

Ida Insights

Where Learning Strikes

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Ida Community,

As we close out another successful school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work that has taken place across our district and extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you: students, parents, families, and community members who make our schools a source of pride and strength for our rural community.

From our youngest learners in elementary school, to our graduating seniors, this has been a year filled with growth, learning, and meaningful accomplishments. Each of our three buildings- elementary, middle, and high schools- have been a vibrant hub of activity, where dedicated staff and engaged students have worked tirelessly to achieve academic and personal success.

Our students have made great strides academically while participating in creative, hands-on learning experiences that inspire curiosity and build confidence. Their progress is a testament to the incredible dedication of our teachers and every member of our staff. Ida students have continued to shine in the classroom, on the stage, and on the field showing remarkable determination and Blue Streak pride in all they do. We know that the school is the heart of our community, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such invested and

supportive families and neighbors. Your involvement- whether through volunteering, cheering on our students, or simply showing your support- makes all the difference. Together, we've created an environment where students are encouraged to reach their full potential, and where our schools reflect the values and spirit of our community.

We are also excited to share that the final stages of our geothermal energy project are nearing completion. This significant upgrade will provide modern heating and air conditioning systems for both the middle and high school, creating a more comfortable and energy-efficient learning environment for years to come.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to improving our facilities and programs. This summer will bring several important projects, highlighted by the much-anticipated renovation of the high school cafeteria, a space that will soon better serve our students and staff.

Thank you again for your unwavering support for education in our district. We wish you a safe, restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall for another great year at Ida Public Schools.

David Eack

Ida's 2025 Top 10 Seniors



Valedictorian Mia Karl

Activities, awards and honors:

- Class President four years
- Student Council President; previous Secretary. Ran all pep rallies and Give a Kid a Christmas.

- Key Club President
- Three time starting Varsity Volleyball middle blocker. Scholar Athlete Award (x3), First Team All League (x2), All Region (x2), and Honorable Mention All-State Division 2.
- National Honor Society Secretary

College and Intended Course of Study:

Undecided: Double major in Business and Biology

Salutatorian Clare Allen

Activities, awards and honors:

- Varsity Soccer Captain; played all four years. Twice each all-league and offensive player of the year
- Varsity Basketball Captain; varsity for three years; district win in 2023
- Honor Roll 9-12
- A leader of Fellowship Christian Athletes
- Honors English 1 and 2 award

College and Intended Course of Study:

University of Toledo: Business/Finance



Ida's 2025 Top 10 Seniors – continued



**Cole
Derian**

Activities, awards and honors:

- Member of Tomahawk Archery Club
- William Capaul Academic Letter in Sophomore and Junior year
- Forensics class award in Sophomore year

College and Intended Course of Study:

Monroe County Community College then Eastern Michigan University: Animation



**MacKenzie
Dollison**

Activities, awards and honors:

- Michigan Hawks Soccer
- Michigan Futsal Factory Academy
- Ida Track and Field
- School record holder for the 100 high hurdles
- National Honor Society

College and Intended Course of Study:

Michigan Technological University: Chemical Engineering



**Asher
Hamm**

Activities, awards and honors:

- 2024 Young Leaders Summit Scholar
- Ida Varsity Soccer Captain
- Ida High School National Honor Society
- Peers Accelerating Learning for Students (PALS) Program – Mentor
- College Board Small Town/Rural Recognition Award Recipient

College and Intended Course of Study:

University of Michigan: Pre-Medical/Psychology



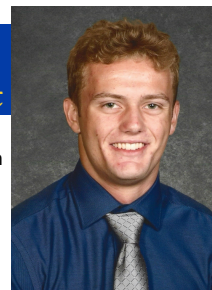
**Jessica
Schrader**

Activities, awards and honors:

- Basketball- Captain, twice each All-League, All-District, and All-Region.
- Volleyball- Captain, twice each All-League and All-Region.
- Softball- Captain, All-League, twice each All-District and All-Region.
- History Award- 10th and 11th grade
- Honor Roll 9-12

