

Celebrating our CommUNITY!

Ionia Public Schools (IPS) held our 37th annual Community Awards Night to celebrate and recognize our students, staff, parents, and volunteers. Due to the generous donations from our community (see page 2), we were able to provide an ice cream bar free of charge. During the ceremony, we were honored to recognize former IPS teacher Mrs. Julianne Klumpp with the distinguished William B. Lincoln Educator Award, a lifetime achievement commendation for an IPS educator who has demonstrated service and dedication to our students and community. IPS parent and 4th generation IHS alum Mrs. Jenna Perry earned the distinguished Silver Slate Award for her service to our schools and community, which includes volunteering with the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots, coaching youth sports, and serving on the Ionia Community Awareness Board of Directors and the Ionia Free Fair Board of Directors. *(continued on pg. 2)*



W.B. Lincoln recipient Mrs. Klumpp & Director Thorlund



Superintendent Gurk, Silver Slate recipient Mrs. Perry, Board President Yokom & Vice President Baker

IONIA BULLDOG AQUATIC CENTER



We are excited to announce that our Ionia Bulldog Aquatic Center (IBAC) is now open! You can become an IBAC member by completing the registration at www.ioniaschools.org. We'll also be continuing our elementary water safety instruction. Contact Mr. Barr with questions at (616) 841 - 4004 or abarr@ioniaschools.org.



The EXCEL is the official publication of the Ionia Public Schools (IPS). Copies are available in the IPS Central Office and on our website at www.ioniaschools.org.



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UPDATES FROM SUPERINTENDENT GURK

IPS was honored to recognize and commend our *Volunteers of the Year* for each of our schools during our Community Awards Night. We are grateful for our volunteers whose extraordinary efforts are integral to the success of our students and schools. Our volunteers continue to give their time and energy and go above and beyond to support our schools, staff, and students.



Volunteers of the Year:

Ashley Struble - Boyce

Independent Bank - Emerson

MaryLou Pitchford - Jefferson

Heather Van Houten - Rather

Dick and Jackie VanDyne - Twin Rivers

Carson Prominski - Ionia Middle School

Gennavive Froelich - Douglas R. Welch High School

Jeff Duell - Ionia High School

You and your families are invited to our informal Coffee with the Superintendent discussions, where you can bring up any topics of your choosing; please see below for times, dates, and locations.

Lumbermill Inn: 8 am - 10 am on Friday, July 5

Sheri's Restaurant: 8 am - 10 am on Thursday, July 24

Cooks Confections: 4 pm - 6 pm on Friday, August 16


Sozo: 8 am - 10 am on Saturday, August 24

Have a great summer!

Benjamin Gurk
Superintendent, Ionia Public Schools

THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY AWARDS ICE CREAM SOCIAL DONORS



- A PARTS WAREHOUSE
- ANDERSON PAINTING
- B & V MECHANICAL
- BIGGS, DICKINSON & ROBERTS
- CL TRUCKING
- CMBSI
- GILLROYS
- GR BUILDING SERVICES
- GRAND VALLEY AUTOMATION
- HERBRUCK'S
- CATHY HOPPOUGH
- LIVE LOCAL
- MERCANTILE BANK
- METS
- MICHIGAN ONE COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION
- MOOVILLE
- OWEN - AMES - KIMBALL
- PEOPLE DRIVEN TECH
- PFCU
- ROBERT MORGAN OIL
- SPARROW IONIA
- TOWERPINKSTER
- UNITY SCHOOL BUS PARTS
- VANGUARD FIRE & SECURITY
- WEST MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL

Inspire



Persevere



Succeed

IPS CALENDAR

August 2024							August 2024	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	14	New Teacher Orientation
							13	6th-8th Grade Orientation
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	19	Staff PD All Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	20	Staff Welcome Back 1/2 day AM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	First Day for Students 1/2 Day All
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	30	No School

September 2024							September 2024	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	Labor Day No School
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	20	1/2 Day Students/PM PLC
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30							

October 2024							October 2024	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
							2	Student Count Day
							14	PTC K-5 5:00-7:30 PM
		1	2	3	4	5	15	PTC 6-8 5:00 - 7:00 PM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	16	PTC 9-12 5:00-7:00 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	Students AM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	PTC K-12 1-4PM, 5-7PM
27	28	29	30	31			18	No School

November 2024							November 2024	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	1	Staff PD All Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15	No School
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	27-29	Thanksgiving Break
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

December 2024							December 2024	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	19	Students AM Staff Records PM
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	20	Students AM Staff Records PM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	End of First Semester
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23-31	Winter Break
29	30	31						

*Full 2024 - 2025 calendar can be accessed at www.ioniaschools.org

IONIA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Our student-athletes have continued demonstrating GRIT in the classroom and on the athletic fields! We are proud of our coaches, parents, and Ionia Affiliated Athletic Boosters, whose continued support is integral to our success.

