

## COMMUNICATION UPGRADES!

As part of our continuous improvement process, we are upgrading our student information system from Skyward to PowerSchool. This will modernize our capacity to communicate student grades, attendance, and coursework. Parents/guardians, please follow the steps below to download the PowerSchool App and log in. Students will simply use their existing school Google accounts to log in; no special codes are required. Please contact (616) 841-4153 or support@ioniaschools.org with questions.

### Download PowerSchool Mobile App & Log-In to Account

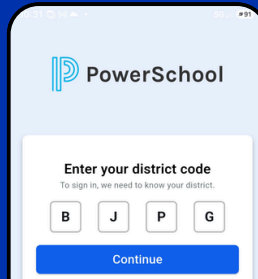
1

Download  
PowerSchool Mobile



2

Enter District Code:  
**BJPG**



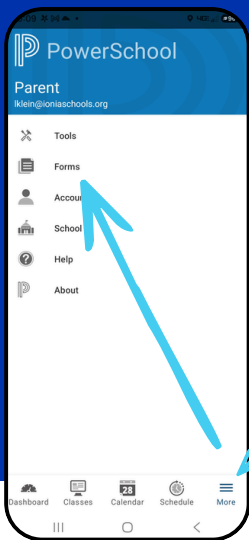
3

Sign In  
using the info emailed  
to you on July 1, 2026

This email will come from  
PowerSchool@ioniaschools.org

4

Once you're signed in, select a student name, then go to "More" then select "Forms"



5

If you have a new student, complete "New Student Registration"

If you have a returning student, scroll down and complete "Returning" forms

**Have questions about mobile app or account?  
Email support@ioniaschools.org or call (616) 841-4153**

## BULLDOG BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL!



Our Bulldog Beginnings Preschool provides a free, fun, high-quality education for 4-year-olds. Our caring team is fully licensed and highly trained. Please call 616-527-4900 to sign up or for more information.



# UPDATES FROM SUPERINTENDENT GURK

Continued from page 1

You and your family are invited to our informal Coffee with the Superintendent events this summer, where we can discuss any topics on your mind. Please see the locations, times, and dates below:



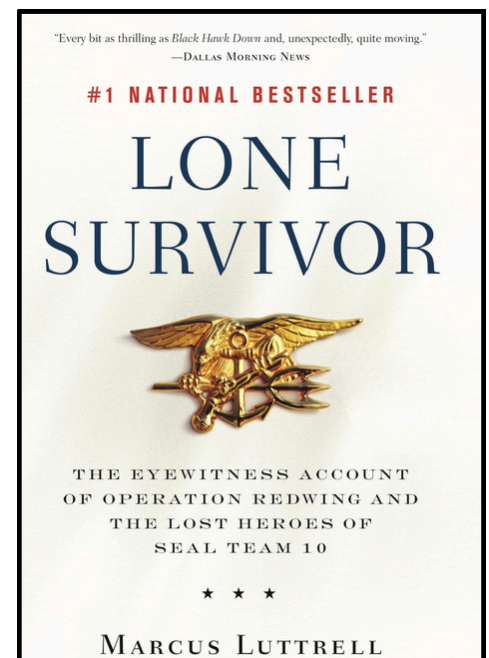
Superintendent Gurk

- SoZo from 8 am - 10 am on Wednesday, July 1
- Sheri's from 8 am - 10 am on Thursday, July 16
- Lumber Mill Inn from 8 am - 10 am on Thursday, July 30

To continue keeping our Sinking Fund promises and updating our facilities, our maintenance team has already begun working on our summer projects, which include a new Ionia High School (IHS) track, updated IHS Athletic Commons bathrooms, new driveway paving near Welch High School, a new Rather Elementary playground, a new Twin Rivers Elementary playground, and a new Ionia Middle School (IMS) cafeteria floor. We thank our community for the continued support that makes these upgrades possible.

Have a great summer!

  
Benjamin Gurk



IHS students Aleuatian Raymond, Selina Li, Alexis Heinlein, Alli Shaw, Teddy Sprank, and Brayden Fisher met U.S. Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, whose best-selling autobiography *Lone Survivor* was made into a major motion picture wherein he was portrayed by Mark Wahlberg

# ISD MILLAGE PROPOSAL

## Special Education Millage Proposal

Vote August 4, 2026!