College and Intended Course of Study:

University of Michigan or Monroe County Community College: Nursing and Michigan State University: Nurse Anesthesia program



**Wyatt
Dirkmaat**

Activities, awards and honors:

- College Board National Rural/Small Town Recognition Award
- William Capaul Academic Award
- American Welding Society D1.1 Certification
- Track & Field: First Team All-League 1600M Relay
- Football: Division 6 First Team All-Region Specialist

College and Intended Course of Study:

University of Michigan: Mechanical Engineering



**Olivia
Ellerman**

Activities, awards and honors:

- Key Club Vice President
- Ida Trapshooting Team
- National Honor Society
- Student Council Vice President
- Marching Band Drum Major

College and Intended Course of Study:

Bowling Green State University: Physical Therapy



**Nicole
Johnson**

Activities, awards and honors:

- Marching Band Drum Major
- National Honor Society
- Tri-M Music Honor Society Vice President
- Class Executive Board Secretary
- Student Council

College and Intended Course of Study:

Michigan State University: Zoology



**Tiernan
Strimpel**

Activities, awards and honors:

- President of National Honor Society
- President of Band Council
- Treasurer of Key Club
- Treasurer of Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Varsity Golf

College and Intended Course of Study:

Western Michigan University: Aerospace Engineering

Prom night

On April 12th, the class of 2026 hosted the Junior Senior prom at the Toledo Zoo. It was a beautiful evening and a beautiful venue; a good time was had by all! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this night a great success.



No time for Breakfast at home?

We've made it easy for your child to enjoy a healthy breakfast at school.

Student breakfast is proven to improve student behavior, test scores and attendance, so don't let your child miss out on the most important meal of the day!

Breakfast is served:

Elementary - 8:00 (delivered to the classroom)

Middle and High school - 7:45 - 8:00 (in the cafeteria)

Price - Free (school year 2024/25)

Congratulations!



Sunday June 1st 2025

at twelve noon

Graduation Ceremony

Rain or Shine

HAPPY Retirement!

Rose Oberski, 9 years

Christi Warner, 15 years

Wendy Hubbard, 21 years

Bob Cherry, 23 years

Tony Scott, 23 years

Tim Leonard, 24 years

Pam Oberski, 32 years



We are HIRING!

Bus Drivers: Full time or substitutes

*No CDL necessary to apply - we pay to train!

*CDL reimbursement

*Paid holidays and sick time

*Apply on-line or complete a paper copy

Updates from Ida Elementary



Not pictured: Anne Smith

Understanding the Role of a Paraprofessional

By Stacy Maynard

Paraprofessionals, often referred to as teacher's aides or instructional aides, play a crucial role in the educational environment. They provide support to certified teachers, helping ensure that students receive the most comprehensive and effective education possible. Here's a closer look at what paraprofessionals do:

classroom assistance, supporting instruction, special education support, medical assistance, and building wide

support. The spirit of their role resides in their personal traits such as their interpersonal skills, patience and empathy, organizational skills as they manage multiple tasks, and tremendous flexibility and ability to adapt to different situations and changes that develop everyday. Paraprofessionals are essential in creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Their contributions help ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their individual challenges. By supporting teachers and focusing on student needs, paraprofessionals play a key role in the educational system.

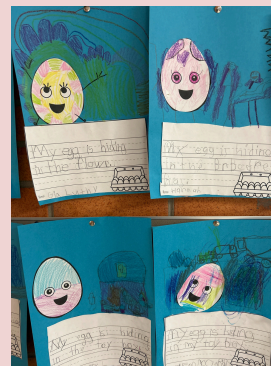
We want to thank and show our appreciation for our amazing paraprofessionals at Ida Elementary School.



