



The Key



October 2010

Ridgeview Middle School PTSA/ 301-840-4770

SAVE THESE

DATES:

- MSA Testing
March 7-16
- Make-Up Days
March 17-23

Please do not plan to be out of town on these dates or plan any appointments where your child would need to miss school. It is very important that all students are in school on the testing dates.

This PTSA newsletter is published monthly and distributed electronically ONLY via the RMS website. A link will be sent via our Yahoo group when the newsletter is posted

From the Desk of the Principal, Dr. Carol LeVine

Principal's Perspective

Now that school is well underway the students, teachers and staff at Ridgeview are settling into the routines of the new school year. These first weeks have been busy and exciting. Our sixth graders are still adjusting to the challenges of seven classes each day, using lockers, changing clothing for P.E., and juggling binders, instruments, and school supplies. The seventh and eighth graders, in contrast, are taking things in stride. They know that they are the role models, mentors, and helpers to their younger peers and they rise to that expectation every day. I am very proud of our Bobcats.

When you attend Back-to-School Night you will learn about the school focus areas and new initiatives for the 2011 school year. Your child may have already told you about our newly updated Bobcat Advisory Period, the expanded P.B.I.S. (Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports) program, classes in the portable classrooms, and some new traffic patterns in the building. There is a sense of excitement in the air and positive energy all around.

Back-to-School Night will take place on **Wednesday, Sept.22, 7:00-9:15.** Detailed information is posted on the RMS Home page; letters were sent home with students this past week. Beginning at 6:00 there are several other activities taking place:

- Hispanic Family Back-to-School Meeting: 6:00-7:00 (*En espanol; Biblioteca*)
- PTSA/NAACP Parent Council/MCPS Community & Family Partnerships/G.B. Thomas Learning Academy/City of Gaithersburg Recreation Department Back-to-School Night Fair: 6:00-7:00 (*Cafeteria*)
- RMS Family Health Night: 6:00-7:00 (*room 202*)

By the end of the third week of school Ridgeview students smoothly completed 2 fire drills and 2 practice emergency drills, Code Red and Code Blue. The students and staff understand the need to practice these emergency procedures and feel comfortable with the expectations. You would have been very proud of our students during the second fire drill. Our nearly 700 sixth, seventh and eighth graders stood in lines with their teachers on the back field. They lined up and stood in complete silence as teachers took attendance, and then they returned silently to the building to resume their studies. (continued)

From the Desk of the Principal, Dr. Carol LeVine (cont.)

Please be aware of these additional safety expectations:

- **Updated Phone Numbers / Address /Emergency Contact Information:**

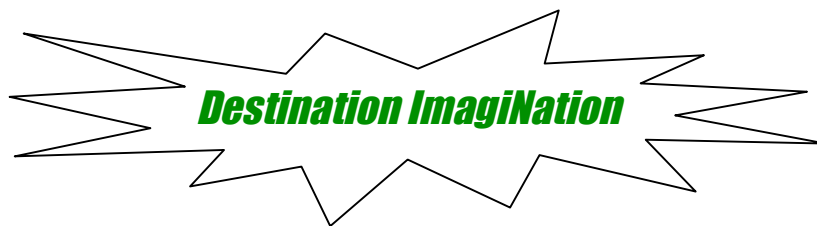
If there are changes to your address, cell or home phone numbers please contact the Counseling Office to update the information in our database.

- **Early Dismissal/After School Dismissal:**

If your child needs to be picked up from school for any reason the school will only release him/her to someone whose name you listed as the emergency contact. The school must have a letter on file giving permission to release your child to someone other than the designated emergency contact.

Please be sure to check Edline to stay abreast of your child's work completion, grades and assignments. Parents have received their Edline passwords in the mail. Get help activating your parent Edline account on Back-to-School in the Media Center. Teachers are posting class objectives and homework every day and updating grades regularly. During the last week of September all teachers will complete Interim Reports for every child, which will be mailed out by the first week in October. These reports provide a snap shot of your child's grades at the mid-point of marking period 1. Reducing student ineligibility is a key target for Ridgeview and for MCPS. Ineligibility is defined as a grade point average for any marking period of less than 2.0, or less than a C average. The school system target for ineligibility is under 12.7% for each student group. Last year several Ridgeview student groups had ineligibility rates far exceeding that target. We have several initiatives in place this year, and we are working to increase awareness and understanding in our school community. We need your help.

