

ORCHARD HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



NEW FAMILY HANDBOOK

2018-2019

Introduction

Welcome to Orchard School! You will find we are a dynamic community of children, parents/guardians, teachers and support staff. This handbook should help you to feel included and informed during the upcoming year. Please refer to the “Policies and Procedures” section on the Orchard website for more details relating to our school. Our New Family Liaison is available to answer questions and offer support; please feel free to contact Kristin Laferty (kmelsy@hotmail.com).

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RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students in the Ridgewood Public School District's six elementary schools are expected to follow a golden rule:

Treat other people and their things the way you would like to be treated.

We believe that this rule is a clear compass to guide all behavior in all situations. In addition to modeling this rule through daily actions, the faculty and staff regularly address this rule through weekly character education sessions, regular read aloud sessions and school wide events.

We believe that elementary school is a time to grow and learn from mistakes. Therefore, we are guided by a progressive discipline philosophy. We have listed some possible consequences for violating our Student Code of Conduct, in order of severity. Because we believe that the consequences for students should have meaning and help them learn, we also explore alternative forms of discipline if we feel it is in the best interest of the students.

Infractions that are not acceptable in a school environment include: harassment, intimidation, bullying*, theft, destruction and/or defacing school property, fighting, leaving school property without permission, disrespect to fellow students/ faculty, violation of acceptable use policy for technology, and inappropriate behavior that is disruptive to the learning or safety of others.

Possible consequences include:

- Discussion with students and/ or their parents
- Written Reflection
- Lunch / Recess detention
- After school detention
- Removal from field trips or extra-curricular activities
- Alternative discipline such as an assignment or community service
- Suspension or expulsion in the case of dangerous or unsafe behavior, serious or repeated harassment, intimidation, bullying,* fighting, theft or vandalism.

Our discipline standard requires that we address any action of which we are made aware by investigating it and, if necessary, by implementing discipline. Our philosophy of progressive discipline focuses on teaching a student to behave properly so the consequence may be simply talking to a student and recording the incident, or as severe as a suspension. Should a student repeat the same offense or several small offenses, s/he will receive more severe discipline. Counseling and the Child Study Team services may be utilized in order to assist students in adhering to the Student Code of Conduct. Teachers and administrators provide additional group and individual support as appropriate.

Student conduct is almost never black and white and we will provide due diligence in any investigation, but we are not a court of law. We do not discriminate based on gender, age, religious orientation or any other protected class, and our policies and practices are implemented without regard to membership in such groups. We do not make public the disciplinary actions that we impose on a student, even to the family of a victim if there is one. We respect the privacy of all students.

*Ridgewood Board of Education Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy and Regulation (5512, R 5512) may be found by selecting the Board Policy Manual link at www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us.

OTHER RIDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO STUDENT CONDUCT (2361, R 2361, 5240, R 5240, 5500, R 5500, 5511, 5513, R 5513, 5514, 5516, 5520, 5530, R 5530, 5533, 5535, 5560, R 5560, 5570, R 5570, 5600, R 5600, 5610, R 5610, 5611, R 5611, 5612, 5615, 5620, 5700, 5701, 5710, 5721, R 5721, 5751, R 5751, 5841, 5850, R 5850, 5851, R 5851) MAY ALSO BE FOUND BY SELECTING THE BOARD POLICY MANUAL LINK AT WWW.RIDGEWOOD.K12.NJ.US.

Communication

At Orchard there are a variety of ways in which important information is communicated to families. The most common are the following:

- Orchard Website: Contains information about school procedures, events, announcements, HSA minutes, web links for you and your child and more! Visit our website at www.RIDGEWOOD.K12.NJ.US
- Weekly e-News: Sent to your e-mail address each week as a reminder that the Orchard website has been updated with new events and current information. E-News is essential reading for each parent/guardian in order to stay informed about school happenings. If you do not have access to e-mail, please make an appointment to meet with our school principal to discuss other means of receiving information.
- Orchard Directory: Provides addresses/phone numbers/e-mail addresses (optional) of Orchard families, class lists, HSA committees chairpersons, HSA Executive Board members, HSA meeting dates and times, Orchard and Board of Education administrative phone numbers, school calendar, etc. You will receive the directory in September after paying your annual HSA dues.
- Class Parents: There are usually two parents per class that will call or e-mail you regarding class celebrations where volunteers or supplies are needed. They also can be a great source of information regarding your child's class activities. They will be recruiting volunteers at back-to-school night and throughout the year.
- Letters Home via US Post / Emails: From the Ridgewood school district and each individual school to inform you about important administrative information and/or procedures.
- Swift911 Telephone Notification: Used primarily for emergency school closings due to weather conditions. A message will be sent to emergency contact numbers and email (if provided).
- Radio/TV: Radio stations WOR710, WCBS880, WINS1010 and TV channel 5/Good Day NY provide information regarding emergency school closings.
- Summary of HSA Meetings Minutes: Posted monthly on the Orchard website and in the HSA binder in the main office.
- Ridgewood Public Schools Website: Your source for information on the entire school district. The address is www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us

A Dozen Things You Need to Know About Orchard School

1. The HSA – What Does it Do?

The Orchard HSA runs several fundraisers during the course of the school year. The proceeds from these fundraisers cover the cost of many programs that the students enjoy. Programs and events sponsored or run by the HSA include Field Trips, Cultural Assemblies, International Night, Family Picnics, Fourth of July float, Fun Day, Ladies Night Out, Relief Team, Talent Show, Welcome Back Coffee, and much more.

Everyone is welcome at HSA meetings, which usually takes place on the third Thursday of each month immediately following CBA in the library or Cafetorium (check the website to confirm meeting dates). Stay for 10 minutes or for the whole meeting. Bring your ideas, comments, and suggestions—or just observe. It's a great way to stay informed and to meet other Orchard parents.

2. CBA – Community Building Assembly

Unique to our school, every Thursday Orchard has a Community Building Assembly (CBA). It's at 8:50 a.m. and always in the multi-purpose room. This is an opportunity for the whole school to come together to share, honor and celebrate. There are teacher announcements, student announcements, the reading of a "positive thought", and the singing of the Orchard Song. Parents are always welcome to attend. Stop by at least once to experience this special weekly assembly.

3. Safety Drop-Off Procedures

If you need to walk your child into school or need to get out of your car for any reason (to give a hug, to undo a seatbelt, to get a backpack from the trunk) you must park in a designated parking space. If you plan to drop your child off in the morning, simply pull up in the "red zone" where a safety volunteer will open your car door and assist your child(ren). Please read the safety portion of this handbook for specifics and please note that if you plan on using the drop-off lane you must volunteer your time at least once a month as a safety volunteer. The volunteers are parents who help children out of the cars and safely onto the sidewalk. Their presence is to ensure the safety of all the children.

4. Ordering Lunches

You can order lunches for grades K-5 via the Skyward Family Access system. For complete instructions please refer to the "Parent Section" on the district website.

5. Orchard School Nutritional Standards

Our school has become a leader in the district when it comes to nutritional awareness. A policy was instituted by the state of New Jersey in 2007 regarding the nutritional value of foods served in a school setting. Specifically, it "limits the foods of minimal nutritional value", restricts fat and sugar contents and increases fruit, vegetable, and whole grain offerings for all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day. Candy cannot be sold/distributed in schools. Foods for special events should be prepared observing the Food Safety Guidelines." (Administrative policy #3542.1) In order to be in compliance with this policy, Orchard School has put several supports in place. Birthdays are recognized in a special, unique way in each class. Food is NOT a part of the recognition. The ONLY time food is distributed to children is at previously scheduled celebrations at holiday times.

6. Board of Education Meetings

Board of Education meetings are held monthly at the Board of Ed Building located at 49 Cottage Place. All meetings are broadcast live on Channel 77. The public is welcome to the Board meetings or you can watch them from home to stay informed.

