

# SCHOOL REPORT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

250 East Tuttle Road  
Ionia, MI 48846-9698

## First Day of School is Wednesday, September 9th!

### Message from the

### S U P E R I N T E N D E N T

#### Staff Working Together for the Success of All Students!

The first day of school is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9th.**

We are looking forward to welcoming all new and returning students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade to the start of a great school year! Our efforts are aimed at high levels of academic rigor and success for all students. It is exciting to see that each of our buildings has created time within their school day to enhance and support student achievement. This is called a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) and it has made a significant impact upon overall student success. Ionia Public Schools offers a wide variety of core and elective courses, career technical education (vocational), dual enrollment, athletics, extracurricular activities, clubs and leadership opportunities. We have something for everyone!



Dr. Patricia Batista

If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please contact me at 527-9280. I am looking forward to a great 2015-2016 school year!!

### Please Attend Fall Open House

Freshmen Orientation	Tues., Sept. 8	10:00 - 1:00
6th Grade WEB Transition	Tues., Sept. 8	8:00 - 12:00
Middle School 6th/7th/8th	Tues., Sept. 8	6:00 - 7:00
Boyce K-5	Tues., Sept. 8	5:30 - 6:30
Emerson K-5	Tues., Sept. 8	6:00 - 7:00
Jefferson K-5	Tues., Sept. 8	6:30 - 7:30
Rather 1-5	Tues., Sept. 8	6:30 - 7:30
Rather Kindergarten	Tues., Sept. 8	6:00 - 6:30
Rather Bulldog Beginnings	Tues., Sept. 8	6:00 - 7:00
Twin Rivers K-5	Tues., Sept. 8	5:30 - 6:30
Welch High School	Tues., Sept. 2	5:00 - 7:00
High School	Tues., Sept. 1	6:00 - 8:00
KinderStart at CDC at IHS	Tues., Sept. 8	5:30 - 6:30

Ionia High School (616) 527-0600	Rather Elementary (616) 527-1720
Ionia Middle School (616) 527-0040	Twin Rivers (989) 855-3333
Boyce Elementary (616) 527 0571	Welch High School (616) 527-3530
Emerson Elementary (616) 527-8018	Transportation (616) 527-9680
Jefferson Elementary (616) 527-2740	Administration (616) 527-9280

The 2015-2016 Annual Education Reports have been delayed due to new testing program. Stay tuned in future publications.

### DESIGNATION OF "DIRECTORY" INFORMATION UNDER Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Generally, school officials must have written permission from the parent/guardian or from a student who is 18 or older or who is otherwise legally emancipated before releasing any information from a student's record. However, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows school districts to disclose, without consent, "directory" type information. The Board of Education of the Ionia Public Schools has designated the following personally identifiable information contained in a student's education record as "directory information":

- A. Student name, address, telephone listing.
- B. Parent/Guardian name, address, telephone listing, e-mail address.
- C. Date and place of birth.
- D. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports.
- E. Weight and height of members of athletic teams.
- F. Dates of attendance, honors, degrees and awards received,

grade placement.

G. Most recent previous school attended.

H. Photographic, video or electronic images of students.

I. Information generally found in yearbooks.

Unless you advise the Ionia Public Schools that you do not want any or all of this information released, school officials may release personally identifiable information which has been designated as "directory information." Upon receiving written notice from parents/guardians or eligible students objecting to disclosure, this information will not be released without the prior consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student.

You have until October 1, 2015 to advise the District in writing of any or all of the categories of "directory information" about the student which you refuse to permit the District to disclose. Your notification of objection should be addressed to the principal of your building.

### Ionia Public Schools VISION, MISSION AND BELIEFS

#### VISION STATEMENT

The Ionia Public Schools and its community are committed to cooperatively creating an inspirational and safe learning environment for all students.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Ionia Public Schools provides students an enriched education preparing them as lifelong, global learners achieving their dreams for the future.

#### BELIEFS STATEMENT

We believe that:

- Quality relationships build quality schools and communities.
- A safe, supportive, and positive environment is essential for excellence in teaching and learning.
- All students will learn when staff set high expectations for teaching and learning.

## Starting/ending times for 2015-2016

High/Middle School	7:40 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.
Welch High School	7:30 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.
Boyce, Jefferson, Twin Rivers	8:40 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Emerson	8:30 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Rather	7:40 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.
KinderStart at Jefferson	8:40 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
KinderStart/Child Dev. Center, IHS	8:20 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Bulldog Beginnings Preschool AM Session	7:40 a.m.-10:40 a.m.
PM Session	11:35 a.m.- 2:35 a.m.

