

Message From IPS Superintendent Gurk



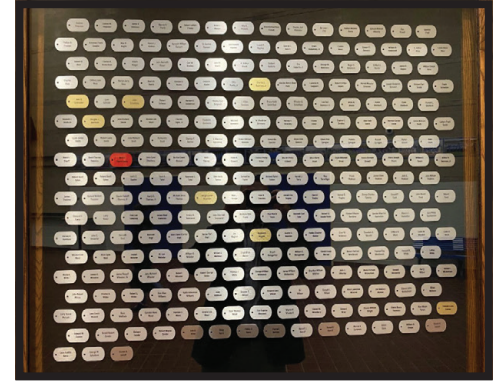
The Wall of Honor

Our Ionia Wall of Honor vision began over two years ago, and has included much collaboration among students, staff, Boy Scouts, alumni, the Board of Education, and community members. We worked with the Ionia Genealogical Society, the Ionia Historical Society, Mrs. Kathleen Cook and Mrs. Linda Ciangi

to obtain the names of Ionia High School (IHS) alumni who served in the armed forces. Mrs. Lou Ann Klein and Ms. Melissa Weller sifted through hundreds of pages of books to obtain information on our veterans. Our Wall of Honor includes over 1,300 IHS alumni and staff who served in the armed forces.

Our Wall of Honor materials are locally made. The solid oak showcases that house our dog tags were built by IHS alum Mr. Ken Moore. The solid oak emblems above each showcase were crafted by Ionia resident Mr. Andy Godwin. Our dog tags were made by Fast Signs (Grand Rapids) and our interactive touchscreen was made by Freshwater Digital (Grand Rapids).

The dog tags in each showcase represent IHS and Douglas R. Welch alumni and staff who served in the armed forces. 34 IHS alumni have given their lives in defense of the United States; 2 in Vietnam, 3 in Korea, and 29 in WWII. Alumni who were killed in action are represented with a gold dog tag.



Our Wall of Honor includes one red dog tag, which represents Merrie Steere-Helm (IHS Class of 1912) who served as a Red Cross nurse in WWI and then later taught at IHS.

Our interactive touchscreen includes IHS and Douglas R. Welch alumni and staff as well as Saints Peter and Paul High School alumni who served in the armed forces. Students, staff, relatives, and visitors can look up our veterans by name, service branch, and graduation year. Our touchscreen contains photos and biographies of each of our veterans.

We are very grateful to have received over \$9,600 in donations and grants for our Wall of Honor. We have received donations from as far away as New York, Maryland, and Louisiana.

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The Wall of Honor

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Our desire is that our Wall of Honor serves as both a memorial and as an educational forum for our students and community. In the event that we have missed one of our veterans, please email lklein@ioniaschools.org and we will see that they are added.



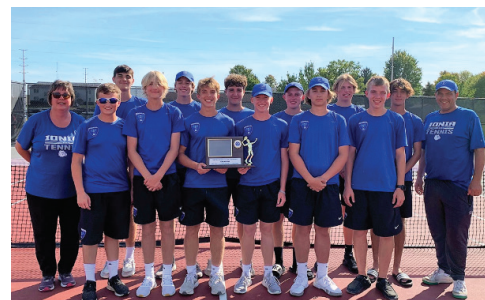
Dan and Janet Balice review the interactive kiosk that is part of the Wall of Honor display.

IHS Spring Sports

IHS Spring Sports begin on Monday, March 14. All students must have a completed physical on file in the Athletic Director's office and complete the online 2021-22 IHS Sports Registration found at IoniaAthletics.org before they can participate. Contact the appropriate head coach for more information.

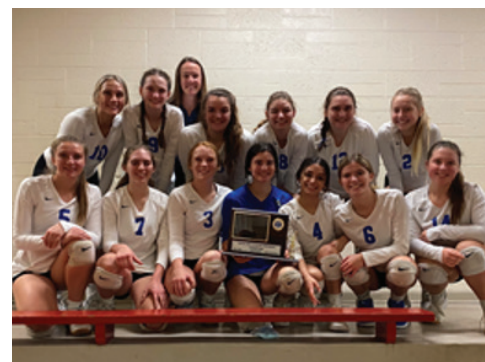
Congressional App Challenge Winner!

