

## ImportantDates:

Dec 13 Blue Ticket Store Dec 19 Christmas Parties 1st Grade 10:15-11:15 DK/K/2nd 2:00-3:00 Dec 20 Half Day All Students Dec 23-Jan 3 Christmas Break Jan 6 School Resumes Jan 31 Blue Ticket Store

## **Quick Facts:**

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:pm

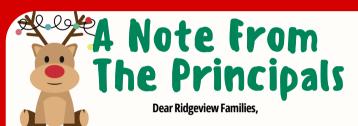
**Student Drop Off:** 

8:40am-8:55 **Breakfast:** 8:40am-9:00am

**Bell Rings:** 8:50am Tardies Begin:

8:55

\*commitment \*community \*collaboration



We sincerely thank you for attending parent-teacher conferences. Your involvement is key to your child's growth and success, and we are grateful for the opportunity to connect with you. These conversations allow us to celebrate your child's accomplishments, identify areas for growth, and collaborate on ways to support their learning journey. Your insights and support mean so much to us as we work together to help each student thrive. Your commitment to your child's education and your engagement in the process are fundamental to their success.

At Ridgeview we have a strong partnership with KSSN (Kent Schools Support Network) and that partnership allows us to have additional staff in our building to support families outside of the learning community. KSSN programming helps families in our community by removing any barriers to school success; specifically supporting school attendance, social/emotional needs, and basic needs. Please contact the office if you would like any additional information or would like to speak to our KSSN coordinator, Lynne Jones. As the holiday season approaches, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for being part of our school community. Your support, kindness, and collaboration make our school a special place for students to learn and grow. This season is a time to celebrate, reflect, and cherish moments with loved ones. We hope your holidays are filled with joy, laughter, and warmth. May this break provide you and your family with time to relax, create memories, and recharge for the new year ahead.

From all of us at Ridgeview, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in 2025, ready for new adventures and opportunities to learn and thrive together!

# 🕈 Mike Birely

Kellev VanVliet



## Attendance Reminders

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please be sure that you are communicating with the office. While we appreciate that most of our families also reach out to the teachers, the office does need that information for accurate attendance reporting to the state. (616) 887-2090

#### P.E. Happenings ~ Mr. Wagner 887-8218 ext. 3404 andy.wagner@spartaschools.org

During November, the gymnasium was turned into our very own Ridgeview Lanes Bowling Alley. We rolled out the carpeted lanes, set up the pins, and bowled some strikes. The kids played several team games throughout the month that focused on knocking pins down for the team rather than scoring individual points. The games included 3-

Pin bowling, Blackout Bowling, and Bingo Bowling. The 1st and 2nd grade kiddos used a rubberized 3 lb bowling ball, while the DK and Kindergarten kiddos used a much lighter foam ball. Our focus was on learning the proper way of holding the ball (covote face with our hands), and a simple approach:

1) Swing 2) Step (with opposite foot) 3) Roll All of the bowling games from our P.E. class can be played at home, either inside or outside. The only equipment needed are some empty plastic bottles (water, pop, etc) and a ball to roll. Just be sure to have a safe place to bowl (away from breakable items), especially if the kiddos are playing inside:) Please feel free to email me any questions about any of our games. Happy bowling!! The month of December brings us snow, Christmas, and the skills of throwing and catching.

Art News

Thanks so much to all who ordered products from our Art to Remember fundraiser. We had a really great response this year and the profits will really help our art program. If you ordered Art to Remember items by the deadline of November 7, the items should be arriving the week after Thanksgiving. I will get them organized and sent home as quickly as possible. If you do not want these items sent home with your child, please let your student's teacher know and we can make arrangements. If you missed the deadline, there's still time but the orders will have to be shipped to your house. The deadline for late orders is December 21. https://arttoremember.com/school/VREK **U3** This month in the Art Studio:

DK has been working on pom pom painting, cutting and gluing with liquid glue.

STREET,

Kindergarten has been learning how to use watercolor paints, cutting and using liquid glue bottles.

1st Grade has been working on symmetry and complimentary colors. 2nd Grade has been working on symmetry, complimentary colors, and creating oil pastel transfers.



S.T.E.M. NEWS (science, technology, engineering & math)

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to everyone! The holiday season can be so crazy but is a great time for family fun. This is a perfect time to challenge your family to be

> creative. Make Christmas cards Bake together-let the kids measure, mix, etc Make gift tags Explore with candy canes and water Build a tree out of legos, toys, etc... GET OUTSIDE!