7. Orchard Yearbook

The Orchard Yearbook represents all grades and special events at the school—not just the graduating 5th graders. It's a nice keepsake regardless of what grade your child has just completed. Consider ordering one when the end of the year rolls around.

8. Directory

With annual membership dues Orchard School provides parents/guardians an invaluable resource—the Orchard directory. The directory lists class lists, names, addresses, and emails for the entire school including contact information for committee chairs, teachers, etc.

9. E-News

Parents/guardians should receive e-News every Tuesday via email. If you do not, please contact the Orchard main office to ensure you receive all vital information. E-News will keep you informed about happenings at Orchard and the community at large.

10. Relief Team/Community Service

The Orchard Community shows its heart in many ways throughout the school year. The two committees that bring this point home are the Relief Team and Community Service. The Relief Team is there for you in your time of need, for example, if there is a health crisis or a death in the family, committee members may arrange dinners, transportation, or provide other forms of assistance. Community Service, with money raised through efforts such as coin drives, clothing drives, school supply collections, and other means, helps the greater Ridgewood community in times of need.

11. Choose To Be Nice Promise

The Orchard School Community has made a promise to encourage and inspire kindness. We are improving the way people interact with each other by reminding them that they have a choice about How to “Be”.

12. Get Involved!

Our school is a small, close-knit community. We need any and all volunteers to help keep our school running smoothly. There is something for everyone-get involved! See page 8 for more information.

Enrichment



Orchard's Home and School Association is committed to providing enrichment experiences for children in all grades. The HSA organizes and raises money to fund the following enrichment programs:

Cultural Arts Enrichment

- Field Trips
- Assemblies: include visiting musicians, artists and theatrical groups, and authors
- Art Displays: showcases artwork by all students and often includes musical and drama performances throughout the school year.
- Talent Show

Educational Enrichment

- STEAM
- International Night
- Plus: picnics, teacher grants, Fourth of July float, book fair and much more.

Get Involved!



Often parents/guardians want to get involved in their child's school, but don't know how. Here are some ideas for getting started:

- Come to HSA meetings to learn what we do and about volunteer opportunities.
- Sign up at Back to School Night for classroom events, to chaperone a field trip, to help at school fundraisers and activities. You can donate your time and talents in numerous ways.
- Check out the Orchard website for volunteer postings.
- Ask your class parent about ways to participate based on your interest and availability. They can be a great resource and can answer your questions, or direct you to someone who can.
- Become a TIC TOC art docent. Teach your child and their classmates about great works of art. Parent/guardian volunteers visit classrooms to talk about a piece of art on loan to Orchard School through the Tic Toc program. The art displayed in Orchard's hallways is available for classroom use by parent/guardian volunteers who then create their own lesson plan. Frequency of classroom visits is flexible in coordination with the classroom teacher. No previous art or art history experience is necessary!
- Check your directory for a list of HSA committees and their chairs—you can join as many committees as you want. See what may interest you.
- Speak to an HSA Executive Board member or the HSA President; see the Orchard Directory for names, numbers, and positions.
- Join the Safety Team (required for those families using curbside drop-off in the morning). The more helpers we have, the safer our school becomes. It is a short-term time commitment, at least one day a month, from 8:20-8:45 a.m. Look for details on the Orchard website for more information.
- Join the Long Range Planning Team (LRPT). Perfect for the working parent/guardian. No special expertise is required to join—just an interest in planning a successful future for Orchard School. Look for meeting dates on the Orchard website.

Home and School Association (HSA)

The Orchard Home and School Association (HSA), in partnership with the administrative, teaching and support staff, can make positive things happen for the children of Orchard not only with enhancements to our school's curriculum as outlined earlier, but by raising funds for updated technology, the renovation of our library, and so much more. We hope you will join us in our efforts to keep Orchard a wonderful center of learning and creativity.

HSA Meetings

When: One Thursday of each month at 9:15 a.m.

Where: Library or Cafetorium

Who's Welcome: Everyone! The more people, the better! You can share your ideas, comments, suggestions, or just sit and listen. It's a great way to stay informed and to meet other parents. Your input is invaluable to keep our school thriving.