The Congressional App Challenge's mission is to inspire, include, and innovate efforts around STEM, coding, and computer science education. Several students from IHS competed in this year's challenge, but Caleb Sibley, a 12th grade student at IHS, actually won the challenge for our area! Caleb built a math game called Math Mage Mayhem, which is a turn-based strategy game where math questions will be asked for players to answer on a time limit. There are negative effects if players complete a question incorrectly, but there are also positive effects if players correctly answer a question. We are so proud of Caleb for all his hard work!



Conference Champions

Boys Tennis won their first league championship since 1983! Sam Eppler was also the individual league champion (top overall player).



Volleyball won the CAAC White League Championship, bringing home our first conference title since 1973!



State Qualifiers

Our boys cross country team (Riley Husted, Heath LaPointe, Josiah Magley, Jacob Montgomery, Andrew Gerdes, Ellis Yokom, Tyson Evans) finished second at the Division 2 MHSAA Regionals qualify them for the state finals and Maddie Hanulcik qualified individually for the girls!

Sport:	Coach:	Email:
Baseball	Jason Lundstrum	jlundstr@ioniaschools.org
Softball	Judy Becker	ionibulldogsoftball@gmail.com
Boys Golf	Ken McKee	kt_mckee@hotmail.com
Boys & Girls Track	James Merrifield	jmerrifield@ioniaschools.org
Girls Soccer	Ben Wolford	bwolford@ioniaschools.org
Girls Tennis	Brian DeRath	bderath@ioniaschools.org



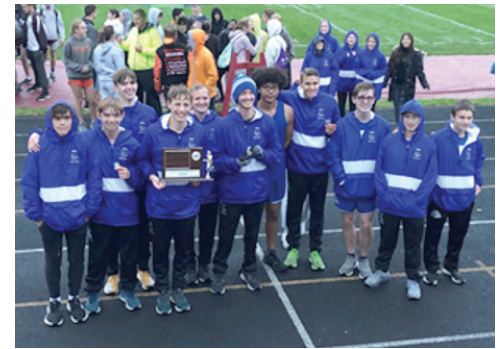
Ionia Vocal Music

has started the 2021-2022 school year strong with a variety of performance opportunities. The Ionia Choir was able to honor our community and those who serve in the military and law enforcement with a performance of “God Bless America” at the annual Patriot Game this football season. The high school choirs came together to perform a variety of music in different styles at our Fall Concert. Music included traditional folk songs as well as modern takes

on poetry from Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland” and “Through the Looking Glass.” We were thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the Veterans Day Ceremony by singing the National Anthem and God “Bless America.” The annual Holiday Concert featured the return of old traditions such as “Santa Baby” and “Fruitcake” along with the establishment of some new traditions in the middle school and high school joining forces to remind us to find peace and joy in the Holiday season. We are looking forward to a great second semester!



Our girls swim team members (Madeline McGee, Maelys Bonafe, Anouk Demel, Brynn Lepien, and Josie Phelps) who qualified MHSAA Finals in Division 3! McGee earned All-State honors in the 100 yard backstroke placing 5th and honorable mention all-state honors taking 9th in the 50 yard freestyle. Maelys Bonafe earned honorable mention all-state honors in the 200 yard freestyle finishing 14th and in the 100 butterfly finishing 16th.



Boys Cross won the CAAC White League Championship and Josiah Magley was the individual league champion (top overall runner)!



Football Playoffs

The boys football team qualified for the state playoffs with victory over rival Lakewood!

IHS GRIT Coin Program

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a foundational piece at IHS that we use to help identify and support desired behaviors. This helps us create a positive and safe school climate where students can learn and grow. We utilize GRIT coins to recognize students that display Growth mindset, Respect, Integrity and Teamwork. This fall, the GRIT coin was re-designed and the new look has created a buzz amongst the students and staff. So too has next semester’s highly anticipated GRIT Coin



Menu and Super GRIT Coin. When awarded a GRIT coin, students can either enter their coin into our weekly drawing for a Meijer gift card or purchase an item, experience or participation in an activity at an assembly from the GRIT Coin Menu. Each teacher is given 1 Super GRIT Coin to award a student that has shown exemplary GRIT throughout the school year.