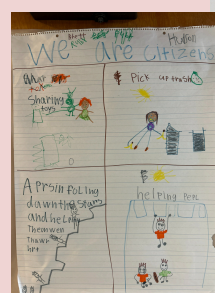
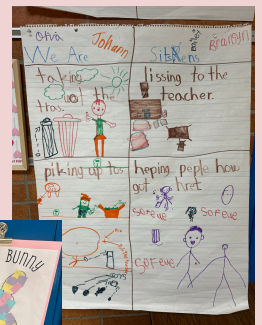
Cafeteria fun at Ida Elementary!



Students playing musical chairs during lunch is a fun way to celebrate healthy eating habits.



Kindergarten and Y5 classwork



In The Middle: *Ida Middle School*

The Magic In the Middle

By Lucy Becker

Time seems to fly when you are having fun—and this school year, we've been soaring! There's something truly special about middle school. It's a unique, transformative time when students enter as wide-eyed kids and grow into confident, capable young adults. It's a wild and wonderful journey through one of childhood's most dynamic and formative stages. Along the way, students experience everything from first friendships and heartbreaks to their first school dances, sports victories, and the ever-shifting whirlwind of emotions and growth. It's a ride filled with ups, downs, and everything in between—and we're loving every second of it. There's nothing quite like being part of their world as they discover who they are and how they fit into it.

This year has been especially magical—full of momentum, meaningful milestones, and moments we'll never forget.

We're thrilled to welcome our first-ever full-time Assistant Principal, Mrs. Georgic, whose presence has been nothing short of transformative. With her unwavering support for both students and staff, I've been able to focus on broader initiatives while she skillfully takes on key responsibilities with compassion and strength.

Another exciting addition is Mr. Potter, our new Middle School Athletic Director. His leadership is already making waves, not only elevating our athletic programs but also fostering a strong connection between academics, behavior, and teamwork. Our student-athletes are thriving—both on the field and in the classroom.

We're also incredibly fortunate to have Mr. Madrid as our Student Support Provider. His holistic approach to student well-being is making a lasting impact through a variety of programs and services. We remain deeply committed to celebrating and honoring every member of our school community—our custodians, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, teachers, and beyond. Everyone plays a vital role in making our school a supportive, inclusive, and joyful place to grow. And, we are so grateful!

We've also embraced adventure this year with a renewed commitment to experiential learning. Every grade level has already enjoyed at least one field trip, with more still to come! We're actively pursuing grants to help fund transportation and admission so that all students can benefit from these enriching experiences.



Eighth graders Ella Curry and Brayden Healy, on their first day of 5th grade, and now, ready to leave middle school.

Highlights from this year's excursions include:

- Holocaust Memorial Center (7th grade)
- River Raisin National Battlefield Park (5th grade)
- Engineering Day at the University of Toledo (7th/8th grade girls)
- Toledo Mud Hens Game (7th grade)
- The Henry Ford Museum (BYH students)
- Manufacturing Day (8th grade)
- IHM Retreat (6th grade)
- Greenfield Village (5th grade)
- Upcoming Student Council and PRIDE points trips (locations to be announced)
- Monroe County Community College Exploration (8th grade)

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, we're filled with excitement for what lies ahead—dances, field days, PRIDE Point celebrations, and our special awards breakfast. The magic of middle school is far from over, and we can't wait to continue this incredible journey alongside our students, staff, and families.

Let's keep discovering the magic in the middle—together.

Ida High School Seniors

With some *big big plans*

We are very proud that Ida High School seniors take a variety of paths after graduating from high school. In general, 68% of our seniors are college bound, 17% continue with Ida Early Middle College, 10% go in to skilled trades, 3% go into the workforce, and 2% join the military. We are excited to celebrate with all of our students, and to highlight the unique paths of the three students below.



Drew Weyher

*Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Corrections Officer*

Right now I'm in the local Corrections Officer Academy. When I graduate, I will be a State of Michigan Certified Corrections Officer and able to work in any jail. I'm applying at the Monroe Sheriff's Office. I started in the CTE Criminal Justice program last year, and chose to continue in it this year. In this program, we are at the dormitory jail every day, where we help observe the inmates and do training. Right now we are doing taser training. I want to go into law enforcement because it is a hard job, and no one wants to do it, really.