TORI the cow update! Tori is enjoying her time on the dairy farm. As of the latest update she has grown 6 inches and gained 88 lbs since October! We even saw a picture of her on halloween wearing a silly hat.

We are fortunate enough to have some exciting things to use in the STEM room. I have attached a list of some of the STEM favorites if you are searching for some gift giving ideas. Most are found on Amazon!

\*KEVA planks - any set would be great! \*Liquid motion bubblers \*marble runs \*Hex bugs \*Perplexus maze balls \*SUSPEND game (class FAVORITE!) \*Artificial tropical fish light (they LOVE having this on my desk) \*masking tape!! All the students LOVE when I get out tape and just let them create!!

**Music Notes** 



The music room has been a busy place as of late!

\* Students have continued learning about rhythm and steady beat, melody(the part you sing) and dynamics (the volume). Everyone has had the opportunity to write their own rhythms and play on a variety of instruments.

\* On Friday's we have been playing a game that reminds me of Guitar Hero. Students hold one boom whacker (a percussion instrument that you play by tapping it on something), and watch for their color to fall

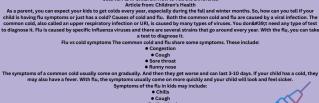
down the screen. \* Tempo (speed) is the next big concept we will be working on. We will try out different speeds, then discuss how it can change the way music sounds and feels.

\* After the beginning of the year we will be working on our concert music!

For Your Calendar: Here are the concert dates and times for the upcoming year! 2nd Grade: March 4, 2025 1st Grade: March 25, 2025 Kindergarten: April 29, 2025

#### School Nurse Notes





TITLE 1

Title I Reading News From

Mrs. Hartuniewicz & Mrs. Patin

#### Fluency Tips

\*Allow your child to read his or her favorite books over and over again. Encourage your child to work on improving smoothness and reading with expression.

\*Remind your child to look for periods and commas while reading and to briefly pause when coming to one of these punctuation marks.

\*Have your child track the words while you read the text aloud . Then, have your child read the same text to you

\*Remind them to use a storytellers voice and "read it like you're talking".



#### Just Right Books

When picking out books from the library or the book store it can be difficult to pick out a book at your child's reading level. Here is a quick and easy way for you decide if it is a good fit book for

- Step 1: Choose the book you want to read. Step 2: Open to the middle of the book. Step 3: Have them read the entire page
- Step 4: For every word they don't know or ha trouble with, put up one finger.
- 0-1 Finger Easy Book 2-3 Fingers - Just Right! 4 Fingers- Challenge
- 5 Fingers- Too Hard

### 1:1 Pointing

At this time of year most students are ready to remove their pointer finger when reading. This helps with fluency. However, if they are decoding a word they can put their finger back in to break the words apart.

Hello Ridgeview families!

Winter and holidays are nearly here. It can be a time or grateful celebration with family. Enjoy sharing memories, traditions, and love. It can also be a time of great struggles. Please reach out if you need resources. Lynne Jones, our KSSN Liaison can be a tremendous resource (ext. 3402). Here is a link to quickly connect you to Kent County Community Resources Kent Resource Center, and some holiday mental health tips Wellness. Students continue learning about the Zones of Regulation and how we can identify, and then manage motions if feeling uncomfortable. Please consider talking about what Zone you and your children are in, if you are comfortable in that Zone, and some tools you can use to get into the Zone you wish to be. Here are some activity tools 12-self-regulation-strategies. By identifying emotions, why we are feeling these, and then working to get to a comfy emotional Zone, we strengthen our self-regulation skills. Zones

Corner

In classroom Social and Emotional skill lessons, kindergarten students learned about making friends. Grades one students are learning about clues to use to identify how others may be feeling, and that not all people feel the same way about the same things. Grade 2 students are learning about how to negotiate mixed emotions. Please talk to your children about how you work through tough emotions.

Last, we have a Career and College Readiness bulletin board in the hallway near the cafeteria. This features a different Career Pathway each month for 6 months. Studies reveal if children make connections between what they are learning and the world, they value education more readily, graduate at higher rates, and can set post-secondary goals (career pathways) This month the board features Natural Resource & amp; Agriscience Pathway Careers. Here is our readiness flyer including a link to the State's website: Brochure

During this season of Thanks, I am thankful for all of you, families and children. My life is enriched because of the work I do with you!

## Mrs. Cnossen

Hello Readers! For the Month of December, we will be reading about of course CHRSTMAS!!!! and the different colors, light etc, January we will reading about snow, snow flakes, snowmen, and Snow Days!