I look forward to greeting you all on the 22nd at Back-to-School Night at Ridgeview Middle School, where we are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn.



The 2010-2011 program year of Destination Imagination (DI) has started! The full challenge descriptions were released on September 1st, and some teams have already begun meeting to choose their challenge and start problem-solving! You might be asking, "What is DI?" DI is a global organization that promotes creative problem-solving for young people. Each year, five challenges are published, and teams of students work together to solve the challenge. Their "solutions" are presented at a countywide tournament at the end of February. Top-placing teams advance to the statewide tournament, and teams can advance from there to the global tournament in Knoxville, TN. The challenges are in five categories – technical, structural, fine and performing arts, improvisational theater, and scientific. All ideas and creations are the work of the students – there is no adult "interference." If you are interested in forming a DI team, please contact Tracy Husted for more information (husteds@verizon.net). Read more about DI at www.idodi.org.

From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Karen Bryant

Dear Bobcat Parents,

I am the new Assistant Principal at Ridgeview Middle School. It is with great excitement that I rejoin the Bobcat Family after beginning my career here in 1995 as an English Teacher. I have fond memories of the staff and students who helped shape who I would become in the Education field, and I look forward to “giving back” to the community that gave me my start.

I serve as the 6th grade administrator and also work with half of the 8th grade (L-Z). You will soon learn of my commitment to instructional excellence and ensuring that every RMS student has maximum opportunities to gain new experiences while setting record achievement levels in academic pursuits.

As parents, you are an important part of our plan to give our students everything they need to excel. I invite you to contact me, stop by to introduce yourself or say hello at any time. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you.

Ridgeview Bobcats ROAR!

Karen Bryant
Assistant Principal
Karen_Y_Bryant@mcpsmd.org



Start the Year with Ridgeview Spirit!

Deck yourself out with RMS pride! Comfy flannels, tee shirts and Bobcat magnets will be for sale at Back to School Night in September. If you are interested in buying spiritwear prior to that day, you can contact Becca Hallam at Kiwiinusa@verizon.net.

Keep an eye on The Key for the opportunity to order personalized jerseys and new and exciting apparel.



From the PTSA President – Tara Murayama

Welcome to all and best wishes for the upcoming school year!

The Ridgeview PTSA Executive Committee is excited to introduce an Internet Safety Program. We will be including it at the end of our monthly PTSA meetings. We will be using a widely acclaimed DVD teaching series, Internet Safety 101 by Enough is Enough www.internetsafety101.org as well as guest speakers to paint a comprehensive picture of online dangers and safety solutions. Our goal is to cover the safety basics necessary to educate, equip and empower parents to protect children from pornography, sexual predators, and cyberbullies and to keep kids safe on social networking sites, gaming and mobile devices. Our program will be delivered in the following sessions:

- Oct 12 – About Enough is Enough
The Prefect Storm
- Nov 9 - Guest Speaker, Internet Bullying
Steve Chaikin, States Attorney
(To Be Confirmed)
- Jan 11 - Pornography 101 (viewing time 36 min.)
- Feb 8 - Predators 101 (viewing time 42 min.)
- March 8 - Web 2.0 (viewing time 37 min.)
- May 10 - Safety 101 (viewing time 19 min.)

The PTSA Executive Committee is looking forward to an exciting year with lots of wonderful enrichment opportunities for our children and parents. I strongly encourage you to be involved in the Ridgeview school community and be supportive of your children and their teachers. It doesn't matter how much time you have to give, a little can go a long way and that includes cheering from the sidelines. We all have special talents. Let's support each other in everything we do.

Volunteers Light the Way! And Bobcats ROAR!

Tara Murayama
Ridgeview PTA President
301.212.9855
Tara.murayama@gmail.com

NAACP Parents' Council

Thank you to the parents who attended our first meeting of the year. It was wonderful seeing returning parents as well as new parents. Dr. LeVine presented school data that corroborated the need for Parents Council activities that are planned for the coming year. Those include:

- Black Saga
- Heritage Café
- Self Esteem Workshops
- Information Sharing
- Guest speakers on topics of interest to the community
- Collaboration on multicultural events



Get ready for Black Saga!

Black Saga is a team competition based on students' knowledge of the African American experience from the 1400's through the present. We will be registering Ridgeview for the competition in October. All students are invited to participate and parent volunteers are needed to support the practice sessions and associated activities.