Who Runs the Meetings and Events: With the Principal and teacher representative in attendance, the HSA Executive Board runs the meetings and helps create overall policy with community input. The Executive Board ballots are sent out every spring for the Orchard community to vote upon. The Committees Chairs and Volunteers run our events. See Orchard Directory or visit our website for names and contact information.

To Join a Committee: Contact Chair (see directory or website) or Joan Guerrero, HSA President.

Minutes of HSA Meetings: Posted on the Orchard website on the HSA page and in the HSA binder located in the mailbox in the main office.

Lunch



Lunch/recess for Grades K-5 extends from 11:35-12:45 p.m. and is divided into time for eating and time for recess. The exact schedule is determined by grade level. Teacher Assistants and Lunchtime Aides supervise children.

If Your Child Goes Home For Lunch

- Your child must be escorted by a parent/guardian or authorized adult in order to leave school grounds
- Parent/guardian or authorized adult must sign the child out upon departure and in upon return at the Main Office
- You may wait for your child at the Main Office
- Please do not go into your child's classroom
- Please inform the teacher in writing which days your child will leave for lunch

If Your Child Stays at School for Lunch

- Your child will be eating lunch with his/her class in the Cafetorium
- You may send a lunch or order a school lunch
- Online registration for school lunch is now available using the Skyward system. Go to www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us or the home page of Orchard School and refer to the "Parent Section" for more information
- Lunches sent from home should contain healthy foods - no soda is allowed

If Your Child Forgets To Bring Lunch from Home

- Please drop off lunch on the lunch tables just inside the main entrance (clearly marked with your child's name) and it will be delivered to your child in time
- Please do not take the lunch to your child's classroom
- Please do not call your child's teacher

Partnering With Your Teacher

You can help your child have a great school year by partnering with their teacher. Good partnership is based on clear communication of needs and concerns. You know your child best! Please share your knowledge with the teacher! As you partner, consider the following:

Keep In Touch

- Make an appointment with the teacher any time you have a concern about your child.
- Feel free to contact the teacher via e-mail; all teacher e-mail addresses are listed on the Ridgewood Public School website (Ridgewood.k12.nj.us) and in the Orchard directory. Please note, if you do not receive a response to an e-mail, please contact the teacher by some other means. Sometimes a particular word in a subject line will send the e-mail to SPAM and the teacher won't receive it.
- Each teacher has voicemail. You will have access to leave a message, etc. with certain prompts on the main telephone number, 201-670-2730. If it is a time-sensitive issue, such as dismissal arrangements, do not leave a message. Please call the main office.
- Let the teacher know if your child is experiencing a major change at home or you notice signs of stress: difficulty eating, sleeping, concentrating, and getting along with peers or family members.
- Inform the teacher if your child seems to be unhappy or fearful about going to school, worried about social interactions, or overwhelmed by homework assignments.

Keep the Teacher Informed of Your Child's Schedule

- Send a note informing the teacher if your child needs to leave the premises during school hours.
- Inform the teacher with a note in the morning if your child will be going home with someone other than a parent/guardian (for a play date, etc.) after school.

Keep Yourself Informed

- Be aware of your child's homework assignments and the class expectations as outlined at back-to-school night.
- Become familiar with Orchard's mission and educational philosophies.
- Read eNews and the Board of Ed emails to stay informed about important news relating to your child's education and school happenings.

Direct Communication

- If you have any questions about the curriculum and how it is taught, please discuss this with the teacher in a direct and respectful manner.
- Avoid voicing complaints about one teacher to another—instead communicate your concerns directly rather than indirectly.
- If you're happy with the teacher's efforts, express it! Teachers appreciate positive feedback!

Respect Appropriate Boundaries

- Please don't go into your child's classroom unannounced, as this tends to disrupt the flow of instruction and school safety is of utmost importance!
- Be sensitive about respecting the teacher's need to enjoy his or her lunch break. Teachers need to eat!
- Allow the teachers to have their privacy in their staff lounge unless you have official business that requires its use.