## IHS upperclassmen may pick up schedules August 24th to August 28th

Returning 10th, 11th and 12th grade students may pick their 2015-2016 class schedules up in the Student Services Office between 7:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. beginning Monday, August 24th. Ionia High School offices will be closed on Friday, September 4, 2015.

Schedule adjustments must be made prior to the first day of school on September 9th. Counselors will be available from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.

Freshmen will receive their Orientation/Registration Packets at Freshmen Orientation on September 8th.

Freshmen unable to attend Orientation on September 8th may pick their schedules up in Student Services between 7:45 a.m. and 2:45 a.m. beginning August 24th.

## Freshman Orientation is September 8th

Incoming ninth graders are invited to a Freshmen Orientation Program on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ionia High School. Members of the Class of 2019 will be welcomed in the IHS gym where they will receive class schedules, lockers, meet the Blue Crew, tour the building, and learn about clubs, sports, and activities they can participate in.

## Be Informed About School Safety Laws

**PA 102** requires school districts to expel a student in Grade 6 or above for up to 180 days for student-on-student assault.

*Assault is defined as "intentional, unauthorized physical contact or threatening words with another person which causes physical injury or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury."*

**PA 103** allows a teacher to suspend any age student for his/ her class, subject or activity for up to 1 day if the teacher "has good reason to believe" the pupil's conduct would merit suspension under the local board student code of conduct.

**PA 104** requires the permanent expulsion of students in grades 6 and above who intentionally cause or attempt to cause physical harm to a teacher, volunteer or contractor in a school. Additionally, expulsion of up to 180 days is required for students in grades 6 or above for verbal threats, bomb threats, or similar threats.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Enrollment, schedule pick-up set

Enrollment of non-registered 6th, 7th and 8th grade students is underway. Parents are welcome to enroll new students at the Ionia Middle School Office between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. weekdays. Please bring the student's birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residency at the time of registration. Parents who want NEW middle school students transported by bus should contact the transportation department at 527-9680.

7th and 8th grade students may view their schedules through their Skyward account at [www.ioniaschools.org](http://www.ioniaschools.org). All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students may pick their schedules up between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. September 1 through September 3. Students may also pick their schedules up 1/2 hour prior to the start of the Open House on September 8.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Enroll NEW HIGH SCHOOL students before school opens.

Registration of non registered or new high school students by the IHS Guidance Counselors is underway. Appointments can be made in advance by calling 527-0560 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Enrollment takes about 1 hour. Students under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Please bring transcripts, report cards, birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, and custody papers, if necessary. Students will be assigned counselors, sign up for classes and fill out registration materials.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### How to enroll NEW ELEMENTARY students

Parents of new students entering grades K-5 may begin the enrollment process by stopping at Central Office Administration, 250 E. Tuttle Road between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by calling Jane or Cindy at 527-9280. Parents are asked to bring their child's birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, and to complete enrollment forms. Parents of a new student will be notified which school their child(ren) will attend and what the students bus schedule is prior to the start of school. Criteria used for school assignments are location, parent request, and class size.

- New in the District?
- Address Changed?
- Kindergartner not registered?
- New Child Care Arrangements?

Please let Jane or Cindy at Central Office know NOW so all records and transportation arrangements are ready for the new school year.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Attended Last Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Pick-up/Drop-off location \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail coupon to Jane Hummel or Cindy McKee

Ionia Public Schools, 250 E. Tuttle Road, Ionia, MI 48846

or call (616) 527-9280 or FAX (616) 527-8846



## Smoking Policy Reminder



The Board of Education has established all school buildings and grounds as non-smoking areas. Therefore, smoking is not permitted on school property at any time.

**Ionia County Fast  
\$50 Hotline  
1-616-527-0107**

(For reporting threats of vandalism, weapons, theft, arson, drugs or more in student's own school)

**Statewide  
OK-2-SAY Hotline**

Ph: 1-855-565-2729

Text: 652729

E-mail: [ok2say@mi.gov](mailto:ok2say@mi.gov)

(for reporting specific threats of imminent school violence or other suspicious or criminal conduct by juveniles)

## Home and School are partners in education



### Channels of Communication

By Dr. Patricia L. Batista, Superintendent

Providing the best quality education we can offer our students is the primary focus of our schools. However, sometimes you may disagree with something we do. Our district's hope is that you will let us know your suggestion or concern. Your input is greatly appreciated and you are encouraged to contact us with your thoughts and ideas. Please help us by communicating through the process below.

