

IPS Restoring Senior Citizen Luncheons!

The Ionia Public Schools (IPS) are excited to bring back our monthly senior citizen luncheons, which have not been held in several years due to COVID. Senior citizens are invited to these luncheons to share their perspectives, hopes, and aspirations for IPS with Superintendent Gurk. Superintendent Gurk will also share highlights, challenges, and opportunities for IPS.

Our senior citizen luncheons will be held at noon in room 304 of the Ionia Educational Center. The cost for each lunch is \$2 per senior citizen. Senior citizens should RSVP to mwellereioniaschools.org or 616-527-9280 by the Wednesday prior to the lunch; this will allow IPS to prepare the correct amount of food.

Each senior citizen luncheon will be held at noon on the following days:

- Friday, October 28, 2022
- Friday, November 18, 2022
- Friday, December 16, 2022
- Friday, February 24, 2023
- Friday, March 24, 2023
- Friday, April 28, 2023

Fun Summer Learning!



IPS held excellent fun, engaging, and intentional summer learning programs! Students from all five elementary schools collaborated in small groups and received individualized instruction in math and reading and daily STEM lessons where students learned problem solving skills by participating in hands-on building and design activities. We were also grateful to receive a scholarship to fully fund a field trip to Impression 5 Science Center!

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Updates from Superintendent Gurk



In addition to our engaging summer learning programs and planning to restore our senior citizen luncheons, we've been working diligently this summer to make as many infrastructure and facility improvements as possible. Our summer projects include:

- New middle school parking lot
- New high school PA system
- New Rather parking lot and hallway ceiling tile and insulation
- New flooring at Boyce
- New handicap ramp, sidewalk and fence repair at Emerson
- New flooring at Transportation Maintenance Data Center
- New air conditioning ordered for each elementary kitchen
- New flooring and paint in the IHS library, learning center, and counseling office
- New cyber security systems District-wide and new camera systems at each school
- Progress on eight new Ionia High School (IHS) tennis courts; two of which will also be lined to double as pickleball courts for our community members and physical education students

Upcoming Sinking Fund projects include new elementary playground equipment and a District-wide comprehensive safety and security system. Within our commitment to maintaining transparency and following-through on our initial Sinking Fund projects promises, please visit www.ioniaschools.org and click on the Sinking Fund Update icon to view our list of Sinking Fund promises kept and upcoming projects.

We are excited to begin implementing our recently updated IPS Strategic Plan, which was created by collaboration between parents, students, teachers, counselors, administrators, grandparents, support staff, community businesses, law enforcement, and health care professionals. Our updated Strategic Plan, which can be accessed on our website within the *curriculum* tab, includes a shared vision of success with an emphasis on five areas:

- Raise Student Achievement
- Recruit and Retain High Quality Staff
- Strengthen Social-Emotional Resilience
- Strengthen Community Relationships
- Improve and Maximize Facilities

We look forward to your continued partnership as we implement our new Strategic Plan. Have a great 2022-2023 school year!

Ionia High School

Our maintenance and custodial teams have been busy making Ionia High School look its best for the start of the 2022-2023 school year! Both our Learning Center and Library have undergone much needed carpet upgrades and both have been repainted. The combination of these upgrades has created two beautiful learning spaces for our students. Our security camera system has been updated as well in efforts to cover visibility of the entire campus, both inside the school and out. The most notable change, however, has been the swapping of the Student Services Office with the Counseling Office. With the security of our building being a top priority, all visitors and late arrivals to IHS will now be buzzed into the building by Mrs. Gross, and will make an immediate right into the Student Services Office as they enter the building.

Along with these welcomed aesthetic changes, we would like to also welcome our new staff members and those that have taken on new roles:

- Craig Bowen, Principal
- Dustin Gill, Assistant Principal
- Bernhard Verhoeven, ELA
- Tracey Branch, ELA
- Wayne Moak, Math Long Term Sub
- Emily Doesburg, Family Coordinator
- Linda Downes, Attendance Secretary
- Maria Gustitus, College Advisor
- Marley Slater, Main Office Secretary



New paint, carpet, and furniture in the IHS Library!

