

## Download the New IPS App!



We are excited to announce the launch of our new IPS mobile App! We look forward to improving communication with our families and community; please go to the App store and download our new IPS mobile App on your cell phone. Once you have downloaded the App, open it and then click on the “Notifications” icon; you should then choose the “IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS” notification option, along with any other schools you would like to get notifications from.

Additionally, for community members who do not have a cell phone number listed in our Skyward system but would like to receive text message IPS notifications, you will need to go to [www.ioniaschools.org](http://www.ioniaschools.org), click on “Notification Sign Up” at the top right, and then choose “How to Enroll in new IPS App Blackboard Notification System.”

Please contact (616) 841-4158 if you have any questions and/or need assistance.



Mr. James VanSyckle (“Coach V”) receives the IPS William B. Lincoln Lifetime Educator Award at the IPS Community Awards Celebration

## Highlights of the 35th Community Awards Night

IPS was excited to restore our Community Awards / Ice Cream Social celebration to recognize and commend our students and community. This Spring we held our 35th Community Awards celebration, and the first in three years due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was an honor to give our IPS Silver Slate Award to Mr. Boomer Hoppough for his extraordinary volunteer service to our schools, students, and community.

We were also excited to give our William B. Lincoln Educator Award to Mr. James (Coach V.) VanSyckle for his years of service as an IPS educator and coach.

New to this year’s celebration were the parent/volunteer of the year awards that principals gave based on outstanding service to their schools and students. Our recipients were Anna Stevens (Boyce), Patrick and Dawn Spicer (Emerson), Maria Montgomery (Jefferson), Traci Flanner (Rather), Billy Strings (Twin Rivers), Michael Dukes (IMS), Kristalee Miller (IHS), and Janet Balice (Welch).

We also had performances from our IHS choir, IHS Jazz Band, and Ionia Community Band. Last but not least, we are very grateful for all of our donors whose contributions made this night a success.



## A Message From Superintendent Gurk



*Superintendent Gurk*

Hello, families! In addition to launching our new IPS mobile App to improve communications, we are excited to have begun working on our 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! Other projects we are beginning this summer include a new Ionia Middle School parking lot, Rather Elementary parking lot, new flooring at Boyce Elementary, new sidewalk at Emerson Elementary, and new flooring, furniture and paint in our IHS library, counseling office, and learning center.

Within our commitment to maintaining transparency and following-through on our initial Sinking Fund projects promises, please visit [www.ioniaschools.org](http://www.ioniaschools.org) and click on the Sinking Fund Update icon to view our list of Sinking Fund promises kept and upcoming projects.

In terms of student achievement, after recently completing our first year using the Bridges elementary math curriculum, we are pleased to report that on average our students in kindergarten - 5th grade outperformed the national growth rate on the NWEA assessment!

# COFFEE

with Superintendent Gurk 8-10am

Sozo - Saturday, July 2

Lumber Mill Inn - Thursday, July 28

Sheri's - Friday, August 19

## WORDS ON WHEELS SUMMER ROUTES JUNE 20 – AUG 4

Mondays	9:15 am - 10:30 am <b>K-2 Summer School at IHS</b>	10:45 am - 12:15 pm <b>Jefferson School</b>	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm <b>Robinson Park</b>	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm <b>Shattuck Park</b>
Wednesdays	9:15 am - 10:30 am <b>Hale Park</b>	10:45 am - 12:15 pm <b>Twin Rivers School</b>	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm <b>3-5 Summer School at IHS</b>	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm <b>Rather Elementary</b>
Thursdays	9:15 am - 10:30 am <b>Perry Park</b>	10:45 am - 12:15 pm <b>Emerson School</b>	12:30 pm - 1:45 pm <b>Boyce Nature Trail</b>	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm <b>Trailhead Park</b>



Have a great summer and don't forget to visit our Words on Wheels mobile library and STEM center!