We're proud of our gritty 2024 Block I Awards winners! Our Block I award is given annually to student-athletes who have modeled our core values and participated in three athletic seasons during each year of their high school career. Since its inception in 2012, 58 student-athletes have earned this prestigious commendation.

Congratulations to Jacob Montgomery, who earned All-State Track and Field honors in the 800 m dash!



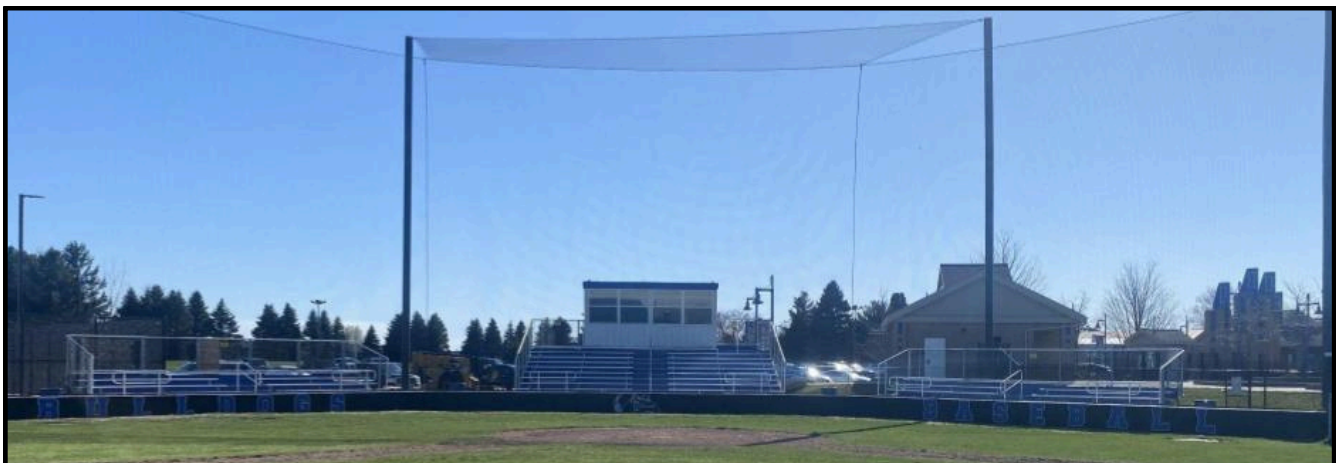
Block I Award recipients (from left to right) Gage Flanner, Sydney Estep, Aden Wenzel, Emma White, Brennen Brownell, & Lilly Reams!



*Jacob Montgomery
All-State Track & Field*

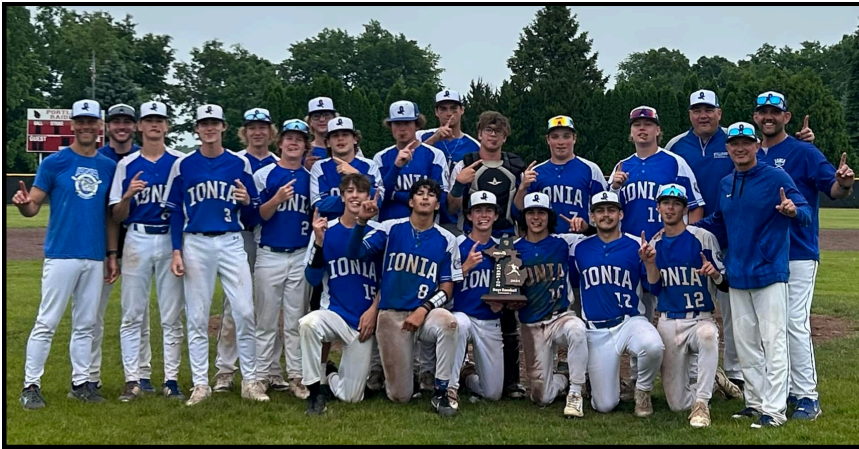


*(Above) "Before" & "after" photos of our varsity baseball pressbox and bleachers
(Below) View of our new pressbox, bleachers, backstop, and foul ball netting*



