



# Rather Ram Newsletter

June 2nd, 2026

**FINAL EDITION!**

*FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL*

Dear Parents,

The 2025-2026 school year has flown by so very quickly! It is amazing that summer break is already here! As I am sure you know, it has been another outstanding year at Rather Elementary School! Thanks so much for sharing your children with us! The opportunity to work with them has been very enjoyable and rewarding - they are truly a blessing!

I would like to thank all of the parents who volunteered their time and efforts this school year to help make a positive difference in the education of their children. Many thanks to the parents who volunteered at different school functions and parents who helped their children by monitoring and helping with homework and assignment completion. We want you to know that you are greatly appreciated and that your support helps us to more effectively and efficiently do our job.

Our students continue to excel academically! While we don't have any final state testing data that can be released (third, fourth, and fifth grade students just recently completed the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), our end of the year NWEA Testing data shows that our students are making excellent progress! 68.64% of our K - 5th grade students met or exceeded their projected RIT growth score on the NWEA Reading Test while 66.42% of the students met or exceeded their projected RIT growth score on the NWEA Math Test! At our initial training for the



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## *FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED)*

**NWEA assessments, we were told that very good things were happening in buildings where at least 50% of the students achieved their projected RIT growth and that in schools where at least 60% of the students achieved their projected RIT growth score, excellent work was being done! In addition, on the final round of Acadience testing, 60.08% percent of our students finished in the at or above grade level categories. This is great progress considering that we started the school year with just 52.14% of our students at or above grade level! We are so proud of our students' hard work and the growth that they have shown and we are extremely thankful for the incredible, dedicated, hard-working staff that we have at Rather!**

**Rather students were also hard at work being the best RAMS (respecting others, accepting responsibility, making safe choices, showing kindness) they could be each day. During the 2025-2026 school year, Rather students collectively received 70,908 RAMS rewards! That is an average of 238.75 RAMS rewards per student for the school year!!!**

**On behalf of the staff at Rather Elementary School, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe, fun-filled, enjoyable, productive summer vacation! We hope that all of you return in the fall but if you do move over the summer, either within the district or out of district, please call Ionia Public Schools Central Office at 616-527-9280 and let them know. Have a great summer break as we look forward to welcoming all of you back to Rather on Tuesday, August 25th, for the first half day of school! Don't forget to attend the Rather Open House for KS - 5th graders and their families on Monday, August 24th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thanks again for another wonderful school year!**

**Sincerely, Darin W. Magley**

## **SUMMERTIME FAMILY LEARNING FUN**

**Make sure you make learning a regular family activity this summer! Visits to a zoo, a museum, or a library are great learning experiences. Reading (at least 20 minutes every day), math facts practice, and journal writing are great opportunities for spending quality family time. Please model the importance of these activities by doing them regularly with your children. Also, please check out the letter and information on the summer reading opportunities (Ionia Community Library Summer Reading Program, Ionia Public Schools WOW Bus Schedule, and the Rather Summer Reading Incentive Program) that was sent home with each child. To maintain the wonderful progress that our students have made this school year, it is vitally important that they are reading regularly during the summer break.**

## **UPDATED STUDENT INFORMATION NEEDED**

**If something has changed (address, phone number, emergency contact info) for your child's information in our student database, please let us know! The Rather Elementary School office will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3rd, through Friday, June 5th. Please call (616-527-1720) and take care of this very important task next week if at all possible.**

## **REPORT CARDS AND 2026-2027 TEACHER PLACEMENTS**

**All students should have brought home their final report card today. Teacher placements for next school year were indicated on student report cards. If you have not received a copy of your child's end of the school year report card, please contact your child's teacher or call the Rather Office.**

# **RATHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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<https://rather.ioniaschools.org/>

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