We are so excited to be welcoming your children on Monday, October 19! This e-mail has A LOT of information in it. Please look over the various points prior to sending questions or calling the office.

- School will meet in person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. Doors open at 7:20 a.m. and school officially begins at 7:40 a.m.

- Masks are required and expected. Students should exit their vehicle with their mask in place.

- Morning Arrival to school - As there are more families dropping off instead of riding the bus, this will take longer than normal. Please do not park or exit your vehicles. There is no crossing guard on Woodlawn as everyone will pull up along Sexton. Make sure that your kiddos are ready to exit the vehicle when you pull up to the drop-off area. All students will be dropped off in the morning along the front of the school on Sexton Road. Parents and buses share the same lane and should pull all the way forward. The front sidewalk can become congested very quickly. Please, please pull all the way forward! Students need to be ready to get out of the car, and parents should remain in the car. This helps our line keep moving. Staff members will be available to help students maintain distance and direct traffic. Thank you so much in advance for your patience!

- Parent Pick-Up will start at 2:40 p.m. on the playground. Parents will walk up the driveway behind the school building. You will enter the playground by the gate near the dumpster. You will go to the left and follow the path of stars painted on the playground. One family group per
star. You will follow the star path and meet your child. Please follow the path of stars. Parents will exit the playground at the other, larger playground gate, down the stairs beside the school, and walk to their car. Please walk up the driveway and down the stairs. There will be staff to help. There will be many families picking up children and you will need to be patient.

Our teachers are being encouraged to take advantage of outdoor spaces as much as possible. It would be very helpful if students wear tennis shoes daily and bring a reusable water bottle to school. If your child(ren) need either of these items, please contact the Ridgeway Office so we can help you out.

Students and staff are expected to wear a mask while at school. If your child forgets their mask, one will be provided for them. We are unable to social distance at this time, so this use of protective measures is imperative for continuing in-person school in as safe a manner as is possible. Your student will receive their Ridgeway mask on the first day of school. They have been laundered and placed in individual bags. They are also labeled with student names. Each student will have a break-away lanyard for their mask.

Expectations for instruction on Wednesdays will be shared with families soon. Please look to your child(ren)’s teacher(s)’ communications for more information on this. Since specials will be face-to-face on M/T/Th/F, students will no longer attend specials via Zoom on Wednesdays.

Student Transportation of America has built bus routes for all students whose parents answered the questionnaire back in August and indicated they would need bus transportation. **If you did not fill out this questionnaire, your child has not been assigned to a bus.** We have been in contact with many of you. If you have any questions about the bus, please call the Ridgeway Office (573.214.3550).

Want to know where your child’s bus stop is? Go to [https://columbia.thebusportal.com/elinkrp/Students/BasicTransBoundarySearch.aspx](https://columbia.thebusportal.com/elinkrp/Students/BasicTransBoundarySearch.aspx) and enter the address your child will be boarding the bus from. This is an address finder, so it SHOULD NOT be used to confirm whether your child is routed to a bus.

Breakfast and lunch will be served in classrooms. Prices, account information, free and reduced lunch applications, and other information about meals can be found at [https://www.cpsk12.org/Page/15030](https://www.cpsk12.org/Page/15030) The grant program in place to deliver school lunch to various areas around Columbia on Wednesday will continue. Please plan on depositing money in your child’s account, if needed.

Finally, I know you have a lot of questions. I have tried to answer as many as I am able, but I know that I cannot possibly speak to every single concern. Please email me with your questions: slawson@cpsk12.org. I will work to answer your questions.

Thank you so much for your patience and continued trust. As our school staff learns more about the needs of our building as we return to in-person school, we will/may make changes, and we will reach out for assistance. I feel lucky to work with our Ridgeway family!
As we switch to in person learning please have conversations as a family about iPad expectations and care

*Student iPad and keyboard need to come to school everyday charged and ready to go.* Students will still be completing Seesaw and Schoology assignments while they are in person. The charger should stay at home, but iPads need to come to school charged and ready for a day of learning.

*Make a plan with your student about iPad charging.* For example, designate a charging station in your home and empower your child to make it part of their daily routine to plug in their iPad when they get home and put their iPad in their backpack the next morning.

*Make a plan with your student about carrying their iPad in their backpack.* Be mindful of how an iPad is placed in a backpack. Be sure it is not close to a water bottle or food. Be sure the iPad screen is flat against the side of the backpack or a hard surface like a book (screens can easily break if something like a pencil gets wedged between an iPad screen and another object). *Pro-Tip: you can slip the iPad into a padded envelope for extra protection in backpacks.

*iPads should stay in backpacks on the school bus.* The iPad should stay in the student’s backpack unless they are at home or in class.

Unit News

Unit A

Unit A is very excited to see everyone Monday! Please remember to send a jacket or sweater for recess and outside learning times.

Unit B

Items your student should bring to school Monday: mask (maybe 2), iPad-fully charged, keyboard, math pages, writing journals, Fundations notebook, 2-3 books, snack, water bottle. If you’re sending a lunch from home, please send items that your child can easily open without assistance. Please consider having your child practice opening lunch box items over the next few days.
Music with Ms. Meeds

I am so excited to be back at Ridgeway for another great year of music! I have been looking forward to making music with your students again all summer. We have lots of wonderful things we’re working on currently...

Unit A are ROCKING through their first unit of instruction. They are exploring their singing voices and being so creative. I have loved hearing their sweet voices over seesaw and experiencing their joy in our zooms. My favorite part of our zoom class is when we sing our hello song and they bring out their stuffed animals or dance along, it fills my heart to see their joy. Right now our Unit A friends are starting a new story of "She’ll be coming around the mountain" with our friend Annabelle and her adventures. Be sure to ask your student where Annabelle is traveling to and what adventures she gets up to on her journey.

Unit B have been so creative with virtual learning. Very early on I got the suggestion to learn about different genres of music during our virtual time and they have been so amazing with their suggestions. We've studied the roots of Rock N’ Roll and learned about the Godmother of the genre, Sister Rosetta Tharpe. We studied jazz last week and I have a new favorite quote on the genre: “Jazz is dad music!” This week we’ll be looking into rap and I’m super excited to share a CPS media specialist’s rap about reading. Unit B friends have also been working very hard on identifying rhythms in songs and have been rhythmic experts on seesaw! I am so proud of their creativity and knowledge they have displayed since the beginning of the school year.

Unit C have been absolute champions this year. They are flexible and patient and have helped me solve many technical issues as they pop up. I have been so impressed with the ownership they are taking over their learning. We’ve been working on creating new verses to songs. I got many wonderful submissions to rhyme with the name Bob, which is my dad’s name and it has provided a lot of laughs during this time. They have also been total rockstars at rhythms and creating their own ostinato’s.

One of my favorite parts of this crazy year has been being able to connect more with your students individually through seesaw. I have been absolutely amazed at some students who took initiative to create their own songs and share them with me. We have piano players, cellists, singers, and Garageband
guru’s here at Ridgeway! I am amazed and so proud of the creativity of our Ridgeway community and I know that our students will continue to showcase their talents, creativity, and positivity throughout this entire year.

Sing-cerely,

Ms. Meeds

From the Health Office

Morning Routine:
Screen your child for symptoms so we can keep everyone healthy at school.

- No fever or chills
- No cough
- No shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- No sore throat
- No headache
- No muscle aches
- No nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- No new loss of taste or smell
- No new runny nose or congestion
- No close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

Sick? Stay home! #HealthyatSchool