Tristen Sedlar

*Military: Marine Corps.
General Engineer*

I have enlisted in the Marine Corps. and will be going off to boot camp in South Carolina in Paris Island, in the middle of June. Back in Kindergarten in art class, I saw a book with a really cool poster of the Marines, and I have always wanted to do it from there. I'm really looking forward to getting stronger, and gaining more knowledge so that I'm well set up to get a good job in the future and help with a family if I want one.



Isabel Rochowiak

Ida Early Middle College

Ida Early Middle College is a five-year program that enables students to earn credits toward their chosen career field, up to an associate's degree. I started IEMC my junior year. I've taken 6 classes so far, which is 18 credit hours. I'm going into occupational therapy, which helps people become independent again after a life changing injury. I am interested in this field because I just really like to help people! I'm going to Monroe County Community College through my 5th year, and will then transfer to UT. I should have about 45 credit hours when I graduate from the program, which is almost 2 years of free tuition. I'm so appreciative that I got accepted into the program!



National Football Foundation Honors

By Chris Leonard

The Toledo/Wisconsin Chapter of the National Football Foundation held their 63rd annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner. This event is one of the most exclusive award events in the area, as recipients must be exemplary on the field and in the classroom. In choosing its scholar-athletes, the Foundation requires that nominees were recognized as an All-League, All-Region, or

All-State performer on the field, while maintaining the high standards of academic excellence as well.

In the history of the event, only Tim Berta (2003), Eric Bugg (2015), Mike Zlonkevich (2015), and Jacob Wickenheiser (2016) have represented Ida as scholar-athlete honorees.

March 11th, Ida senior Dean Thomas became our fifth student-athlete to be recognized for this prestigious award. Over 100 local student-athletes were nominated, and Dean was one of the sixty honorees chosen by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

The event, which included a key-note address by University of Toledo head football coach Jason Candle, was broadcasted on BCSN and also had two other prominent "Ida Moments."

Head football coach and high school teacher, Jeff Potter, was recognized as an "Honored Coach" for our team's performance in 2024. Coach Potter joins Tom Walentowski (2015) as the second Ida coach to be honored at this event.



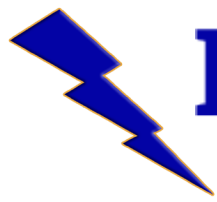
Left to right: Assistant Coach Zack Johnston, Assistant Coach Brian Spears, Offensive Coordinator Chris Leonard, Senior Dean Thomas, Head Coach Jeff Potter, Assistant Coach Clay Sampson, Assistant Coach Zach Shopshire.

Finally, Ida Graduate Tim Berta (2003) gives a "Courage Award" each year at the event.

Many of you know that Tim was involved in a tragic bus accident with his baseball team from Bluffton in 2007. Tim received the Foundation's Courage Award in 2008 for his recovery and community efforts after his accident. The following year, the Foundation decided to apply his name to the award and give Tim a role in the selection process.

A copy of the banquet's program, if you'd like to learn more about the event is available at <https://www.nfftoledo.com/2025nff-book.pdf>.

Thank you for your support of Ida Football and the Ida Community. We truly believe that while the individuals honored are special, these are not individual awards—rather they are a reflection of how special this community is as a whole.



HIGH-PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

Replace Failing HVAC Equipment

Ida's equipment is beyond its life expectancy and could fail at any time, forcing emergency school closings and costly repairs/replacements. Right now, Ida is uniquely positioned to use federal funds to replace these costly systems at a 40% discount.

Add A/C in the High School/Junior High

With a 40% discount from the federal government, Ida has a limited window of opportunity to add A/C to the High School and Junior High for practically no cost at all.

Build a New Road to the Elementary

The new road will improve drop-off and pick-up efficiency as well as the safety of students.