As the weather turns colder, and things can get kinda wet in the back packs. Please take care of the Library books like putting them in a plastic bag to keep dry.

Please remember to return books or time so your child can check out a fferent one.

**Please remember** to return books on time so your child can check out a different one.



Volunteers Needed to Help Run the Blue Ticket Store

<u>Please click here to sign</u> up for the Ticket Store

### <u>PTC</u>

Who Are We? What Do We Do? We are a group of parent volunteers who strive to make sure that our students and teachers are supported by the parents and families of our schools and community. Without the help of all of you we cannot do what we do. Our main goal is to come together as one to see that our students and teachers feel appreciated by giving back to them throughout the school year. Through fundraising we can plan and offer events and educational support to our students, teachers, and staff. The students of Ridgeview and Appleview Elementary are given the opportunity to enjoy field trips, assemblies, book fairs, RIF (free books), and after school events like the Daddy/Daughter Dance and Mother Son Event. Our teachers and staff benefit from our fundraising with teacher appreciation, meals, and classroom grants throughout the school year.

## School Delays/Closing

If we have inclement weather and need to cancel school, families will be notified through our School Messenger program. School closings will also be posted on local TV stations and our Ridgeview Facebook page. A New Holiday Shop is coming back to Ridgeview Elementary December 10th thru December 13th. Holiday Treasures is a fun way for students to shop for family members and experience the spirit of giving while learning to earn, budget, and save! We need dedicated parent volunteers to help with this event to make it a memorable and exciting holiday season for the students. If we do not get the volunteers we need we will not be able to continue offering the Holiday Shop in years to come.

## <u>Please click here to sign</u> <u>up to help the kids shop</u>





Outdoor Recess As the temperature drops, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Please contact Lynne Jones with any winter gear needs. (616) 887-8218 ext. 3402

> The Daddy Daughter Dance is scheduled for February 1, 2025. It will take place at the Sparta High School for Sparta School District students in grades DK-5th grade. Online ticket sales will end on January 31, 2025. Tickets are first come first serve. We want to stress that once we reach our max capacity with ticket sales online there will not be additional opportunities to purchase at the door. So get your tickets online!! Don't let / this opportunity pass you by.

### Holiday Parties First Grade Party DK/K/2nd Grade Party

#### 10:15-11:15am

Parking - Please park in our front lot, the staff lot in the back, and our bus loop lot. If overflow parking is needed, please park at the high school across the street. We will have staff members at each door to let you in.

2:15-3:15pm



These donors have made available to SEF a gift of up to \$100,000 to be used as a matching grant. This gift will match donations dollar for dollar up to the end of the fiscal year of June 2025. For instance, a \$50 contribution will be matched with an additional \$50, thus making a total of \$100 available to help provide grants to Sparta Area Schools.



If you wish to donate, please reach out to our Executive Director, Matthew Hayes, at <u>SEFExecDir@spartaschools.org</u> or go to <u>sparta-</u> <u>education-foundation@givecloud.co</u>



Appleview/Ridgeview 12 Days of Christmas 2024				
Monday December 2	Tuesday December 3	<b>Wednesday December 4</b> 12 Days of Christmas Kick Off	Thursday December 5 Warm Your Head and Toes Christmas Socks and Crazy Winter Hats	Friday December 6 Coal for Christmas Wear All Black
Monday December 9 Candy Cane Day Wear Red and White	Tuesday December 10 Dress Like a Gift Day	Wednesday December 11 Jack Frost Vs Snowman Wear All Blue or All White!	Thursday December 12 Elf Yourself Dress like your favorite Christmas Elf	Friday December 13 Flannel Friday!
Monday December 16 Dress Your Holiday Best Dress to Impress in Your Fanciest Holiday Best	Tuesday December 17 Holiday Headgear Hats, Headbands, Spruce up your hair. Get creative and let your Christmas Spirit Show	Wednesday December 18 Grinch Day Wear Green and Do something nice for someone	Thursday December 19 Ugly Sweater Day	Friday December 20 Twas the Friday Before Christmas Wear PJs to School





## 2025 Sparta Little League SPRING SIGN-UPS



Sign-ups Online Spartalittleleague.org

ALL signups are Online, however In-Person help will be available: Sat. Feb 22nd – 11am-2pm at Sundaes @ The Park Ice Cream

Birth Certificate Upload Required by

Little League International

Registration open through Feb 23rd

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT \$10 OFF PER PLAYER (Before Jan 1st)