Parking and Drop Off Rules



1. General safety rules

- Please drive slowly, with caution, obeying traffic signs.
- Do not park in the red or yellow zones at all, but especially from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m.
- Do not get out and leave your car running in the red or yellow zones—even for a minute!
- No double-parking anywhere, anytime!
- Park in designated areas only. Do not park where “no parking” signs are posted.
- Use the sidewalks and crosswalks when you are walking from your parking spot, especially when you have children with you.
- Allow extra time for traffic, particularly in bad weather.

2. Drop-off Rules (8:30-8:45 a.m.)

- Kindergarten parents must park in a designated space and walk their child to the kindergarten playground and wait for the teacher to come out to get the children each day.
- Drop-off is in the red bus zone, directly opposite the Cafetorium door.
- Safety parent volunteers will be available in the red zone to assist your child.
- When driving into Orchard, you must stay in a single lane next to the curb.
- Remain in this lane and pull up as far as possible to the end of the red zone. Do not stop somewhere in the middle or drop off by the kindergarten playground or front door!
- Keep in mind: if a bus arrives behind you, you must move up and/or circle around.

3. Pick-up rules (3:00-3:10 p.m.)

- No pick-up in the red bus zone and in the yellow fire zone.
- Please park in a designated spot!
- Do not double-park or block parked cars.
- Please complete the dismissal form that you will receive on the first day of school to avoid confusion at 3 p.m.
- These rules are for the safety of our children. If you pull into the Orchard School driveway, you must follow these rules. Please inform anyone who drives your child of these rules. Drivers who persist in violating the rules will receive a written warning on their vehicle.

*****Important Safety Reminders***

1. Children must use right side car doors only! Exiting into traffic is dangerous.
2. Do not cut around other cars to get closer. This is extremely dangerous!
3. Do not reverse. Wait for the car in front to move. Cars are big, kids are small!
4. Never get out of your car in the drop-off zone. If your child is unable to get out without assistance, park your car in a parking space and walk your child!!

Bicycle and Scooter Policy



- Only students in Grades 4 and 5 are permitted to bike or scoot to school
- Third graders may do so beginning in April of 3rd Grade
- Wear a helmet
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic
- Obey all traffic signs and signals
- Look left, right, left before entering a roadway
- Ride in a single file
- Look out for opening car doors
- Avoid busy streets and intersections
- Be visible - wear bright clothes
- Use a lock to secure your bike or scooter at the cycle rack
- Bikes/scooters must be walked on school grounds, not ridden

Etiquette For Visitors

For our children's safety, upon entering Orchard School, all parents/guardians and visitors must report to the Main Office. Unauthorized visits to classrooms are not allowed.

Please remember to follow these procedures when visiting Orchard School:

- Ring the buzzer and tell the Main Office the purpose of your visit (teacher conference, library volunteer, art docent, etc.)
- When admitted, proceed to the Main Office.
- Sign in the Visitor's Log on the counter in the Main Office and receive a Visitor's Badge.
- Wear the Visitor Badge at all times during your visit.
- Make sure to sign out before you exit the building.
- Leaving the building from any door other than the Main Entrance is not permitted. Do not let unannounced visitors in the building.

PLEASE NOTE: Any school materials, such as books, lunches, musical instruments, sneakers, etc. should be left on the designated tables outside the main office unless instructed otherwise. The Office staff will ensure your child receives the materials in a timely manner.

Events you don't want to miss!

Welcome Back Coffee
CBA
Back to School Night
Bingo Night
Book Fair
Family Picnics
Celebrate Learning Day
Fun Day!
Talent Show
Class Plays
HSA Meetings
Field Day
Cultural Assemblies
Halloween Parade
Spring and Winter Concerts
Ladies' Night Out & Dads' Night Out
Holiday Sing-a-Long
International Night
Drama Club Performances

GLOSSARY of Orchard School Terms

Amphitheater

The amphitheater is the large, circular seating and gathering area located in front of Orchard School.