The recipient will have their picture and write up about why they deserved the coin adorned on the wall outside of Student Services.



National Honor Society

We inducted 53 new members in November giving us a total of 89 members for this school year! They have already logged over 1400 hours for this year and we are so proud of them for all their hard work!



REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES

24 HOUR CALL-IN LINES

Boyce Elementary 616 527 8011
Emerson Elementary... 616 527 8045
Jefferson Elementary .. 616 527 8048
Rather Elementary 616 527 8033
Twin Rivers Elem. 616 522 0007
Ionia Middle School 616 527 8044
Ionia High School..... 616 527 2780
D.R. Welch High S. 616 527 3530



Upcoming Important Dates

IPS Ice Cream
Community Social
April 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Freshman Orientation
April 20, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Senior Scholar Breakfast
April 22 at 8 a.m.

Last day for Seniors
May 20 (dismissal at 10:05 a.m.)

Graduation Rehearsal
May 24, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Graduation Ceremony
May 26 at 7 p.m.



Douglas R. Welch Warriors



The students achieved their class completion goal for the month of December, so we celebrated with a horse ride prior to Christmas!

We had a great first semester at Douglas R. Welch High School! The students have worked hard to focus on completing their graduation requirements. At Welch High School the students are focused on demonstrating STAR behavior (Safety, Tenacity, Great Attitude, and Responsibility). Each month students are recognized for demonstrating STAR behavior. We are looking forward to a great second semester!

We welcomed a new secretary to Welch, Mrs. Katherine Beebe (right). Prior to working at Welch, Mrs. Beebe worked in the office at Ionia Middle School. In her free time Kathy enjoys photography and spending time with her family. We are so excited to have her join the Welch family!



IHS Theater Group Scores a Hit in 2021!

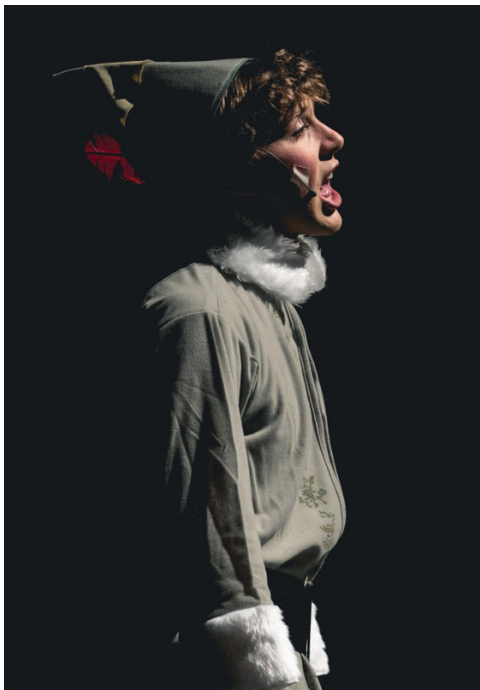


Photo credit - Ryan Videtich

After a year and a half away, IHS Theatre Group was thrilled to be able to return to the stage for our winter musical, Elf the Musical! We had so many new faces in our group this year and ended up having our most successful box office in the last 5+ years, which truly allows us to do bigger and better things in the future! We are incredibly optimistic about continuing to build up our group post-Covid and are already thinking about plans for our spring production.



Ionia Middle School HEROic Events!