#### \$25 late fee applies after Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>

No registrations accepted after March 2nd



Like us on Facebook and keep checking our page for more details...

www.facebook.com/spartalittleleague

Remember if you go to Sparta Schools

you can play Sparta Little League.

undaes

It doesn't matter where you live

## EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT \$10 OFF PER PLAYER (Before Jan 1)

#### T-Ball: (Coed) \$75 per player

Boys and Girls: ages 4-6 as of Dec. 31, 2024

#### Minor 1 (Coach Pitch): \$90 per player

Boys: ages 6-8 as of August 31, 2025 Girls: ages 6-8 as of Dec. 31, 2024

#### Minor 2 (Player Pitch) \$95 per player

Boys: ages 8-10 as of August 31, 2025 Girls: ages 8-10 as of Dec. 31, 2024

#### Majors \$100 per player

Boys: ages 10-12 as of August 31, 2025 Girls: ages 10-12 as of Dec. 31, 2024

#### Juniors \$115 per player

Boys: ages 12-14 as of August 31, 2025 Girls: ages 12-14 as of Dec. 31, 2024

## S pecial Thanks to All of Our Sponsors!

## Spartan Youth Baseball Workout



## Saturday, December 7th, 2024 - Sparta HS Gymnasium

https://spartahsathletics.com/Registrations



## 2 PM - 3:30 PM: Grades 2-5 3:30 PM - 5 PM: Grades 6-8

\$20 per player, led by Varsity Baseball Coaches & Players Bring: Bats, Gloves, Water, Positive attitudes :)

Sign up link:

https://spartahsathletics.com/Registrations

Contact Coach Marble at: dakota.marble@spartaschools.org

## December Resources

## Resources in or near northern Kent County 2024

North Kent Connect ~ 10075 Northland Dr NE. Rockford, MI 49341 ~ (616) 866-3478

Client Services at North Kent Connect will be closed Tuesday, December 24 for the Christmas Holiday.

We will reopen on Thursday, January 2.

Regular Pantry will be closed December 19.

## A Rockford Area Event

#### Jingle Shop Hop

Monday, December 2, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

• Visit the favorite Rockford Stores: Gild the Lily, North Kent Connect and The Acorn Resale Shop for Discounts, Deals and Door Prizes! The first 50 people at each location will receive a Gold passport and one of the three pieces to create a make-n-take ornament, and to enter to win a gift basket featuring items from all three locations.

## Food Distributions at North Kent Connect

SENIOR PANTRY by Meals on Wheels (NKC Classroom, north entrance)

Thursday, December 12, 10:00am - 11:30am(early due to the holiday)

• Open to Kent County Residents 60+ who meet income requirements.

Photo ID & proof of income required for registration.

• Please call Meals on Wheels (616) 459-3111 for income qualifications.

SEN<u>IOR MONTHLY COMMODITIES by Kent County</u> (outside on south side of NKC building)

Monday, December 16, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

• Open to Kent County Residents 60+ who meet income requirements.

• Please see an NKC case manager to complete an application for this program.

## Events at North Kent Connect

#### NKC Holiday Programs

• Christmas Pantry: all clients must register by Thursday, December 5 with a case manager.

• Christmas Gift Shop: (for registered clients with children) all clients must register with a case manager.

KEN<u>T DISTRICT LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE</u> (NKC north parking lot)

Monday, December 2, 10:00am - 11:30am

• KDL Bookmobile will be onsite offering KDL card signups, library materials for checkout and Wi-Fi access with printing available. There will be an ADA chairlift .

RIDELINK NORTH COUNTY PANTRY BUS (NKC Lobby, north entrance)

Tuesday, December 3, 9:00am - 12:00pm (first Tuesday of each month)

• Must be 60+ and registered with RideLink: 844-649-8459.

• Must be a North Kent Connect client 60+. Call NKC to reserve your ride: 616-866-3478.

• Currently serving these housing sites: Rockford Towers, River Grove, Richter Place, Mildred Houting, Harvest Way, and Sparta Townhouses.

DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT COUNTY (located in our partner wing on the west side (back) of NKC)

Wednesday, December 4, 11, and 18, 8:00am - 3:00pm

• Jenny Markel, Information and Referral Specialist, will be on site to assist those with disabilities who need help with food stamp benefits, cash assistance, and SSI/SSDI. Call Jenny (616) 323-2214 for an appointment.