Artsonia

Artsonia is an online art gallery where kids can display their artwork. With parental permission, volunteers photograph and upload artwork to the Artsonia website, and family members have the option to view the artwork and order custom pieces online.

Bingo Night

A family Bingo Night complete with pizza, treats, and prizes is held in January as a fundraiser for the 5th Grade class. All Orchard families are invited to join in the fun, and even younger children can play along with picture bingo.

Birthday Books

Birthday Books is a book-giving program where books are purchased and donated to the Orchard School library. On his or her birthday (or half-birthday if the birthday is in July or August) a child can select a book and a nameplate will be placed in that book in honor of the child's birthday.

BTS Night

Back to School Night is one of the most important events on the school calendar. BTS Night is an opportunity for parents to come to Orchard School to meet the teachers, tour the classrooms, and learn about significant events that will take place throughout the year.

Cafetorium

The Cafetorium is the large room in the southwest corner of Orchard School that serves as both a cafeteria and occasional auditorium.

CBA

The entire school gathers weekly for a 20-minute Community Building Assembly where individual students have an opportunity to share what they are learning and teachers discuss school happenings. CBAs take place almost every Thursday at 8:50 a.m. in the MPR and parents are encouraged to attend! (Please check the school calendar as a few CBAs are scheduled for 2:20 p.m. for the benefit of the afternoon kindergartners.)

Celebrate Learning Day

Make sure you mark your calendar for Celebrate Learning Day! One day in the Spring parents and guardians are invited into the classroom to visit with their children and to share their learning. Each class has a designated time for visitation some time throughout the day.

Chess Club

The Orchard School HSA partners with a professional chess vendor to offer an afterschool chess program for students in grades K-5.

Delicious Apple Club

Delicious Apple Club is a book club offered during lunchtime to 4th and 5th graders. The students commit to reading a variety of new books. They discuss the books and vote for one to win the “Delicious Apple Award.” The students celebrate with a family banquet in March where the award winner is revealed.

Drama Club

The Orchard School HSA partners with Porchlight Studio’s theater director, Ryan Pifher, to offer an afterschool drama program (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) for 4th and 5th graders. Two drama performances are held each year in December and April.

E-News

E-News is a service provided by the district and Orchard School to give you pertinent news via email. The Orchard School website is updated every Tuesday with new events and current information. You can access the site either through the link in your email, or by clicking on “Our School”, then under “News” you will find E-news on the Orchard School website.

Field Day

Field Day is a fun, all-school event that kids look forward to each year. Each May, students participate in races and outdoor games in multi-age teams. Parents are encouraged to come watch and to volunteer!

FOO

Friends Of Orchard is a biennial fundraising letter campaign for Orchard School. Each year Orchard School alternates between a Community Auction and a Friends of Orchard letter campaign to raise funds to support programs and enrichment for the children at Orchard School.

Fun Day

Held on a Saturday in October, this Halloween-themed event is one of Orchard School’s largest fundraisers. Fun Day includes carnival games, arts & crafts, prizes for the children, and delicious food and treats for all.

Halloween Parade

Don’t forget your camera for the annual Halloween Parade when the children in each class march around the school grounds and flaunt their costumes for their parents and friends.

HSA

The Home and School Association brings parents and teachers together to work toward enriching and enhancing our children’s education. The HSA is also a great way to share opinions and information with other parents and your child’s teachers, to learn about what’s going on in school, and to be part of a community working to improve Orchard School.

IEP

An Individualized Education Program or Plan is a legal document that spells out exactly what special education services a classified child will receive and why. It will include specifics about placement, services such as a one-on-one aide and therapies, academic and behavioral goals, percentage of time in regular education, and progress reports from teachers and therapists.

International Night

International Night is a community event to celebrate the diverse cultures represented in our community. Children love this special night of excellent food, talents, and entertainment. All parents are welcome to host a table to share family traditions or just come enjoy walking around and experiencing this wonderful event.

Jingle Bell Jog

Jingle Bell Jog is an all-school event combining fitness and community service. The students of Orchard School find sponsors for a jog-a-thon. The sponsors donate a specific number of non-perishable food items for every lap that the child jogs/walks during a 15-minute time limit. The food is collected and donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Parents are encouraged to come watch and to volunteer!