Implement Safety Upgrades

The safety of students and staff is at the forefront of many school districts' minds, and it's time to prioritize the most critical safety improvements at Ida.

Weatherize and Repair Exterior of Buildings

The exterior of several Ida school buildings show extensive deterioration. Gaps, cracks, and joints will be sealed to protect the buildings and their occupants from the elements.

Foundation Repairs

The foundation is deteriorating, causing moisture to penetrate the block walls. The walls release moisture into the classrooms and require regular painting and maintenance.

SINKING FUND

VOTED ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Ida Public Schools

Strategic Plan 2024-2029

SUMMARY

Our Mission

The mission of Ida Public Schools is to advance its traditions of providing students with a safe learning environment, exceptional curricula, skills to meet the challenges of the future, and the means to become lifelong learners.

Our Vision

Ida Public Schools is the place where students successfully grow, learn, and develop.

Our Belief Statements

- All students can learn
- The learning process and mastery of learning is unique to each individual student
- Community is essential to educating the whole child
- Quality education is essential to future success

Strategic Goal Categories

Academics, Programs,
and Initiatives

Family, Partner, and
Community Engagement

Positive Climate and
Culture

Finances, Operations,
and Facilities

Personnel and
Leadership

Read All About It:

Growing great readers together

The Science of Reading

Ida Public Schools is committed to providing children with the strongest foundation in reading. Recently, the Science of Reading has become a guiding force in classrooms across the country, reshaping how educators teach reading based on decades of research into how the brain learns to read.

The Science of Reading emphasizes five key components: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Research indicates that reading isn't a natural process; brains are not hardwired to read the way they are for speaking. Instead, children need to be explicitly taught how to connect sounds with letters, decode words, and make meaning from text. This approach helps all learners, especially those who struggle with reading. In our classrooms, you'll see structured lessons that build these skills step-by-step, using engaging and evidence-based materials in the fall of 2025 a new reading program will be implemented throughout Ida Elementary School.

By aligning teaching with the Science of Reading, we are not just helping students learn to read, we are helping them become confident, lifelong readers.

Help Your **CHILD** be Ready to **READ!**

Engage your young child (ages 0-5) in the following activities often to support the development of their early literacy skills.

- TALK** and ask questions about the book as you read together, giving your child time to respond to simple questions.
- SING** and use rhymes with your child, to help break down the sounds and syllables in words.
- READ** books aloud daily and point out text everywhere you go.
- WRITE** stories, draw, and trace letters with your child.
- PLAY** using puppets or the toys around you to retell a story.

Learn more at www.mi.gov/readytoread and be sure to ask your local librarian for storytime information and book recommendations!



Ready to Read Michigan is a program of the Library of Michigan, with support provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This program is based off the 5 Practices of the Every Child Ready to Read® project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

Summer Reading



As summer approaches, we encourage you to make reading a fun and regular part of your child's break! Research shows that children who don't read over the summer can lose some of the progress they made during the school year—a phenomenon known as the "summer slide." Just 15–20 minutes of reading a day can help prevent this loss and keep skills strong.

Reading over the summer doesn't have to feel like homework. Let your child choose books that match their interests, whether it's graphic novels, mysteries, or nonfiction about dinosaurs or space. Visit the local library, listen to audiobooks on a road trip, or start a family reading challenge.

Let's work together to keep our students growing and learning all summer long—one book at a time!

Ida Public Schools Board of Education Meetings

At their Annual Organizational Meeting the members of the Ida Board of Education established meeting dates, times, and places for Fiscal Year 2025. Ten (10) of the twelve regularly scheduled meetings will be conducted on the second Monday of the month. All Board meetings will begin at **6:00 p.m.** and will be held in the high school media center, unless the Board determines a more appropriate site is available.