Fundraising for Growth

In conjunction with Black Saga, the Ridgeview Parents' Council will be selling items from African American Expressions to support Black Saga and other events planned throughout the year. Featured items will include bookmarks, magnets and calendars that portray notable African Americans.

Advocacy Materials Available

Part of the NAACP Parent Council's mission is to act as advocates for parents and children of color. The NAACP Parent Council recently acquired materials on Parent Advocacy. If you would like to borrow them, please contact Miriam Mokuena at mdmokuena@netzero.net.

Miriam Mokuena
Ridgeview Middle School NAACP Representative

*"We are one people.
We are one nation."*

Math Club – Seeking new Chair for this activity!!

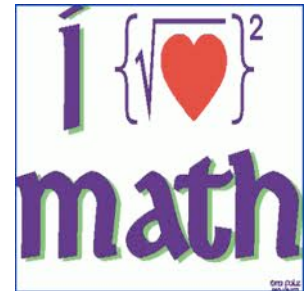
Ridgeview MS PTSA proudly presents Math Club 2010-2011
For Grades 6, 7 & 8

Our day-to-day activities will include games, tournaments, case studies and preparations for American Mathematics Competition 8 (AMC 8). The national competition will be held on Nov 18th, 2010. Based on the results of the competition students will be awarded with certificates, trophies, and pins.

When: Once a week (day and time will be announced later)

Time: After School (~2:45 pm – 3:45 pm)

Place: Ridgeview MS



Note to parents: Please sign up your child by visiting the following web-address and filling out the web-form. <http://tinyurl.com/24nzzwy>
Or email Kenneth Karapetyan (karapetk@gmail.com) and include your child's full name, grade, parent's name, phone (home or cell).

Our current Chair has a scheduling conflict, so we are looking for a new Chair. If interested please contact Tara Murayama at gmurayama@comcast.net.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast



Thanks in large part to our wonderful Ridgeview parent volunteers, we kicked off the new school year with a "Welcome Back Breakfast" for our very dedicated Ridgeview staff on August 27th. The staff enjoyed a delicious breakfast of quiche, fruit salad, muffins, bagels, juice, bottled water and new this year – coffee!

We appreciate the generous food & drink donations from the following parent volunteers: Chilo Bonilla, Katie Czworka, Pearl D'Cruz, Denise Feldman, Amy Fink, Valerie Fuster, Jana Goodwin, Holly Gross, Lisa Horowitz, Beth Johnson, Joanne Levitt, Amy Mircoff, Kerri Moyer, Tara Murayama, Kristin Paolini, Janet Poetzschke, Randi Poli, Diane Schmid, Dohi Shin and Kathy Willard. Thank you to Janet Poetzschke, Dohi Shin, Tara Murayama, Eve Poetzschke, Danielle Moyer and Gabby Fuster for helping to serve the staff. Special thanks to the Ridgeview Building Services staff for their support of this important event!



Be a Volunteer at your child's school!

These middle school years are a great time to stay involved with your child's school and with your child. There are over 25 committees that could use your help in making this year a success. Many committees -- such as Book Fair, 3on3 Basketball, Staff Appreciation, and signing up to be a volunteer for your child's grade to help in various yearlong activities -- are great ways to stay involved and to know the happenings of your child's daily goings-on.

You will find a volunteer sign up form in the summer packet or at Back-to-School Night. Please review all the committees that could use your help and check off the ones that interest you. You can either drop the form off at Back-to-School night or have your child return it to their first period teacher when school starts. The committee chair will notify you when help is needed.

Volunteer Opportunities – *You will never regret being involved!*

Many thanks to all of the parents who have already volunteered to serve as committee chairs for the coming school year. We are looking forward to a great year at Ridgeview! There are a few committee chair positions that we still need to fill. Please take a look at this list to see if you could serve in one of these positions:

Display Case Coordinator – Setting up the various display cases with student work when contacted by a teacher.

Ridgeview Sign – Volunteer is responsible for posting upcoming events, days off, early release, etc. on the sign in front of the school.

Math Club - once a week 1 hour math activities at RMS. Chairperson should work on enforcing math concepts, developing children's logic, and generally engaging children in math via interesting team games and challenges, chairperson would also train children for AMC8 Olympiad. All the literature with problems and solutions is available. Please contact Ken at karapetk@gmail.com for more information.