## Proposal for a "New" Ionia Community Library

Mercantile Bank recently donated its downtown Ionia offices to the ICL and the Library Board has said it believes the gift is an excellent chance to re-imagine your library. On August 2, voters will be asked to approve 0.98 mills for 20 years to fund the relocation, renovation, operation and maintenance of the new ICL at the former Bank.

The 22,000 square foot facility spans several historic, but vacant, Main St. buildings. Re-imagining them as the new ICL would give the library four times more space to serve ALL Ionia residents, including IPS students and families.

Visit [citizens4icl.org](http://citizens4icl.org) to see floor plans, ballot language, millage calculator, and the architectural and engineering reports. Email questions to [c4icl2022@gmail.com](mailto:c4icl2022@gmail.com), or call the library at (616) 527-3680.

Finance Act Disclosure: ICL PAC ID 18004-BQ.

# Bulldog Beginnings Preschool

We are hard at work getting ready for our youngest Bulldogs to begin classes this fall! We recently began upgrading and constructing our outdoor playground.

Miss Caety has been organizing, creating and putting together learning centers inside our preschool classrooms. Maintenance staff have been working on getting



the screens up to enjoy digital games and activities and to provide indoor recess fun!

Bulldog Beginnings will follow the Ionia Public Schools calendar. Our class times for the full day program will be from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Our half day program will be from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.



**I** IONIA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

**KINDERGARTEN  
ROUND UP**

**AUGUST 2**

Register at [www.ioniaschools.org](http://www.ioniaschools.org)

-Round Up will be held at  
IPS Central Office



<https://bit.ly/KBulldogs2>

Call (616) 527-9280 for assistance

## Example Schedule for a Full Day Program

- 15 min Arrival and Choice
- 20 min Welcome and Read-Aloud
- 60 min Learning Centers
- 20 min Connect
- 60 min Small Group & Select Centers
- 35 min Outdoor Exploration
- 30 min Lunch
- 60 min Nap/Rest
- 20 min Reread of a Story
- 20 min Fast Focus
- 40 min Indoor or Outdoor Free-Choice Time
- 40 min Project Time and Wrap-Up

## Example Schedule for a ½ Day Program

- 20 min Arrival and Choice
- 20 min Welcome and Read-Aloud
- 45 min Learning Centers/Play
- 20 min Connect
- 30 min Outdoor Exploration Centers
- 45 min Free Play Centers & Small Groups Centers
- 10 min Fast Focus

# Ionia High School



Class of 2022 Block I Award Winners! Lane Thomas, Josie Phelps, Alexander Lange, Jessa Swinehart, Trevor Tooker, Brynn Reams, and Tanner Gregory received the Block I Award for representing their teams, school, and community with pride by participating in 3 sports seasons each year of their entire Ionia High School career.

Ionia High School ended our year celebrating our students! We celebrated our last GRIT assembly of the year with a field day and it was absolutely perfect! We had an ice cream truck, played many different games, and even allowed the students to water-balloon some of their favorite staff members. However, no celebration is complete without some dancing to the music! This was an excellent opportunity for all of our students to feel recognized and allow our amazing staff to say “thank you” to students for day in, day out showing growth mindset, respect, integrity and teamwork. #LiveWithGRIT

Our Memorial Day Parade in beautiful downtown Ionia was well attended and many were able to see our award-winning marching band perform. This spring also saw our choral and choir groups perform at the Vocal Music Choral State Festival at Alma College where both received division 1 ratings! Our Jazz Ensemble performed at the State Jazz Festival as well during the 2nd semester and they earned division 1 ratings as well!

This spring, Ionia High School, in conjunction with the Ionia County Career Center and local law enforcement, conducted an Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) training drill. This drill was intended to provide



life saving skills in the event of a threat or crisis situation. Students and staff did an amazing job participating in this informative and important training drill.

Finally, Ionia High School was named a Special Olympics Champion School for the 2022-23 school year. By using sports as the groundwork, IHS will work to ensure that all students feel welcome and their participation is valued. To help support this goal, IHS ran an inclusion spirit week during the last full week of school where students were able to participate and show their inclusivity spirit.