IONIA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP - BOYS BASEBALL



IHS Varsity Baseball Team (Front row, Gage Flanner, Alex Barr, Matthew McCoy, Carter Castillo, Tyson McDiarmid & Kolson Daugherty. Center row, Colt Piercefield, Jaxon Palmer, Ryan Lee, Gaven Elvert, Trevor Hodges, Wyatt Erridge, Parker Seidelman & Kellan Ferguson. Back row, Nolan Lundstrom, Christian Miller & Hunter Roundtree). They are coached by Jason Lundstrom, Jason Reams, Denny Ferguson, Gauge Taylor & Corey McDiramid

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP - BOYS BASKETBALL

IHS Varsity Basketball Team. Left to right, Gage Flanner, Hobbs Pinnow, Aden Wenzel, Wolton Sandborn, Wyatt Erridge, Brent Starks, Travier Tucker, Carter Starks, Tristain Cigancik, Jaxon Palmer, Colt Piercefield, Spencer Tooker, Henry Castle, & Max Doty. Coached by Scott Swinehart, Billy Thomas, Ben Wolford, Michael Koster, Jason Griffith & Brady Swinehart



STATE QUALIFIERS



Track & Field:
Mimi Wegener &
Jacob Montgomery.
Wrestling: Sarah
Schaffer.
Swim/Dive: Carl
Goeckel.



Powerlifting Varsity:
Makenna White, Jady
Gardner, Isabelle
Vasquez, Cashmier
Austin, Clayton Beaulieu,
Charles Frost, Carlos
Ogden-Martinez & Seth
Woods.

JV Powerlifting:
Isabella Parmer,
Madeline Lemke, Nelly
Shippey, Ean Henry and
Dillon Adams.

Ionia High School

Ionia High School (IHS) ended the year by celebrating our students at our 3rd annual Super GRIT Assembly. Students were able to chill out with a sweet treat from concessions while playing a wide variety of field games, including cornhole, badminton, bubble ball, football, slammo, pickle ball, and many more. Students were even given the opportunity to purchase water balloons with their earned GRIT coins to soak a staff member!



Our Class of 2024 was Ionia's 154th graduating class! It was inspiring to see our 186 seniors turn their tassels and become graduates. A few notable accomplishments for the class of 2024 include earning \$1.9 million in scholarships and financial aid, accumulating 2,177 hours of community service, and, athletically, having six Block I Award winners!



IHS vocal and instrumental music students performed admirably at the State Festival this year, earning high marks and many compliments from the judges. The fine arts at IHS are strong!



Mrs. Siverly and our Unified Sports team and coaches attended the Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) Capitol Day in Lansing, where they were recognized in both the House and Senate! Our students met with Special Olympics representatives and local lawmakers to encourage bipartisan support for SOMI.



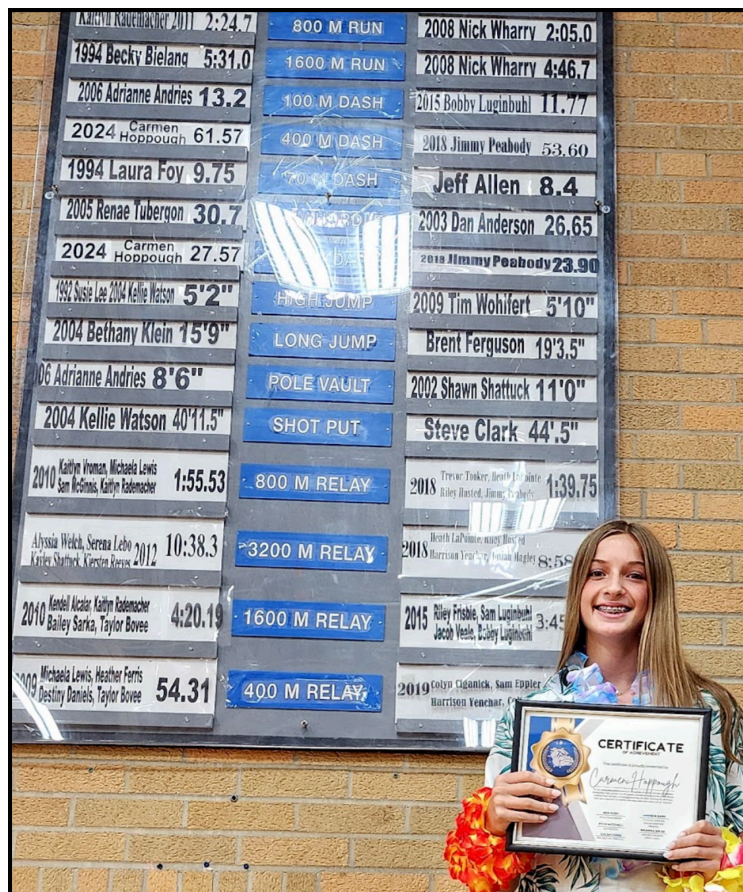
IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

At our annual IPS Ice Cream Social, our Volunteer of The Year, Carson Prominski, and IMS performing arts students—YPT, Band, and Choir—were all recognized! We could not be more proud of them! Great job; you represent your community and school well!