Kindergarten Buddies

Every year a 5th grade student is assigned a kindergarten buddy. The students meet periodically to read together and to share other activities. The kindergartners enjoy having an older student in the school as a friend, and the 5th graders enjoy the responsibility of serving as role models.

LDTTC

A Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant is an assessment specialist who identifies learning disabilities in collaboration with the psychologist, social worker and often times, speech and language specialist, while planning and supporting instructional programs for students with disabilities.

Library Volunteer

Parent volunteers assist in the library by checking in and re-shelving books, printing overdue notices, and checking out books.

LRPT

The Long Range Planning Team is a group of parents who meet with the principal and teacher representatives and work together to formulate and research ideas to improve the facility, technology, or programs of Orchard School. Parent volunteers are always welcome to join this important committee.

MPR

The Multi-Purpose Room is the large room ahead as you first enter Orchard School that serves as both a physical education room and auditorium. All weekly CBAs, school plays, and assemblies are held in the MPR.

OMA/Orchard Museum of Art

Each May Orchard School is transformed into the Orchard Museum of Art, a magical time where every student's artwork comes to life. This celebration coincides with the Spring Concert featuring the musical talents of the 4th and 5th graders. This is one event not to be missed.

Orchard Website

The Orchard School website offers a wealth of information about the staff, calendar, policies and procedures at Orchard School, and also features e-News which highlights upcoming events and important school news. You can access the website by going to the Ridgewood School District website (www.Ridgewood.k12.nj.us) and clicking on "Our Schools" on the tool bar.

PARCC

(Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers)

The PARCC tests are high quality, computer-based assessments for grades 3-11 in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy. They are carefully crafted to give teachers, schools, students, and parents, better and more useful information on how we are preparing our kids for their futures. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be tested in late spring. Much more detailed information may be found on the district website under Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

PEP Club

Physical Education Plus Club is an after school club where students participate in a variety of games and activities designed to develop their movement skills. All students in grades 2-5 are welcome to join the fun.

Positive Thoughts

Each day of the Orchard School calendar features a “positive thought for the day” written by a student. All students K-5 are encouraged to dream up and to submit “positive thoughts” to be read aloud each day during the morning announcements.

Relief Team

The Relief Team seeks to provide support to members of the Orchard School community in times of crisis or illness. The Relief Team may provide meals, transportation for children, and limited help with grocery shopping and errands. If you are aware of an Orchard family in need, please contact the Relief Team.

RPS

Information about the Ridgewood Public Schools, including highlights of the Board of Education meetings, news around the district, and upcoming events of interest to the Ridgewood community, can be found on the Ridgewood School District website at www.Ridgewood.k12.nj.us.

Safety Volunteer

Parent volunteers assist with directing traffic and opening car doors during the morning drop off to make sure that Orchard School students safely reach their classrooms.

SAT

The School Advisory Team is comprised of a group of 5th grade students who apply and are selected to meet regularly with the Principal and Teacher Advisor to assist with special school projects and to discuss ideas about how to improve Orchard School.

Spirit Day

This is a fun day where your child gets to show their Orchard School spirit by wearing school colors (yellow and blue) or Orchardwear (a fun assortment of clothing sold at the beginning of year with the Orchard logo). Your teacher will inform you whenever Spirit Day occurs, about every 3 to 4 weeks.

TA

Teaching Assistants assist teachers in the classrooms and are sometimes referred to as teacher's aides.

Thanksgiving Feast

Each year the kindergarten classes hold a Thanksgiving Feast. For several days, the children pair up with their 5th Grade buddies to prepare traditional foods. On the day before Thanksgiving, the kindergarteners come together to celebrate and share a meal.

Tic Toc

Tic Toc is a parent volunteer organization that presents fine and performing arts experiences to students in Ridgewood. Parents can serve as Tic Toc Art Docents and make art presentations and demonstrations in the classrooms.