

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!



We are grateful for the opportunity to continue partnering with the Ionia VFW to support our community. In May, Ionia Public Schools elementary students volunteered with the Ionia VFW to place flags at local veterans' graves. This was a meaningful learning experience for our students, who learned about United States Flag Code protocols and interacted with local veterans. *(Continued on page 2)*



### KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Our IPS summer Kindergarten Roundup will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> in our Central Office, located at the west end of our IHS campus at 250 E. Tuttle Rd. Please scan the QR code or contact 616 - 527 - 9280 to register.



### IONIA BULLDOG AQUATIC CENTER

Our Ionia Bulldog Aquatic Center (IBAC) is open and thriving! Become an IBAC member by registering at [www.ioniaschools.org/bulldog-aquatic-center](http://www.ioniaschools.org/bulldog-aquatic-center). Contact Mrs. Cairns with any questions at (616) 841 - 4039 or [lcainseioniaschools.org](mailto:lcainseioniaschools.org).





# UPDATES FROM SUPERINTENDENT GURK

*Continued from page 1*

To improve facilities for our physical education courses and our student-athletes, we recently made significant upgrades to our Ionia High School (IHS) weight room. We would like to commend Mr. Barr, Mr. Swinehart, Mr. Avery, and Mr. Piercefield for leading the efforts on these improvements. We are also grateful for the continued collaboration and support of our Ionia Affiliated Athletic Boosters (IAAB), who generously donated \$25,000 to support these upgrades.



As part of our commitment to continuously improving our facilities and learning environments and keeping our sinking fund promises, we are planning a busy summer of upgrades across our district. This summer's improvement projects include updating bathrooms, painting classrooms, repairing roofs, installing new playground equipment, and 6,000 square feet of new flooring.

You and your families are invited to our informal Coffee with the Superintendent talks, where we can discuss topics of your choosing. Please take a look below for times, dates, and locations.

- Lumbermill Inn: 8 am - 10 am on Thursday, July 24
- Sheri's Restaurant: 8 am - 10 am on Thursday, July 31
- Cooks Confections: 4 pm - 6 pm on Thursday, August 14
- Sozo: 8 am - 10 am on Saturday, August 23

Have a great summer!

*Ben Gurk*  
Benjamin Gurk



*Before and after photos of the updated IHS Weight Room*

Inspire



Persevere



Succeed



# WORDS ON WHEELS MOBILE LIBRARY!

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

**June 17 - July 31**

Tuesdays	12:00 - 2:30	2:45 - 4:15	4:30 - 6:00
	K-2 Summer School (IHS)	Jefferson Elementary	Trailhead Park
Wednesdays	9:00 - 10:30	10:45 - 12:15	12:30 - 2:30
	Harper Park	Emerson Elementary	3-5 Summer School at IHS
Thursdays	9:00 - 10:30	10:45 - 1:15	1:30 - 2:30
	Robinson Park on June 17, June 24, & July 1	Twin Rivers Elementary	Canterbury Estates
	Hale Park on July 22 & July 29		

## THEMES

Week of June 17th	Celebrate Summer with Fun in the Sun!
Week of June 24th	Make Your Mark ... as in ... Bookmark!
Week of July 1st	Patriotic Week! Read & Wear Red, White and Blue!
Week of July 8th	Make a Splash with Reading!
Week of July 15th	Get Wild with Reading!
Week of July 22nd	Reading is a Superpower!
Week of July 29th	Make Reading the KEY to your Success!

**Visit our WOW Bus for Kids' Day at the Ionia Free Fair at 2 pm on July 15**





# IONIA HIGH SCHOOL

Ionia High School (IHS) ended the year by celebrating our students at our 4th annual Super GRIT Assembly! Students celebrated their hard work and positive spirit by enjoying sweet treats from concessions provided by the IHS Family School Guild and diving into a wide array of field games. From cornhole and badminton to bubble ball, football, slammo, and pickleball, there was something for everyone. The highlight for many was the opportunity to purchase water balloons with their earned GRIT coins to soak a staff member!



Our Class of 2025 was Ionia's 155th graduating class! It was truly inspiring to witness 175 seniors turn their tassels and officially become graduates. This remarkable group achieved some incredible milestones, collectively earning \$1.497 million in scholarships and financial aid, accumulating 2,245 hours of community service, and, athletically, celebrating 13 Block I Award winners in athletics — the most in school history!





# IONIA HIGH SCHOOL

We are proud of the continued GRIT demonstrated by our performing arts and extra curriculums!