**Step 1:** Contact the school employee directly involved with the situation, i.e., teacher, bus driver, secretary, cook, coach, etc. IF you are still not satisfied, go to Step 2.

**Step 2:** Contact the employee's supervisor. This could be the building principal, transportation supervisor, food services supervisor, athletic director, etc. IF you are still not satisfied, go to Step 3.

**Step 3:** Contact the associate superintendent at 527-9280 to further discuss your concern. IF you are still not satisfied, go to Step 4.

**Step 4:** Contact the superintendent at 527-9280. A meeting of all involved will be set and a decision will be offered. IF you are still unhappy go to Step 5.

**Step 5:** Schedule a time to present your case to the Board of Education. This can be arranged by calling the superintendent's office at 527-9280. We want to resolve parent concerns as quickly as possible. It is very important that when you have a concern you follow the steps outlined here.

## No Child Left Behind Legislation

### Professional Qualifications

As a parent of a student(s) who attends Ionia Public Schools, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers and instructional aides, and requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Contact Associate Superintendent Ben Kirby at 616-527-9280 with any questions.

## Notification of ADA Compliance

The Ionia Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. IPS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to ADA Compliance Coordinator Ben Kirby, 250 E. Tuttle Road, Ionia MI 48846 (616) 527-9280.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of Ionia Public Schools are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Coordinator.



## IMMUNIZATIONS

### Requirements for Pre K Children (under 5 yrs.)

**DTaP:** 4 doses; **Prevnar:** (Pneumococcal conjugate) complete 4 dose series OR 1 dose after 24 months; **Hib:** complete series of 3 or 4 doses OR 1 dose after 15 months; **Polio:** 3 doses; **MMR** (measles, mumps and rubella) 1 dose after 12 months; **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses; **Varicella** (chickenpox) 1 dose after 12 months OR documented history of disease.

### Requirements for all public school children (5 yrs. and older)

**DTaP:** 4 or 5 doses, as long as 1 dose given after 4 years; **Tdap:** 1 dose for students 11-18 years; **Polio:** 3 or 4 doses, as long as 1 dose given after 4 years; **MMR:** 2 doses after 12 months; **Varicella:** 2 doses after 12 months OR documented history of disease; **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses; **Meningococcal:** (meningitis) 1 dose for students 11 years OR upon entry into 7th grade or higher.


Please check your family health records now to make sure your child has received all of the immunizations listed above. If your child has not received all the required vaccines, please contact your doctor or local health department for an appointment. Be sure to keep a record of the vaccines and dates when given to your child. You will need this record in order to register for school.

### Students with incomplete vaccine history may be excluded from school until vaccines are complete.

Non-medical waivers can only be obtained from your local health department. For Ionia County residents, please contact Jamie @ 616-527-5341 to schedule an appointment.

## Report student absence on 24-hr. phone line

Boyce Elementary	616-527-8011
Emerson Elementary	616-527-8045
Jefferson Elementary	616-527-8048
Rather Elementary	616-527-8033
Twin Rivers Elementary	989-855-3660
Ionia Middle School	616-527-8044
Ionia High School	616-527-2780

 *Twenty-four hour call in lines are available at each elementary, the middle school and the high school so parents can easily report all student absences.*

## AHERA Notification

This notice is to inform you that the district has contracted for an asbestos inspection and management plan as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The management plan has been completed and approved by the Asbestos Program of the Michigan Department of Public Health. The plan is available for your review in Central Office.

The management plan contains information regarding the locations of asbestos containing materials (ACM) in all school buildings, the condition of the ACM and a plan for dealing with the ACM.

The following asbestos activities are currently planned for the district:

**Re-inspection** of all district buildings is required by law every three years. Re-inspection is set for June, 2018.

**Periodic surveillance** is required every six months (visual). This is performed by trained school personnel. Next surveillance is 12/2015.

