



Dear Parent/Supporter--

For almost 20 years, the Ridgewood Education Foundation has been helping foster excellence in the Arts at Ridgewood public schools through ongoing grant awards. A number of the well-loved programs described herein were first made possible by grants from the Foundation. With budget-strapped districts everywhere dropping arts classes and not able to fund new equipment, we in Ridgewood want to insure this never happens in our village.

On behalf of the Arts departments in Ridgewood public schools, the Ridgewood Education Foundation is appealing to you to help us continue our support of the Arts. Our funds are budgeted carefully, seeking to maximize each child's artistic experiences throughout his or her district school career.

With your help, we can continue this process for your children and grandchildren. Please consider a generous contribution to help the district's Arts Programs. All funds received in response to this plea will be dedicated to this purpose. These contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. On behalf of all of Ridgewood's students, we are most grateful for your support.

**Ridgewood Education Foundation
P. O. Box 575, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Tel.: 201-652-2903; FAX: 201-444-5565
www.ridgewoodeducation.org**

Our Mission:

The Mission of the Ridgewood Education Foundation is to enhance the quality of education in the Ridgewood Public Schools.

Since 1989 the Foundation has awarded more than \$440,000 for over 270 classroom projects created by forward thinking teachers, parents, and students in the school system.

Whether it is through these mini-grants, Arts Funds grants, Alumni Teacher Development Fund Grants or the ongoing North Star Literacy Library Campaign, our objective is to support the quality of education in the Village's schools in whatever way we can.

The Foundation receives no government funding and is solely supported by its members.

Ridgewood Education Foundation is an IRC §501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information about membership and our programs, please visit www.ridgewoodeducation.org, or call 201-652-2903.

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Ridgewood NJ 07450

Ridgewood Education Foundation



"WE DO IT FOR THE KIDS."

The Arts in **Ridgewood Public Schools**

*Perpetuating the Excellence
of a Ridgewood Education*



Music

In 2006-2007, REF provided funding for a program of presentations on the importance and value of a strong music education for all students at all grade levels. This program, entitled **Music Matters – A Music Speaker Series**, brought music scholars and educators to a series of evening lectures at RHS. In addition to the Speaker Series, the RHS Music department continues to offer master classes through its Artist-in-Residence programs. In 2007-2008, Dr. David Dempsey, director of the William Paterson Jazz Orchestra, has been brought to RHS to teach masters classes with the aid of REF grant money. These classes provide student musicians with the tools and insight for new heights in their musical achievements. Other grants through the Foundation have included the sound reflectors in the Campus Center made possible by a gift from Frank Nicklus, RHS Class of 1954. However, more funding is needed to keep Ridgewood's music program excellent – the Music department's "wish list" includes items for each district school, including many much-needed instruments at the secondary schools.



Dance

Dance company residencies at Ridgewood High School have had an incalculable influence on the district's students of dance. For example, The Martha Graham Dance Company's past residency at Ridgewood High School has offered the students in the AHLISA and the Dance curriculum a first hand opportunity to study a true innovator in American performing arts through conversation, observation of dance, costume, and participation. Also, the Foundation has recently funded a Latin dance workshop as part of a cross-discipline classroom grant at GWMS.



Theatre

Exposure to the Performing Arts offers endless possibilities in the realm of stimulating students to think "outside the box" in relation to the human condition, the world and the world's history as a whole. These rich explorations of the power of theatre to move and enhance each child's life experiences have been a vital part of the Arts Program at Ridgewood High School. Accordingly, RHS and both Ridgewood middle schools have been pioneers in bringing professional Shakespearean performances to our students. But, the experience goes even further with in-class discussions with actors after the live performances. Additionally, another gift from Mr. Nicklus funded an enhancement to the Little Theater ("Chapel") sound system.



Visual Arts

A recent grant from the Foundation's Arts Fund has enabled the Visual Art department to buy some much-needed equipment for its studio. The Visual Arts are increasingly infused with exciting new technological opportunities for visionary young artists. In fact, the district's Visual Arts department has submitted a "wish list" to the Foundation for items not covered by the current budget. Now, more than ever, the ability to remain competitive with updated equipment is an essential component of a quality Visual Arts education. Additionally, visits from guest artists as well as museum and gallery field trips need funding each year. Funding support for visiting artists and student field trips assures students' access to their creative history as well as to their future as developing artists.

Yes! I/we want to support excellence of the Arts Programs in Ridgewood Public Schools. My/our contribution is enclosed.

Name:			
Street:			
City			0305B
State	Zip		
Phone:			
RHS Class of:			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Trustee's Circle	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Basic
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <i>(Payable to Ridgewood Education Foundation)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Master Card		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	
Account #/ Exp. date			
Please print name as it appears on Card:			
Signature (for credit card only):			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am already a member of the Foundation. Please accept my additional donation for the Arts Fund in the amount of \$_____.			

Please send your donation and this form to:
Ridgewood Education Foundation
P.O. Box 575, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
THANK YOU!