Instrumental Music



Vocal Music



Quiz Bowl



Interact



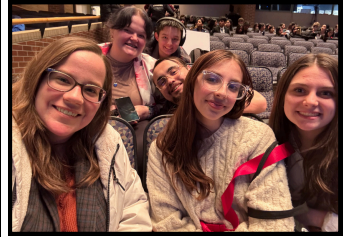
Theatre



Science Olympiad



S.A.D.D.



Forensics

P.A.C.



Our IHS Unified Powerlifters truly shone at the Special Olympics Summer Games at CMU, bringing home an incredible 15 gold, six silver, and two bronze medals!



Trap



IHS artists are proud to collaborate with the Ionia Downtown Development Authority to showcase student-designed bulldog sculptures in local businesses! This exciting partnership celebrates not only our talented student artists but also the vibrant spirit of our community and our enduring bulldog pride. Keep an eye out for these unique creations around town from June until the Autumn Celebration!





# IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

It's been a fantastic year at Ionia Middle School (IMS)! We'd like to thank Mr. Tyler Basler and S & K Printing for their fabulous work in printing and installing our beautiful new "welcome" sign just inside the front entrance. Your support means so much to our school community!



IMS students were able to enjoy a day away on field trips this spring. 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a day of fun at Craig's Cruisers. Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders traveled to the Grand Rapids Public Museum, where they explored exhibits and enjoyed watching a planetarium show. Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders toured the Calvin University campus and also participated in learning stations at their Ecosystem Preserve and Nature Gardens.



8th Grade Field Trip to Craig's Cruisers



7th Grade Field Trip to the Grand Rapids Public Museum



6th Grade Field Trip to Calvin University



# IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ionia Middle School had 14 students earn medals at the solo and ensemble! Students performed in small groups and one in a solo. Six students received a Division 2 rating, and the remaining received a Division 1 rating. Claire Ondersma and Sky Schwab participated in two different events and received a Division 1 rating in both events. This group of students had an amazing year, and we are so proud of them!



Congratulations to our future high school graduates of 2029! We're proud of Finnly Hunt on earning the Neil Smejkkal Award! Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation celebration was a time of pride, reflection, and joy as we recognized all they've accomplished and the growth they've shown during their time at IMS. We couldn't be prouder of this group and look forward to all the amazing things they'll do in the years to come.



Our IMS 8th-grade students enjoyed their East Coast trip!

Thank you to all students, families, staff, and community partners for making the 2024-2025 school year such a memorable and successful one. We appreciate your continued support and partnership. Have a safe and joyful summer!





# BOYCE WILDCATS

Through our commitment to strong academic programs, engaging activities, and a positive school climate, Boyce Elementary is fostering a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom. We believe that every day is an opportunity to create lasting memories. We hope you have an enjoyable summer!



Families enjoyed our Breakfast Buddies



Boyce Book Drawing Ceiling Tile Winners



Staff and students having fun at AR night



Boyce Scenic Run Winners



Outdoor Adventure Day Activities



Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed hatching chicken eggs



Boyce Alumni Senior Good Bye



5<sup>th</sup> Graders vs Staff Basketball Game



Congratulations to our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates



# EMERSON EAGLES

Emerson Elementary soared to heroic heights this year, combining hard work with unforgettable adventures. From epic field trips and Field Day fun to Reading Month missions and spirited dress-up days, our school was full of superhero moments. With courage, kindness, grit, and strength, our students, staff, and families truly embodied what it means to be a superhero team. It's been a legendary year for our mighty crew of heroes! We wish everyone a fun summer filled with sunshine and exciting new adventures!



Smiles all around at Emerson Breakfast Buddies!

Congratulations to Emerson's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class!



Students enjoyed spirit days, field trips to museums, a state park, Michigan Adventure, and field day fun!

**S**afety **O**wnership **A**chievement **R**espect





# JEFFERSON JAGUARS

What an incredible year it has been at Jefferson Elementary! We've truly enjoyed learning, creating, and making lasting memories together. A heartfelt thank you to our amazing students, dedicated staff, and supportive families - none of this would have been possible without you. We hope you have a fantastic summer filled with rest and fun! We can't wait to welcome you back soon.



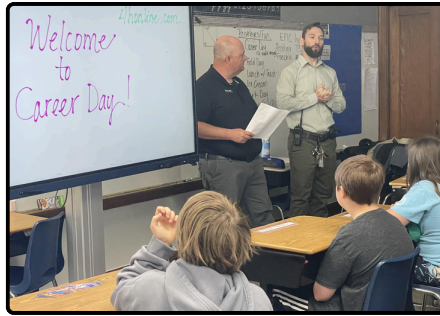
Walk for a Cause - IM3rd Meal



Field Day Fun!