Ionia High School's  
**INCLUSION**  
**SPIRIT WEEK**

**TUESDAY (5/31)**  
BE COMFORTABLE, BE YOU  
PAJAMA DAY

**WEDNESDAY (6/1)**  
HATS OFF FOR INCLUSION  
WEAR A HAT TO SCHOOL DAY \$!

**THURSDAY (6/2)**  
CRAZY SOCK DAY  
FOR DOWN SYNDROME  
AWARENESS

**FRIDAY (6/3)**  
HALLWAY BOWLING FOR \$1  
SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

# ***Ionia High School Athletics***

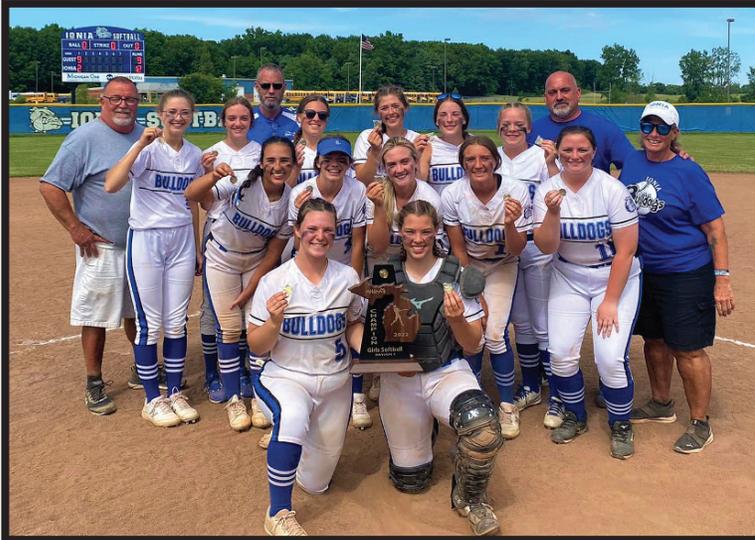


Boys basketball won their 3rd CAAC White Conference Championship in 4 years!



Girls Track and Field won the outright CAAC White Championship giving them back to back titles!

Boys Track and Field won their 3rd straight CAAC White Championship in a row (not including the 2020 spring season which was canceled due to Covid)!



Softball won their first district championship since 2006!

Academic All-State Teams: Girls Swim, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Wrestling.

All-State Individuals: Josiah Magley earned All-State honors by finishing 8th in the 3200 meter run at the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals and Trevor Tooker earned Honorable Mention All-State in boys basketball.



2021-22 CAAC Top Senior Scholar Athletes - Congratulations to seniors Cassidy Casillas, Madeline Hanulcik, Riley Husted, Alexander Lange, Heath Lapointe, Josiah Magley, James Peabody, Asa Randall, Jessa Swinehart, and Trevor Tooker. The award is given annually to each school's top ten senior scholar-athletes based on GPA and having lettered in a minimum of 2 varsity sports their senior year.



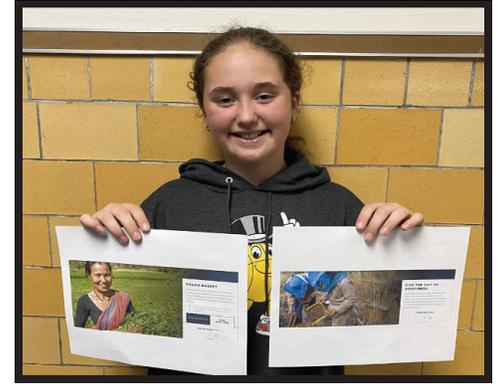
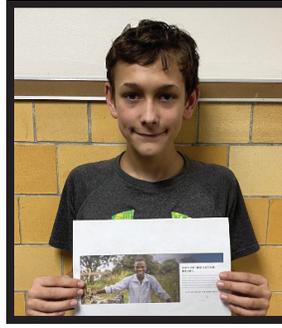
## **D. R. Welch High School**

Douglas R Welch High School had the largest graduating class in many years!  
We had 25 graduating seniors!