Ionia Middle School



It has been a busy summer as we prepare for the start of the school year. Our cleaning crew has been working diligently to ensure the building is ready to welcome our IMS Bulldogs, along with some improvements and additions to the building.

New Chromebase Computers were installed in our computer classroom for our students to enjoy learning on!

In addition to preparing our building our Ionia Middle School Staff has been working hard to prepare for their students to return. We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to our team:

Melanie Baker - Special Education Teacher
Robby Brock - Middle School Counselor
Chelsea Carbajal - Special Education Teacher
Denton Grant - Band Director
Brian Mishler - Special Education Teacher
Terrina Reisbig - Special Education Teacher
Kaitlyn Richardson - ELA Teacher
Nathan Vaught - Science Teacher



Our M-21 parking lot was replaced this summer! Thank you, community!

We would like to welcome our students and parents to attend our annual Registration Day on August 16. This is a time for parents and students to drop off registration paperwork, learn how to access Skyward to stay updated on student grades, have school pictures taken and obtain a student schedule. Our Registration Day will run in three different time frames, so you can choose the one that works best for your schedule:

8:00am - 10:00 am
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our main office at (616) 527-0040. We look forward to welcoming our new Bulldogs and being able to see our returning Bulldogs soon!

Boyce Wildcats



We have had a busy summer hiring staff and getting new carpeting in six of our classrooms! Our 1st grade, 3rd grade and 4th grade classrooms and our staff lounge recently received much needed new carpet.



We are excited to welcome to our Boyce Wildcat team the following new teachers:

- Heather Hoover - kindergarten
- Hannah (Neeley) Brown - 1st grade
- Sarah Neeley - 1st grade
- Zorah Mondol - 2nd grade
- Jody Smith - 5th grade
- Michelle Davis - Art
- Rose Scheller - Music

We look forward to a great year as we continue to grow our Farm & Garden Club and Outdoor Education opportunities for our students!



Emerson Eagles



Emerson Elementary is ready to S.O.A.R into the 2022-2023 school year! It has been an exciting summer hiring staff, getting new classrooms ready for school and updating safety and security at the building. We look forward to seeing all of our Emerson families at the Open House on Wednesday, August 17th from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Our food service, transportation and technology department will be available at the Open House to answer any question. Open House will also be a wonderful time for everyone to meet our extraordinary new staff members.

Amanda Barna - 3rd Grade Teacher

Lexi Moran - 2nd Grade Teacher

Michelle Davis - Art

Rose Scheller - Long-Term Music Substitute

Arianne Slaughter - Behavior Specialist

Cathy Merrifield - Interventionist

Brianna Wiles - Kindergarten Paraprofessional

Caitlyn Wilson - Lunch/Recess Paraprofessional

Fun Summer Learning!

(continued)

Additionally, we held a STEM camp for students in 3rd - 5th grade wherein elementary students focused on problem solving skills, designing and hands-on activities with robotics, Students also learned the process of game design by creating their own arena for a sporting event!



New sidewalk at north end of Emerson!

Jefferson Jaguars

On the behalf of the staff at Jefferson Elementary, we are happy to welcome you to the 2022-23 school year! Our team has been eagerly preparing for an amazing school year! We look forward to the partnership with our community to cultivate educational experiences for our students to learn and grow. We welcome you to Jefferson Elementary Open house on Wednesday, August 17th from 6:30 - 7:30pm. This is a wonderful time to meet the teachers, visit classrooms, and see friends! You can also get information from our transportation department, technology department, food service and Jefferson PTG.

We are also excited to announce that Jefferson has been officially ROARing for 100 years!

We are filled with joy to welcome our new 2022-23 members to our Jefferson Jaguar team:

- Ms. Amanda Meinke - Kindergarten
- Mrs. Jenny Conrad - 1st Grade & Mr. Matthew Conrad - P.E.
- Mrs. Nash - 3rd Grade
- Mrs. Amber Ingraham - 5th Grade
- Mrs. Shannon Nevills - Resource Room
- Mrs. Laken Colby - Elementary Counselor
- Mrs. Jennifer Teaker - Secretary
- Ms. Jenna Purcell - Music

Jefferson Elementary
Roaring for
100 Years!
1922 – 2022



Rather Rams



The following itinerant teaching staff are new to Rather (and other district elementary schools) for the 2022-2023 school year:

Michelle Davis - Art

Matthew Conrad - Physical Education

Jenna Purcell - Music

Rose Scheller - Long-Term Music Substitute

We are very proud of all our Rather students who spent time this summer reading, attending Ionia Public School's summer school, participating in the Ionia Community Library Summer Reading Program, or engaging in other educational, fun, worthwhile activities (like making and selling jewelry from your front yard)!