**Response Actions** designed to reduce or eliminate the potential for asbestos hazards include:

- inspection of all floor tile suspected to contain asbestos, except high school which has no ACM
- tunnels under Middle School for pipe insulation
- pipe insulation below stage tunnel at Twin Rivers
- fire doors and inside fire door of kitchen foyer at Twin Rivers
- pipe joints in north end tunnel at Twin Rivers

Response Actions include appropriate sealing and proper maintenance of all ACM in all buildings. Therefore ACM does not present a health hazard in Ionia Public Schools. Questions and concerns regarding this process should be directed to Mike Avery, Director of Facilities and Grounds, 527-6310.



## School Procedures For Prescription And Over-The-Counter Medications

Any student who is required to take medication during the regular school hours will comply with school regulations. "Medication" includes all medicine prescribed by a physician and any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) drugs. School regulations are as follow:

1. Written authorization from the child's parent or guardian must be on file at school.
2. Any prescription medication must be in its original container, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.
3. All medications, including over the counter drugs, should be brought to the school nurse or principal by the parent/guardian.
4. School personnel will not administer any medication where the administration of the medication requires specialized knowledge or training, such as the injection of medication, unless that person has the required knowledge or training.
5. Parents should pick up all medication at the end of the school year. Medication not returned to parents will be disposed of by the school.
6. Any over-the-counter medication, such as aspirin, ointments, cold tablets, etc., must be in its original container and a signed authorization form needs to be completed by a parent or guardian.
7. Only with written permission from the physician and the parent will a student be allowed to self-administer any specialized medication, such as an asthma inhaler.
8. Medication will be stored in a designated location where adults are present throughout the school day. Students will not be allowed access to this medication. When adults are not present, the medication will be kept in a locked cabinet.
9. Opportunities should be provided for communication between the parent or guardian, school personnel, and physician, regarding the effectiveness of the medication administered during school hours.

## District Snow Day, School Closing Procedure

The Ionia Public School District makes decisions to close or delay the opening of school due to inclement weather according to the following procedure. Parents always have the right to make the final decision if they feel it is not safe to send their child(ren) during inclement weather. With a signed note on phone call from the parent or guardian, the student absence will be excused.

1. Ionia Public Schools will close or delay the opening of school when weather conditions do not allow students to arrive at school in a safe manner.
2. A decision to close or delay school is based on the most current information available to the school district at the time of the decision. The district monitors reports from area police, road commissions and the National Weather Service.

3. Notification of closings or delays is available through eNotify and will be broadcast on the following:

Radio: WION	92.7 FM, 1430 AM	WCUZ	123.0 AM
WLAJ	96.9 FM	WOOD	105.7 FM
WBCT	93.7 FM	WCUZ	101.3 FM

TV: Channels 4, 8, 13, 17 Grand Rapids;  
Channel 6, Lansing; Channel 3, Kalamazoo

WEB PAGE: [www.dawggle.net](http://www.dawggle.net) or [www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com)  
or eNotify alert

4. The decision to close or delay school will be done on a daily basis.
  5. If an emergency situation warrants the early dismissal of the students, the stations listed above will be notified.
  6. It is important that the telephone lines to the schools, transportation and administrative offices remain open to receive the latest weather and road information. Please do not call the school offices; all information will be announced on the listed radio and television stations.
  7. When Ionia Public Schools close, after school and evening activities may also be cancelled. Check the website and television channels for specific info on evening cancellations.
- Please remember that parents always have the right to make the final decision.

## Supporting the Education of Youth Experiencing Homelessness

No Child Left Behind Federal Legislation requires local school districts to identify and serve students in "homeless" situations. The definition of homeless is much broader than one might expect. Essentially, anyone who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence can be qualified as homeless. This includes, but is not limited to, those who live in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, public spaces, those who share housing with other families because of economic hardship, or live in motels, hotels, or campgrounds. Children in a foster care situation that is less than six months in duration also qualify.

It is the district's responsibility to help identify these children, enroll them in school, and help them with opportunities for academic success. If you believe a member of your household may qualify as homeless, please contact the district immediately to obtain the necessary paperwork and identify eligible students.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act acknowledges that disputes may arise between the school district and homeless students and their parent(s) /guardians when the student is placed in a school other than the one requested. Guidance for school selection is provided in the law. The law includes dispute resolution among the required duties of the LEA Liaison. Disputes should be addressed to Mitch Mercer, IPS Liaison, or to Pam Kies-Lowe, the state coordinator. Our goal is to do whatever it takes to help our children be successful.

