



Ridgeway Community School

2023-24 Strategic Plan



Values Statement:

Children First, Academics, Community, Respect, Wellness

Vision Statement:

To be a growing school that is full of inquisitive learners practicing healthy living habits and becoming engaged community members.

Mission Statement:

Ridgeway Community School is an academically challenging school
with an emphasis on community and wellness
that leaves a positive lasting impact.

Strategic Goals

The board and staff of Ridgeway Community School have established the following goals to achieve the mission and vision of the school:

- **Goal Area 1:** Each student at Ridgeway will be valued as a whole child that has social, emotional, academic, and ethical needs that must be met to ensure he or she is holistically healthy, ready to learn and grow, and leave Ridgeway as a responsible and engaged citizen.
- **Goal Area 2:** Ridgeway will become a more culturally conscious, friendly, and accepting community toward all.
- **Goal Area 3:** Overall parent engagement will increase to maximize the home-school connection for the betterment of our students.

Background: The school's values, vision, mission and goals were reviewed at a strategic planning meeting held by the Ridgeway Community School board of directors on August 13, 2020. The ideas discussed during this meeting included input from RCS parents, teachers, staff, and community members that was gathered through focus groups and surveys conducted earlier in the year. The RCS board was assisted in this work by Roderick Haenke who is an educational leadership professional and has worked extensively with charter schools throughout Minnesota. The RCS board finalized their strategic goals and measurable objectives at their meeting on September 24, 2020. The board wishes to thank Mr. Haenke and all the parents, staff, and community members who contributed their ideas and vision for our school to this planning process....you are our Superheroes!

Development of the Whole Child

- **Goal Area 1:** Each student at Ridgeway will be valued as a whole child that has social, emotional, academic, and ethical needs that must be met to ensure he or she is holistically healthy, ready to learn and grow, and leave Ridgeway as a responsible and engaged citizen.

Comments: Education research shows that before children can make academic progress they need to feel physically and emotionally safe and have a healthy connection with the adults providing their education. In this time of uncertainty, the Ridgeway Community School board and staff are committed to valuing and supporting our students in a holistic way that addresses their individual needs so that they can grow to be successful, caring citizens.

2023-24 Measurable Development of the Whole Child Outcomes:

- 90% of students will engage with other students on a monthly basis in a class project, outdoor classroom activity, or maker space project.
- 90% of students will engage in a quarterly community service or a community building project.
- 80% of students will engage in quarterly healthy lifestyle activities while developing social emotional skills through classroom activities and school sponsored events.
- RCS will strive to meet academic and student growth goals set for our authorizer, Q Comp and ADSIS programs.

Diversity

- **Goal Area 2:** Ridgeway will become a more culturally conscious, friendly, and accepting community toward all.

Comments: In order to achieve the other two strategic goals identified in this plan, the RCS staff and board acknowledge that we must recognize and eliminate historical barriers to parent engagement and the development of the whole child. We recognize the need to treat every student and their family with dignity and support the individual student's differentiated needs that may be presented by his or her individual, family, community and/or cultural history. Our school is committed to work to eliminate historical barriers that present challenges to our students', families', and staffs' ability to participate in a quality educational program.

2023-24 Measurable Diversity Outcomes:

- RCS teachers will develop a plan for a student "About Me" portfolio process that will include information about the student, their family, their ethnic and cultural background. Work on the K/1 section will begin this year.
- 80% of students will participate in school field trips, meaningful projects, fine arts programs, or other activities focused on the celebration of diversity and equity.
- 100% of staff will participate in annual diversity training.

Parent Engagement

- **Goal Area 3:** Overall parent engagement will increase to maximize the home-school connection for the betterment of our students.

Comments: Research shows that parent involvement is a critical factor in student success in school. Given the challenges presented in this particular school year, the RCS board wants to prioritize the home-school connection. While many of our annual home-school activities will not be able to be held this year, the school board and staff are committed to making the extra effort to engage our students' families in their learning, both at school and at home.

2023-24 Measurable Parent Engagement Outcome:

- As a result of our efforts to connect with our students' families, 90% of children's parents (at least one parent) will attend at least one parent/teacher conference.
- At 75 percent of RCS students' parents or guardians or other family member of each of our students will contribute to the school's learning program by volunteering in a classroom, assisting with a field trip, sharing a hobby, skill, or experience, participating in an after school club or project, or making other meaningful contributions to the school's learning program.

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