### VOTE AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup> - IONIA COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal would allow the Ionia County Intermediate School District (ICISD), the organization that connects the State of Michigan with local school districts, to continue collecting taxes approved by regional voters in 2017, to support state mandated special education programs and services. It also includes an increase to restore lost mills due to Headlee rollbacks.

If approved, the millage would cost homeowners about \$53.36 per year on a home valued at \$200,000 (with a taxable value of \$100,000). This represents an increase of **\$13.23 per year**.

The renewal and restoration would continue to fund essential supports for Ionia County students from birth to age 26 with a wide range of **cognitive, emotional, learning, behavioral and physical impairments and delays**. The millage is expected to generate approximately \$1.5 million annually, which would be shared across local school districts to help cover special education costs.

These funds reimburse districts for expenses that other funding sources do not cover. This allows school districts to provide required services for students with disabilities while **reducing the amount of general classroom funding that must be diverted** to meet those needs.

**For factual information about the millage, visit [ioniaisd.org/millage](http://ioniaisd.org/millage).**



# IONIA ATHLETICS

We are proud of our gritty Ionia Bulldog student-athletes who earned much success during our spring season! We anticipate an excellent fall season for our student-athletes. Have a great summer!

## Regional & Conference Champions!



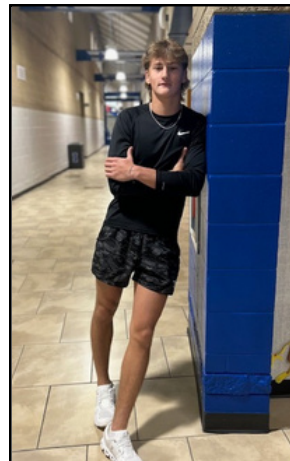
We are proud of our gritty Ionia High School Bowling Team!

## MHSAA Track & Field State Qualifier!

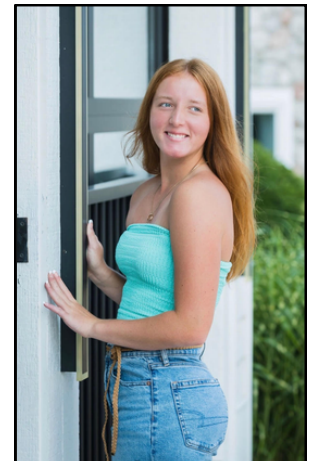


Brynn Steffen

## Independent Bank Athletes of the Year!



Colt Piercefield



Tessa Lemke

## CAAC Top Ten Senior Scholar-Athletes!



Back Row: Harper Duell, Hudson Kemp, Dawson Leland, Mr. Barr, Colt Piercefield, Andrew Paton, Front: Kennedy Batista, Josie Lee, Madeleine Lemke, Audrey Wall, Carleigh Thompson

## 2026 Block of Honor Recipients!



(left to right) Tessa Lemke, Wolton Sandborn, Cole Petersen, Jaxxon Thelen, Mariya Berry, Andrew Paton, Josie Lee, Carleigh Thompson, Angie Reyes, Kennedy Batista, Gabe Holman

# IONIA HIGH SCHOOL

Our Class of 2026 made history as our 156th graduating class! It was truly inspiring to witness 165 seniors turn their tassels and officially become Ionia High School alumni. This remarkable group left a lasting legacy through some incredible collective milestones, including earning \$1.7 million in scholarships and financial aid, dedicating 3,067 hours to community service, and celebrating twelve gritty Block I Award winners!



We are proud of our clubs and extra curriculars for their GRIT and service to our school and community!



Robotics



Theatre



Debate



Science Olympiad



Superintendent's Advisory Council



Quiz Bowl



Interact

## IHS FAMILY SCHOOL GUILD VIRTUAL MEETINGS AT 6 PM

August 13

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

Check us out on Facebook to see how you can get involved!