It has been a busy summer at Rather Elementary School with some very important building and grounds improvements taking place.

A broken water pipe in the ceiling led to the replacement of the entire ceiling tile and light system in the main east/west hallway as well as the entrance ways from the hallway into the gym.

The front of the gym stage was refurbished with new storage compartment coverings. In addition, the storage compartment frames were refinished to make the stage look more modern and visually appealing.

Finally, a new east parking lot was installed over the summer.

Have a great year!



New Rather parking lot!

Twin Rivers Panthers

The 2022-23 school year is about to begin and we at Twin Rivers could not be more enthusiastic about it! Our Open House is Wednesday, August 17th from 6:30-7:30, we are looking forward to see everyone there. Come meet your teachers, learn about our FSO, talk to our bus drivers, our food service program, and our technology department will be there to help with Skyward and Dojo and answer your technology questions.

We can't wait to welcome our students back on Monday, August 22!

We would like to welcome the following new staff at Twin Rivers!

Melissa McCain, 4th Grade

Rebecca Cadeau, Kindergarten

Kelsie Flinn, Social Worker

Hannah Nugraha, K-2 ASD

Catherin Robinson, 3-5 ASD

Matt Conrad, PE

Jenna Purcell, Music



Restoring pre-COVID Start Times for the 2022 - 2023 School Year

IHS & IMS	7:40 am - 2:35 pm
Welch	7:40 am - 2:35 pm
Rather	7:40 am - 2:35 pm
Emerson	8:30 am - 3:25 pm
Boyce	8:40 am - 3:35 pm
Jefferson	8:40 am - 3:35 pm
Twin Rivers	8:40 am - 3:35 pm

Welch Warriors



We are excited to welcome our new and returning students back for a successful school year! Last school year we set ambitious goals regarding the number of classes students were able to complete, we are hopeful that this year we will build on that in order to achieve an even larger graduating class!

We welcomed Mrs. Kathy Beebe as the school secretary mid way through last school year, we are excited that she will be returning this school year!

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
- Ionia Middle School 616-527-0040
- Ionia High School 616-527-0600
- Welch High School 616-527-3530
- Transportation 616-527-9680
- Special Education 616-841-4036
- Maintenance 616-527-9680
- Food Services 616-527-1731
- Admin Office 616-527-9280



IPS Veterans Day Ceremony

You and your families are invited to our 7th annual student-led Veterans Day Ceremony that will be held in the Ionia High School gym at 7pm on Friday, November 11.

We hope you will join us as we honor and remember all those who served our great nation, past and present. If there is a veteran with a special place in your heart, allow us to honor him/her by emailing mwellere@ioniaschools.org with the name, rank, branch, and service dates of the veteran(s) by November 1. Veterans are encouraged to attend, but we will acknowledge them and honor their service whether they attend or not.

Our keynote speaker and guest of honor will be Thomas Albert, who is our State Representative for the 86th House district.

Representative Albert attended the University of Michigan where he majored in both political science and history. He also has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Michigan State University with a concentration in finance. He then obtained the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) certification.

Representative Albert is a former United States Marine Corps officer. In 2009, he deployed to Iraq as an advisor to the Iraqi Army in the Anbar Province. After leaving active duty, he continued to serve as a reservist until 2013.

