

# Ridgewood High School

Norridge, Illinois



## Today

Ridgewood High School was founded in 1960 as a progressive high school that was intent on rebelling against the norms of the traditional educational system. With this in mind, the founders selected the Rebel to be the school's mascot. In the early years, the school day was comprised of various instructional models including team teaching, use of teacher assistants, large group instruction, small group instruction, independent study, and flexible scheduling. In recent years, Ridgewood's leadership team has worked to return RHS to its roots and rediscover what it means to be a Rebel. Today, Ridgewood High School has become a model district for innovative teaching and learning hosting numerous districts from all over the state to observe our practice in action.

### Vision

All students will leave Ridgewood with a career endorsement or an associates degree.

100%

Dual Credit, College and Community Partnerships



### Learning

Students at Ridgewood have a personalized learning experience focused on skill mastery.

80%

Courses will be Competency skills based in 2021



### Demographics

850 students

65 faculty

Public High School

Grades 9-12

### Apple products and services

iPad and MacBook for students

iPad, Apple Pencil and MacBook for teachers

Apple TV in all classroom and learning spaces

Apple School Manager

Apple Teacher Learning Center

Airplay

Everyone Can Create

### Success

Meet students at their level and create an equitable environment where all student can succeed.

96%

Graduation rate and Freshman on track



### What's next

With a focus on Career Pathways, students will enroll into Cohorts that align to their interests.

2

Career Pathways will split into specific Cohorts



## Vision

Ridgewood High School's vision for learning and teaching with technology centers on the ESSA college and career readiness indicators. We offer dual credit and dual enrollment courses in partnership with our local community college and Chicagoland universities. Technology, specifically the iPad, has played an irreplaceable role in allowing us to offer online and hybrid learning options to meet the needs of our students while allowing students to create products that demonstrate their learning. We want every student to fulfill a career endorsement upon graduation to ensure a better return on investment in the postsecondary world. Students use their iPad to monitor and reflect on their progress with an individualized plan for success, interact with teachers and parents with our comprehensive LMS, and communicate with community business partnerships.

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## Learning

Students at Ridgewood High School utilize technology daily to enhance their learning. Through the emphasis of developing 21st-century skills, students are driven to gain real-world experience that will prepare them for college and careers. When the iPad was introduced to students at Ridgewood High School, teachers immediately noticed much higher levels of engagement as well as the opportunity to easily implement project-based learning. Through employing project-based learning, teachers personalize instruction to meet all students' needs and ability levels. Through this method, students have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned through utilizing various applications to an authentic audience.

The Ridgewood learning model is unique because we primarily focus on skill development and link those skills directly to Graduation. Students focus on skill mastery in three areas including Learning, Innovation, and Life & Career. While they all have merit, we emphasize Innovation skills as a primary indicator of college and career readiness. Innovation skills include: research, collaboration, presentation, and project quality. iPad has been an essential tool allowing students to research topics through a variety of sources, collaborate with peers, design projects based on their learning style, and create presentations to demonstrate what they have learned. These transferable skills prepare our students for college and careers. Career exploration through interest inventories, career clusters, and career research will allow students to take a deeper dive and a starring role in their future.

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## Success

We measure our success towards our vision and technology program through various metrics with a primary focus on student postsecondary readiness. We have emphasized freshman on track because research shows that freshman year performance is an essential indicator of future success and postsecondary readiness.



Our current freshman on track percentage is 96%. The freshman experience focuses on the development of innovative skills through the use of technology and career exploration. Additionally, nearly all freshmen are enrolled in an introduction to computer science course. If we reach our goals, we have prepared students for careers that have yet to be invented. In addition, we have made great strides in closing our achievement gap with our Latinx population with the transformation to competency-based learning. When technology is seamlessly integrated into students' lifestyles, it becomes a meaningful, creative, and an impactful tool for the expression of knowledge. True success will provide equity and access for our historically marginalized populations.

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## What's next

There are exciting new opportunities for students coming to Ridgewood High School in the next few years. A number of our initiatives have been leading us to our official launch of our two career pathways, Business and Technology as well as Arts and Sciences. Each pathway will have 3-4 clusters followed by cohorts that will focus on specific careers. To reach this lofty goal, we will continue to maximize technology to support online job shadows, MOOC's, micro-credentials, and even certificates or degrees. Additionally, Ridgewood High School will continue to build community partnerships. Students will continue to integrate technology with Apple products to engage in career pathway work and exploration as we fulfill our vision.

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## Contact Us

- Gina Castellano - Principal
  - Email: [gcastellano@ridgenet.org](mailto:gcastellano@ridgenet.org)
- Kevin Konsler - Instructional Technology
  - Email: [kkonsler@ridgenet.org](mailto:kkonsler@ridgenet.org)