

## LANGUAGE ARTS



As a school, we feel that we can have no higher goal than to instill a love of reading in our students.

Through the use of high quality authentic literature and teacher modeling, we strive to make our students thoughtful and reflective readers while giving them the tools to

communicate effectively about the material they have read. Book groups, read alouds, shared and independent reading all aid in exposing our students to a variety of genres while giving them the ability to make appropriate selections on their own. Consistent and timely assessments allow us to monitor the children's progress and provide intervention when needed.

Our writing program continues to evolve as we ask our students to use their own experiences as a springboard to expression. Channeling a student's thoughts and wonderings into skillful written expression is the centerpiece of our program. Writing conventions, grammar and spelling are interwoven into lessons that are contextualized in the child's own words. In younger grades, the process of "shared writing" allows students to see the writing process first-hand and take part in the construction of narratives that reflect their own experiences. In the older grades, children use a "writer's notebook" where the seeds of personal narratives and non-fiction pieces are formed. Good writers are typically good readers. We continually make the connection for our students by pointing out the qualities of good writing while reading with our students.



## SPECIAL SERVICES

With the firm belief that all children can learn, Ridge Street is proud of its commitment to working with children who have learning differences. We employ a flexible model of delivering educational and support services to our children. Depending on the needs of the child, we can offer self-contained classrooms staffed by special education teachers and teaching aides, or consulting teacher classrooms where students are placed in regular education classrooms and supported for a portion of the day by an additional special education teacher. We offer a complete array of support services including speech, occupational therapy, psychological support services and programs for the hearing impaired.

Our teachers are continually updated on the best strategies for delivering quality instruction to a wide variety of learning styles and they receive additional support from our Instruction Support Team which provides assistance to classroom teachers to help meet the needs of their students.



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Principal	KEVIN FITTINGHOFF
Assistant Principal:	TRACY TAYLOR
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HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS

THE  
BRUNO M. PONTERIO

# RIDGE STREET SCHOOL



390 NORTH RIDGE STREET  
RYE BROOK, NEW YORK 10573

[www.blindbrook.org](http://www.blindbrook.org)

## OUR COMMUNITY

The Village of Rye Brook, located in Southern Westchester County, is a residential community of approximately 8,600 people. With landscaped, tree-lined streets, its countrified character has been carefully preserved. Nestled within the Town of Rye, Rye Brook is bordered by Rye, Harrison and Greenwich, CT. It offers the advantages of suburban life and a convenient forty-minute rail commute to New York City.

## OUR SCHOOLS



The Blind Brook-Rye UFSD has a student population of approximately 1,500 students. The district comprises two campuses: Ridge Street School housing grades K through 5, and the combined Blind Brook Middle School/High School which includes grades

6 through 12. Ridge Street School has approximately 800 students. Class size averages twenty-two students and there are typically six sections at each grade level. Classes in grades K through 4 are self-contained while our fifth grade is departmentalized by content area.

We are members of two accreditation bodies. The first, the Tri-States Consortium is a learning organization comprising high-performing public school districts in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Tri-States uses student performance data to develop a rigorous framework for systemic planning, assessment, accreditation, and continuous improvement. We are also members of The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools which, through self-assessment, monitors and develops instructional and support systems within a district.

## PERFORMANCE & PHILOSOPHY

Ridge Street prides itself on being a high-achieving school. Our performance on New York State Standardized tests routinely places us in the top quartile of Westchester County Schools. Our academic program is built on inquiry and discovery. We believe that children learn best when they construct their own meaning. We strive to create a safe yet challenging environment where our students feel free to express themselves and take risks. An environment of mutual respect is vital to this mission and a great deal of emphasis is placed on character education.



## TECHNOLOGY

Our elementary school is primarily PC-based with a mobile MAC lab and MAC computers spread throughout our Art, Music and K-2 classrooms. We have been aggressively pursuing advanced technology for all of our schools. A majority of our classrooms are equipped with SMART Boards which allow our teachers to use our computers interactively by projecting digital and audio files through a whiteboard. The SMART Board allows the user to manipulate the screen just as if s/he were sitting at a desktop. Video clips and interactive software can now be shared by the entire class at the same time. All of our computers are networked and most major software titles are available to our students along with restricted Internet access.

## MATHEMATICS

Our program places a great deal of emphasis on the conceptual understanding of mathematics. We expect children to demonstrate their understanding through the use of manipulatives, writing and speaking. Problem-solving is not merely a matter of using conventional algorithms but also of understanding how, why and when to use them. Algorithms are "uncovered" through inquiry-based lessons that challenge the students to discover their own strategies. This multi-layered approach ensures that our students don't simply acquire skills in math functions but have a true understanding of math concepts. Lessons are interactive and require that students both answer problems in more than one way and provide evidence for their conclusions orally and in writing. The pure joy of working with numbers is played out through daily hands-on activities and games.

## THE ARTS

We have a strong passion for the Arts. We offer a comprehensive music program which includes choral and instrumental instruction. Our recently installed kiln allows our art students to create, glaze and fire their ceramic pieces. We've had a long association with the Metropolitan Opera Guild and children are given the chance to write, direct and act in their very own opera. A dance consultant works with our second graders on movement and creative expression. We realize the importance of creative expression outside the classroom and constantly pursue artistic opportunities for our children.



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