**Contact:** Mitch Mercer, Principal, Emerson Elementary and Homeless Coordinator at 616.527.8018 or [mmercerc@ioniaschools.org](mailto:mmercerc@ioniaschools.org) or the administrator at your child's school.

## Important! Prepare for Emergency Closings

When we have an emergency closing, many of our students do not know what they should do or where to go. For us to provide our students with a safe departure in an emergency situation, it will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide us with the following:

1. Every child must know in advance where he/she should go when we close early because of an emergency. Parents, please review special instructions with your child throughout the school year.
2. If the above information is different from his/her normal daily routine, the teacher must have the information in writing in advance.
3. Phone lines must be kept open for emergency instructions for bus arrivals and updated weather information. Also, there is always the possibility the phone lines could not be working.
4. Avoid calling the school offices to see if the information you hear on your radio or TV is true. If you have any doubt about weather conditions, listen to your radio which will have the correct information as soon as we do.
5. Remember, in case of an emergency early closing, your child will be sent to the place he/she goes on a normal school day unless the teacher has written notification giving other directions.

## Harassment Policy

It is violation of law and school rules for any student or staff member to harass, intimidate, or take any of the following actions toward another student, staff member, or other person associated with the Ionia School District while on District property or at any school-related event on or off District property.

### Gender/Ethnic/Religious/Disability/Height/Weight/Harassment/Sexual Harassment

#### 1. Verbal:

A. Written or spoken innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's gender, national origin, religious beliefs, etc.

B. Conducting a "campaign of silence" toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the District by refusing to have any form of social interaction with the person.

2. **Nonverbal:** Placing objects, pictures or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures.

If one feels he/she is the victim of harassment or intimidation in the form of unwanted sexual actions or comments or of derogatory statements or actions concerning his/her gender, religion, race, ethnic group, or disability, that person should report such behavior to the office. All reports shall be kept confidential and shall be investigated as soon as possible.

3. **Physical Contact:** Threatened, attempted, or actual unwanted bodily contact, including patting, pinching, or pushing the body.

## Mandatory Expulsion Laws

Since 1995, state and federal laws have required school boards and school administrators to impose expulsion as the penalty when students possess dangerous weapons in a weapon-free school zone or commit arson or rape in a school building or on school grounds. A weapon-free school zone exists at every public and private K-12 school in Michigan and includes school grounds and district vehicles which transport students. The Michigan School Code allows for few exceptions to the rule of mandatory expulsion.

A student found in possession of a dangerous weapon in weapon-free school zone will be permanently expelled from Ionia Public Schools and all other public schools in Michigan, with the possibility of reinstatement only after specified time periods.

State and federal laws define dangerous weapons as a gun, dagger, dirk, stiletto, a knife with a blade over three inches (3") in length, a pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, an iron bar, or brass knuckles. Any Ionia Public student who has any one of these weapons in his/her possession at school, on school grounds, or in district vehicles shall be permanently expelled from Ionia Public Schools and all other public schools in Michigan. We also will notify the police as is required by state law.

Students are expected to know what objects are considered dangerous weapons and are required to avoid bringing them to school or onto school grounds. Any student or parent who has a question about whether an object is a dangerous weapon should contact the building principal.

Students may still be expelled from the Ionia Public School District for other serious offenses as defined in the Student Code of conduct distributed to parents and students at the beginning of the academic year. We encourage you to review that document so you clearly understand the behavior expected of all students at each of our schools. Additional copies of the code may be obtained from your building principal.

The Ionia Board of Education and the administrative staff are committed to providing a safe and orderly environment in which students can learn. As part of that commitment, we strictly enforce the mandatory expulsion penalties in order to keep our school free from unlawful, dangerous weapons. We call upon parents and students throughout the Ionia Public School district for your cooperation in working to accomplish that goal.

## Notification Of Rights Under Ferpa for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask Ionia Public Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with "legitimate educational interests." A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent of student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(4) The right to prohibit the disclosure of personally identifiable information concerning the student to recruiting representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces and its service academies, the Michigan Air National Guard, and the Michigan Army National Guard. Unless the parent or eligible student requests in writing that the District not release information, the student's name, address, and telephone number (if listed) shall be released to Armed Forces recruiters upon their request.

(5) Upon request, the Ionia Public Schools discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or when there are court orders for student record disclosure procured by an Assistant U.S. Attorney General or higher-ranking government official

(6) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education 600 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

## Notice regarding application of pesticides

Ionia Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort.