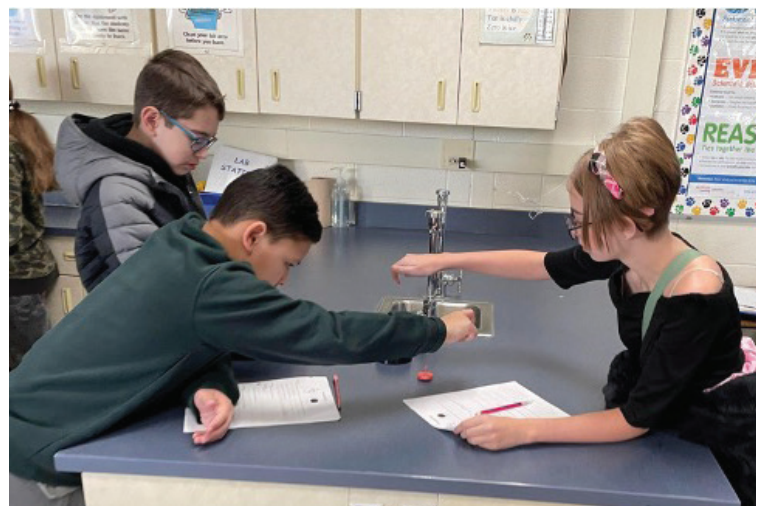
The start of the school year at the Ionia Middle School (IMS) centered on getting students reengaged with face to face education. Our staff and students participated in several activities to start the year as HEROES. An IMS HERO is Hardworking, Encouraging, Respectful and they Own it. The HERO motto represents that we are striving for excellence everyday. Those students that exemplify this motto are rewarded with PBIS points and the opportunity to become HEROES of the month. Our HEROES of the month are rewarded with their picture in our showcase and a HERO T-shirt. With the year half over we are looking forward to preparing the 8th graders for High School and helping our 6th and 7th graders reach for academic excellence.



Students enjoy their classes, both when working inside and outside.



Middle School teachers excitedly await day one introductions. The school year began with students celebrating the start of a great school year in the gymnasium. Staff put on skits to demonstrate the different H.E.R.O. elements





Middle School students worked hard to raise money for Ionia Community Awareness (above). Students participated in a week long Spirit Week and a Carnival that took place during lunch.

HERO Leaders (right) have worked hard to help with activities around the Middle School, including mentoring our sixth grade students.



Ionia Middle School students excel both academically and athletically



Fun Night gives students the opportunity to enjoy friends, dancing and games.



The Dance Team has another wonderful performance.



A pie in the face and pep assembly games send us off to Christmas break. Students earn the opportunity to have a pep assembly and to pie a teacher with meeting their December goal.



Students participated in door decorating and Spirit Days prior to Christmas break.



Boyce Elementary Highlights



Cassandra Kelly joined the Boyce staff. She is our new first grade teacher. Welcome Mrs. Kelly!



Ionia Free Fair queen Emma Kapp volunteered her time to read to Boyce classrooms.



Boyce students were able to have an outdoor Halloween parade this school year.



We are excited for the return of the Boyce Farm and Garden Club. This exciting after school club begins January 2022.

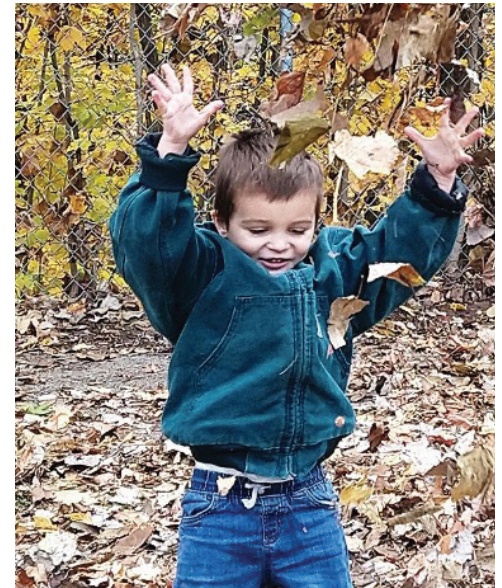


Emerson Elementary SOARS!

Emerson Elementary kicked off 2021-22 with an Olympic goal of “Going for the Gold!”



What a wonderful first semester to be able to work hard, learn and have fun together.