Jefferson Alumni - Senior Walkthrough



Jefferson Career Day!



Breakfast Buddies



March Is Reading Month Visitors



1st Grade Performance "Little Red Riding Hood"



Arbor Day Tree Celebration with Mayor Milewski & 5th Grade Students





# RATHER RAMS

It was a wonderful year at Rather Elementary School! Many thanks to our incredible teachers and staff for all of their hard work. Also, many thanks to our parents, grandparents, and community for the amazing support they have given us! We hope that you have a fun, safe, enjoyable summer break!



It was a blessing to host the December Senior Citizen Luncheon in our newly remodeled library where our students volunteered and served meals!

Family Fun Science Night was a lot of fun for the 26 families (85 people) who participated!



Students enjoy reading with their parents at our Family Accelerated Reader Nights!

Our Career Day presenters did a fantastic job sharing how reading, writing, and math are a part of what they do!



Our Rather Walk-A-Thon is one of the most highly anticipated and best events of the school year!



# TWIN RIVERS PANTHERS

It was a great year at Twin Rivers! Thank you to our dedicated staff and students for all of their hard work. We appreciate all of the support and partnerships we have with our families and the communities of Muir, Lyons, and Ionia. This spring we had some fun opportunities to learn outdoors!



Field day is always a fun highlight of our spring activities!

TR students enjoyed partnering with the Ionia Conservation District and the Village of Muir to plant a butterfly garden at the new Muir Recycle Center.



We had the opportunity to participate in Outdoor Education at Boyce's beautiful nature trail. Thank you to Boyce for this great learning adventure!





# WELCH WARRIORS

It was a great year at Douglas R. Welch High School! Thank you to our community members, parents, grandparents, families, and staff who helped make this a successful year. We hope you all have a fun, relaxing, and refreshing summer. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall for another great year!



Congratulations to the 17 members of the Class of 2025! Pictured are the nine students who walked in our commencement ceremony.



Students visited Junior Achievement Finance Park to learn more about financial literacy.



As part of our school-wide reward system, students took a wagon ride around the school grounds.



## IMPORTANT DATES

August 20 - First Day of School

October 1 - Student Count Day

October 15 & 16 - Parent Teacher Conferences

May 15, 2026 - D.R. Welch Graduation



Follow us on Facebook!



# IONIA 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 2025 Block of Honor Recipients! Our Block of Honor 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, 73 athletes have earned this prestigious commendation.



*Block of Honor Recipients (from left to right) Christian Miller, Katelyn Weber, Spencer Tooker, Nolan Lundstrom, Jaxon Palmer, Ella Udell, Henry Castle, Wyatt Erridge, Charles Frost, Sarah Schafer, Myles Perrien, Kellan Ferguson, Seth Woods*

## Thank you to our CommUNITY Partners!



- BLB Construction for the work on the press box
- Platte Brothers' Concrete for the softball cement work
- Central Michigan Builders for the work on the long jump
- C&L Trucking for your donations and work on the batting cages
- ICCC Coach Smalley and his machine tools class for work on the bleachers





# IONIA ATHLETICS

## STATE QUALIFIERS

Sarah Schafer  
(Wrestling)



Carl Goeckel  
(Swim & Dive)



Lena Cox (Bowling)



Henry Castle & Mimi  
Wegener (Track & Field)



Varsity & JV Powerlifting: Ava Benedict, Sophie Whorley, Adriana Ogden, Emily Anderson, Ava Bowen, Carly Valera-Benavidez, Harleigh Kruger, Cashmier Austin, Jadyn Gardner, Nely Shippey, Summer Clark, Connor Morrison, Joey Anderson, Dillon Adams, Deion Flint, Paxton Melle, Noah king, Charles Frost, Carlos Ogden



### Senior Scholar Athletes

Front Row: Isabelle Vasquez, Taylor Browne, Alexias Daugherty, Braylon Granger, Ryan Lee, Stevie Gross  
Back Row: Mr. Barr, Charles Frost, Henry Castle, Myles Perrien, Carter Starks, Mrs. Gross



Congratulations to Mimi Wegener, who earned All-State Track & Field (Pole Vault) placing 6<sup>th</sup> in the State





250 E. Tuttle Rd  
Ionia, MI 48846

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### **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

### **Board of Education**

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