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## **Ridgewood High School to Celebrate Sound-Insulated Building June 5**

### **Credits FAA, Chicago, O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission**

Des Plaines, Ill., May 30, 2013—Ridgewood High School will welcome visitors to its newly sound-insulated building during an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at 7500 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge.

The Federal Aviation Administration allocated \$28 million for the sound insulation project to abate noise from aircraft flying at nearby O'Hare International Airport. The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) oversaw the project in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Aviation.

“We are thrilled that Ridgewood’s 900 students and 70 faculty and staff now have the opportunity to learn in quiet surroundings,” said Dr. Raymond Kuper, chairman of the ONCC School Sound Insulation Committee, who will participate in a celebration program.

“We are also grateful to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (Ill.-09) and U.S. Representative Peter Roskam (Ill.-06) for their support of this project and the funding granted by the FAA and the city of Chicago,” said ONCC Chairperson Arlene J. Mulder.

The two-year project took longer than anticipated, but the results truly benefit students, according to School District 234 Superintendent Dr. Robert Lupo. Construction included an exterior curtain wall of acoustic windows, integral blinds, and sound insulation in the school’s academic wing of 60 classrooms, library, science lab and the roof of the auditorium, he said.

The FAA reimburses the school 80 percent of the cost with Airport Improvement Program funds and the city of Chicago reimburses the remaining 20 percent with approved airline passenger facility charges. A local bond issue financed the auditorium’s structural renovation that required 350 tons of steel.

The O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program is the largest and one of the oldest programs in the world. It has allocated approximately \$332.8 million in federal and airport funds to sound-insulate 119 schools near O'Hare with 4 more schools in process and one awaiting funds to complete the 124-school sound insulation program.

ONCC is recognized internationally as a leading community-based organization that strives to reduce the impact of aircraft noise near O'Hare International Airport through its sound insulation programs and to reduce aircraft noise, whenever possible, at its source.

For more information, contact Jeanette Camacho, 773-686-3198, or visit [www.oharenoise.org](http://www.oharenoise.org).

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ONCC member communities: Arlington Heights; Bartlett; Bellwood; Bensenville; Chicago including wards 36, 38, 39, 41, 45; Des Plaines; Elmwood Park; Franklin Park; Harwood Heights; Hoffman Estates; Itasca; Maywood; Melrose Park; Mount Prospect; Niles; Norridge; Northlake; Oak Park; Palatine; Park Ridge; River Forest; River Grove; Rolling Meadows; Rosemont; Schaumburg; Schiller Park; Stone Park; Wood Dale and Cook County. ONCC member school districts: 59; 63; 64; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.

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