ST<u>REET OUTREACH</u> (NKC Lobby, north entrance)

Wednesday, December 11, 10:00am - 12:00pm

• Arbor Circle Street Outreach services are designed to reach youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

#### PINE REST STREET REACH (NKC Lobby, north entrance)

Thursday, December 12, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

• Provides services and connections with individuals experiencing homelessness.

YWCA (NKC Lobby, north entrance)

Tuesday, December 17, 11:00am - 1:00pm

• Provides help with domestic and dating abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and child sexual abuse.

## Area Classes and Programs

#### INTRO TO RESUME WRITING \_ by West Michigan Works!

Thursday, December 5, 9:30am - 11:00am at the Greenville Service Center (114 S Greenville W Dr.)

Thursday, December 19, 9:30am - 10:45am at the Greenville Service Center (114 S Greenville W Dr.)

This workshop is designed for individuals interested in improving their existing resume or creating a new one for that role you have been looking to fill. In this workshop, you will get the most up to date information on how to navigate your job search in today's digital world and learn tips and techniques to create and tailor your resume to stand out to employers. You will receive all the tools and support to make writing your resume easier.

To register for this FREE workshop, call West MI Works at (616) 754-3611 or visit

https://jobs.westmiworks.org/montcalm-county-events

#### MI MONEY HEALTH by Michigan State University

MSU Extension provides resources and education on money management, foreclosure prevention, buying your own home, retirement planning and more to help you and your family be more financially healthy.

For more information, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/

Monthly & Weekly Pantries and Meals

Christmas Holiday.

FOOD PANTRY at St. Joseph Catholic Church (409 S Bridge Street, Belding)

• Thursdays, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

GROCERY GARAGE at City Impact (288 North Main St, Cedar Springs)

• Thursdays, 9:00am - 11:00am

• Saturdays following the 6:00pm church service, 7pm - 8pm <u>FOOD PANTRY at First Congregational Church</u> (192 E Bridge St NE, Rockford)

• 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 4:00pm - 6:00pm

FOOD PANTRY and MEALS at Sparta United Methodist Church (54 E Division Street, Sparta)

• Pantry: Monday through Thursday, 10:00am - 1:00pm (Located in the church office, back entrance)

• <u>Community Breakfast:</u> Every 4th Saturday, 8:00am - 10:00am (Located in church lower dining room)

BABY PANTRY at St. Gianna's Baby and Toddler Boutique (1400 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids)

• Tuesdays, 12:00pm - 3:00pm; Thursdays, 10:00am - 1:00pm, 1 visit monthly

MEALS at St. John Paul II Catholic Church (3110 17 Mile Rd NE, Cedar Springs)

• Tuesdays, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

## Mobile Pantries

Saturday, 12/7 at 2:00pm - The Vine Assembly of God Church (Drive thru: 112 Commerce, Grant)

Friday, 12/13 at 5:00pm - Sparta Early Childhood Center (Drive thru: 480 S State St, Sparta)

Tuesday, 12/17 at 5:00pm - Northland Church of Christ (Drive thru: 9891 S Mason Drive, Grant)

Wednesday, 12/18 at 10:00am - First Baptist Church of Woodland Park (Drive thru: 9073 North Bingham, Bitely)

Friday, 12/20 at 4:30pm - Belding High School (Drive thru: 850 Hall Street, Belding)

Saturday, 12/21 at 9:00am - Vineyard North Church (Drive thru: 4700 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids)

Saturday, 12/21 at 1:00pm - Zion Lutheran Church (Drive thru: 582 Lamoreaux Drive NW, Comstock Park)

Monday, 12/23 at 4:30pm - First Church of God (Walk up: 101 South Franklin St, Greenville)

If you have questions about a specific Mobile Pantry, please contact the host agency. You can find this information and other food resources online at **www.feedwm.org/mobile-pantry-schedule/**. This schedule is provided as a courtesy. It is not guaranteed to be error free, and may be updated or changed at any time, so use it at your own risk. For the most up-to-date information, visit **www.feedwm.org/findfood**. This site is updated in real time.

FEDER<u>AL COMMODITIES (TEFAP) at Peace Lutheran Chur</u>ch

by Kent County (1225 12 Mile, Sparta)

Thursday, December 19, 3pm - 6pm

• Open to Kent County Residents with a valid Michigan ID.

• For a complete list of federal commodity sites in Kent County, visit Kent Community Action at:

accesskent.com/departments/communityaction/TEFAP.htm or call (616) 632-7950.

North Kent Connect is an equal opportunity provider

connect