

A Message From Superintendent Gurk



Superintendent Gurk

Bulldog Beginnings is Back!

Throughout our conversations and correspondence with community members, our team has heard many express a need for Ionia Public Schools to once again offer a preschool early childhood program. There are academic, social, and emotional benefits to children having access to preschool programs. Thus, our team has been working diligently to restore our Bulldog Beginnings preschool program. It will be housed within the Marge Melcher Center at the north end

of the Ionia High School, which has air conditioning and will soon have a brand new playground. To register your child for our Bulldog Beginnings preschool and learn more details, please go to <https://bit.ly/Bulldogbeginnings>.

Non-Homestead Operating Millage

- Will not increase taxes on primary residences
- Will not increase taxes on agricultural zoned property
- Will restore IPS to full per pupil funding

On May 3, voters will be asked to restore the Ionia Public Schools' non-homestead operating millage to its original 18 mills. In 2020 that millage was statutorily reduced by the Headlee Amendment, which requires a millage reduction when property values rise faster than the rate of inflation.

Our ballot proposal will not affect or increase property taxes on primary residences or agricultural property. It will only impact non-homestead properties such as industrial, commercial, and investment property, along with vacation homes and rental properties by restoring the levy to the original 18 mills. The

Continues...

I IONIA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

**BULLDOG BEGINNINGS
PRESCHOOL IS BACK!**

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration Is Now Open!

Register at <https://bit.ly/Bulldogbeginnings>

Contact Ms. Weller with questions

mweller@ioniaschools.org

616-527-9280

www.ioniaschools.org



The Excel is the official publication of the Ionia Public Schools. Copies of the IPS School Report are available on request from the IPS office, and available online in the form of a PDF file.

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www.ioniaschools.org

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YOU'RE INVITED!

COMMUNITY AWARDS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
PROGRAM BEGINS 7PM
IONIA HIGH SCHOOL GYM

RSVP TO
MWELLER@IONIASCHOOLS.ORG

FREE ADMISSION!



Community Awards & Ice Cream Social Celebration!

We are excited to bring back our Community Awards - Ice Cream Social Celebration! It will be held in the Ionia High School (IHS) gym on Wednesday, April 13; doors open at 6:30pm, and our program begins at 7pm. Due to COVID-19, we have not held this event since 2019. Thanks to our generous donors, we will be able to provide an ice cream sundae bar for all who attend!

Each school will have a showcase/display of the great things our students and educators are accomplishing. This year's celebration will include the presentation of our first annual parent/volunteer award for each school. We will also present our William B. Lincoln Educator of the Year Award and our Silver Slate Community Volunteer Award. Our program will also recognize students from each school, and include our IHS Jazz Band, IHS Choir, and the Ionia Community Band.

Please RSVP to mweller@ioniaschools.org if you and your family are able to attend.

Millage, continued from pag. 1

millage would be less than \$50 for every \$100,000 of taxable value.

Restoring our non-homestead operating millage will allow us to recoup \$70,600 annually, which would be able to cover the costs of restoring our Bulldog Beginnings preschool program.

If not approved, IPS will only be able to levy the statutorily-reduced rate of 17.5048 mills, resulting in a continued loss of revenue to our IPS general fund of approximately \$70,600 annually.

To summarize, our operating millage restoration proposal

Please contact IPS Superintendent Gurk (bgurk@ioniaschools.org) with any questions.

Paid for by Ionia Public Schools, 250 East Tuttle Road, Ionia, Michigan 48846



KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

MAY 3RD & MAY 5TH

- Register at www.ioniaschools.org
- Round Up will be held at
IPS Central Office



<https://bit.ly/KBulldogs>
Call (616) 527-9280 for assistance

THANK YOU!

**COMMUNITY AWARDS
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
DONORS**



- ANDERSON PAINTING
- B & L MECHANICAL
- BIGGS, DICKINSON & ROBERTS
- CL TRUCKING
- HERBRUCK'S
- GRAND VALLEY AUTOMATION
- LIVE LOCAL
- MERCANTILE BANK
- MICHIGAN ONE CREDIT UNION
- PEOPLE DRIVEN TECH
- ROBERT MORGAN OIL
- SPARROW
- TOWERPINKSTER
- UNITY SCHOOL BUS PARTS
- VANGUARD FIRE & SECURITY
- WEST MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL

I Ionia Public Schools
Important Dates:

IPS Ice Cream Social.....	April 13, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Freshman Orientation	April 20, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Senior Scholar Breakfast	April 22, 8 am
Last day for Seniors	May 20 (dismissal at 10:05 am)
Ionia High School	
Graduation Rehearsal.....	May 24, 8:30 a.m. to 12 pm
Ionia High School	
Graduation Ceremony	May 26, 7 pm

REPORT STUDENT ABSCENCES	
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 Elementary	616-522-0007
Ionia Middle School.....	616-527-8044
Ionia High School	616-527-2780
D.R. Welch High School.....	616-527-3530

Ionia High School Spring Sports

IHS spring sports begin on Monday, March 14. All students must have a completed physical on file in the Athletic Directors 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.



Sport	Coach	Email
Baseball	Jason Lundstrom	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

I IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**250 E. Tuttle Rd
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

School & Department Phone Numbers

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