Congratulations to Mr. Grant, and the 8th and 7th grade jazz band students who came home with some hardware after performing at the Thornapple Arts Council in Hastings!

Our 7th & 8th Grade Choir represented IMS very well at the State Choral Festival at Hope College in Holland.



On May 29, 2024, IMS student-athlete Carmen Hoppough competed at the Junior Greater Lansing Honor Roll Meet of Champions. She finished the 200 meter dash with a time of 21.57 and the 400 meter dash with a time of 61.57 (1:01.57) setting two new IMS records. Carmen was presented with a certificate of achievement for such a rare and outstanding performance and for representing IPS and IMS at the highest level.

We celebrated our IMS 2024 8th graders (Class of 2028) on June 7, 2024, on a wonderful middle school career. We wish them all the best in their next four years at our Ionia High School!



IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

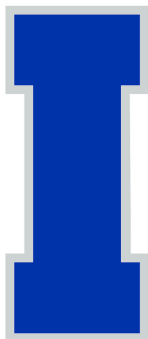
Ionia Young People's Theater worked extremely hard at putting together the set of "Madagascar," and performing for four nights and a matinee!



Our IMS Bulldogs were excited to participate in the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse! It was a fun, unique and memorable learning experience. Our District was able to purchase glasses for the entire student body, teachers, and staff!



Have an enjoyable summer!



BOYCE WILDCATS

Our Boyce students enjoyed our yearly scenic run! We had several winners from each classroom earn medals. Great job, everyone!



Boyce had our first Outdoor Adventure Field Day! Thank you to Mrs. Hartman and Ms. Christensen who did an amazing job.



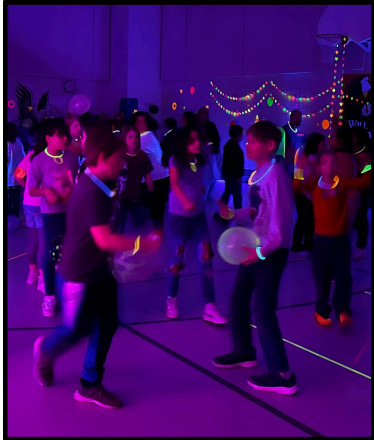
We loved seeing our high school graduates back where they began! Congratulations to our 5th graders!

We ended our field day with our students getting sprayed by a fire hose. Thanks to Mrs. Phelps for organizing these awesome games and relays.

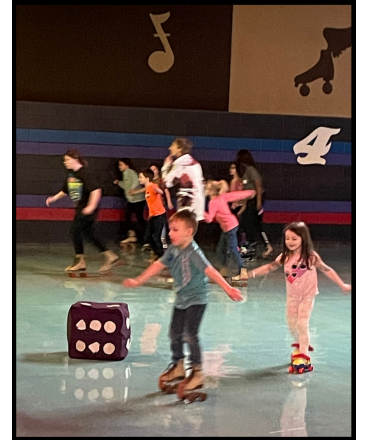


EMERSON EAGLES

Emerson Elementary has had a wonderful 100th anniversary year! As we reflect on our rich history and celebrate this momentous milestone, we are thrilled to see our students and staff celebrate academic achievements and enjoy many special events.



Glow Dance Parties



Skate Nights



Family Fun Night with a special performance by Ionia High School Jazz Band.



Integration of state-of-the-art Clevertouch boards in all classrooms.



Breakfast Buddies



Music Assembly by Guy Louis



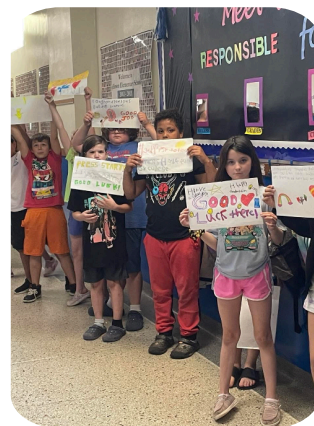
Supporting Ionia VFW



Solar Eclipse

JEFFERSON JAGUARS

As we bid farewell to an incredible school year, we are thrilled to reflect on the outstanding achievements and memorable moments that have shaped our community at Jefferson. We will plan to see our Jaguars on August 19th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for our open house!