Please give Julie Tittle a call if you are interested in being a volunteer or if you would like to find out more information about these programs at 301-869-7710 or klquypete@aol.com.

RMS Media Center



The media center at Ridgeview Middle School has been open for business since the first day of school and very busy. We have seen every English Class in the school to review computer log-ins, passwords, Accelerated Reader, and Edline. We have checked out approximately 1,460 books and materials to students and staff. We have lived through, and serviced students while a temporary wall was built and over 3,000 books were restacked. Finally, we are servicing over 30 students every day during Bobcat time.

The media center is open before school, every lunch period, Bobcat time, and after school on days with an activity bus. We have supplies for student use and space for them to read, check Edline, use computers, and complete projects. Every student in the school has their own Edline log-in, computer log-in, and Accelerated Password. Every student has received a yellow sheet with 24/7 access to Edline that includes web address and passwords.

Within 4 days of receiving their AR passwords, the 6th grade has obtained 1,887 points. Since the beginning of school, 7th grade has 2,124 points, and 8th grade has 2,572 points. Go Bobcat readers!

The media center runs reading contests throughout the year, supports the Maryland Black Eyed Student program, and works with classes multiple times during the year on research and other related projects. We are dedicated to keeping up to date fiction and non-fiction sections to support student learning and interest.

Two ways you can support the media center this year:

1. Donate a book. Do you have a child who has left for college? An avid reader with no more room on the shelves? Are you ready for fall cleaning? If so, please take a look around the house. If your child is finished with a series or ready to upgrade to different books, please consider donating books to our library. We will confirm that they are approved for grades 6-8 by MCPS, and get them on the shelves, use them for prizes, or donate them to classroom libraries. If we are not the appropriate place for the book, I will make sure it finds a good home. Any teen/youth book in good condition is welcome, although hardback books will last longer when in the hands of our students! Of course donations to bookstores are also always welcome.

2. Consider volunteering in the Library to help keep us organized and to work with students. Just email or call Autumn Myers with your availability and we can discuss if this is a good fit for your day!

We are very excited to work with the students this year.

Autumn Myers
 School Library Media Specialist
 301-840-4770 Autumn_K_Myers@mcpsmd.org

Rita Green
 School Library Media Assistant

Sally Foster

Sally Foster/Cookie Dough Sale Extended

The deadline for Sally Foster/Cookie Dough Sales is now Friday, September 24th.
Please return all order forms to the office by that date.

You can continue to order on-line at:
www.SallyFoster.com

Be sure to enter Ridgeview's ID #877759 so that the school receives credit
for your purchase.

Please check us out at Back to School Night
on Wednesday, September 22nd!!

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Schmid at:
deschmid@hughes.net



FATHERS' GROUP

The goal of the RMS Fathers' Group is to connect fathers (step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles, etc.) with the School in order to leverage the collective skill set of this underutilized resource with pressing priorities of the School. The group will be sponsoring several events and taking on various activities throughout the year. Those interested should contact Tom Sneeringer at 301-296-3642 or tom.sneeringer@mcgladrey.com.

Spelling Bee

Do you like to spell, learn new vocabulary, like to earn money? If you answered 'yes' to these questions, then you are a likely Spelling Bee candidate. There are no tryouts, just a strong desire to want to spell like a champ is required. We will start meeting Sept. 28th 3 - 4 p.m. in Mrs. Branch's classroom #222. The meetings will take place every Tuesday until January 18th. The Spelling Bee at RMS will take place January 25, 2011. The snow date for the event will be the following Tuesday, February 1st. There will be a sign up sheet, along with information about the school, regional, and national bee at the Spelling Bee booth during Ridgeview's Back-to-School night. For more information, please feel free to contact Linda Pett at 301-990-1756 or email lapccp@msn.com or Janine Rauscher at 301-926-6246 or email wtpooh123@comcast.net.



PTA[®] Reflections unleashes your artistic talents

Dance Choreography

Photography

Film Production

Musical Composition

Literature

Visual Arts

2010–2011 Theme: **“Together We Can”**

Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized.

Deadline for entries:

For details, contact

Sarah Cosgrove-Gaumond
301-978-9829
sarahcos@mac.com

Ridgeview Middle School
Parent Teacher Student Association

National Media Sponsor of PTA Reflections Program

parenting
school years



PTA REFLECTIONS





Find Your Passion and Get Involved!!