# IONIA HIGH SCHOOL

IHS wrapped up the school year in spectacular fashion with our 5th annual Super GRIT Assembly! Students celebrated their hard work, growth, and positive spirit by diving into a wide array of field games, including cornhole, badminton, bubble ball, football, slammo, and pickleball. Between games, students enjoyed sweet treats from concessions graciously provided by the IHS Family School Guild. For many, the absolute highlight of the day was cashing in their hard-earned GRIT coins for water balloons to soak their favorite staff members!



Our IHS Unified Powerlifters truly shone at the Special Olympics Summer Games held at Central Michigan University. Our team brought home an incredible 21 gold and six silver medals! We are so proud of our champions for representing Ionia High School so well on the State stage!



We are proud of our award winning music programs! Look for our Marching Bulldogs in the Ionia Free Fair Parade in July!



Vocal Music



Instrumental Music

# IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

It has been an incredible and rewarding year at Ionia Middle School! Thanks to the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the support of our Bulldog families, we achieved outstanding growth in both academics and extracurriculars. We are immensely proud of everyone's efforts and look forward to carrying this fantastic momentum into the fall. Have a safe, relaxing summer break!



Our 8th grade enjoyed participating in the MI Career Quest at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids!



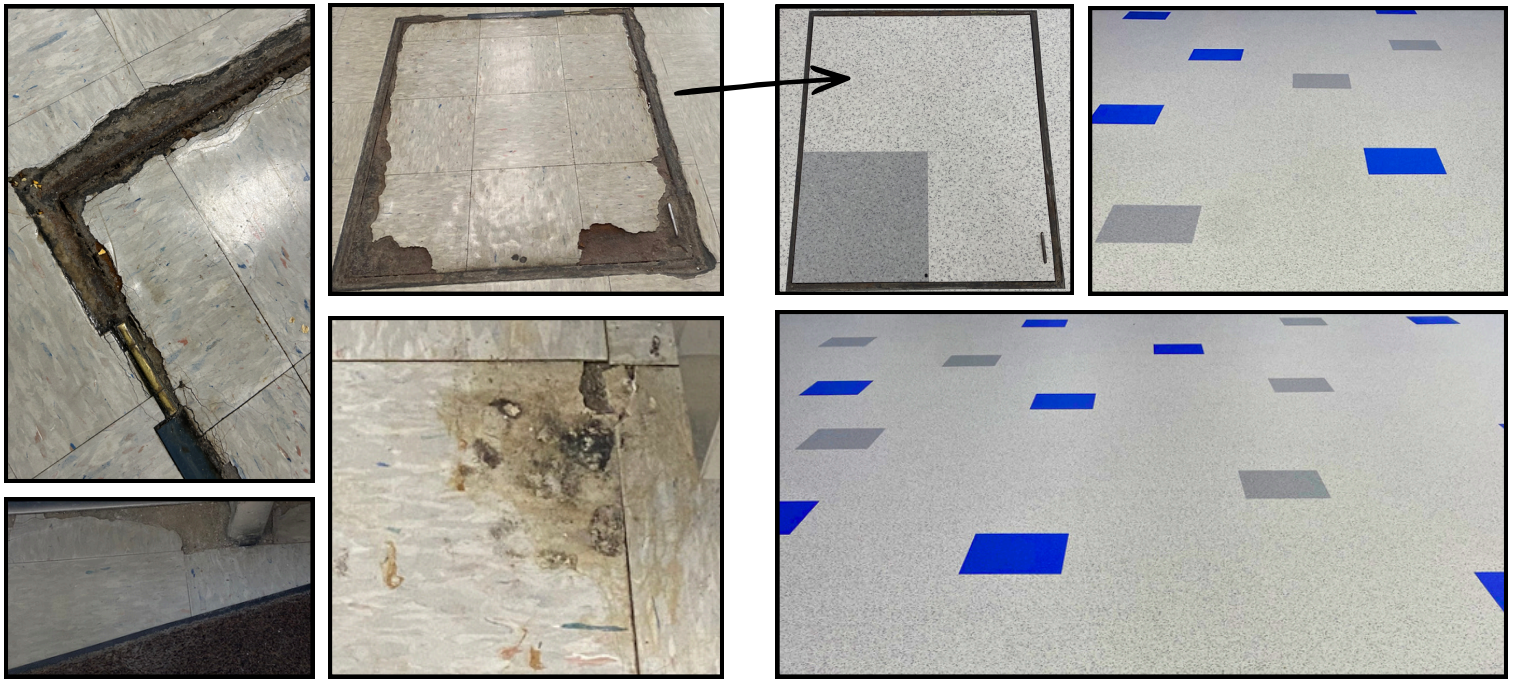
Our IMS Top Dog students celebrated a fantastic year of their leadership with trips to Detroit and local spots!