# Ionia Middle School

Mrs. Riccius's 6th grade class has been studying issues related to the world's population. One thing that stuck out to the students was the economic disparity in the world. Ava Benedict & Olivia Lemke led a coin drive to raise funds for Heifer Project International. Owen Yokom generously donated his Christmas money to fund an irrigation pump for a family in a less developed country. Ava Bowen provided enough funds to donate honeybees and a Dream Basket! Altogether, the class brought in \$300 for these projects!



## AVA BOWEN GAVE THE GIFT OF HONEYBEES & A DREAM BASKET

Heifer Project provides honeybees and training by technicians to help farmers learn to make an income from beehives.

A Dream Basket includes a sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits and a flock of chicks, along with training and education in their care. This gift will help female farmers achieve lives of dignity.



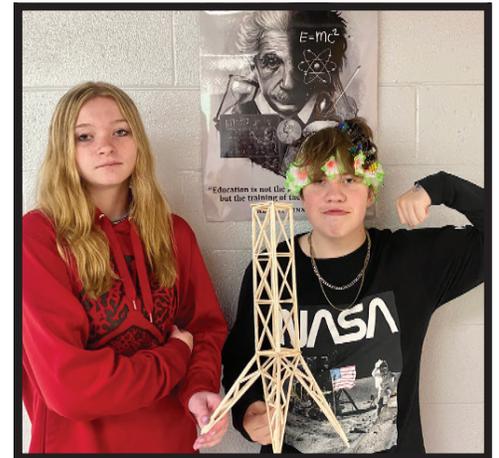
## OWEN & HIS CLASSMATES GAVE THE GIFT OF AN IRRIGATION PUMP!

Millions of people around the world still lack access to water — clean water to drink and enough water to nourish their crops. This gift provides farmers with treadle pumps, along with training in water conservation and irrigation techniques.

## IMS STEM TEAM

The Middle School STEM classes worked on Bridges and Towers to explore the concepts of force, load and torque. The project challenged the students to utilize limited resources and challenged them to find out how different shapes and designs impacted their final project.

The IMS WEB leaders took to the road to discuss middle school life with our district's 5th graders. The WEB leaders participated in activities and work to establish positive expectations for the incoming 6th graders. This group has been a valuable asset to the Ionia Middle School year after year, they are willing to be involved and foster the HERO attitude amongst their peers.





# Boyce Elementary School



Boyce Elementary School recently received a grant from the Ionia County Community Foundation to purchase a hoop house which will be used by the Boyce Farm and Garden Club and Boyce staff to add outdoor education opportunities for IPS students!

The Boyce Farm and Garden Club reached out to local families,

businesses and groups for donations to purchase supplies to make raised garden boxes; we were able to add 15 garden boxes due to the generous support of our community!

A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped build our hoop house and garden beds!

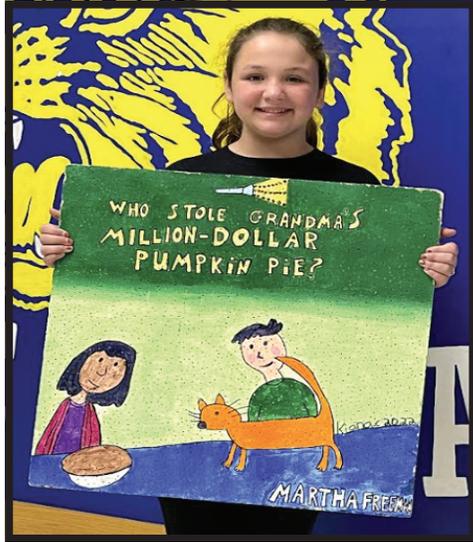


## Farm & Garden Club



# Boyce Elementary School

5th grade students show off their ceiling tiles from March Is Reading Month. Each classroom had a winning student paint a book cover that is displayed in the halls at Boyce.