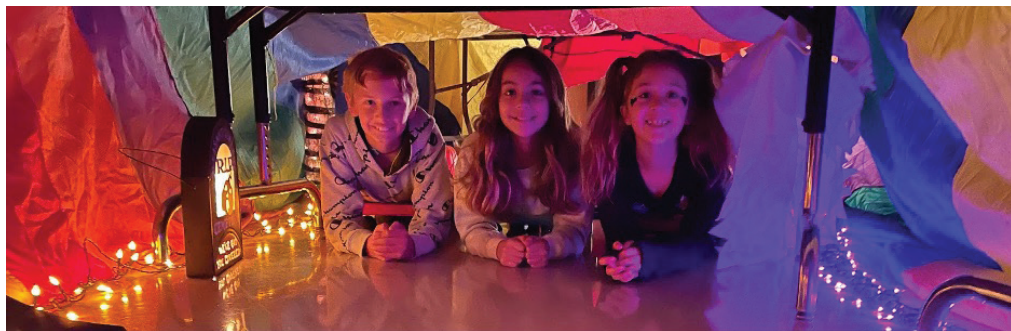
ECSE, MICI and IRR classes enjoy a fall day at the apple orchard.



Fourth and fifth grade students participated in a mock trial at the courthouse with Judge Voet.



Emerson Elementary (continued)



The holiday season was definitely worthy of a medal this year. Everyone enjoyed the return of our Halloween parade, party and activities.



Thanksgiving was made extra special this year as students and staff enjoy the return of the Thanksgiving Feast. First grade students were motivated to complete their relay and build a turkey to win first prize in PE.



The holiday spirit continued through December with our annual Read Around, Spirit Week and special guests from the North Pole. Scholastic Book Fair occurred during this festive week and was a great success. Students were excited to receive the gift of a free book of their choice.



Jefferson Elementary ROARS!



A class is nominated by staff each month for being exemplary at showing their R.O.A.R.S. R.O.A.R.S. stands for R-Respect, O-On Task, A-Awesome Attitude, R-Responsible, and S-Safe. The class receives a trophy and banner to display for



the month for all staff and students to see! Jefferson "Students of the Month" are selected each month. The boy and girl from each class who earns the most R.O.A.R.S. slips are honored with a poster displayed in our library windows for the month!

It has been a wonderful first semester at Jefferson Elementary school with many points of pride. The school year has been different from those in the past, however students have been able to enjoy some of their pastime favorite activities.

The Scholastic Book Fair (right) was held in November. Students were eager and excited to read new books!



Jefferson students enjoyed a more traditional celebration on October 29th Halloween! Jefferson's PTG helped to make the day extra special with unique grade level crafts and provided a treat bag for each student!

Upcoming Jefferson Dates to Note:

IM3rd Meal program and Jefferson's Awesome Mathletes (J.A.M.) Before School Math Club launches in January

Scholastic Book Fair During Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 1st and 3rd

Spring Picture Day March 11

The 2022 Feelin' Good® Mileage Club®, will run April 11 - May 2

End of year Scholastic Book Fair - May 31 to June 3

Fifth Grade Class Night (TBA), and Field Day - June 3rd



Jefferson has kicked off the new year with reviewing school-wide and classroom PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) lessons. Jefferson's amazing students and staff are dedicated and hardworking. We are excited to see students progress in reading and math through NWEA and Acadience winter testing!

Rather RAMS on the MOVE!



Rather Elementary Highlights

It has been such a great first half of the school year at Rather Elementary School! Even though they looked a little different than in previous years, we were very excited to be able to hold some of our students' favorite activities.

Our students and staff have worked so hard during the first half of this school year. We are looking forward to the upcoming mid-year Acadience and NWEA assessments to see all of the great progress that our students have made!



On September 27th, we held a Family Accelerated Reader Night.



Upcoming Rather Dates to Note:

Family Science Night
January 20th

Family Accelerated Reader Night
February 7th

Scholastic Book Fair During
Spring Parent/Teacher
Conferences
March 1st and 3rd

Career Day - March 11th

Family Accelerated Reader
Night - March 21st

Spring Picture Day - March 24th

Walk-A-Thon - May 31st

Fifth Grade Class Night
June 2nd

Field Day - June 7th.