July 15, 2024*	Annual Organizational Meeting/Regular Business Meeting
August 12, 2024	Regular Business Meeting
September 9, 2024	Regular Business Meeting
October 14, 2024	Regular Business Meeting/Student Enrollment Certification
November 11, 2024	Annual Financial Meeting, including Budget Hearing
December 9, 2024	Regular Business Meeting
January 13, 2025	Regular Business Meeting/Second Annual Organizational Meeting/First Review of 2025-2026 Budget
February 10, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
March 10, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
April 14, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
May 12, 2025	Regular Business Meeting
June 23, 2025**	Regular Business Meeting/Uniform Budget Meeting/End of Fiscal Year
July 14, 2025	Annual Organizational Meeting/Regular Business Meeting

*3rd Monday of the month
 **4th Monday of the month

The Ida Board of Education reserves the right to schedule Special Meetings, or to reschedule or cancel any of the Regular meeting(s) listed above, based on the needs of the school district. Please see website for updates.

Ida School District Mission Statement

The mission of Ida Public Schools is to advance its traditions of providing students with a safe learning environment, exceptional curricula, skills to meet the challenges of the future, and the means to become lifelong learners.

Board of Education

Jamie Hunter
Board President

Ryan Winkelman
Board Vice President

Sarah Lambert
Board Treasurer

Sara King
Board Secretary

Todd Albring
Board Trustee

Stan Arnold
Board Trustee

Edward Stotz
Board Trustee

David Eack
Superintendent

Chuck Fuller
High School Principal

Lucy Becker
Middle School Principal

Stacy Maynard
Elementary School Principal

Administration

Patrick Riley
High School AP/Athletic Director

Allison Georgic
Middle School Assistant Principal

Mitchell Graves
Dean of Students

Sarah Ash
Curriculum Director

Chad Baas
Business Manager

Cortney Galloro
Transportation Supervisor

Ryan Kisonas
Technology Director

Pam Oberski
Food Service Director

Greg Pello
Bldg/Grounds and Maintenance Supervisor

IDA Insights is published by the Board of Education of the Ida Public Schools

www.idaschools.org

Postal Patron

Ida Public Schools Telephone Directory • District (734) 269-9003

Elementary School: K – 4

269-3605 or Ext. 3501 Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Student Hours: 7:55 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Principal: S. Maynard	3500
Dean of Students: M. Graves.....	3504
Admn Asst: J. Wehner	3501
Admn Asst: A. Akens	3502
School Counselor: A. Young	3521
Student Services Provider: D. Banker	3520

Middle School: 5 – 8

269-2220 or Ext. 2502 Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Student Hours: 8:05 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Principal: L. Becker	2500
Assistant Principal: A. Georgic	2501
Admn Asst: T. Gagnet.....	2502
Admn Asst: M. Hosler.....	2503
School Counselor: J. Butz	2504
School Counselor: B. Pawlak	2514

High School: 9 - 12

269-3485 or Ext. 1502 Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Student Hours: 8:05 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Principal: C. Fuller	1500
Assistant Principal: P. Riley	1504
Admn Asst: W. Hiteshew.....	1502
Admn Asst: R. Nowak.....	1503
School Counselor: R. Daniels	1506
School Counselor: C. Ryan	1505

Central Office

269-3110 Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Superintendent/HR Director: D. Eack.....	4000
Admn Asst: J. Dressel	4002
Curriculum Director: S. Ash.....	4005

Business Office

269-2043 Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Business Manager: C. Baas	5003
Bookkeeper: R. Pfeiffer	5002
Payroll Clerk: T. Ridner	5001

Special Areas

Athletic Director: P. Riley	269-3485 or 1504
Building/Grounds and Maintenance Supervisor: G. Pello	
Food Service Director: P. Oberski	3510
Technology Director: R. Kisonas	5005
Transportation Supervisor: C. Galloro.....	4001
Admn Asst: A. O'Dell.....	4003
School Nurse: W. Rhoades	1510
School Social Worker: R. Tinney	ES-3036, MS-2520
School Psychologist:	ES-3036
	MS-2518
	HS-1518

Summer hours may vary for office staff.