Boyce students had a great time during field day this June. Our parent volunteers were amazing! Special thanks to Mrs. Phelps and Mrs. Jones who planned a fun-filled event.



The Boyce Scenic Run returned after a 2 year absence! Kindergarten - 2nd grade students ran 1/4 mile and 3rd grade - 5th grade students ran a 1/2 mile. 5th grade students were given the option to run 1 mile during the event. Thanks to Mrs. Phelps for leading the event!

The Boyce staff is proud of all the hard work put in by our students and families this school year. Enjoy your summer and see you in August!



# Emerson Elementary

What a fun filled spring we had at Emerson Elementary! Students enjoyed so many special days throughout the semester with the return of assemblies, a reading cafe in 2nd grade, daily March is Reading month activities and much more. Older students became mentors to our younger students and provided extra support to help foster the love of reading. By working together, staff, students and parents make a very strong team and an extraordinary school. Our students and staff made it a gold medal year and worked hard to S.O.A.R. together!

Fourth and fifth grade students received their gold medal at this year's Community Awards Ice Cream Social for achieving their March reading goals. A special thank you was also shared at this event to Mr. and Mrs. Spicer, Emerson's Volunteers of the Year award, for all the support provided this year.



Great fun was had by students, staff and parents at Field Day this year. Thank you to our PE teachers, Mrs. Phelps and Mrs. Jones, for coordinating everyone's favorite day. Thank you also to all of our wonderful parent volunteers!

Emerson's Shining Stars team, with the help of their coach and fifth grade teacher, Carolyn Shattuck, made school history by making it all the way to the finals in the 2022 Battle of the Books!



# Emerson Elementary



Fifth grade students were excited for the return of the annual 5th grade field trip to Michigan Adventure. A little rain didn't stop this group from smiling and having an amazing time together.



Emerson staff and students loved congratulating the Seniors from the Class of 2022 that were former Emerson students. We wish them all the best!

We also celebrated our amazing 5th grade, Class of 2029, as they finished their last day of elementary school and head to middle school next year. We will miss you!



# Jefferson Elementary



## Jefferson School's Top Runners/Walkers - 25 Mile Club

Jefferson was excited to bring back Sparrow's "Feelin' Good Mileage Club" this year! We had 163 kindergarten through 5th grade students enrolled in the program and together they walked/ran 475 miles during their recess times! Our Jefferson family is proud of their grit and effort to be involved in the program. A special thank you to our PTG for volunteering their time and our staff for their support!



## 2022 Jefferson Field Day

Jefferson students had an amazing field day this year at Hale Park! We are incredibly thankful to all our parent volunteers and Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Phelps for making the day very special for our Jaguars!



## J.A.M. Before School Math Club

Jefferson Elementary School is very proud of the creation of Jefferson's Awesome Mathletes (J.A.M.) Before School Program. This program was designed for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, and provided them additional support in the area of math. This group was incredibly hard-working, enthusiastic, and appreciative. Jefferson teachers met with their grade-level groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays before school from January through May. The mission of the program was to increase student achievement in math through the use of Bridges Tier 2 math activities, games to promote social interactions, goal setting, and technology. The NWEA Math assessment data showed that 100% of students demonstrated substantial growth towards, met or exceeded their projected goals.



## Arbor Day Celebration

In April, Jefferson School partnered with the City of Ionia and Horrocks to celebrate Arbor Day. The Kinderstart students helped plant a new lilac tree in the front lawn of the school, along with listening to a story! We are excited to watch the tree grow and bloom!



## March Is Reading Month 2022

This year March Is Reading Month was "Go for Gold" Olympic Theme at Jefferson. Our month kicked off with an assembly with ICL and reading goals! We welcomed guest readers and celebrated our students' accomplishments along the way!

Have a safe and fun summer Jefferson family! Don't forget about Jefferson's reading program for the summer - read, Read, READ! We are excited to see you in August!