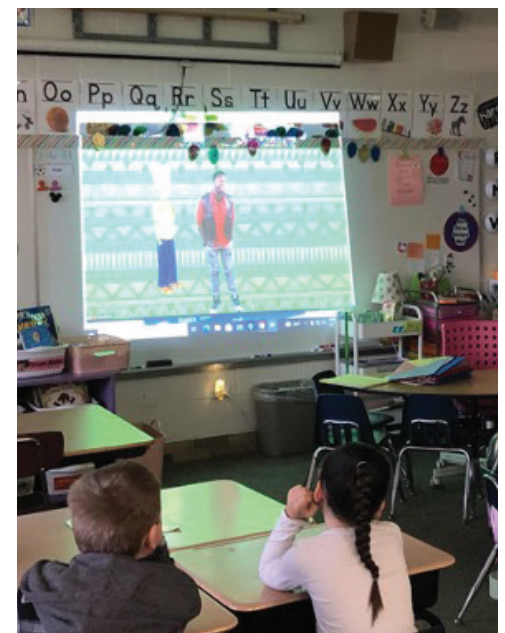


We were also able to hold our traditional Halloween Costume Parade and Trick-or-Treating event on October 29th. Typically this event is held on the Rather playground but, because it was raining, students paraded and trick-or-treated under the overhanging roof at the front of the building where parents were lined up to give out candy.



The Scholastic Book Fair was held during fall parent/teacher conferences on October 12th and 14th.

On December 7th, Rather hosted a "NED's Kindness Adventure" Assembly (right). NED stands for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. This free, interactive, virtual assembly program helped reinforce the importance of the S in our RAMS acronym (S-Show Kindness).





Twin Rivers PAWS to the Top!



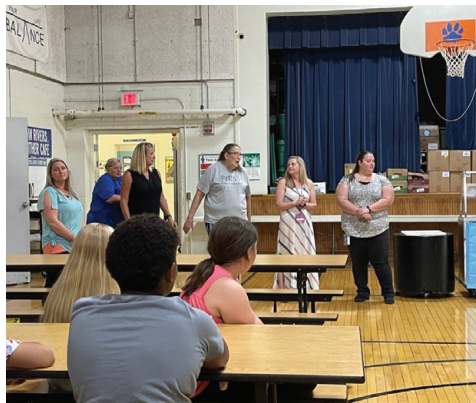
We spent some time improving the look of the building and grounds.



What a great first half of the school year we had at Twin Rivers! It has been wonderful having the students back in-person for the entire semester. We have implemented our new math curriculum, Bridges, and have really focused on improving our reading skills. Our students have been making amazing progress this semester!



Students spent the first week of school reviewing classroom and school expectations and norms.



Each week students earn PAWS Tickets for working hard, having a positive attitude and good behavior, being respectful and kind, and showing Panther Pride. The class with the most PAWS tickets each week gets to host Pawly the Panther for the week in their classroom!

Our Halloween Parade was so much fun!



Twin Rivers Elementary (continued)



In November, former Twin Rivers student and Grammy winning Bluegrass artist Billy Strings, aka William Apostol, surprised the students at his former elementary school by purchasing and donating a brand new guitar to every student in the school. It was such a generous and beautiful gesture. He even took time to play at recess with the students and loved taking a tour of his old school. Twin Rivers also put a sign on the building honoring their former student.



In January, Twin Rivers started its morning STEM club. The kids have been so excited to participate each morning as they learn Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills. They have built telescopes and learned about cyber security as they decipher and create secret codes. This winter they will be exploring outer space through engineering and researching.



We have had so much fun and have learned so much this semester at Twin Rivers! We are excited to see that hard work pay off as we take our winter NWEA and Acadience tests in January.



