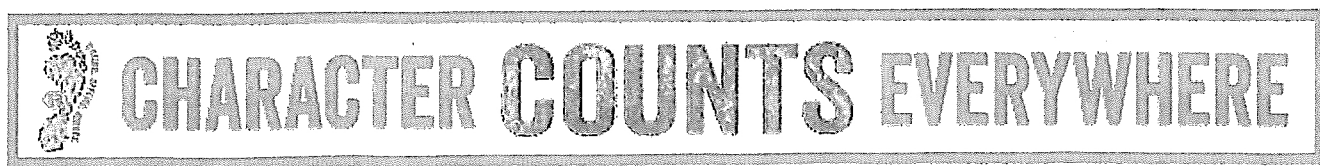
September 4th and September 7th – Off from school

September 8th – First full day of school (8:25–2:55)

Agenda for the First Day:

- Welcome message, team, and homeroom assignments in the auditorium
- Schedules distributed, lockers, & review of policies/procedures in HR
- Student pictures

Individual Student Pictures - will be taken on the very first day, and students are reminded to dress appropriately (**see enclosure for picture form**). They will be used for student IDs. Eighth grade pictures are on Tuesday, 9/1. Seventh grade pictures are on Wednesday, 9/2. Sixth grade pictures are on Thursday, 9/3. On 10/15, we will have make-up pictures and re-takes.



School Safety & Security:

- All students and guests must enter through the front door.
- All guests must sign in and present ID for Raptor screening to access the building.
- Student Emergency Cards are *extremely* important. Please fill out new ones. **Students will only be released from school to those listed on the emergency cards.**
- Emergency drills and review of procedures will be completed monthly.
- "If you see something, say something" – The best way to keep RMS Safe!
- Smart Pass: This procedure will be used anytime a student would require a hall pass (using the bathroom, going to guidance or another appointment, etc). This will enable us to know if students are where they are supposed to be, as well as limit traffic in our bathrooms. This will also prepare our students for high school, as RHS is using it as well.
- Please drive slowly and safely in and around our school campus!

Transportation Letters - Students who are bussed to RMS will receive their letter regarding route and pass information the week of August 25th. Questions regarding transportation should be directed to the RSD transportation department at 610-534-1900, ext. 1182.

Student Handbook – Our 26-27 handbook will be posted on our website the week of 8/30. After reviewing the district and school policies, we ask that you and your child sign the letter indicating that you have read and discussed the regulations. This letter should be returned to the homeroom teacher. Students will receive this letter in homeroom on the first day.

Student Immunization and Physical Examination Requirements:

- 6th grade students are required to have documentation of a physical (well-check) dated January 1, 2026 or after. Please contact Mrs. Capozzoli if your child has an upcoming appointment.
- 7th grade students are required to have documentation of two immunizations, MCV and Tdap, which should have been given at their 11-year-old well visit. All 7th grade students must submit documentation of having the immunizations on or before the first day of school. All students who have not done so by September 11, 2026 will be excluded from attending school until documentation is provided.

All documentation can be emailed to gcazzol@ridleysd.org and or dropped off at RMS.

Sports - Any 7th or 8th grade student who wants to participate in middle school sports must have a physical by their doctor dated no earlier than May 1, 2026. Sign-ups for the fall teams will take place **after school** on Wednesday, September 9th. PIAA Physical forms are available in the school office and on our website. **Forms must be completed in order to try out.**

Back to School Night - BTSN presentations will begin at 6:45 in the auditorium.

- 6th Grade: Tuesday, September 15, 2026
- 7th & 8th Grades: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Important Events/Dates - Please check our website (www.ridleysd.org) for updates and our monthly *RMS Express*. Be sure we have your **updated email address and phone number**. Information will also be pushed out through your child's Canvas. You will receive these messages if you set yourself up as a Canvas observer. Details will be in every *RMS Express*. Best wishes for a relaxing end to summer and a good start to the new school year. We look forward to working with you in helping every RMS student make choices that demonstrate our theme, ***Character Counts Everywhere.***
Online. Offline. Always.

Sincerely,

John M. Theodosiades

John Theodosiades