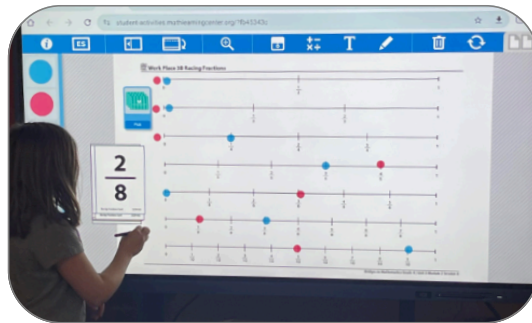
Congratulations to our fifth graders as they embark on their educational journey to IMS! Let's also celebrate the IHS class of 2024! Our jaguars cheered them on as they made their final walk through our hallways!



Students and staff enjoyed watching the Solar Eclipse.



Field day fun!



Clevertouch learning & integration!



Mayor Milewski, along with city officials, Horrocks, and our 5th-grade class, came together to plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day!



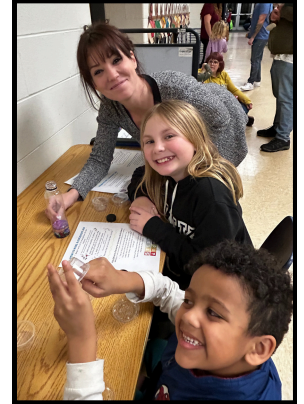
Our PTG organized a Walk for a Cause event, raising awareness and collecting food donations for the IM3rd Meal Program.



RATHER RAMS

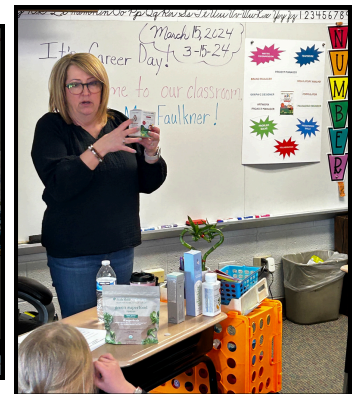
The involvement of our parents and grandparents and the community support we received have helped make this another fantastic year at Rather Elementary School! Have a fun and safe summer!

Family Science Night! We were excited to have 106 students and family members participate!



Family Math Game Night! 77 students and family members participated!

Career Day was another fun learning opportunity for our students!



Our students and staff loved learning about and safely viewing the solar eclipse!



TWIN RIVERS PANTHERS

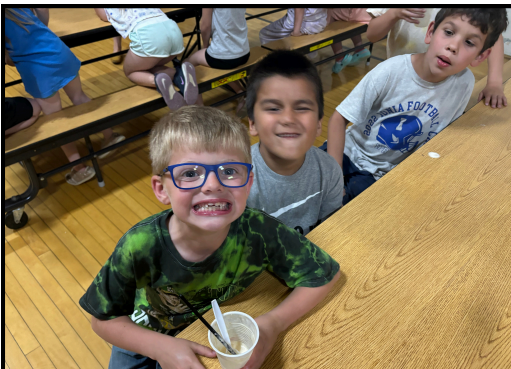
We had a great year at Twin Rivers! Thank you to our FSO, all of our volunteers, and our staff and teachers at Twin Rivers for all of your work. Thank you to all of our community and family support as well! Below are photos from another fun Twin Rivers Field Day!



The local 4-H brought animals to visit our students!



Our first glow dance was so much fun and a big hit! Families had such a great time dancing together!



Students learned about protecting our water resources at the TR Water Festival. Students created artwork for our community calendar highlighting ways to keep our water clean. The edible ice cream aquifer is always a hit with students!



WELCH WARRIORS



Douglas R. Welch High School was proud to have 22 students graduate this spring! We are excited to see what your next steps are.



Ms. Tackmann organized Pi-Day Pi-K for March 14. Students designed Pi-themed shirts, walked 3.14 kilometers, and celebrated with pie.



CALENDAR

June 17 - Aug 1: Summer School

August 14: Virtual School Orientation

August 21: School Resumes



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

D.R. Welch High School 616 - 527 - 3530

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Ken Baker, Vice President

Robin Marhofer, Secretary

Dayna Ellis, Treasurer

Ray Shippey, Trustee

Tim Montgomery, Trustee

Brian Siemen, Trustee



www.ioniaschools.org