# A.A. Rather Elementary



This past school year, Rather Elementary School received funding from the district to create an after-school math club called the Number Ninjas. This math club, comprised of 3rd graders, showed incredible determination, dedication and hard work as it met most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school from November through the end of March. The goal of this club was to accelerate student math achievement through the use of games, activities, and technology. Successmaker software, which was used for skill acquisition and progress monitoring, showed that all of the students made acceptable performance (mastering at least 90% of the skills that were presented).

The last few weeks of school, it was so much fun to be able to hold our Walk-A-Thon, Kinderstart and Kindergarten Class Programs, and our Talent Show! Our students absolutely love being a part of these memorable events!

We are so very proud of our students and staff for how hard they have worked during the 2021-2022 school year. Our students Respected others, Accepted responsibility, Made safe choices and Showed kindness on their way to earning 62,537 RAMS rewards! Our end of the year assessment data shows that we are closing some of the achievement gaps that have been created by early school closure and lengthier periods of virtual learning the past two school years. We are looking forward to continued growth, improvement, and success during the 2022-2023 school year!



We were also very excited to host three Family Accelerated Reading Nights this school year. These nights gave parents the opportunity to listen to their children read a smaller point book in the library and then take an Accelerated Reader test in the computer lab. It was such a blessing to be able to have parents back in the building for these fun, educational events!



For the first time in three years, we were very excited to host a Career Day! Rather's Career Day, which consisted of students rotating around from classroom to classroom to hear ten guest speakers, is an integral part of Rather's Schedule of School, Family, and Community Partnerships. The speakers, who were chosen from a variety of different career pathways, shared with students their major work activities/responsibilities and each made sure to mention how the ability to read, write, and do math is an integral part of their job.



Our Twin Rivers Panthers had an exciting spring! Kids were able to participate in the Feelin' Good Mileage Club and be active walking on our playground. They learned about heart health and raised money for the American Heart Association when they participated in the Kids' Heart Challenge. Our 5th graders participated in a service learning project called "Loot for the Library" and raised over \$2,500 to buy books for the Twin Rivers library!



We were able to bring back some fun learning opportunities as well. Science Alive brought several furry and scaly friends to come meet our students and teach them about the animals. We had the Water Festival where students learned about the water cycle, water habitats, and groundwater protection. We had several guest readers for March is Reading Month. We had an amazing field day put on by Mrs. Jones and we were able to participate in field trips again, going to places like Boulder Ridge, John Ball Park, the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, downtown Ionia, the State Capitol, and Michigan's Adventure.