Connor Page was our 2026 Principal's Award Recipient!

# IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

As part of our continuous improvement process, we have been making upgrades to our school and facilities. We recently painted our IMS cafeteria and installed a new floor!



Before

After



Ionia Middle School hosted 6th grade Welcome Night, "HEROes in the Future," highlighting electives and key skills for student success.

# BOYCE WILDCATS

After a year of cultivating a growth mindset and celebrating every stepping stone, our students have spent the second half of the year truly thriving. From tackling projects to demonstrating incredible kindness and leadership, they have proved that their hard work knows no limits. We wrapped up this phenomenal year with unforgettable last-day celebrations, full of laughter, high-fives, and pride.



Our Breakfast Buddies mornings are always a highlight, and we loved welcoming families from every grade level!



A special shout-out to Trooper Travis for stopping by to read to our students and celebrate March Is Reading Month with us!



Sun, smiles, and teamwork! Our students had an absolute blast making memories during our Boyce Field Day!



Boyce Wildcats ran their hearts out, stayed active, and enjoyed the great outdoors during our annual scenic run!



For the first time ever, Boyce hosted Outdoor Adventure Day for all elementary students in the district, and it was an amazing success!



Best of luck and a fond farewell to our amazing IHS seniors & Boyce alumni as they begin their next adventure!

# EMERSON EAGLES

At Emerson, we don't just learn - **together, we S.O.A.R.!** We are proud of the milestones our students have achieved this year. From mastering new academic concepts to demonstrating growth in character and leadership, their progress reflects the power of their hard work and the support of our community!



United in Fun: The Emerson Family celebrated Field Day!



Honoring those who served: 5th-grade volunteers place flags on veterans' graves at Sunset Cemetery.



Making memories in nature during our school-wide Outdoor Adventure at Boyce.



Cheering on our 5th graders as they take their next big step and SOAR into middle school!



## Calendar Reminder 2026/2027

**Aug. 24**  
Open House, 5:30pm

**Aug. 25**  
First Day of School!

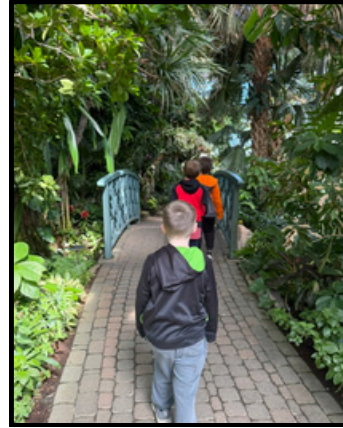


# JEFFERSON JAGUARS

What a fantastic conclusion to our school year! Our students and staff have truly reached for the stars and beyond! Take a look at some of the amazing highlights from the end of the year. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall, as "Adventure Awaits" for our Jaguars!



Jefferson Jaguars always enjoy Field Day!



Educational Field Trips & Outdoor Exploration!



We are grateful for our community businesses who presented on Career Day!



Celebrating our 2026 Seniors!



Outdoor Adventure Day at Boyce!



## Important Calendar Reminders



August 19, 2026 - Open House, 6:00-7:00pm

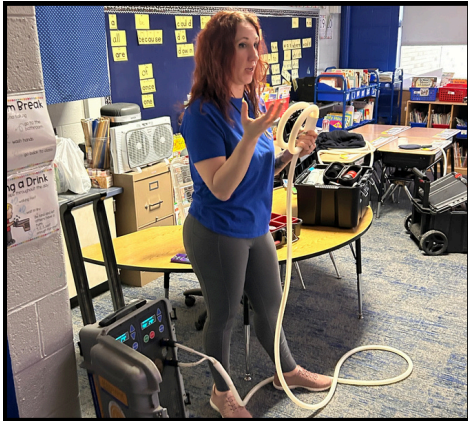
August 25, 2026 - First Day of School (half day - dismissal at 11:53am)

# RATHER RAMS

It was a fantastic year at Rather! Thank you to our amazing staff and students for all of their hard work. We appreciate all of the support and partnerships we have with our families and the Ionia community. We hope that you have a fun, safe, enjoyable summer break! Go Rams!



