



# Ridgewood Avenue School

**Dr. Michael Donovan**  
*Principal*

March 5, 2024

Dear Ridgewood Avenue School Parents:

I am keenly aware that this time four years ago, we were busy here at RAS preparing for the possibility of something none of us had ever experienced in education. The reality of the past few years meant behavioral norms for students were compromised, social and emotional parts of their world were dysregulated and both learning and life skills were impacted. Through amazing support of parents and the dedication of our staff, we certainly weathered a treacherous storm together and may actually be stronger than before!

In reviewing our Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying investigations and confirmed cases over the past few years, I am proud to report a significant improvement in that area during the 2023-2024 school year. We are teaching and raising children so mistakes are bound to be a part of our days but those mistakes are becoming fewer and most importantly, students are using their mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow. Your ongoing discussions with your children about behavior, values and family expectations are essential! It is important all parents remain aware of our HIB policies and processes which are available in detail on [www.glenridge.org](http://www.glenridge.org). Ms. Lauren Bas is our Anti-Bullying Specialist. We are committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

As we approach the upcoming conferences, I want to emphasize the importance of discussing any concerns you may have, particularly in the areas of social, emotional, or behavioral well-being. These conferences serve as a valuable opportunity for us to collaborate and ensure that every student feels supported and respected within our school community.

Our staff engages with students regularly in lessons, discussions and activities focused on topics connected to social and emotional learning, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion. At Ridgewood Avenue School there is no shortage of activities, programming, and trusted adults available that contribute to our efforts in creating a safe learning environment.

Together, as a community, we can continue to work towards a school environment where all students thrive. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Michael Donovan*