# Twin Rivers Elementary



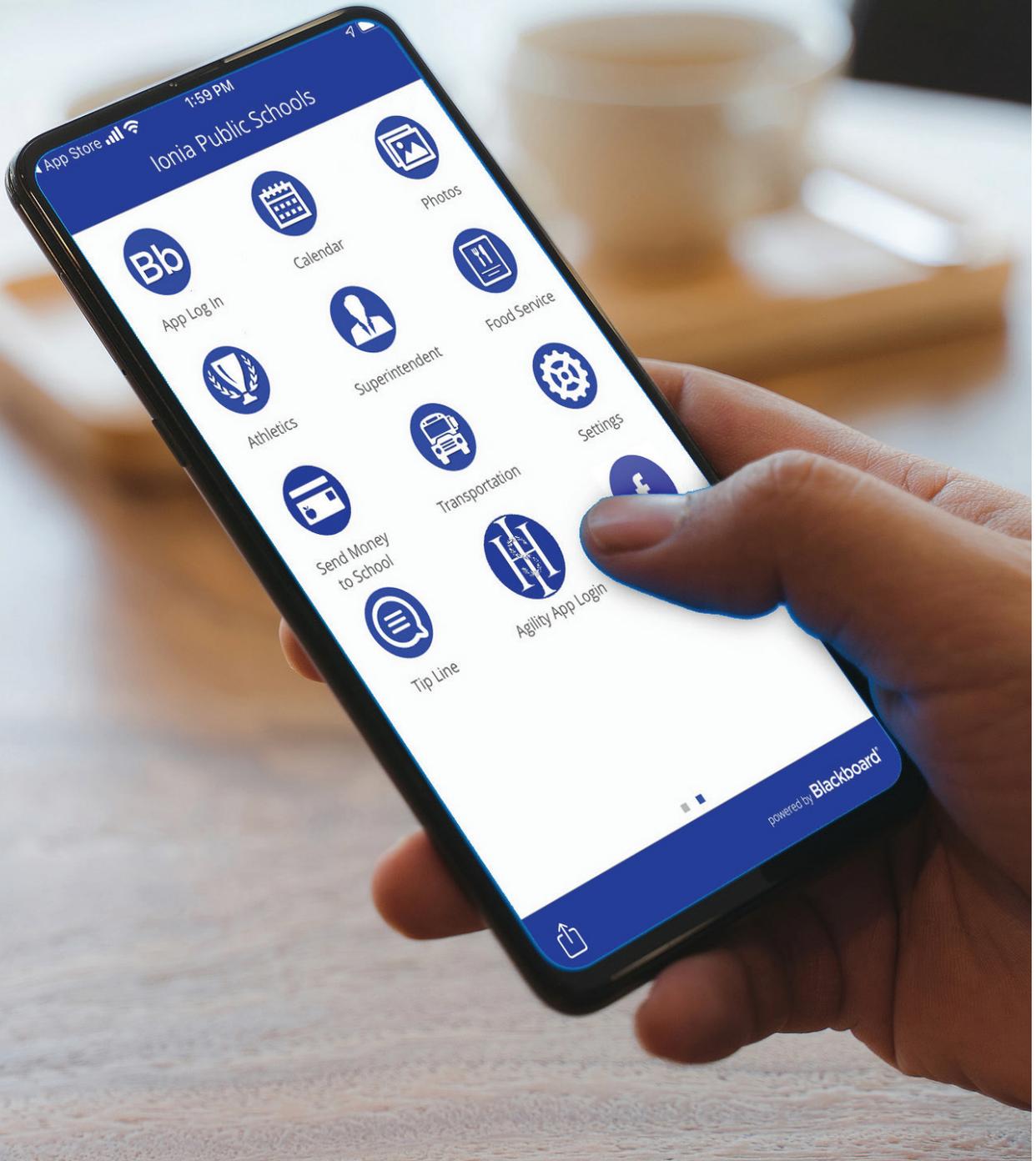
TR 4th Grade at the State Capitol

Twin Rivers also had some amazing before and after school opportunities for kids. Mrs. Lawrence held an after school Choir Club and the students performed a concert in May. Mrs. Frost, Ms. Ramos, and Ms. Hull taught a before school STEM club where kids learned about hydraulics, astronomy, Rube-Goldberg machines, robotics, and coding, among other things. The kids had such a fun time learning in our extra-curricular clubs!



Lyons/Muir Fire Department Guest Readers for March is Reading Month

# IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS **the App**



# I IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**250 E. Tuttle Rd  
Ionia, MI 48846**

## 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

## 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

## School & Department Phone Numbers

<b>Boyce</b>	<b>616-527-0571</b>
<b>Emerson</b>	<b>616-527-8018</b>
<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>616-527-2740</b>
<b>Rather</b>	<b>616-527-1720</b>
<b>Twin Rivers</b>	<b>616-522-0005</b>
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>616-527-0040</b>
<b>High School</b>	<b>616-527-0600</b>
<b>D.R. Welch High</b>	<b>616-527-3530</b>
<b>Ionia Virtual School</b>	<b>616-522-0800</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>616-841-4036</b>
<b>Transportation Dpt</b>	<b>616-527-9680</b>
<b>Maintenance Dpt</b>	<b>616-527-9680</b>
<b>Food Service Dpt</b>	<b>616-527-1731</b>
<b>Admin. Office</b>	<b>616-527-9280</b>

## Ionia Public Schools Board of Education

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