You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application that might be needed in your children's school. In an emergency, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. To receive notification, please complete the following information. Should you have questions or concerns at any time about pest management within your child's school, call the Director of Operations at 527-6310.

Please fill out the following and return it to your child's school

### ----- Pesticide Prior Notification Request

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the appropriate response:

- A. No, I/we do not want to be notified
- B. Yes, I/we only want to be notified whenever any scheduled major pesticide application is made.
- C. Yes, I/we want to be notified even when an ant trap, small bait application or other least-toxic application is made.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please report any change of school to the Director of Operations at (616) 527-6310. Thank you!

## Memorandum Of Designated Employee

To: Students, Parents/Guardians, Faculty and Staff  
 From: Ben Kirby, Associate Superintendent  
 Re: Non-discrimination policy/coordinator

It has always been the policy of Ionia Public Schools to be an equal opportunity institution. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, ethnic origin, physical or mental handicap, height, weight, or marital status in any of our educational programs or activities including enrollment, placement, and employment.

It is also the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment.

Inquiries concerning the application of, or grievance for, any of these regulations should be addressed to: Mrs. Maureen Reeder or Mr. Ben Kirby, 250 E. Tuttle Road, Ionia, MI 48846. 616.527.9280

Any person who feels that the rights of an individual have been misused in relationship to the provision of equal opportunity in any educational programs and activities, or in employment, may contact either of the above individuals.



## Title IX Law and Grievance Procedures

at Ionia Public Schools

Title IX prohibits harassment of both male and female students regardless of the sex of the harasser – i.e., even if the harasser and target are members of the same sex. It also prohibits gender-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping. Thus, it can be sex discrimination if students are harassed either for exhibiting what is perceived as a stereotypical characteristic of their sex, or failing to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of all students, regardless of the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of the harasser or target.

Although Title IX does not prohibit discrimination based solely on sexual orientation, Title IX does protect all students, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students, from sex discrimination. When students are subjected to harassment on the basis of their LGBT status, they may also be subjected to forms of sex discrimination prohibited under Title IX. The fact that the harassment includes anti-LGBT comments or is partly based on the target's actual or perceived sexual orientation does not relieve a school of its obligation under Title IX to investigate and remedy overlapping sexual harassment or gender-based harassment.

### District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Ben Kirby bkirby@ioniaschools.org Ionia Public Schools (616) 527-9280 250 E. Tuttle Rd. Ionia, MI 48846	Maureen Reeder mreeder@ioniaschools.org Ionia Public Schools (616) 527-9280 250 E. Tuttle Rd. Ionia, MI 48846
--	--

### Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Any student who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, time lines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The CO's will determine whether to do an informal or formal investigation based on board policy, including 2260. Details of the formal and informal investigation and appeal procedures can be found on the district website at <http://www.ionia.k12.mi.us/page.cfm?p=55>



# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Aug. 31 4:30pm -Rather Parent Teacher Guild Meeting 4:30 Twin Rivers FSO Mtg.	1 I.H.S. Open House 6:00-8:00 pm	2 District P.D. Day Welch H.S. Open House 5-6:00p	3 District P.D. Day	4	5
6	7 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	8 <b>OPEN HOUSES:</b> I.H.S. Fresh. Orient. 10a – 1p 6th Gr. WEB Transition 8a-12p IHS Kinderstart 5:30 – 6:30p Ionia Middle Sch. 6 – 7:00p Boyce Elem. 5:30 – 6:30p Emerson Elem. 6:00 – 7:00p Jefferson Elem. 6:30 – 7:30p Rather KDG. 6:00 – 6:30p Rather Elem. 6:30 – 7:30p Rather Bulldog Beg. 6-7:00p Twin Rivers Elem. 5:30-6:30p IMS Title 1 Parent Mtg. Watt 5p	9 <b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>  Corn Puppies	10 UP-Periscope, Italian Sub	11 I.M.S. Picture Day Emerson Safety Assy. 1pm Twin Rivers FSO Fundraiser begins- Sub Sale Senior Citizen Luncheon- Watt Aud. 12:00 Noon Cheese Filled Bread Sticks	12
13	14 Boyce Picture Day Boyce PTG Mtg. 6:00-7:00 pm Rather Parent/Teacher Mtg.- 5:30 – 6:30 pm Twin Rivers FSO Mtg. 6p Burrito	15 Emerson Picture Day Dippin' Chicken Nuggets	16 Twin Rivers Picture Day Rather Coffee w/Principal 7:35am French Toast Stick/Sausage	17 Rather Bring a Buddy to Breakfast Program for 4th and 5th Grades 7:15 – 7:50 am Welch H.S. Picture Day Hot Diggity Dog/bun	18 I.H.S. Picture Day Cheese Filled Bread Sticks	19
20	21 Board of Education Mtg. 7pm I.H.S Picture Day (Make-Up) Rather Roller Skating Party 6-8p.m. at Ionia Skateland Chef's Salad	22 Rather Picture Day Rather Parent Info. Mtg. for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. 6:30-7:35 pm Dippin' Chicken Nuggets	23 Twin Rivers Bus Safety Assy. 9:15am Macaroni & Cheese, Please!	24 Emerson PTG Mtg. 3:45 pm UP-Periscope, Italian Sub	25 IMS Fun Night- IHS 7-9:00p Cheese Filled Bread Sticks	26
27	28 NHS Candidate Apps due Twin Rivers Sub Sale Ends Rather Family Accelerated Reader Night 6:30p Burrito	29 Dippin' Chicken Nuggets	30 Boyce Bus Safety Assy. NHS/Football Team Highway Clean-up 2:45-3:45 pm Meat Sauce on Spaghetti Mt.	Oct 1 Jefferson Picture Day Rather Bring a Buddy to Breakfast 3rd Grade 7:15am-7:50am	Oct 2 Twin Rivers Fall Festival 5:30pm-7:00pm	

Pizza, taco, hamburger /bun and low fat grilled chicken/bun are the four main choices available every day. Fifth choice offerings are listed above. In addition to the main dish; and the daily fruit/vegetable, the following items will be available: Romaine Lettuce, Fresh baby carrots, Fresh Fruit, ff Salad Dressings, and bread and butter. A 1/2 pint of 1% white or ff chocolate milk is included with lunch. Prices: Elementary Students, \$2.20; Jr. High & Sr. High (buffet line) Students, \$2.45; Staff and Adults, \$3.20. Program prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, and/or handicap. Any person who believes he/she has been discriminated against should write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 or 202-720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

## Free/Reduced Lunch Applications

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications will be mailed to homes in the District by August 24th. For families who qualify for Direct Certification, notices will be mailed August 24th.

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications are available now and can be completed and submitted on-line. Visit [www.dawggle.net](http://www.dawggle.net), click on District Departments, click on Food Services, click on 2015-2016 Free/Reduced Lunch Application. You may also access the application on line at <https://www.lunchapp.com/>.

In addition, parents can also print, complete, and mail or return the application to school. Each family needs to complete only one form, but this form should include information about all children in the family for accurate eligibility determination. A new application must be submitted each year. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible after you receive it in the mail. There is a "carry over" period for all who qualified for Free/Reduced Lunch for the last school year.

Breakfast is FREE to ALL students. Beginning September 2, any family needing the Free/Reduced Lunch application may contact the principal's office at any building in the district for a form.

## Student Lunch Price Increase

The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act requires the school district to use a paid lunch equity tool to set lunch prices. The prices for 2015-2016 school year will be \$2.20 for Elementary School Students; \$2.45 for Middle School and High School Students (buffet line) HS express line prices will increase \$0.10 and \$3.20 for Adult lunches.

It's time to...

**GET YOUR  
PRESCHOOLER  
ON THE BUS!**



There are free and/or low cost preschool programs available in the Ionia Public School District. Fill out an application online at [www.ioniaisd.org](http://www.ioniaisd.org) or go to any elementary to pick up an application. Both Head Start and Great Start Readiness Program (GRSP) is available, and transportation to and from the program is provided. Call 1-616-522-1410 if you have questions. A high-quality preschool program is a great way to get your child ready for kindergarten.

**APPLY TODAY!**

**THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS  
SEPTEMBER 9**

**Ready to finish your Diploma?**

In collaboration with  
Berrien Springs Public Schools



**Ionia Public Schools  
Online Virtual Career Center**

322 W. Main St., Ionia  
Enrollment at the IPS Virtual Career Center is available to students age 19 and under as of September 1, 2015 when referred by IPS.

