Ridgeway Elementary
Individually Guided
Education
Ridgeway History

• School opened in 1923
• Dr. O.V. Wheeler proposed that Ridgeway become a magnet school in 1972
• Ridgeway adopted the Philosophy of Individually Guided Education.
• Ridgeway has remained a magnet school following the IGE philosophy since that time.
The IGE Philosophy

- The IGE philosophy is founded on the idea that “success leads to success” and that students are unique individuals.
Belief Statements

We believe that successful learning experiences build successful learners. Parent Involvement encourages and nurtures student learning.

Children learn best in environments that utilize multiage and flexible groupings. Children benefit from being part of a learning community and develop relationships with a variety of teachers.

Teachers need to have opportunities to learn and collaborate.
Ridgeway Mission Statement

The mission of Ridgeway IGE School is to help each student become a self-directed, self-motivated, life-long learner, capable of meeting the challenges faced in a life-time.
What is IGE?

- **Individually**
  - Students are grouped into multi-age classrooms.

- **Guided**
  - Teachers and students work together towards learning goals.

- **Education**
  - Students learn at a pace that is appropriate for them.
The Heart of IGE
Multi-age Learning Community

The multi-age learning community helps student take more responsibility for their own behavior and their own learning.

The multi-age learning community is built on continuous progress for students rather than repetition of steps or grades.

The multi-age learning community uses multiple approaches for measuring student growth.

The multi-age learning community provides developmentally appropriate activities (age and individual) for children.
Instructional Programming for the Individual Student

- Ridgeway has developed its own procedure for reporting progress to parents.
- Teachers use district materials and supplement for individual students.
- Key focus areas are identified and worked on throughout the school.
Magnet School Open to All Columbia Students

- Lottery System
- Family Inclusive
- Stable Population
- Outreach
- Transportation Provided Throughout the District
Accountability

- Ridgeway will be accountable to all stakeholders (Students, Parents, Community Teachers) for student performance using state grade level expectations and district curriculum objectives.
- Student performance will be measured using ongoing formal and informal assessments, including state mandated tests.
Structure and Governance

The Board of Education

Central Office Staff
Columbia Public Schools

Program Improvement Council

Ridgeway Principal

SAS Board – 10 Members
1. member from Central Administration
2. Current Teachers
3. Former Student
4. Former Administrator
5. Partner in Education
6. Principal

Parent and Student Advisory Committees

Learning Community A
4 Teachers
Specialists
Student Teachers
University Aides
Volunteers
Students Ages 5, 6, 7
Approximately 88

Learning Community B
4 Teachers
Specialists
Student Teachers
University Aides
Volunteers
Students Ages 7, 8, 9
Approximately 88

Learning Community C
4 Teachers
Specialists
Student Teachers
University Aides
Volunteers
Students Ages 9, 10, 11
Approximately 88
Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Assessment

- Ridgeway will follow the state and district curriculum
- Instructional programming for individual students, including thematic instruction, which is student focused, not grade level focused
- Alternate materials and assessments may be selected to better meet the needs of Ridgeway students
Financing and Budget

- District CFO will provide leadership in developing and allocating district funds.
- Ridgeway would retain cost saving dollars for Ridgeway use.
- Retain money from one year to the next in order to make fiscally responsible decisions.
Facilities

- As a Columbia school, the primary responsibility of maintaining the building remains the responsibility of the school district. The SAS will seek funding from alternative sources when possible to supplement district maintenance.
Schedules

• The Ridgeway community would retain control over adjusting or adapting schedules to meet the needs of the learning community. The community will continue to meet mandated guidelines, while looking for ways to make adjustments that benefit the school.
Technology Resources

• CPS will continue to maintain a computer lab, classrooms computers and other essential technology commensurate with other schools in the district.

• The school will work towards the use of innovative technology, including iPads.

• The school will maintain a focus on technology appropriate to student learning needs.

• Continued professional development to support new technology learning and application
Grants and Alternate Funding

• PTSA has developed a grant writing coordinator position.
  – This year $9000.00 has been generated through grants.
• Teachers, Units, and Administrators will continue to look for funding through grants.
• Seek help through our Business Partners.
• Explore the Possibility of a Ridgeway Foundation funding
Professional Development

• Developed a Partnership with Columbia College
• Professional Development School Model
• Continue participation in CPS professional development that meets the needs of IGE
• Team-focused to provide differentiated instruction