

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Office of the Superintendent

MEMO

DATE: September 24, 2009
TO: Parents
FROM: Valerie A. Goger
RE: Blue Ribbon Recognition

U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that 314 public and private schools will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., November 2-3 as the 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools. Ridge High school was one of only 40 public high schools in the nation to receive the award, and the only comprehensive high school in New Jersey to be recognized. Ridge Principal Frank Howlett and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Sean Siet will be attending the ceremony to accept the award as well as the flag signifying our status as a model for other schools throughout the nation. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The program requires schools to meet either of two assessment criteria. It recognizes schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance in accordance with state assessment systems; and it rewards schools that score in the top 10 percent on state assessments as in the case of Ridge High School. Information on the Blue Ribbon Program can be found here: www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/about-brs.doc

I would like to thank both Mr. Siet and Mr. Howlett for their efforts in receiving this recognition. They worked long hours completing the application process, which involved the documentation of assessment results, the use and the communication of those results, a comprehensive overview of the high school curriculum and instructional methods, professional development provided to our veteran and novice staff, a description of the leadership structure in the district and the high school itself, and a detailed report of our testing results since 2003-2004 for all sub-groups.

What a tremendous honor for Ridge High School, and for all of the teachers in grades Pre-K through 5, and the middle school who provided such a strong foundation for our students upon which the high school teachers have expanded. Congratulations to our staff, administration, parents, and most especially to all of our Blue Ribbon students!