**Home School Students Welcome**

**What the IPS Virtual Career Center offers:**

- Flexible scheduling and courses
- Opportunities for shared enrollment at IHS
- Expanded home school options
- Latest wireless technology
- Dual enrollment at regional colleges

Call Dan Hodges 616.523.4500

**Short a few credits for  
your high school diploma?**



Welch High School  
may have fantastic news for you!  
15 -19 years old?

Want to return to school?  
Call Welch High School at

616.527-3530 for an appointment today!

**Ionia Public Schools 2015-16 Calendar**

Mon	Aug 31	New Teacher Orientation/Professional Development*
Tue	Sep 1	Welcome Back/Meetings (Non SCECH time/DPPD) 1/2 day
Wed	Sep 2	Professional Development, All Teachers Grades K to 12 (#1)
Thur	Sep 3	Professional Development, All Teachers Grades K to 12 (#2)
Mon	Sep 7	No School-Labor Day
Wed	Sep 9	First Day of School for Students (Full Day)
Tue	Oct 6	K-12 Students attend a.m. only; PLC (#1) for Teachers in p.m.
Wed	Oct 14	6-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00- 8:00p.m.
Thur	Oct 15	9-12 (IHS & Welch) Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00- 8:00p.m.
Mon	Oct 19	9-12 (IHS & Welch) Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00- 8:00p.m.
Mon	Oct 19	6-8 Parent!Teacher Conferences, 4:30- 8:00p.m.
Mon	Nov 2	Professional Development, All Teachers Grades K to 12 (#3)
Fri	Nov 6	End of 1st Marking Period
Wed	Nov 11	K-12 Students attend a.m. only; PLC (#2) for Teachers in p.m.
Thur	Nov 12	K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00- 8:30p.m.
Tues	Nov 17	K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:30- 8:30 p.m.
Th&F	Nov 26-27	No School-Thanksgiving Break
Tue	Dec 15	K-12 Students attend a.m. only; PLC (#3) for Teachers in p.m.
Sat	Dec 19	Winter Break Begins
Mon	Jan. 4	School Resumes
Fri	Jan 22	End of First Semester K-12 Students a.m. only; Records p.m.
Thur	Feb 4	K-12 Students attend a.m. only; PLC (#4) for Teachers in p.m.
Mon	Feb 15	No School for Students/Teacher Professional Development (#4)
Wed	Mar 2	6-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:30- 8:00p.m.
Thur	Mar 3	K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00- 8:30p.m.
Thur	Mar 3	9-12 (IHS & Welch) Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00- 8:00p.m.
Mon	Mar 7	6-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tues	Mar 8	K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wed	Mar 9	9-12 (IHS & Welch) Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:00- 8:00p.m.
Wed	Mar 9	K-12 Students attend a.m. only; PLC (#5) for Teachers in p.m.
Wed	Mar 23	End of 3rd Marking Period
Thur	Mar 24	No School for Students/Teacher Professional Develop (#5)
Fri	Mar 25	No School - Good Friday
Sat	Apr 2	Spring Break Begins
Mon	Apr 11	School Resumes
Thur	Apr 21	K-12 Students attend a.m. only; PLC (#6) for Teachers in p.m.
Mon	May 30	No School-Memorial Day
Fri	Jun 10	Last Day for Students 1/2 day; Full Day for Teachers

\*New Teachers= 184.5  
\*\*9-12 Teacher Open House (2 hours) date to be determined  
Note: PLC = Professional Learning Community

**Ionia Public Schools Board of Education**

President . . . . . Michael Keast      Treasurer . . . . . Sheri Scheurer  
Vice President . . . Roger Hull      Trustees . . . . . Jamie Meyer,  
Secretary . . . . . Sandra Townsend      Karen Balice-Gregory, Dave O'Mara

Superintendent: Dr. Patricia Batista      •      Website: [www.Dawggle.net](http://www.Dawggle.net)

**Equal Opportunity Message:** It has always been the policy of Ionia Public Schools to be an equal opportunity institution. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, ethnic origin, physical or mental handicap, height, weight, or marital status in any of our educational programs or activities including enrollment, placement, and employment.

It is also the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. Any person wishing to inquire regarding these policies, or to file a complaint should contact: Ben Kirby or Maureen Reeder, 250 E. Tuttle Road, Ionia, MI 48846.

**Notification to All Male Students 18 years or older.  
A male student who is age 18 older is required to  
register for the Selective Service**