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs ("MCCPTA") is your voice across the county. MCCPTA's purpose is to unify and strengthen local PTAs in order to promote the interests of children and to encourage programs and projects that will carry out the purposes of the PTA. In order to assist in that business, we have created a number of committees dedicated to school issues. Please review the committee vision statements below. All committees are open to any member of the PTA. There are plenty of ways you may get involved!

Operating Budget

Chair: Pam Moomau, pammoomau@gmail.com

The MCPS Operating Budget represents the translation of MCPS priorities into action by allocating funds across programs and functions. The vision of the Operating Budget Committee is that all parents would become well-informed and active partners in the budget process. It is the job of the committee to make this vision happen

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Chair: Steve Augustino, sauggiedog@comcast.net

The CIP Committee supports the advocacy of MCCPTA and the individual clusters on school construction issues. The Committee is dedicated to the principle that every child in Montgomery County is entitled to attend school in a safe, secure, healthy and modern facility. MCPS's ability to increase academic rigor throughout all levels and to expand participation in college-level coursework, requires sufficient classrooms, modern facilities, and appropriate learning environments. The CIP Committee will work to see that MCPS meets countywide facilities needs, and in particular that MCPS keeps pace with planned additions, modernizations and county-wide programs to replace and maintain building facilities.

Legislative

Chair: Patrick Dunn, patrickdunn65@yahoo.com

The Legislative Committee supports the mission and objectives of MCCPTA and MDPTA by providing information to the membership regarding issues, actions, bills, and laws undertaken by individual members, or the Maryland General Assembly as a whole, that affect public education or the safety of students.

Health & Safety

Chairs: Donna Pfeiffer, donnafeiffer@gmail.com

Susan Burkinshaw, susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net

Every student and teacher has an inherent right to be in a safe, healthy and secure environment while they are under the care of the public school system. The Health and Safety Committee will work to support National PTA position statements and resolutions.

Parent Involvement

Chair: Elisia George, ekjgsha@gmail.com

The Parent Involvement Committee seeks to create liaisons to reach out to underserved families within the school community and providing parents with resources needed to empower them in becoming more effective parents. We also seek to increase the level of parent involvement within our school system.

Membership

Chair: Jannette Gilman, janettegilman@verizon.net

The Membership Committee's goal is to grow the membership of MCCPTA to increase the power of our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County. Membership grows one member at a time, and the committee will organize workshops, outreach activities, and tailored mentoring in an effort to help each local grow membership.

Curriculum

Chairs: Kathy Boehlert, skboehlert@msn.com

Ted Willard, twillard@aaas.org

Since curriculum is central to the educational process, it is essential that parents are aware of the details of the process of developing and implementing curricula and that they are able to participate in that process. The purpose of the Curriculum Committee is to provide an avenue for that participation.

ESOL

Chair: Joy Burdin, triplejand@yahoo.com

One of the missions of the PTA is to speak on behalf of children and youth in our school and involvement of parents. The ESOL Committee will uphold this mission and focus on ways that the communication will be enhanced between parents of ESOL students and the schools. Special Education

Special Education

Chair: Jeanne Taylor, frtjmt@aol.com

The Special Education Committee acts as a resource for parents, caregivers and school staff to share experiences in advocating for children to implement successful family-school partnerships. The committee also conducts outreach to those who may not be connected with their school community.

Gifted Child

Chair: Michelle Gluck, gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

MCPS is committed to "promoting rigorous performance standards and providing instructional programs that encourage all students to achieve at their highest level." The Gifted Child Committee supports and advocates on behalf of children who require accelerated and enriched instruction within MCPS in order to achieve their full potential. We seek to increase public awareness of the special needs of all highly able learners and to assist their parents in guiding the education of these children, in order to ensure that they are adequately identified and educated. We work to ensure that MCPS systematically provides appropriate programming to meet equitably each child's unique gifts and talents in compliance with Policy IOA.

Cultural Arts

Chair: Priscilla Peterson, prisfp@verizon.net

The Cultural Arts Committee supports and promotes PTA/PTSA efforts to present high-quality performances, workshops, residencies, and in-school field trips to students in MCPS to enrich their educational program and artistic experiences.

Down County Consortium (DCC)

Down County Consortium

Chair: Mary Abe, abe_mary@yahoo.com

The DCC Committee monitors and coordinates the efforts of the PTAs in the Down County Consortium with special attention to the needs of the high school and middle school consortium programs and the associated choice process from elementary school to middle school to high school. We focus on assessing the effectiveness of the choice process in providing families with academically strong options for all students.