Ionia Public Schools Calendar 2021-2022

Wed, Feb 9	Student Count Day
Fri, Feb 18	Staff PD All Day
Mon, Feb 21	Mid-Winter Break - No School
Tues, Mar 1	PTC K-5 5:00-7:30 p.m.
Wed, Mar 2	PTC 6-12 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Thur, Mar 3	Students AM, PTC K-8, 1:00-4:00, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Students AM, PTC 9-12, 1:00-3:30, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Fri, Mar 4	No School
Fri, Mar 18	Staff PD All Day
Fri, April 1	Spring Break
Mon-Fri, April 4-8	Spring Break
Fri, April 15	Good Friday
Wed, April 20	Freshman Welcome Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Freshman Welcome Night STAFF, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Fri, May 27	Students AM, Staff PLC PM
Mon, May 30	No School-Memorial Day
Thur, June 9	K-12 Students 1/2 Day AM / Full Day Staff
Fri, June 10	Last Day - 1/2 Day AM All

School & Department Phone Numbers

Boyce Elementary	616-527-0571
Emerson Elementary	616-527-8018
Jefferson Elementary	616-527-2740
Rather Elementary	616-527-1720
Twin Rivers Elementary	616-522-0005
Ionia Middle School	616-527-0040
Ionia High School	616-527-0600
D.R. Welch High School	616-527-3530
Ionia Virtual School	616-522-0800
Transportation Department	616-527-9680
Maintenance Department	616-527-9680
Food Service Department	616-527-1731
Administration Office	616-527-9280

AHERA Notification

This notice is to inform you that the district has contracted for an asbestos inspection and management plan as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The management plan has been completed and approved by the Asbestos Program of the Michigan Department of Health. The plan is available for your review in the Central Office.

The management plan contains information regarding the locations of asbestos containing materials (ACM) in all school buildings, the condition of the ACM, and a plan for dealing with the ACM.

The following asbestos activities are currently planned for the district:

- Re-inspection of all district buildings is required by law every three years. Re-inspection is set for June 2024.
- Periodic Surveillance is required every six months (visual). This is performed by trained school personnel. Next surveillance is set for December 2021.

Response Actions designed to reduce or eliminate potential for asbestos hazards include:

- Inspection of all floor tile suspected to contain asbestos, except high school, which has no ACM.
- Tunnels under the Middle School for pipe insulation.
- Pipe insulation below the stage tunnel at Twin Rivers Elementary.
- Fire doors and inside fire door of the kitchen foyer at Twin Rivers Elementary.
- Pipe joints in the north end tunnel at Twin Rivers Elementary.

Response Actions include appropriate sealing and proper maintenance of all ACM in all buildings. Therefore, ACM does not present a health hazard in Ionia Public Schools. Questions and concerns regarding this process should be directed to Mike Avery, Director of Facilities and Ground, 616-527-6310.

Equal Opportunity Message:

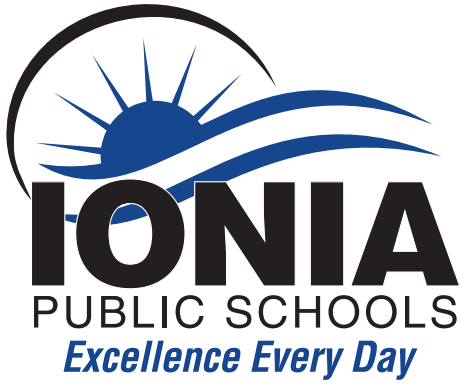
It has always been the policy of Ionia Public Schools to be an equal opportunity institution. We do not discriminate on the bases of sex, race, creed, color, ethnic origin, physical or mental handicap, weight, or marital status in any of our educational programs or activities including enrollment, placement, and employment.

It is also the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. Any person wishing to inquire regarding these policies or to file a complaint should contact:

Wayne Piercefield or Alicia Thorlund
250 E. Tuttle Road, Ionia, MI 48846

Ionia Public Schools Board of Education

Danielle Yokom - President
Ken Baker - Vice President
Robin Marhofer - Treasurer
Margot Cook - Secretary
Shawn Diebel - Trustee
Roger Hull - Trustee
Brian Siemen - Trustee
Benjamin Gurk - Superintendent
Website: www.ioniaschools.org



250 E. Tuttle Rd
Ionia, MI 48846