Rather students were proud to volunteer with our VFW at Tuttle Cemetery to place flags on the graves of local veterans for the spring and summer seasons.



Our Career Day presenters did a fantastic job sharing how reading, writing, and math are a part of what they do! Students enjoyed learning from and interacting with our local business professionals!



Family Fun Science Night was a lot of fun for the 32 families (97 people) who participated!

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

# TWIN RIVERS PANTHERS

Twin Rivers celebrated a wonderful school year filled with growth, learning, and joy. Our students made great strides, and our dedicated staff worked with heart to make our school a warm and inspiring place to learn.



Twin Rivers was invited to the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Muir's new Hyland Sensory Park. Our students had a great time playing at the park after celebrating it's Grand Opening!



Our students had a blast and learned a lot when we were invited to Boyce Elementary for Outdoor Adventure Day. Students learned about the ecosystem on the Boyce Nature Trail!



Mr. Munn's 5<sup>th</sup> grade made bracelets and necklaces and sold them as a service learning project. The raised \$145.80 that they donated to R.A.V.E.!



Field Day is always a favorite part of spring. Our students also joined the TR Mileage Club, walking during recess to earn fun prizes while building healthy habits.



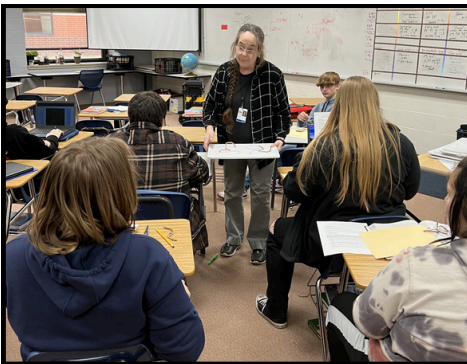
# WELCH WARRIORS



Congratulations to our 26 graduates who graduated in May! They left a legacy of perseverance and resilience!



Addison McCain and Lilly Carten leading the Pledge of Allegiance our graduation ceremony.



We want to wish Mrs. Julie Blair a sincere thank you and happy retirement. Throughout her 30 years at Welch, Julie served as primarily a Science Teacher, but has also taught PE, Health, and Art classes, along with several others. Julie said that her favorite part of being at Welch has been the graduation ceremonies, and seeing her students achieve something that many thought they could not. She still keeps a graduation speech from a student that highlighted what Welch High School meant to them. Welch High School will miss you!



Follow us on Facebook!

## IMPORTANT DATES

June 15: Summer School Starts

July 23: Summer School Ends

August 25: First Day of 2026 School Year



# IPS CALENDAR

August 2026							August 2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1	17	New Teacher Orientation
							18	6th-8th Grade Orientation
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	19	Staff PD All Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	Staff Welcome Back 1/2 day AM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	24	Staff PD All Day/No school students
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	First Day for Students 1/2 Day All
30	31							

September 2026							September 2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	4	No School
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	Labor Day No School
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	25	Staff PD Day/PLC/No school students
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

October 2026							October 2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
							7	Student Count Day
							19	PTC K-5 5:00-7:30 PM
				1	2	3	20	PTC 6-8 5:00-7:30 PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	21	PTC 9-12 5:00-7:00 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	22	Students AM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	PTC K-12 1-4PM, 5-7PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	No School
							30	1/2 Day Students/Staff PLC

November 2026							November 2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	25-27	Thanksgiving Break
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30							

December 2026							December 2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	17	Students AM Staff Records PM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	18	Students AM Staff Records PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	18	End of First Semester
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21-31	Winter Break
27	28	29	30	31				

# **I** IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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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Tim Montgomery, Trustee

Brian Siemen, Trustee



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