Guidance

Chair: Jeannie Dillingham, jeannie_616@msn.com

The Guidance Committee's aim is to strengthen ties between parents and counselors for the benefit of all county school children.

SSL (Student Service Learning)

Chair: Deb Lang, debolang@yahoo.com

The SSL Committee's goals are 1) to communicate regularly with MCPS regarding the SSL program, monitoring implementation and providing feedback from parents and students, and 2) to improve the dissemination of information on SSL requirements and opportunities to parents and students.

For more information, go to www.mccpta.com.

How Do I Get the News From RMS??

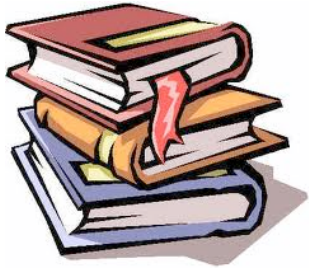


**Sign up for the Ridgeview Yahoo Group
To subscribe send an e-mail to the following address:**

**RMS_PTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
(There is an underscore between RMS and PTSA)**

This is a closed group for members of the RMS school community only. Messages for school and PTSA are the only thing posted on this group – this is NOT used for group discussions or forums.

**Visit the RMS Website
<http://mcps.k12.md.us/schools/ridgeviewms>**

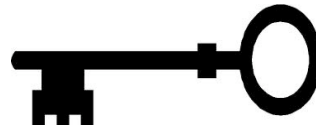


Book Fair

Reading Saves The Day!

It's time! The Book Fair will be at Ridgeview Middle School starting Monday, October 11th through Thursday, October 14th. Hours will be posted around school so be on the lookout! Also, the Fair will be open Tuesday, October 12th before the PTA meeting. Volunteers are needed to join our Superhero Squad so please contact Rhonda Haley at 301/340-7330 or tinkwtude66@msn.com for more information. (Both adults and students can be part of the crew.) Thank you for considering being a part of our wonder team and getting more kids reading!

Note These KEY Dates



September

- 22 – Back-To-School Night, 7 – 9 pm
- 22 - Hispanic Parents Meeting 6:00 p.m. Media Center
- 22 - Family Life Parent Information Meeting 6:00pm Room 202
- 24 - Due Date and Deadline for Summer SSL Hours
- 24 – Sally Foster/Cookie Dough orders due
- 30 – 6th Grade Outdoor Education Parent Info Night 7 – 8:30pm

October

- 1 – ½ Day for Students
- 8 – RMS Talent Show
- 11 – 14 Book Fair
- 12 – PTSA Meeting, 7:15
- 15 – MSTTA Convention – No School for Students
- 18 – Restaurant Night, Five Guys in Kentlands- bring flyer
- 20 - NAACP Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Starbucks in Kentlands
- 25 – 29 - 6th Grade Outdoor Education
- 29 – 1st Marking Period Ends



Dine out for Ridgeview MS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18th

FIVE GUYS®

**FAMOUS
 BURGERS and FRIES**

Kentlands

20% OF ALL FLYERS COLLECTED on

Monday, October 18th

from 6-9 pm

will be donated to Ridgeview Middle School

FAMOUS BURGERS FRESH GROUND BEEF (NEVER FROZEN)	FAMOUS FRIES FIVE GUYS STYLE or CAJUN
HAMBURGER CHEESEBURGER BACON BURGER BACON CHEESEBURGER LITTLE HAMBURGER LITTLE CHEESEBURGER LITTLE BACON BURGER LITTLE BACON CHEESEBURGER	REGULAR LARGE <i>Cooked in pure, no cholesterol, tasty peanut oil!</i>
100% KOSHER HOT DOG CHEESE or BACON DOG BACON CHEESE DOG VEGGIE or GRILLED CHEESE	DRINKS 24 oz. free refills <i>Coca Cola products</i>
ALL TOPPINGS FREE: Mayo Relish* Onions* Lettuce Pickles Tomatoes Fried Onions Sautéed Mushrooms Ketchup Mustard Jalapeno Peppers* Green Peppers A-1 Sauce* Bar-B-Q Sauce* Hot Sauce* <small>*Upon request only</small>	

WE SERVE PEANUTS IN BULK CONTAINERS

Take a break from cooking & eat out at Five Guys!
 Don't forget to tell family & friends!

