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Greetings from the 'Ridge,

The Wheatridge staff is excited to share details of our successful start to the 2010-2011 year. One highlight our seventh and eighth grade students have experienced is the 8<sup>th</sup> period Guided Practice course. Our teachers have designed Guided Practice as an academic support course to engage students in learning conversations about skills presented to the student that day, to model organization skills, and provide individual assistance based upon student need.

During Guided Practice, students complete their agendas and gather necessary work for the evening. The Online Agenda for each team is posted to our website by each day by 2:00 as a springboard for parents to share in the accomplishments of their student's day.

Our seventh and eighth graders have excelled in this course. They are completing a high percentage of their assignments. More importantly, the opportunity to share questions or challenges with staff is supporting increased learning and skill level. We are very pleased with the start and are ready to take our next step in supporting individual student needs.

Beginning in early September, our staff will identify challenging concepts and skills that may need additional practice for some students. Based upon their classroom performance, a student will be offered additional time, a new perspective, or increased assistance to successfully master a particular skill. This opportunity to work with their teachers will be provided each week in Guided Studies.

These Flex Sessions will occur on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during Guided Practice (8<sup>th</sup> Period). Staff will develop engaging activities to support small group student learning in an interactive manner to ensure the needs of all students are being met. This small group attention will support increased confidence, skill level and classroom performance. Students will have the opportunity to engage teachers with questions about individual concepts to assist in their daily classes.

Wheatridge is excited about the increased capacity to meet the needs of all students as they develop at the middle level.

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*Wheatridge Middle School provides a positive and safe environment where all students are challenged academically and guided to make good decisions.*

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