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7pm
Friday, November 11
Ionia High School Gym

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Featured Speaker: Representative
Thomas Albert, Former US Marine &
Iraq War Veteran



IPS 2022 - 2023 Calendar

August 2022							August 2022	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
							15	New Teacher Orientation
							16	6th-8th Grade Orientation
	1	2	3	4	5	6	17	Staff PD All Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	18	Welcome Back Mtgs. 1/2 day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	22	First Day for Students
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28	29	30	31					

September 2022							September 2022	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	2	No School
							5	Labor Day No School
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	23	Staff PD All Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30			

October 2022							October 2022	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1	5	Student Count Day
							11	PTC K-5 5:00-7:30 PM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	PTC 6-12 5:00-7:00 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	Students AM PTC K-12 1-4, 5-7PM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14	No School
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31							

November 2022							November 2022	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	Staff PD All Day
							23-25	Thanksgiving Break
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

December 2022							December 2022	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	20	Students AM Staff PLC PM
							21-31	Winter Break
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

January 2023							January 2023	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
							1-3	Winter Break
							12	Students AM Staff Records PM
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	13	Students AM Staff Records PM
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	End of First Semester
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	No School - MLK Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31						

IPS 2022 - 2023 Calendar

February 2023							February 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	8 Student Count Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	17 Staff PD All Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20 Mid-Winter Break - No School
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	28 PTC K-5 5:00-7:30 PM
26	27	28					

March 2023							March 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	1 PTC 6-12 5:00-7:00 PM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2 Students AM PTC K-8 1-4, 5-7PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2 Students AM PTC 9-12 1:00-3:30 PM, 5-7
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	3 No School
26	27	28	29	30	31		17 Staff PD All Day
							31 No School

April 2023							April 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	1-7 Spring Break
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7 Good Friday
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	19 Freshman Orientation 6:30-7:30 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	19 Freshman Orientation Staff 6-7:30 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

May 2023							May 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
							26 Students AM Staff PLC PM
							29 Memorial Day
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

June 2023							June 2023
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	8 Students AM Staff Full Day
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9 Last Day Students Half Day All
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

Ionia Community Awareness Purple Week

September 10 - 16, 2022

The Ionia Public Schools are proud to continue our partnership with the Ionia Community Awareness (ICA) Purple Week. Ionia cares for our Survivors, our Fighters, and our Taken. We come together as a COMMUNITY for a Common Goal: We Wear Purple to raise AWARENESS, and to generate funds to help our community members facing the stages of cancer - Please join us!

The 13th Ionia Community Awareness Purple Shirts are now on sale at Wreckers Sports. As a reminder, it is only this year's shirt that you can wear to get into designated purple games. Previous shirts and football jerseys do not allow you access into games.



**IONIA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

Sit. Stay. Heal.

ICA Purple Week
Sept 10 - 16



Title IX Law & Grievance Procedures at Ionia Public Schools

Title IX prohibits harassment of both male and female students regardless of the sex of the harasser (i.e., even if the harasser and target are members of the same sex). It also prohibits gender-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping. Thus, it can be sex discrimination if students are harassed either for exhibiting what is perceived as a stereotypical characteristic of their sex, or failing to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of all students, regardless of the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of the harasser or target. Although Title IX does not prohibit discrimination based solely on sexual orientation, Title IX does protect all students, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students, from sex discrimination. When students are subjected to harassment on the basis of their LGBT status, they may also be subjected to forms of sex discrimination prohibited under Title IX. The fact that the harassment includes anti-LGBT comments or is partly based on the targets actual or perceived sexual orientation does not relieve a school of its obligation under Title IX to investigate and remedy overlapping sexual harassment or gender-based harassment.

District Compliance Officers

The following administrators serve as the District's Compliance Officers (also known as Civil Rights Coordinators) - hereinafter referred to as the "COs".

Mr. Wayne Piercefield III
Associate Superintendent
616-527-9280
250 E Tuttle Rd
Ionia MI 48846
wpiercefield@ioniaschools.org

Mrs. Alicia Thorlund
Curriculum Director / DR Welch Principal
616-527-3530
250 E Tuttle Rd
Ionia MI 48846
athorlund@ioniaschools.org

Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Any student who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received). The CO's will determine whether to do an informal or formal investigation based on board policy, including 2260. Details of the formal and informal investigation and appeal procedures can be found on the district website at www.ioniaschools.org

I IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

250 E. Tuttle Rd
Ionia, MI 48846

24 Hour Attendance 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

DR Welch High School 616-527-3530

Board of Education

Danielle Yokom, President

Ken Baker, Vice President

Margot Cook, Secretary

Robin Marhofer, Treasurer

Shawn Diebel, Trustee

Roger Hull, Trustee

Brian Siemen, Trustee



www.ioniaschools.org